

# The Sierra Post

VOLUME II, ISSUE 1

THE SIERRA AT JACK LONDON SQUARE

January, 2006

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For advertisement information,  
questions or comments regarding  
this newsletter, please email to  
[news@sierrajacklondon.org](mailto:news@sierrajacklondon.org).  
Homeowners may place free  
classifieds by sending email to  
the same address. Past editions  
can be found on  
<http://www.sierrajacklondon.org>

### Next HOA meeting:

The next HOA meeting  
will be held Tuesday,  
Jan 24, 2006.

Homeowner forum will  
start between 7:00 to  
7:30 pm.

## Message from the Editor

This edition marks the first anniversary of the Sierra Post. In January 2005, the newsletter committee published the first issue of the Sierra Post with the goals of providing useful information to our residents and building a sense of community here at the Sierra. We have published twelve issues so far and have mostly been able to meet the distribution timeframe. On the financial front, our goal is to be financially sufficient such that any printing cost will be covered by advertising revenue. I am happy to report that not only we have achieved this goal; we were able to bring in a little revenue for the association. Look for the newsletter committee to throw a lavish party in the future.

However, we are reconsidering the future of the newsletter. The newsletter committee has been severely understaffed, currently the committee consists of only one member. It does take significant effort for one person working on a volunteer basis. We need more volunteers, no experience or skills are

required. You could also submit featured articles like favorite recipes, restaurant reviews; I would take just about anything at this point. If you are interested, please email to [news@sierrajacklondon.org](mailto:news@sierrajacklondon.org) or stop by unit 105.

I would also like to conduct an informal survey. If you find the newsletter useful and would like to see it continue in the current format, please send an email to [news@sierrajacklondon.org](mailto:news@sierrajacklondon.org). If you hate the newsletter and would never want to see it again, please also drop us a note. As always comments and suggestions are welcome.

Finally the newsletter committee would like to thank the following sponsors for their support: Jack London Realty, Ron Siengo CPA, London Jack's Fine Cleaners, Safe Hands Pet Care, Bella Terra Travel, CL Funding Group, Gateway 21, Peerless Coffee, Andy Read of Caldecott Properties, Sierra Financial Services and Yoga @ Painsolvers.

### A Piece of Cake to start off the New Year

This is one of the easiest cake recipes I've tried; the result is a wonderful sponge cake that is moist, aromatic and delicious. It gets better after a day or two. The full recipe can be found on [www.nigella.com](http://www.nigella.com)

4-5 clementines  
6 eggs  
1 cup plus 2 tablespoons sugar

2 1/3 cups ground almond meals  
1 heaping teaspoon baking powder

Boil clementines in water for 2 hours, drain and dump the whole fruit into a food processor for a quick buzz, then add all other ingredients and pulse to a pulp. Pour mixture in a buttered 8" springform pan, bake at 375°F for an hour. Cover the top with foil after about 40 min to prevent from burning.



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**Does your New Year resolution include keeping your home clean, here are a few tips...**





You may drop off household hazardous waste materials at 2100 East 7<sup>th</sup> St on Thu, Fri & Sat between 9am to 1pm. It's free. The facility accepts paint, motor oil, pesticide, batteries. Computer parts, monitors and medical waste are NOT accepted. For a complete list of approved materials, check [www.stopwaste.org](http://www.stopwaste.org) or call 1-800-606-6606.

Working computer equipment can be dropped off at Oakland Technology Exchange every Tue from 2-6 pm at 1680 14<sup>th</sup> Street in West Oakland. 510-893-4822. <http://www.otxwest.org/donations.html>

Non-working computer equipment can be dropped off at Alameda county computer recycle center for a small fee. Hours are 10-5 M-F, 12-5 Sat at 1501 Eastshore Highway, Berkeley. 510-528-4052. <http://www.accrc.org>

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# A Note From Sarah



**Keys:** The majority of the units in our building have keys at the front desk for the use of pre-approved contractors, guests and emergency entry by Sierra personnel. However some owners have "borrowed" their keys for some reason or another. If you happen to have the key that belongs behind the front desk (they have a red numbered tag)...please return it. (All keys are kept locked up and in order by a coding system that does not allow anyone other than personnel to know which key belongs to which unit.)

**Forms:** Hallelujah! I have crossed over the halfway mark...more than half of the owner and resident information forms half been turned in...but I still need the rest. Additional copies are available at the front desk. The information will be used to verify the accuracy of our database and e-mail addresses will be used (with your permission) to keep you up to date on events and issues related to the Sierra. If you are not sure whether the form was turned in, you can check with the front desk.

**Water Intrusion:** I and Board members have received input from many residents concerning leaks and other unit and common area problems. We are concerned and have consulted with our counsel, experts, the window manufacturer and the developer and its experts. We plan to update members at our next board meeting (Tuesday, January 24th at 6:30pm). In the meanwhile, please keep me advised if your unit (and the affected rooms) have leaked or of any other issues in your unit by emailing me at Sarah@sierrajacklondon.org. If the problem is severe and requires immediate action, please contact the front desk and I or Mario will respond promptly. I assure you the Board is concerned and taking steps to address these issues.

**Storage spaces:** Do you have one? Not sure? Do you want one? I have had many requests from residents for a storage locker. To my knowledge the existing storage lockers were assigned as "first come, first served", and those that moved in after they were all gone were out of luck. We are looking at several factors to help those in need of storage and need some input from the residents before we move forward: 1) Do you know if you have a storage locker? Is there anything in it? (Ask the front desk if you have one and what the locker number is) 2) Do you have a storage locker, but don't use it? Do you want it anymore? Do you want to rent it to a neighbor who may be in need of the extra space? 3) Do you have the need for a storage locker? Let the front desk know. We will put together a list and will then assess the need vs. cost, etc.

**Emergency Preparedness:** Thank you to those that have volunteered to be part of the emergency preparedness team. We are however still in need of more volunteer floor leaders. We are looking for two for each floor. Once we have enough volunteers, a meeting will be scheduled to go over emergency procedures.

**Social Events:** You may have noticed that we have had several social events for the residents over the past few months and we are gearing up for more events. Though I do enjoy putting these events together for the community, I know that you may have some great ideas, connections, or items to contribute and I would love to take advantage of your help in the coming year. Would you like to help plan a specific event? Just be there to help for the event? Or maybe walk the floors of the community advertising an event? If you are interested in helping, please let me know. There is always a job waiting for you!

**Calendar on the website:** Do you need to know when the next Board meeting is? Or social event? Check out the newest feature to the website.

**Liquid in the garbage chute:** The garbage chutes throughout the building all drop into one of two dumpsters. On the way down, the garbage may come in contact with the sides of the shoot. If at all possible, please do not throw items such as partially full fast food drinks, partially full mayonnaise containers, or essentially anything that will leak on the way down. The liquid adheres to and dries in the chutes which as you may have noticed on occasion yourself, becomes stinky. The dumpsters are rotated and cleaned on a regular basis to minimize the smell, but the chutes are very difficult and time consuming to clean. The janitorial staff thanks you for your help.

A D V E R T I S E M E N T



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**Andy Read**  
aread@caldecott.com  
510.594.2400



*Wishing our  
Neighbors a  
Happy New Year.*



120 Third Street  
Oakland, California 94607

Does the New Year mean a new home?  
If you're thinking of buying or selling,  
come downstairs for a visit  
or give us a call at  
**510-463-4777**

## Mario's Corner



### Tree Disposal

Please be reminded that the last day for tree disposal is Jan 10<sup>th</sup>. The association will incur a fine for any trees disposed after this day. If you would like your tree disposed by our staff, please fill out a maintenance request at the front desk. We will promptly pick up your tree to dispose of them properly. If you would like to do it yourself, please be sure to bag your tree and drop it off at the loading dock.

### Water and more water...

In light of the recent rain storms, please watch for any water intrusion that may have occurred in your unit. If you have detected any water leakages, please report it to Sarah immediately so we can do a detailed investigation.

I would like to wish all our residents a prosperous New Year.



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