



Newsletter  
for the  
Old  
Highlands  
Homeowners

# OHHA ECHO

May 2020

## NEW WEBSITE IS RUNNING

The Old Highlands website, which has been inactive for a couple of years, is now up and running. The address is:

[www.oldhighlands.com](http://www.oldhighlands.com)

The content will be expanding but it currently has information about the streets, last years Board minutes and other information.

## WHO IS ON THE OHHA BOARD

The following persons are currently serving on the OHHA Board:

John Vukasin; Chair,  
Tribune Av.

Bob Carlson; Vice Chair,  
Home Av.

Grant Anderson;  
Treasurer, Hillcrest Av.

Rith Ritter; Secretary ,  
Parkside Dr.

Bijan Mashaw; Parkside  
Dr.

Charles Dalmon;  
Grandview Av.

Margaret Warhurst; Home  
Av.

Board usually meets last  
Monday of the month,  
6:30pm, at Highland Baptist  
Church

## Street Status

### Update on the reconstruction of OHHA's streets

For many years, the City and OHHA have disagreed about the repair and maintenance of the OHHA streets. Several attempts to resolve this issue have occurred most notably the City Plan of 1992 and the Negotiated Compromise of 2008. Both attempts failed to win community support. The first, because the community felt the plan would compromise OHHA's rural character and the second, because the residents believed the cost was excessive.

In late 2017, OHHA reopened discussions with the City regarding its streets. A new approach was proposed by City staff to concentrate the improvements on the streets alone and to forgo storm drainage, curbing, and sidewalk enhancements, which were part of previous proposals. This approach reduced the overall project cost. At an OHHA General Meeting held in February 2018, with approximately 75 OHHA residents attending, this new approach was unanimously accepted by those present.

As part of the path forward, it was understood that an assessment district would need to be formed to collect the parcel owner's portion of the construction cost. Further it was clear that considerable engineering work, funded by the City, would need to be completed before the assessment district vote would be taken. This put the City at some risk. To provide a level of confidence which would encourage the City to proceed, the OHHA Board agreed to poll the OHHA parcel owners to determine their level of support for the assessment district.

Two Hundred twenty-five, or 70%, of the parcel owners were personally contacted and polled. 79% voted yes for establishing an assessment district to fund 50% of the project costs. The City will fund the remaining 50%

After meetings between OHHA and the City the following timetable was established for the project:

- 12/3/19 Initial funding provided by City council (*DONE*)
- Engineering review and design(*DONE*)
- By 3/30/20 Establish final design, scope, cost estimate (*IN PROGRESS*)
- Formal vote in OHHA to establish assessment district
- When the vote passes final plans and specifications and City will bid the job
- First streets selected by OHHA board (*Tribune and Cotati*)
- Paving will be a part of Haywards annual pavement plan for Spring 2021
- 5-6 Years Project completed; all streets repaved

NATURALLY THE PANDEMIC HAS DELAYED THIS WORK AND PROGRESS WILL BE SLOWER.

**THE MOST IMPORTANT NEXT STEP WILL BE COMMUNITY APPROVAL OF THE ASSEMENT DISTRICT. WITHOUT THIS APPROVAL THIS PROJECT CANNOT GO FORWARD.**

The survey done last year convinced the City to move forward and they have invested considerable funds based on the results of the survey. But the formal and final vote is still to come following completion of the design work and establishment of cost estimates.. This will be a mail ballot sent to each parcel owner.

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT EACH OWNER RESPOND.

WHAT IS HAPPENING  
AT 2579 HOME  
AVENUE

After hearing from many residents living near this parcel it was clear that there were uniform objections to the proposed construction. On behalf of the residents the OHHA Board sent two letters to City representatives. The first pointed out that the notice sent out did not describe the proposed construction properly and it was not timely. The second letter outlined specific objections to the construction project. Currently all projects are on hold as the City Planning Department is responding only to emergency requests. We encourage you to write your own letter concerning this construction and send by email to : edgar.maravilla@hayward-

## OHHA Needs Your Support

Join your community organization

For 55 years OHHA has represented the OHHA residents on such issues as zoning, sewers and water supply, fire protection, street improvement and construction. Most recently the OHHA Board negotiated the repaving of all the streets in OHHA with the City paying half the cost. This is after nearly 50 years of the City insisting that OHHA residents pay the full amount. As part of this agreement all homes with deferred construction agreements will have them cancelled saving these owners tens of thousands of dollars.

The OHHA Board recently supported the many residents near 2579 Home Avenue with the overbuilding of that property. The concern essentially was the construction of two houses on a single lot. The proposed construction is four stories

high and spans the entire length between Home and Hillcrest Avenues

But the OHHA Board needs your support. While the organization has few expenses it can no longer meet them as membership is way down this year. Further Bill and Laura Quirk provided \$8,000 to assist with legal costs concerning the new street agreement. The OHHA Board feels this gift should be repaid and has made considerable progress on this issue. But some of the debt remains. Please note that on the current membership form there is a place to make a donation towards this repayment. The Board would appreciate your contribution. A membership form is attached below. Please join the organization which has and continues to support you and protect the place in which we all live

\$25.00 for 2020 OHHA Dues       \$100.00 or \$\_\_\_\_\_ for Legal Fund

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please deposit your payment in the mailbox, or send via US Mail, to Grant Anderson, OHHA Treasure, 2615 Hillcrest Ave, Hayward, 94542