



**Action Plan**  
**Northeast Santa Maria Neighborhood**



**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

*As of November 18, 2013*

**Police Department /Crime Related Issues**

***Burglaries in the Northeast Area***

- More periodic, “directed” patrol in the northeast section of town has been instituted.
- Beat Coordinators are supportive of and are evaluating a free web-based neighborhood watch type of program called NextDoor. Several groups of residents have expressed interest.
- Community Services Unit: the four members of this specialized unit have their contact information including bios, work phones and cell phones listed on the City’s website, at <http://www.cityofsantamaria.org/40452.shtml>. Residents are encouraged to call their beat coordinator.
- An informational flyer for residents (written in English and in Spanish) was posted on the City website, to promote home safety and to help reduce the incidence of burglaries and theft. On the homepage, click on “Neighborhood Action Plans.”
- More than 5,300 street lights across the City were retrofitted with LEDs for improved nighttime illumination; this project was completed in September.

***Speeding: Dena/Hillsboro, Panther/Catherine, Seaward and within the Pepperwood Subdivision***

- Motor officers have adjusted work schedules to address speeding concerns. In April 2013, the work schedules of motorcycle officers were changed to provide more traffic enforcement during weekdays around local schools, and focus on Pioneer Valley High School (PVHS).
- The Police Department has increased the number of deployments of the radar trailer on Panther Drive, Seaward and Bayview, Dena and Donovan, and within the Pepperwood Subdivision. A second speed enforcement trailer has been deployed at different locations in the City on an ongoing basis.
- The Police Department has applied for a traffic safety grant through State Farm Insurance to purchase two additional radar feedback trailers.
- In addition to the existing “Safe Rout to Schools” sign on Dena Way near Tunnell School, a radar trailer is being deployed on a trial basis on a long straightaway segment of that street to greet drivers coming from Suey Road. The school district agrees with this approach. The City will determine whether signage can address the problem, or if a radar sign is warranted, and if so the City can apply for a grant to fund the radar sign.

### ***Stealing – petty theft***

- An informational flyer for residents (written in English and in Spanish) was posted on the City website, to promote home safety and to help reduce the incidence of burglaries and theft. On the homepage, click on “Neighborhood Action Plans.”

### ***Panhandlers on Suey Road***

- The public is encouraged to report aggressive panhandlers to the Public Safety Dispatch Center, non-emergency number: 928-3781 ext. 278 or 279 as events occur.

### ***Loud music/parties***

- The Police Department is in contact with *Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley* to monitor social media of upcoming underage drinking parties.
- Residents are encouraged to report loud music/parties to the Public Safety Dispatch Center, non-emergency number: 928-3781 Ext. 278 or 279 as the events occur or prior to their occurrence (reporting parties may remain anonymous).

## **Code Compliance Issues**

### ***Multiple families in homes w/cars/boats (congestion)***

- Improve outreach and public education through the media with more PSAs.
- A “Walk-N-Talk” program in the Northeast Area was initiated in October 2013.
- Place Neighborhood City Codes flier on City website. The flier (written in English and in Spanish, and with photos of common violations) is located on the City Attorney’s Office/Code Compliance webpage.
- Encourage residents to observe and report code violations to Code Compliance.

### ***Dog feces not being picked up***

- City Recreation & Parks and Utilities Departments placed additional “Mutt-Mitt” stations throughout the Northeast Area. One station was placed at Sierra Vista Park, another station was placed within 40 feet of the bus stop by Panther Drive and Centennial.

### ***Commercial vehicles parking on streets***

- Encourage residents to observe and report violations to Police and Code Compliance.
- Police volunteers and Police Service Technicians are patrolling for violators.

### ***Burning trash/parties/loud mariachi music (northwest)***

- This issue is currently being addressed in the Northwest area.

### ***Trash cans moved by students and not picked up by City.***

- Encourage all residents to contact the Solid Waste Division at 925-0951 ext. 7270 regarding trash pick-up related issues. The Utilities Department is monitoring and responding to occasional reports of trash containers either moved or placed backward. Standard procedure is the collections truck driver notifies the office, who contacts the customer. The collections truck crew makes extra effort to collect the trash and can adjust pickup times.
- The City staff followed up on a request to allow neighbors to decide whether to initiate a residential limited time permit parking district; the City organized and distributed questionnaires, but there was insufficient consensus among neighbors, therefore the parking district will not be implemented.

## **Infrastructure**

### ***Need traffic lights at Suey & Donovan, Centennial & Panther, Domingues & Panther***

- These intersections were evaluated and do not meet requirements for a traffic signal.

### ***Poor traffic visibility Centennial & Panther, Main & Nicholson***

- Recreation & Parks Department to perform regular vegetation trimming at Centennial and Panther. Trimming has been done.
- Proper sight distance appears to exist at Main & Nicholson. *More details are necessary to determine why this concern has developed.*

### ***River Ranch blind spot at stop sign***

- River Ranch Road is a private road and the City does not maintain private roads. *The residents need to contact the HOA in this area to rectify the blind spot.*

### ***Need for speed bumps/traffic lights on Panther***

- Speed bumps are not a viable option because of the negative effect on response times for police and fire emergency vehicles. The need for additional signage to address speeding concerns will be evaluated.

### ***Donovan at 8:00 am traffic congestion***

- City to collaborate with the crossing guards on Donovan and advise them on how to more efficiently cross pedestrians and lessen congestion. The crossing guards are now employed by contractor who works with the Santa Maria-Bonita School District.

## **Pioneer Valley High School and related traffic issues**

### ***Sculptures/walkways – closed walkway at school***

- Staff investigated modification or removal of the emergency access/walled alley (breezeway) between Mammoth and Tyler/Hillsboro and presented the issue for discussion with the Traffic Committee, and determined it cannot be closed due to the existing underground utilities and drainage, emergency access requirements, connectivity between two neighborhoods, pedestrian and bicycle access to Edwards Park, and landscape beautification. The breezeways are also part of the City's Circulation Element of the General Plan.
- Additional comments received suggested placing a gate or a locking system that only residents could use to access the walkway. A gate would restrict access to utilities within the easements and prohibit direct emergency access.
- City staff followed up on a request to allow neighbors to decide whether to initiate a residential limited time permit parking district; the City organized and distributed questionnaires, but there was insufficient consensus among neighbors, therefore the parking district will not be implemented.
- The City Manager's Office is coordinating a series of meetings with the principal of Pioneer Valley High School to address the issues.
- At the beginning of the PVHS school year, a Santa Maria Police Officer was assigned as a school resource officer to the campus, to address a variety of issues and to work the neighborhood in conjunction with park rangers.

### ***Student drop off and loitering along the breezeway a problem***

- Staff is investigating modification or removal of the emergency access/walled alley (breezeway) between Mammoth and Tyler/Hillsboro. See above comments.
- Park rangers to increase patrols at the breezeway.

### ***Parents dropping off students at school (and speeding at school)***

- Traffic Officers have modified work hours to accommodate traffic-related problems at the schools and have conducted extra patrols resulting in numerous traffic stops and several citations issued. The school resource officer also is addressing these issues.
- Encourage residents to rideshare which could reduce congestion.
- Coordinate with the Traffic Solutions Program and schedule carpooling and ridesharing presentations at PVHS. The Traffic Solutions staff finished the video; PVHS previewed the video at the parent night prior to the new school year. PVHS to have link to video on school website.
- A PVHS bulletin distributed at the beginning of the school year has information encouraging parents to use the student drop off areas, instead of dropping students off on the street. Police officer will work with PVHS administrators to reiterate the importance of traffic safety around the school and effectively getting the information to parents. The Traffic Bureau also recently participated in the making of a commercial (PSA) with local television station. The commercial focuses on underage drinking and driving but has not yet been completed by the producer. Officers have also been involved in other programs aimed at deterring underage drinking and driving. These programs and presentations are conducted in collaboration with agencies such as Santa Maria Valley Fighting Back, Impact Teen Drivers, Friday Night Live, and the Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse.
- Develop a more comprehensive and long-term traffic control plan. The City has on four previous and separate occasions provided detailed assistance to PVHS administrators to design and modify a PVHS traffic plan to maximize pedestrian safety.
- City staff evaluated and implemented the relocation of a bus stop to PVHS frontage.
- Park Services Officers (park rangers) will modify work hours in order to address student traffic in the area of Tyler/Hillsboro, Seneca and Domingues Drives. An increased presence during the school year from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. within a three-block area of the park and breezeway.

### ***Student parking – Domingues, Seneca***

- City staff followed up on a request to allow neighbors to decide whether to initiate a residential limited time permit parking district; the City organized and distributed questionnaires, but there was insufficient consensus among neighbors, therefore the parking district will not be implemented.
- PVHS will waive the initial parking permit fee.
- PVHS will make announcements to students at the beginning of each year that they are to park in the school parking lot and not in the residential neighborhoods.