



Introduction

Greetings, fellow Homeowners! We are happy to announce that we are reinstating our practice of regularly publishing a Monterey Heights Homes Association newsletter! As before, we are using this newsletter to keep Homeowners up to date on Association activities and goings on in Monterey Heights. This newsletter will supplement our website, which contains frequently updated information regarding meetings, opportunities to be involved at both the neighborhood and City levels, and other news of interest to Monterey Heights Homeowners.

Additionally, we hope to add additional staff to our Newsletter Committee. Please contact us at info@montereyheights.org (or complete the attached survey) if you wish to join the committee, want to write a single article or just have an idea for an article. We plan on publishing the newsletter twice a year (Spring and Fall) and we welcome your participation.

Results of Annual MHHA Board Elections

Our annual MHHA Board elections recently took place before the 2014 holidays. Thanks to everyone who attended our Candidates Forum at the West Portal Playground Clubhouse and to all who voted. This election saw the highest voter participation in many years. We are pleased to announce the new 2015 Board with Officer positions noted. Officers were elected at the January meeting as per our By Laws. The best way to contact any Board member is to send an e-mail to info@montereyheights.org.

Paul Anderson – Secretary
Kimber Blackburn – President
Donann Creedon
Michelle James – Treasurer
Marco Magallon – Vice President
Kendall Patton
Steve Roditti
Helen Scully
Peter Schweikhardt
Cathy Topham
Suzanne Zurinaga

Please remember that Board meetings are open to all Homeowners. We meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month (except July and December) at 8:15PM at the Taraval Police Station Community Room on 24th Avenue (handicapped accessible).

Register Your E-Mail Address with the Monterey Heights HOA

While there is still the occasional need for regular ink-and-paper Association newsletters or other mailings, we, the Monterey Heights Homes Association, will be taking advantage of modern technology and improving our ability to be able connect with our members via e-mail and our HOA website. Our use of new technology will help us disseminate information quickly and efficiently to keep our membership connected. We will be able to just type a few keystrokes and contact several dozen people or everyone in the HOA. This type of distribution will also satisfy the sense of immediacy people have today to receive information.

Additionally, communication via e-mail and the Web brings tremendous value and cost savings. Traditional ink-and-paper newsletter mailings can cost an HOA an average of 75 cents per piece mailed. E-mails end up costing a fraction of a penny. That's a tremendous cost-savings.

Thus, please consider registering with your Monterey Heights Homes Association to receive e-mail updates and newsletter announcements. Just visit www.montereyheights.org and go to the page "Register with Monterey Heights HOA" to input your name and e-mail address. Don't worry – your e-mail will not be used for any other purpose.

First Annual Monterey Heights Neighborhood Garage Sale

Please consider participating in our first Annual Garage Sale, to be held Saturday, September 12th, 2015 from 9AM to 1PM (rain date September 19th). On the day of the sale, copies of maps, plus donuts and coffee, will be available at 8AM at 140 St. Elmo Way. (We will also e-mail

you a map several days before, should you wish to print out copies of the map yourself.) The MHHA will take care of the advertising. All you have to do is e-mail us at info@montereyheights.org (or complete the attached survey) to let us know that you are participating and set up your goods for sale in your driveway or garage. (Only your address will be listed on the map – not your name or phone number!) This is a great way to meet your neighbors and clean out your garage at the same time!

Update on Cistern Construction

As part of the Emergency Firefighting Water Supply Improvement Project, the SFPUC has been constructing various underground cisterns throughout San Francisco. These concrete tanks store large amounts of water to be used for firefighting in the neighborhoods in which they are located, particularly after an earthquake or other disaster. You may have noticed that one of these cisterns is under construction in our neighborhood, at the intersection of Yerba Buena and St. Elmo. Our contact at the SFPUC informs us that the construction of the cistern is progressing on schedule and is anticipated to be completed by early June. According to the SFPUC, the “heavy” work (installation of the steel piers and the shoring) was completed last month and most of the remaining work involves only manual labor and small equipment. We look forward to having this intersection re-opened and to the enhanced neighborhood emergency preparedness this cistern will provide.

Traffic Calming

The MHHA Board has created a Traffic Calming Committee to coordinate applications to the SFMTA for neighborhood traffic calming improvements. This City program addresses mid-block speeding on residential streets. Please note that as a City arterial, Monterey Boulevard is not eligible for traffic calming.

This year, the application period for traffic calming ends July 31st. Each application must identify a single block and include signatures of 20 distinct addresses or one-half of the addresses if there are fewer than 40 addresses. SFMTA staff will evaluate the location identified and determine whether traffic calming is warranted. If so, residents of the block would be given the

opportunity to vote on a speed hump or other traffic calming measure.

Please note that this application process is for traffic calming improvements only (e.g., speed humps), and that requests for traffic lights, stop signs or visibility are handled by submitting a complaint to SFMTA’s 311 customer service.

If you feel traffic calming is needed on your block, or if you just want to join the Traffic Calming Committee, please e-mail us at info@montereyheights.org or complete the attached survey.

Burglary Prevention Tips

We all wish our neighborhood could be crime free, but the reality is break-ins to our cars and homes continue to happen. The MHHA website (www.montereyheights.org) includes a Residential Burglary Prevention Tips sheet from the SFPD. It provides a number of ideas to help us be more proactive in protecting our property. A few recommendations: Install a house alarm and leave on at all times. Install exterior motion detector lights and/or cameras. When traveling, place interior lights in multiple rooms on timers, suspend newspaper delivery and ask a neighbor to keep an eye out for any suspicious activity. Don’t leave your trash cans out for more than 24 hours. At night, try to park your car in your garage or in your driveway, as close as possible to your house. Remember to report all break-ins and suspicious activity to the SFPD (non-emergency phone number 415-553-0123). For information on forming a Neighborhood Watch Program on your block, please see the SAFE article in this newsletter.

NERT and SAFE: Reflections on our 2014 Annual Meeting Speakers

Living in a beautiful city like San Francisco we often take things for granted. Unfortunately with all the good in our City we must not forget to be prepared for the bad. These might include car break-ins, street cell phone theft, home burglaries or the dreaded gift of Mother Nature in our area - Earthquakes! Everyone lives such a hectic life in the City that we far too often put these realities on the back burner, thinking they will never happen to us. Well, Benjamin Franklin’s adage of an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure should be taken to heart! Although we cannot always prevent something

unfortunate from happening, we are blessed with numerous programs at our disposal to help us be prepared to confidently handle whatever the situation may be, survive and perhaps make a difference in a life and death situation. Two such programs free of charge to us are the SF Fire Department NERT Training and San Francisco SAFE. If you attended our Annual Meeting in October, you heard representatives from each group speak. Have you or one of your family members followed through and availed yourself of their services? If not, please consider doing so now.

As you may recall, SAFE (Safety Awareness for Everyone) is a non-profit organization offering numerous free services concerning safety preparedness for everyday life in the City free of charge to SF residents. One of their programs is the Neighborhood Watch Group, in which SAFE facilitates the grouping together of neighbors on a single block in the name of crime prevention. You can get a Neighborhood Watch Group started on your block by filling out a request form (found on the SAFE website at sfsafe.org) and making an appointment.

As you may further recall, NERT (Neighborhood Emergency Response Team Training) is a free program offered at numerous locations around the city and is taught by the SFFD. In the program, you would be trained in emergency disaster skills which would enable you not only to be self-sufficient in the event of any major disaster situation, but to act as an adjunct to SFFD disaster responders. The program comprises 6 class sessions, totaling 20 hours of hands-on practical and life saving skills. These classes are fun, extremely informative and most of all confidence-building so you will be properly prepared to take care of yourself, your family and neighbors following a major catastrophe. Remember, City officials have said more than likely we will be on our own at least the initial 72 hours after a major disaster, as City rescue/fire/police/utility services may be far too taxed to respond to everyone's needs. Be prepared! The SFFD is currently accepting registration for classes held May/June and June/July. The website sf-fire.org has more details on when and where these classes will be held.

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Survey

Name

Address

Phone number

E-mail address

I would like to participate in the garage sale.

I am interested in the Newsletter. Please specify the nature of your interest:

_____.

I am interested in Traffic Calming. Please specify the nature of your interest:

_____.

Additional comments: _____

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Please mail to: Monterey Heights Homes Association, P.O. Box 27125, San Francisco, CA 94127