



Report on First Annual Monterey Heights Garage Sale

Despite not so ideal weather conditions (an isolated day of fog and chilly breezes), the First Annual Garage Sale, which took place on Saturday, September 12th with twenty-one participating homes, was a success! Early risers were treated to Peet's coffee and a selection of seasonal homemade muffins (including the elusive "Soy Nut Butter Chocolate Chip" variety) before going off to man their own garage sales, or check out their neighbors' sales. In addition to motivating people to clean out their garages and organize their storage areas, the garage sale was a great vehicle for socializing with neighbors. Potential shoppers ranged from seasoned garage sale attendees, to neighborhood kids, to our very own District 7 Supervisor Norman Yee, who though he'd take a wander through with his aides, after having just attended his neighborhood Westwood Park's Annual Picnic. Based on the feedback we've received, we'd like to hold another garage sale next year. As always, if you have any comments, we welcome them at info@montereyheights.org.

Save the Date! Annual Meeting to be held Sunday November 1st (at 2PM).

Our next upcoming social event is the Annual Meeting. This year we thought we'd do something slightly different and switch up the date and time of the Annual Meeting. While the evening of the 4th Tuesday of October is our usual meeting date (remember the havoc the World Series Giants game wreaked with our Annual Meeting last year?), we have decided to make the meeting a weekend afternoon affair! Again held within the boundaries of Monterey Heights, the Annual Meeting will this time take place in the gardens of Homeowners Kendall Patton and Mark Jordan. Please see the enclosed invitation for more information. Just a reminder, please bring a dish to share and a sweater to keep warm!

Please Consider Running for the Board!

Serving on the Board of Directors is a great way to meet other Homeowners and to have a real influence in shaping the future of Monterey Heights. We are currently seeking Homeowners (who are up to date on their dues) to run for the Board of Directors. For the 2016 - 2018 term, we have 4 spots to fill by popular election. Please consider nominating yourself or your neighbor! Nominations will be taken from the floor of the Annual Meeting, during the business portion of the meeting. If you are unable to attend, but still wish to run, please let us know. We meet the 4th Tuesday of every month at 8:15 PM in the Community Room of the Taraval Police Station. If you feel you cannot make a three year commitment, we also have several one year spots that will be filled by appointment in 2016. If you have any questions, please contact us at info@montereyheights.org.

Please Consider Volunteering for a Committee

One great way to get involved with the Monterey Heights Homes Association is to volunteer on a committee. The **Welcoming Committee** welcomes new Homeowners to the neighborhood by personally greeting new Homeowners and delivering to them welcoming packets and small plants. The **Website Committee** creates and maintains website content. The **Newsletter Committee** writes and publishes a newsletter twice a year. Please let us know if you would like to join one of these committees by signing up at the Annual Meeting or by e-mailing us at info@montereyheights.org.

Coyotes in Monterey Heights

There have been a number of coyote sightings on our streets the last few months. Most have been at night. However, a few of the most recent ones have been during daylight hours. In other areas, coyotes are normally seen in daylight, generally hunting for food. However, the volume of daylight sightings has increased for Monterey Heights and adjoining areas. This is most likely due to the drought which has disturbed their normal habitats for obtaining food and water.

Generally they are not aggressive towards humans. However, they will attack small unleashed pets as prey. The following web page from [sfgov.org](http://www.sfgov.org)

<http://www.sfgov2.org/index.aspx?page=1081> provides excellent information on how to handle any interactions with coyotes. Tips are also given on how to avoid having these animals come close to our homes, searching for food.

Attacks against children are extremely rare. However, since we are now seeing them in daylight hours on our streets, it would be a good idea to advise our children on how to handle the interaction, if they happen to see a coyote. If a coyote is acting aggressively or exhibiting strange behavior, please call Animal Care and Control at (415) 554-9400. Animal Care and Control is keeping a log of coyote sightings in San Francisco. To report a sighting, please e-mail the date, time, location and any other details of the sighting to: ACC@sfgov.org.

Landscape Options While Adhering to Drought Restrictions

The Board would like to offer options to Homeowners for dealing with our current drought. Our thoughts include types of ground cover available, and how to control water usage in response to the drought. If the experts are correct regarding global warming, these measures will be needed for quite awhile. We will be dealing with warmer weather, less rain and more instances of out and out drought over the coming years.

Many of us have decided that “brown is the new green.” However, keeping existing lawns mowed and weeded, no matter what their color, is important. Basic yard upkeep is good for maintaining our neighborhood appearance; as well as being good for little ones, be they two or four legged.

For those of us choosing to keep our lawns green and our plants watered, use of graywater is a drought-friendly option to consider. Two sites which are good resources for this topic are:

http://www.graywatergardening.com/Graywater_f_or_Gardens.html and

<http://www.urbanfarmerstore.com>. The main consideration is the source for graywater and the sodium levels, which could negatively impact plants. Urban Farmer is also an excellent resource for information, consultations and contracting.

Furthermore, with proper care, keeping a

lawn alive through periods of drought requires less water than you may think. Taking a couple steps to protect your lawn, such as using a mulching mower (to keep moisture in) and using a spiking lawn aerator (for maximum water penetration), will allow you to water only once or twice a week. Of course, edging and weeding should be performed twice a month. A good resource for lawn maintenance during periods of drought is the nearby Sloat Garden Center.

A number of our homeowners have decided to replace existing lawns with drought tolerant plants, rock gardens, and artificial turf. You could also consider using a landscaping designer or gardener to assist you in your decision on how to proceed, addressing the prep work required, and types of plants available.

Mulch is recommended to assist in proper maintenance and growth of plants and trees, as well as preserving ground moisture and deterring weed growth. This is readily available at local nurseries, typically in 2 cubic foot bags.

However, whatever option you use, remember our goal as a community is to conserve our precious water resources as best we can.

Own a Piece of Monterey Heights “History”

Relying on representations from the City that we would be able to hang “Monterey Heights” signs off light poles in our neighborhood, we had fabricated 13 aluminum signs with a dark green powder coating that bear a graceful monterey cyprus and stylized writing. However, when it came time to get the hanging of the signs approved, the City refused based on zoning ordinances, despite the fact that neighboring Westwood Highlands and St. Francis Wood (subject to zoning ordinances identical to Monterey Heights) have hung signs in their neighborhoods. We reached out to our District 7 Supervisor’s Office, and they hit a dead end as well. Thus, we have decided to sell the signs at cost. One of the signs could make a beautiful addition to your garden. Please consider purchasing one for \$150. Remember, this is a limited edition of 13! You can buy one at the Annual Meeting (we will have one on display) or you can contact us at info@montereyheights.org.