

# SPLASHER

Shadow Brook HOA and Swim Club | Where family is at the heart of community

## Holiday Lights Contest



Shadow Brook is hosting a Holiday Lights Contest for our neighborhood. There will be three awards offered to the winning homes.

Two awards will be judged by the Board. We will be judging use of lights and theme.

There is also a People's Choice Award voted on by members of the HOA. Members can vote by sending the address of the home that they feel has the best Holiday Lights display to [splasher@shadowbrook.org](mailto:splasher@shadowbrook.org) by December 22.

The Board judging will be completed by December 22, Awards issued on December 24. Winners get a bottle of wine and an Award Certificate.

Let's light up Shadow Brook.

## Maintaining Standards is Important

by Sheryl Stroh and Don Hale

Your new Architectural Control Committee (ACC) convened in early September with three members, one of whom has recently resigned due to her full time job commitments. We are finalizing revised ACC procedures to simplify the process and reduce individual ACC member's time commitments. Responsibilities identified are to:

- Review the ACC intake request forms from homeowners for new roofs, solar roofs, repainting, landscaping, and remodeling.
- Review assigned routes of homes on a regularly scheduled basis
- Identify visual issues that aren't compliant with the CCRs, Board Policies, ACC Rules or San Jose City Ordinances
- Bring these infractions to the homeowner's attention
- Follow up and monitor as necessary to reach compliance

Every homeowner receives significant, tangible benefits from Shadow Brook's reputation regularly confirmed by realtors when they refer in their listings in Shadow Brook as "*one of the most desirable neighborhoods in our area.*" **Maintaining standards helps protect and preserve values** every day as evidenced when your home is appraised for either a sale or refinancing.

Please consider joining us. In order to put into effect these new processes and procedures, we need at least two homeowners to volunteer. To learn more about this opportunity to help, please send an email to [acc@shadowbrook.org](mailto:acc@shadowbrook.org).

## Food Trucks Return December 9

Thank you for all the positive comments we have received about our Food Truck Wednesdays. In response we are adding monthly Food Trucks at 4:30 - 7:30 each day. Mark your calendars for following dates:



December 9: Capelos BBQ, Falafel Fresh and Tea-Up  
January 13: Crepe 'Em Coming  
February 10: TBA

Check [shadowbrook.org](http://shadowbrook.org) for menus, ordering links and updates.

## Classic Mulled Wine



### INGREDIENTS

- 1 (750 ml) bottle of dry red wine
- 1 orange, sliced into rounds (also peeled, if you would like a less-bitter drink)
- 8 whole cloves
- 2 cinnamon sticks
- 2 star anise
- 2–4 tablespoons sugar, honey, or maple syrup to taste (or your desired sweetener)
- optional add-in: 1/4 cup brandy (or your favorite liqueur)
- optional garnishes: citrus slices (orange, lemon and/or lime), extra cinnamon sticks, extra star anise

### DIRECTIONS

1. Combine ingredients in a saucepan and a quick stir.
2. Simmer. Heat until the wine just barely reaches a simmer over medium-high heat. (you don't want to boil off the alcohol.) Reduce heat to low, cover, and simmer for at least 15 minutes or up to 3 hours.
3. Strain and season. Using a fine mesh strainer, remove and discard the orange slices, cloves, cinnamon sticks, star anise and ginger. Give the mulled wine a taste, and stir in your desired extra sweetener.
4. Serve warm in heatproof mugs, topped with your favorite garnishes.

## Social Corner by Meera Desai, VP Social

Hi Neighbors! “Purple Tier” was probably not what we were all hoping for, but it’s a necessary step to make sure that we are all safe and healthy. We are happy to announce that back by popular demand are Food Truck Wednesdays at the Cabana (see page 1), plus the First Annual Holiday Lights Contest this month.



We hope you enjoyed the Diwali decorations at the Cabana. Thanksgiving décor are up now, and we are hoping to get some more helpers to decorate for the December holidays. We are also still looking for volunteers for the Red Bow Brigade. If interested please email [social@shadowbrook.org](mailto:social@shadowbrook.org). We’d love to add more lights to the Cabana so if you have some that you’d like to donate we’d be happy to have them as well.

## Lighting up Shadow Brook Hanukkah by Gale Infeld

Hanukkah, like Diwali, is also known as the Festival of Lights. Based on the Jewish calendar, this year it falls on Dec. 10th. It’s a joyous holiday filled with candlelight, games, good food and gifts.



The most recognized symbol of the holiday is the Menorah, a candelabra with eight candles and a “Shamash” used to light all the others. The Shamash lites one candle the first night, adding a candle each night, for a total of eight nights. But why eight nights?

The story of Hanukkah is the story of the Jewish people winning the freedom to practice their religion by overthrowing the Greek ruler in Palestine who insisted the Jews pray to the Greek gods and no longer practice their own religion and customs. After their victory the Jews wanted to relight the Menorah in their Temple. However, only a small bit of oil, good for only one night was found. But that little bit of oil burned for eight nights. It was considered a miracle, and explains why Hanukkah is eight days long.

Though Hanukkah is one of the lesser holidays in the Jewish religion it is one of the favorites that reminds us of the importance of freedom of religion and helps to light up the winter with fun, good food and family. Happy Hanukkah to all!

## From the Pool Deck By Kevin Ryan, VP Pool

Another season at the pool has ended. And what a unusual and convoluted season it was. Between Covid, transitioning boards, beginning the morning adult lap swim, keeping the pool open for longer than it ever has been, adjusting schedules, making repairs and running out of guards, it's been busy. But, it has been great seeing the pool get the use it has been getting. The adult lap swim in the morning has been very popular and I definitely want to see it start back up as soon as possible for all you early risers. And a big thank you to Kyle Kikuda for being our Covid monitor during that time.

I also want to thank Blake Newton for his help in getting me up and running. He even took my calls and texts after he had left for school and always responded promptly. I want to thank all the guards for their service this year, I've gotten many compliments on their behalf for good attitudes and helpfulness. A special thanks to Amanda Keith, Owen Quast and Kylie Roberts for stepping up as interim managers, and along with Andrew Swartz, stayed to the end of November as Covid monitors, enabling us to keep the pool open for you.

For plans for the pool, please see the website.

## Neighborhood Watch by Tami Sell



After a huge increase in burglaries in Almaden Valley in 2016, the San Jose Police Department (SJPd) presented a Neighborhood Safety meeting to us in March 2016.

Since then, the green "Almaden Neighborhood Watch" signs posted in residents windows represent neighbors keeping an eagle eye out for their neighborhood to help discourage crime. New laminated signs can be purchased for \$4 at PostNet.

A few Shadow Brook blocks took the extra step to organize SJPd Neighborhood Watches. At least 9 adjoining neighbors attended a meeting with a SJPd Crime Prevention Specialists to learn more about burglary prevention and neighborhood safety. After this meeting, the block was awarded a metal Neighborhood Watch sign posted on a streetlight pole.

More information at [www.sjpd.org](http://www.sjpd.org).



## Creekview Ct

### Streets of the Month:

Creekview and Bubblingwell are two streets off of Camden that you probably go by most days and never go in. They are home to 24 families in Shadow Brook. Both streets were one of the first in Shadow Brook to get into the San Jose Police Department Neighborhood Watch program, thus demonstrating a friendliness and cooperation that exists

## Bubblingwell Pl

### How to Decrease Crime

Suggest you keep your front porch lights on all night long, empty your mailbox each evening, check for packages that may have been delivered late, remove valuables and garage door openers from cars in driveway, bring in garbage cans (and your neighbor's cans if they are working late or out of town), have a light on timer in your front room when you are away to give the appearance that your home is occupied, and turn on a radio while you are away. Thank you for your help in keeping Shadow Brook a safe, wonderful community to live!

## Call for Volunteers. We need your Help – not a lot, just a little by David Heindel, President

Over the past three months, Board members have been working to become familiar with Shadow Brook's many details while staying focused on the two primary goals of increased Communication and increased Pool access & usage.



The Board is finalizing a list of tasks, small and medium, in both time commitment and duration. We invite you to consider helping in whatever capacity you can whether it be just one hour, or 2-4 hours one morning or afternoon, or 15-20 hours over a number of weeks. The Board has identified projects, some that one individual can complete with a phone and a computer in a few hours, and others which work best as a family team effort of one to two hours early next year prior to the start of Pool season.

We are also searching for two people to fill a Board and an ACC position. Our most able Treasurer, Karen Rockwell, will be leaving the Board as of January 1<sup>st</sup>. Board Financial Secretary, Tracy Rodriguez, and I have been working with Karen to simplify and streamline the Treasury function. So, the new Treasurer will be stepping into a position where the work load has been significantly reduced, and where Tracy and I will continue to stay actively involved. I do not believe the Treasurer needs to be a CPA, but he/she should be comfortable working with numbers. The ACC is also looking for at least one additional member to add to the current roster.

If you are willing to join us and tackle a project as small as one hour, or something more substantial or even more by serving as a member of the Board or ACC, please send me an email. By sending a note to me, your only commitment is to learn about the opportunities and see if there is a match.

We are a member-operated HOA. We realize that you can only participate to the extent that your family, work and life commitments allow. The Board needs your Help – not a lot, just a little. We hope you will contact us to learn more about how you can meet and work with your neighbors to maintain and improve our community.

## The Board

[board@shadowbrook.org](mailto:board@shadowbrook.org)

President: David Heindel  
[president@shadowbrook.org](mailto:president@shadowbrook.org)

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VP Pool: Kevin Ryan  
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Treasurer: Karen Rockwell  
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Communications: Steve Ferree  
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ACC: Sheryl Stroh, Don Hale,  
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