



Volume 3, Issue 3 + Grant Park Neighbors is a special project of Ante Meridiem, Inc., a 501(c)3 CA Non-Profit Corporation + May 2021



Interview with Kim Johnson (AAMCO Owner/Operator)

GPN: How long have you been in Santa Cruz?

Kim: 35 years. Before that my husband and my son lived in the Willow Glen area in San Jose. Now we live in Ben Lomond.

GPN: How long have you been with AAMCO?

Kim: 16 years. For the past four years we've been at the Ocean Street location; we have a ten-year lease.

GPN: What has your experience been like at that location?

Kim: It's been a fine investment to be an AAMCO franchisee. We had to pour in 100s of thousands of dollars in making the business disability compliant. In the beginning being on the Ocean Street was fantastic.

GPN: What's it like now?

Kim: In the last couple of years it's been a real challenge. People sleeping at our front door every night, graffiti, trash, a few break-ins. We're constantly having to repair our bathroom. There seem to be no consequences for the people who do this. Some customers are afraid to leave their cars because they see the campers. I'm constantly picking up needles; my needles container is full (She showed me a plastic container with at least 50 needles.)

GPN: Is there anything you can do? (Cont. Pg.2)



UPCOMING EVENTS

Zoom-not-in-the Park

The next meetings are on these Saturdays: **May 22nd; May 29th; and June 12th** at 11 AM. Invitation details via email.

Adopt-A-Park Workday

The next Adopt-A-Park workday will be on June 5th from 9AM-12PM. Please bring your own yard tools, facemask & other personal protective gear.

Market Street St. Breakfast

MAY and JUNE

"PANCAKES TO GO"

Pancakes, Sausages & Scrambled Eggs

Market Street Senior Center
222 Market Street

Sunday, May 9
Sunday, May 23
and
Sunday, June 6
Sunday, June 20

ADULTS \$6.00 KIDS \$4.00

8:30 to 11:00 am



@grant_park_neighbors



@Grant Park Neighbors

Join GPN and our emailing list by contacting grantpark95060@gmail.com for more information, details for events, news, and volunteering.

Interview with Kim Johnson Cont.

Kim: I wrote the City Council about the camping on the property. I had put in a new sidewalk that cost thousands but had no control over the camping. I was glad to see the City reverse on TOLO (the *Temporary Overnight Living Ordinance*). The City used to support the idea that we need to beautify Ocean as one of the gateways to the city.

GPN: What would you like to see to improve conditions on Ocean Street?

Kim: I'd love to see the City fund First Alarm to have Frank patrol the area again. Maybe we can get local businesses to chip in to help pay for him. I love the downtown Streets Team program. I feel for the homeless but we need more police presence to deal with the situation. I'd like to see SCPD park at businesses when they write up their reports.

GPN: Is there anything you'd like to say to Grant Park neighbors?

Kim: The neighborhood seems a close-knit group. It has a small-town feel. I've gotten to know many neighbors and totally support the direction of GPN. I hope there is some way we can all come together to make it better.

GPN: Anything else you'd like to say?

Kim: I'd like to see this town go in a better direction for business. I don't want to have to close down because of lack of safety.



San Lorenzo Park Neighbors Update

On May 15th, the San Lorenzo Park Neighbors (SLPN) had their first official volunteer event in the San Lorenzo Park Playground. A big thanks to everyone who participated with a special thanks to Leslie who purchased the shirts and to Osbaldo from the Santa Cruz Parks & Recreation Department (Parks) who supported the SLPN with tools and know-how. The SLPN will be reaching out to Parks to schedule the next volunteer event for May 29 from 10 AM to 1 PM. They are also spearheading an effort to schedule a concert at the duck pond in June 2021. GPN would like to congratulate the San Lorenzo Park Neighbors for the great turn out for their first event. GPN is looking forward to continuing to build a relationship with our fellow neighbors at San Lorenzo Park.



Introducing Diana Tobar: Communications Intern

Diana is from Los Angeles, California. She is a recent graduate from UCSC, where she studied Economics & Environmental Studies. She's aware of the important role organizations like Grant Park Neighbors have in conveying the concerns and needs of local communities. For this reason, she is excited to start working with GPN and engaging with community members, business, and local leaders.