



### **Results of Annual MHHA Board Elections**

Our annual MHHA Board elections took place in December of last year. We welcome to a three-year term new Board member Marie-Cecile van de Lavoir and returning Board members Michelle James, Leslie French and Steve Roditti. We also welcome Laurie Bernstein who was appointed by the new 2016 Board to a one-year term. The new 2016 Board with Officer positions noted is as follows:

Paul Anderson – Secretary  
Laurie Bernstein  
Kimber Blackburn – President  
Leslie French  
Michelle James – Treasurer  
Kendall Patton  
Steve Roditti – Vice-President  
Helen Scully  
Cathy Topham  
Marie-Cecile van de Lavoir

We extend our sincere thanks to outgoing Board members Donann Creedon, Marco Magallon, Peter Schweikhardt and Suzanne Zurinaga for all their hard work. Marco continues to act as our Webmaster.

Please remember that Board meetings are open to all Homeowners. We meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month (except July and December) at 7:15PM at the Taraval Police Station Community Room on 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The best way to contact any Board member is to send an e-mail to [info@montereyheights.org](mailto:info@montereyheights.org).

### **Board Members Needed: Please Consider Volunteering for a One-year Appointment**

The MHHA Board still has openings for two additional Board members. If you are interested in volunteering for one of these positions (which terminate at the end of this year), please send an e-mail to [info@montereyheights.org](mailto:info@montereyheights.org), or complete the attached survey.

### **Report from the 2015 Annual Meeting**

Last year's Annual Meeting was held in the gardens of Board member Kendall Patton the

afternoon of Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. You can view photos of the affair on our website ([www.montereyheights.org](http://www.montereyheights.org)). Thanks to all who attended and contributed to the sumptuous feast of hors d'oeuvres.

At the meeting, Kyle Lemle from Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF) spoke regarding FUF-sponsored tree plantings in Monterey Heights. Mary Paglieri of the Little Blue Society spoke about the coexistence of humans and urban coyotes. Lieutenant Goss from the Taraval Police Department spoke regarding crime and safety in Monterey Heights. Surprise guest Supervisor Norman Yee also took the floor to discuss his recent District 7 accomplishments and to encourage residents to participate and vote in the upcoming 2016 Participatory Budgeting.

### **Monterey Heights Spring Garden Tour – Sunday May 15<sup>th</sup> from 3-5PM**

The MHHA is organizing a tour through five of Monterey Heights' private gardens. Please come and join your neighbors in looking at the wonderful greenery we have in this neighborhood and get to know your neighbors. For the gardeners among you, this is the perfect opportunity to pick your fellow gardeners' brains to hear what grows well (and what doesn't) in our neighborhood. Coffee, cookies, and some libations will be served. The garden openings will be staggered somewhat so please pay attention to the time. The addresses and times that the gardens are open are as follows:

3:00-4:30 PM, 150 St. Elmo Way, host Kimber Blackburn  
3:00-4:30 PM, 155 St. Elmo Way, host Katy de Leon  
3:15-4:45 PM, 265 Brentwood Avenue, hosts Tom and John Stafford  
3:30-5:00 PM, 257 Brentwood Avenue, hosts Marie-Cecile van de Lavoir and Jo Ebergen  
3:30-5:00 PM, 24 Rosewood Drive, hosts Mark and Stephanie Looney

We hope to see many of you there!

## **Traffic Calming in Our Neighborhood**

In 2015, one of our Homeowners submitted a proposal for speed humps to assist in controlling traffic speeding on Fernwood Drive between El Verano and Brentwood Avenue. We are pleased to announce that the SFMTA is approving the request.

If any homeowners are interested in applying for traffic calming on another block in our neighborhood, please visit [www.sfmta.com/node/77946](http://www.sfmta.com/node/77946). Residents can apply for speed humps to be added to their streets if they feel there is a speeding concern. Applications are evaluated based on criteria such as speeds, collisions, and volume. When there is significant speeding but speed humps cannot be installed, measures like median islands, chicanes, or traffic circles can be considered. Applications for the 2016/2017 Traffic Calming Program will be accepted starting February 2, 2016 and must be submitted by Monday, August 1, 2016.

## **Plant a Street Tree in Monterey Heights with Friends of the Urban Forest**

Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF) is a non-profit organization that helps San Francisco residents get new trees on their blocks, at reduced cost. Thus far, FUF has worked with neighborhood communities to plant over 50,000 trees in San Francisco.

Why should you join with FUF in planting a tree? Street trees provide benefits such as: increasing property values, cleaning the air, preventing flooding, reducing crime, promoting exercise, absorbing traffic noise, calming traffic, increasing privacy, and building neighborhood and civic pride. For more information on the benefits of street trees, please visit <http://www.fuf.net/benefits-of-urban-greening/>.

FUF will sponsor a community tree planting event in Monterey Heights this summer as long as they can get 15 homes to commit to making this happen. Please apply to be a part of this summer's planting and FUF will help you plant a tree in the sidewalk or yard in front of your home AND will come back for 3-5 years of follow-up tree care.

You can sign up for a free, no-obligation site visit (during which time species, location and pricing will be discussed) by visiting <http://www.fuf.net/eform/>. If you are not interested in having a tree planted in your

sidewalk or yard, but still want to be a part of this summer's community planting, please visit <http://www.fuf.net/sunnysidebalboa/>.

If you have any questions, please contact Kyle Lemle from FUF at [info@fuf.net](mailto:info@fuf.net) or (415) 268-0772.

## **Second Annual Monterey Heights Neighborhood Garage Sale**

Our first garage sale last fall was such a success that we are reprising the event, this time with expanded hours. We welcome your participation in our Second Annual Garage Sale, to be held Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from 9AM to 4PM (rain date September 17<sup>th</sup>). 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](mailto: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!

## **Job Opening: Administrative Assistant**

Our current administrative assistant is retiring and we are looking for a replacement. This part-time PAID position is mainly clerical in nature and requires a candidate who has their own computer. The salary is \$25/hour, and the work is not expected to exceed 200 hours in any given year. The job description is posted on our website [www.montereyheights.org](http://www.montereyheights.org). Interested parties should contact the Board at [info@montereyheights.org](mailto:info@montereyheights.org), or complete the attached survey. There is NO requirement that the administrative assistant be a Monterey Heights Homeowner, so if you know of someone outside the neighborhood who might be interested in this position, please pass the word!

## **Vin Debut Rises From the Ashes – by Marie-Cecile van de Lavoir**

In 2010, my husband and I became members of the Vin Debut wine club. We always loved walking there on a Friday and tasting wines

before we picked up our bottles and went our merry way. Unfortunately, on October 12, 2012, disaster struck and Vin Debut went up in flames. Rebuilding efforts got underway and it has taken longer than we all hoped but finally, three years later, Vin Debut is up and running again. The owners James and Gail were determined to come back and hung in there for all that time and they (and we) are happy to be back.

The concept has changed from the original: what started as a wine store is now a full-fledged wine bar with a kitchen that serves small plates. In addition, there is an interesting selection of Californian draft beers with a few European ones sprinkled in and many more beers in bottles.

Due to ADA requirements, an elevator had to be put in to service the offices upstairs which significantly reduced the amount of wine storage space. As a result, the wine club is no more.

But first and foremost, Vin Debut is a wine bar and there are a lot of wines by the glass both from the Old and New Worlds. The categorization of the wine has stayed the same. Reds come in “soft,” “rounded” and “bold.” Whites come in “bright,” “aromatic” and “rich.” If you like what you taste, you can buy a bottle to take home.

And finally, Vin Debut has added an event space, aptly named “the Spillover Room.” This new addition is adjacent to the main space, can be rented for private parties, and has a lovely selection of food and beverages to choose from.

There are not many streets left in San Francisco where you can go to the movies and enjoy a nice glass of wine with a little bite to eat afterwards. We are lucky that we can still do this in our neighborhood. So check out Vin Debut and don't forget, there is happy hour Monday through Friday from 4-6 PM with \$6 wines and \$4 beers.

Vin Debut is located at 9 West Portal Ave. at Ulloa and is open Wed-Sat 4pm-12am, Sun-Tue 4pm-10pm. Their phone number is 415-987-0414.

### **Tips on When to Contact 311**

311 is improved and has expanded its web-based services. This San Francisco resource for requests and complaints covers a variety of City issues including animals, garbage and graffiti, street lighting, sewer issues and flooding, potholes, abandoned vehicles and blocked driveways, to name a few. Additionally, you may

not be aware, but 311 is responsible for seeing that city-owned land is weeded. If you happen to notice that the three medians/triangles in Monterey Heights or the “ivy wall” dividing oncoming traffic on Monterey Blvd. needs some TLC, please call 311 (we will, too!) and they will come rectify the situation. Please visit <http://sf311.org/> for a complete list of services they cover. Of course, you can still always call them at 311 or (415) 701-2311.

Some examples of 311's speedy work in our neighborhood: A vandal spray-painted a portion of the city-owned triangle located at Yerba Buena and Monterey Blvd. We contacted 311 and they removed the spray paint within 48 hours. Furthermore, when we recently reported to 311 the outage of two street light bulbs in our neighborhood, the lights were made functional within 48 hours of reporting the outage. Good Job 311!

Please note that coyote sightings are reported separately to Animal Care and Control at 415-554-9400.

### **Consider Applying for the Civil Grand Jury**

Looking for a way to participate in City and County government? The Civil Grand Jury of San Francisco is a “watchdog” that investigates the operations of San Francisco government, including its departments, agencies, and officers. The Civil Grand Jury consists of 19 members selected randomly from a pool of applicants to serve a one-year term. Each Civil Grand Jury determines, by majority vote, which issues related to the government of the City and County of San Francisco to investigate. Typically, the Jury divides itself into committees, which carry out the investigations and write the reports.

Service is from July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> each calendar year. The entire Civil Grand Jury meets once per week, generally in the late afternoon. Subcommittees meet as needed. Most of the Jury's work takes place during regular business hours. If you are interested in applying for this opportunity, please visit <http://civilgrandjury.sfgov.org/join.html>. This website provides more information regarding service and has an application form embedded in the document. Applications are accepted until May 13, 2016.

**Survey**

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Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address

- I would like to participate in the garage sale.
- I am interested in volunteering as a Board member.
- I am interested in the Administrative Assistant position.

Additional comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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