

## BUMPS IN THE ROAD

## Rodeo Realty Realtor gets involved and gets things done

Special to Real Estate

**R**ealtors are known for their community service, but Rodeo Realty Realtor Rachel Baroth took it one step —

and one speed bump — further.

A resident of Mission Hills, Baroth lives near San Jose Elementary School, on busy, formerly speed-bumpless San Jose Street.

"I heard the concerns of neigh-

bors regarding speeding on San Jose Street and by the school at Neighborhood Watch meetings I attended," she says. "I took the initiative and worked with the Department of Street Services to

get the speed bumps approved and installed."

That process involved going door-to-door and collecting signatures from at least 70 percent of the neighbors on the block, stating they wanted to have speed bumps installed.

"First you have to have them all sign the petition," Baroth says, "for a speed bump survey, and then when the survey is completed, you have to get 70 percent of the signatures again, stating the neighbors want the speed bumps installed. My block has 42 homes and I collected more than 90 percent of signatures both times. It was crazy. The survey was completed last June, and we were approved for speed bumps. It seemed like half of my neighbors were on vacation, so it took until mid-September to get the signatures on the second petition. So all in all, it was a 11/2-year process, from start to finish. I'd heard from many neighbors that in the past they had signed petitions for speed bumps, but nothing ever came of it.

"The neighbors are very happy now, and the City repaved the streets before the speed bumps were installed. That wasn't scheduled to happen until August of this year, but I kept e-mailing them to let them know we're getting speed bumps and it would be more efficient to pave now, rather than later. The City surprised us and repaved the week before the speed bumps were installed. That was really a bonus," Baroth says.

A Realtor in Rodeo's Northridge office for 31/2 years, Baroth says she stays involved in her community of Mission Hills through the Neighborhood Watch meetings and the Neighborhood Council, established within the last year.

"I hand-deliver a custom monthly newsletter to 500 neighbors every month, with updates on the last monthly meetings of the Neighborhood Watch and council, to keep as many neighbors informed as I can," she says.



**Rachel Baroth, right, poses with one of the Department of Street Services workers who helped pave San Jose Street near San Jose Street Elementary School. Through Baroth's efforts, the City not only quickly approved and repaved the street, they also installed speed bumps.**

Bumps in the road are no problem for her, and all roads regarding the issue seem to be leading to her.

"After my neighbors saw the speed bumps installed on my street, they've called asking how to accomplish this. Individuals may only petition for speed bumps for the block they live on. Now, I'm working with two other neighbors on their streets to get the process started," she says.

Rodeo Realty, Owner/President Syd Leibovitch and Ken Davis, manager of Rodeo Realty, Northridge, congratulate Baroth for providing speedy resolutions to some of life's bumpy problems.

Neighbors had tried for seven previous years to fix the speeding problem in the San Jose Elementary School area.

"Rachel collected signatures and then, with the help of her city council office, was able to expedite the installation process with the Department of Transportation. She secured a guarantee from the City that speed bumps would be installed within only six months, when it normally takes three years," Leibovitch says. "Her next project is getting neighborhood sidewalks repaired and additional streets repaved. Just another great example of what happens when a neighborhood Realtor gets involved and listens to the needs of their community."

