

May 27, 2005

Dear Neighbors,

My name is Tom Neumeier, and I am the facilities manager for St. Anthony of Padua parish and St. Anthony's School. I would like to ask that you take a moment to read the following information.

I have spent several hours working with the City of Fresno, Msgr. John Coelho-Harguindeguy, as well as the building committee to review the concerns brought forth by your neighborhood. A list of a majority of these concerns follows, along with statements indicating how the issues have been addressed.

- “The gates on Browning Avenue for a service/emergency road will cause excess traffic.”
We have scheduled for the gates to be removed and the fence to be sealed on Wednesday, June 1, 2005. The road has been removed from the site plan.
- “The new community center will cause excessive traffic flow.”
By removing the gate, traffic flow will not be increasing in the neighborhood.
- “Vision on the corner of Browning and Maroa is blocked with parked cars.”
I am requesting from the City of Fresno that the curb on Maroa, to the north of Browning, be painted red at least four car lengths. Any stop sign or traffic light is in the hands of the City of Fresno.
- “The community center will increase parking problems.”
I assure you that there are no plans to have major events in the community center on Sundays, when parking is already problematic. Since 2002, I have not allowed soccer to take place on Sundays due to parking. Furthermore, we have created an additional 95 parking spaces on the school grounds.
- “A sidewalk should be placed on the north side of Browning Avenue.”
We have worked with the city to add a sidewalk and to improve the street lighting on Browning and Maroa.
- “St. Anthony's has outgrown their space.”
Many requests have been made to increase the student body by 300 students; we will not make this addition. The community center replaces buildings and only impedes out into the grass area approximately 50 feet. This should be the last major project on campus.

- “There will be increased noise from the center.”
Most activities will take place between 8:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. Other activities continuing past 8:00 P.M. will be contained indoors. If there is an occasion in which an outside evening event is scheduled to occur, I will notify the neighbors and adhere to the noise curfew limits set by the City of Fresno.
- “The building is being designed to generate increased revenue from rental events.”
Many churches in the Diocese of Fresno have shifted away from renting facilities for private parties and receptions. We are a parish that agrees with such action, and we therefore share in that policy. Furthermore, we have no plans to rent out our facilities due to liability issues, and there is no large industrial kitchen in the facility.

I understand that the aforementioned issues are important to you and that a level of trust must exist between us to have confidence that I will follow through with my promises. I have been working at St. Anthony’s for 29 years, and I have been a part of many changes. I have been sensitive to how we present ourselves to our neighbors; I have tried to keep the yard watered, well groomed, and litter free, and I placed a cyclone fence along the fence of the neighbors to the east to protect the wooden fence. Parking on Browning has been a concern of mine; however, this usually only occurs on carnival day, open house, grandparents’ day, Christmas, and Easter, and we do not anticipate that the presence of the community center will cause any increase in the amount of vehicles present for these special occasions. Those are all wonderful events, and we are excited and thankful to have so many people celebrating in our parish community. Please know that you are always welcome to attend and be a part of these events and celebrations. We are truly trying to serve the grade school students, the high school students, the young adults, seniors, and families with a new facility. If you would like to meet to discuss these issues further, or to discuss other concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 559/435-0700; If you have a concern, I would appreciate hearing from you by June 2, 2005 so I can address added issues . I will be happy to meet with you personally.

Thank you for sharing your concerns.

Sincerely,

Tom Neumeier