

El Dorado Realty, Inc.

NEIGHBORHOOD VOICE

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“Celebrating over 35 years of service”

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FROM THE DESK OF RON BEELER

Well it might not be Bark Beatles, but we have large limbs falling, breaking off, our beautiful pines. I have heard of three in the 3800 block of Karen and then one down on Roxanne. When I talked with Gerrie Schipske about this, she was informed and had heard that the cause was related to the large trees sucking up more water than the big limbs could sustain. It is well recognized that we desperately need professional tree trimming, but with the City Budget in such poor shape, the best they can do is clean up the mess after an accident. Seems to me we are leaving ourselves open to a major lawsuit when someone gets injured! Gerrie did say that she is thinking of proposing some sort of a training program for residents, on the proper care and maintenance of the parkway trees so that individuals could trim their own tree, or oversee professionals

doing the job. If something like this comes about I would think the best idea would be for neighbors to get together and try to negotiate a contract with a professional tree trimming outfit to do several trees on a block. I know the last time I attempted to get my beautiful, large Sycamore trimmed, I had no problem getting a permit and contracting to have the job done, the cost was a bit high, but I was willing to pay for it to be done right. I failed, when I was told the City was planning to trim the trees on my block the very next week, I cancelled my private contractor. To my chagrin “trim” was just what my tree got, and I was left with limbs precariously directed across the street and our driveway. I should have gone through with my original plans, but I took the cheap way out and I am still looking at some mighty big limbs.



Photos from: Shannon Cunningham August 10th on Karen Ave., the limb hung on till the trimmers arrived. The next one was lucky to have not hit anyone.



August 29th on Karen Avenue

We have some very good landscapers, who do trim trees as part of their service and I would like to hear from them as to their ideas for protecting our beautiful trees, and if they think we could arrange some sort of a volume price. By the way, Gerrie Schipske told me that the mature Stone Pines we have in our neighborhood are in such high demand that cities are willing to pay as high as \$50,000 for them.

This time of the year, as soon as trees were mentioned, I started having my annual fantasy about recycling our leaves for some beneficial purpose. Each year I chop them up and use them as mulch in our flower beds and fill bags to make pumpkins at Halloween and Thanksgiving as well as Snowmen for Christmas. Once the first couple of weeks leaves are gone, the rest go in bags that end up in our trash container, the churches' across the street and anywhere else I can dispose of them. This year I went on the internet to see if I could get any good ideas and I did find the

following article about recycling in Denver, CO.

“Leaving grass clippings, on the lawn is a good way to recycle them, but leaves are a different matter.

With just a few leaves on the lawn, shredding them when mowing the lawn and leaving them is no problem. But if there are a lot of leaves, shred them with the mower and then compost them or dig them into annual flower beds or vegetable gardens.

Tree leaves and turf grass blades are different. Grass clippings are mostly water and with very little lignin, they can break down quickly. Tree leaves that fall to the ground are dried out and high in lignin, so they won't decompose as readily.

Large amounts of leaves left on the lawn all winter, shredded or whole, could smother some of the lawn and the turf might thin out, allowing some weeds to move in.

Leaves and other yard wastes account for more than 20 percent of what Denver households send to the landfill. The very best option for keeping leaves out of the landfill is to dig them into our yards and gardens, compost them, or mulch small amounts into our lawns. These practices help to enrich our soil, save money on fertilizer purchases and water bills, and help the City avoid the economic and environmental costs of land filling leaves.

For those who can't reuse all of their leaves at home, the Denver Leafdrop drop-off program gives residents a chance to recycle their leaves and do something great for the environment.

First, residents should try and use their leaves in home yards or gardens. And if they are unable to use all their leaves, they can drop them off at one of the locations selected by Denver Recycles.”

Coincidentally I attended a Taskforce meeting, last week called by Gerrie Schipske, where a representative of the Long Beach Sustainability Office spoke on an aggressive plan being worked on to make our city much more sustainable over the next few years. Sustainability was defined as the ability to live and work in our community while insuring that we leave the city in as good or better shape than we found it. The Action Plan puts forth the goals for the next 11-years with significant, measurable improvements in the areas of energy, waste reduction, green buildings and neighborhoods, urban nature, water, transportation and green economy & lifestyle. A full description of the plan can be seen by going on-line to www.longbeach.gov/citymanager/sustainability/sustainable_city_plan.asp.

I called the sustainability office and asked if Long Beach has plans for something similar to the Denver plan. I was told that this idea might be considered sometime down the road, but currently Long Beach is capable of burning this type waste with direct conversion to energy at the waste/energy conversion plant, which also saves it from going to landfills. They encourage citizens to, after using as much as possible as mulch, to dispose of the rest in the regular trash container and avoid, at all cost, letting the debris enter the drainage system.

Gerrie Schipske sent out an email, this week, asking people to send a letter to the head of the Tesla Car Company, encouraging them to pick our city for the site of their new assembly plant. I am including a copy of a boilerplate letter for those not using the internet. The letter can be sent directly to Mr. Musk, at: 1050 Bing Street, San Carlos, CA 94070, or email it to Gerrie Schipske at district5@longbeach.gov and she will forward it to him personally.

Dear Mr. Musk:

The residents of the City of Long Beach are excited at the possibility that your company will re-locate to Long Beach, bringing 1,000 or more jobs dedicated to the assembly of the Tesla S2, a four-door, all-electric family car that is projected to cost about \$50,000 after a \$7,500 federal tax credit. We understand that production would start in about two years, and when the plant is up to speed about 20,000 cars would be produced annually.

Long Beach has many advantages over other cities: our proximity to major freeways; the excellent workforce training available through Long Beach Community College; advanced technology education at California State University at Long Beach; and our enterprise zone that provides tax credits for hiring workers that can save thousands of dollars on your business' California income taxes.

The specific location in Long

Beach you are considering (the Boeing 717 hangars) is directly across the street from Douglas Park, which when completed will include hotels, restaurants, retail and office complexes that would be available as your presence in Long Beach grows.

Additionally, Long Beach is committed to sustainability and lessening our dependence upon fossil fuel as demonstrated in the City's establishing an Office of Sustainability, the Green Port Plan and the annual 5th Council District's Solar and Sustainability Conference and Tour.

TESLA's presence in Long Beach would be a "win-win" for both your company and our city. We look forward to rolling out the red- or better yet, the green-carpet when you make your decision to come to Long Beach!

Sincerely,

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This year's Good Neighbor Festival and Picnic comes up on September 26th, 10 am to 3 pm.

There will be lots of booths and information available as well as food and refreshments, plan to bring the whole family.

Members of the South El Dorado Park Neighborhood Assn. approached me recently about teaming up with other neighborhood groups to form what would be known as The Studebaker Corridor Coalition. The purpose being; to have in

place a strong group voice in any city, county, state planning affecting the neighborhoods along Studebaker Rd. I thought it would be a good idea from the standpoint of the recent plans for DeMille School and potential traffic impact to our neighborhood. They plan to provide information at their booth and would appreciate folks dropping by with comments or ideas.

Speaking of the School Boards plans for DeMille, there is still silence, although I did hear that some classrooms are being converted to the thematic style. I have no idea what this means. I have received a lot of the Petitions, a little over 50 signatures, but I am concerned that there are still some out there that I have not received! As yet I have only received a couple from along Parkcrest, Karen, Stevely, and Studebaker, which I thought would be the area's most concerned, at least about traffic? Please call me if you have petitions and would like me to pick them up.

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At 10:15 a.m. on October 15, 2009, millions of Californians will "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" in The Great California ShakeOut, the largest earthquake drill ever!

September is National Preparedness Month, and you'll be hearing from many organizations about how to update your disaster plans and restock your disaster supplies kits. It's also time to register for the 2009 ShakeOut! If you participated in the 2008 drill or not, this is your

once-a-year chance to practice how to be safe during earthquakes: Drop, Cover, and Hold On.

Over 5.4 million southern Californians participated in the 2008 ShakeOut. As a statewide drill in 2009, this number could be doubled... but we can only include if you register at www.ShakeOut.org/register. As of August 31, over 3.7 million participants are registered statewide!

There are many ways to participate in the ShakeOut in 2009. At the least, plan a "drop, cover, and hold on" drill involving everyone in your household. You can also discuss your overall disaster plan with your family or roommates, secure the contents of your home so they won't fall, and restock your supplies. The updated ShakeOut.org website is the central source of information for how to participate, learn about your area's earthquake hazards, and find local events, news, and participant lists for all California counties.

Everyone can participate! Individuals, families, businesses, schools, government agencies and organizations are all invited to register. Talk to your employer, neighborhood association, faith-based organization, or others about registering as well. Your involvement in the ShakeOut inspires many others to register and hold their own drills!

[Register today at ShakeOut.org](http://www.ShakeOut.org)

On the real estate front, homes in the area continue to sell quickly and the inventory has shrunk dramatically. I do expect to see a number of foreclosure properties hit the market soon, but for now, prices are holding and it appears to

be an excellent time to sell, move up, or buy investment property.



5813 Oliva Ave. Lakewood
3-Bdrm, 1-Bath Home with
Swimming Pool, Enclosed rear
Patio. This is a "Short Sale", but
should go quickly at this price.

Asking Price **\$379,900**



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FREE PROPERTY EVALUATION

NO STRINGS ATTACHED!

Evaluation compares the features of your home to recent homes sold and yields realistic Market Value through the Sales Cost Analysis approach.

.Ron Beeler, El Dorado Realty Inc. (562) 243-0645 or 429-0686



COMING SOON: Large Rancho in restoration process, should be available by mid September. Great opportunity for family needing extra growing space. Call Ron for details and first viewings.