

# Greengate

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brouhaha touched off when a shortcut used by Green Acres school children was blocked by residents of Spencer Court, whose driveway is part of the shortcut.

Residents recited a volume of complaints about the kids who use their private road, and charged that school officials were calling various government agencies, trying to harass the residents into removing the gate.

Carino denied the district had applied pressure, and retorted that the residents aren't "completely cooperative."

Resident Bob Rigby said that during the past year, children have rung his doorbell, thrown firecrackers, eggs and a pumpkin, and have stolen things around the yard.

But, he said, that's nothing compared to what's going on now.

Rigby maintained that on Wednesday, "there were a bunch of people out there yelling and screaming at me. I'm afraid they're going to vandalize my house. To tell you the truth, I'm just trying to figure out how to move."

In addition, Live Oak business manager Dale Thurston has called the fire department, post office and Santa Cruz County Planning Department, charged Rigby.

As a result of the calls, Rigby said, mail delivery on Spencer Court may be curtailed.

"The school is coming down so heavy. They're trying to intimidate me," said Rigby. "I don't want to be the victim of all this hostility."

The calls to the fire, postal and planning officials were part of the district's information gathering process, not harassment, Carino said.

"If we're trying to establish a case to deal with our implied easement, those things may or may not be important," said Carino.

Meanwhile, Spencer Court residents have continued to open the gate before and after school to allow the children through.

Both the school district and resi-

dents on the private road serving four homes contend the fence and gate are on their property.

School officials maintain the developer of the property granted the school access through Spencer Court to the back of the school.

But Devlin Jones, an electrician and Spencer Court resident, contends the school does not have the right to use what is essentially a private driveway.

The residents probably own the fence and gate, to boot, said Jones. "I'm pretty sure the fence is on our property."

Jones said that issue is expected to be resolved today when county surveyors measure the site.

Jones said vandalism over the past three years prompted him to install the gate. In addition to school children, Little League parents fill the road with vehicles, he said.

Things have been stolen — a skateboard, bike and sweat suits. Kids pick his flowers, tease his dog and litter, and teen-agers "come blazing down the road through the school and back, in and out," Jones said.

Carino said the shouting on Wednesday erupted after Rigby closed the gate too soon after school and stranding two children inside, then refused to open it again.

Rigby, Jones and Carino contend they would be willing to compromise, allowing school children access during school times and with supervision, such as a crossing guard.

But, who would turn the key is still a point of contention.

Carino says the school district should hold the key. "Otherwise we don't have any control and it leaves the kids at risk."

Carino said lawyers for both sides, residents and school officials may meet next Tuesday to attempt to settle the issue.

If not settled then, court action is likely. "We're not going to let the thing fester. We can't afford to let it stay the way it is," said Carino.

Green Acres School

## Greengate school spat heating up

By ROBIN MUSITELL  
Sentinel staff writer

LIVE OAK — A shouting match erupted Wednesday over a disputed gate blocking a popular shortcut to Green Acres Elementary School, after two children were locked inside the school grounds.

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Angry parents hoisted the students over the fence as others confronted a resident of Spencer Court, demanding that the locked gate be removed, according to Live Oak School District Superintendent Rudy Carino.

Carino called the situation "potentially volatile."

"It's escalating a little," said Carino. "It's getting to the point I'm getting concerned."

Charges flew in both directions in the "Greengate" controversy, a

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