



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 members Misha Cao, Greg Naeve and Erika Ragland and returning Board member Kimber Blackburn. We also welcome Theresa Allen who was appointed by the new 2017 Board to a one-year term. The new 2017 Board with Officer positions noted is as follows:

Theresa Allen
Kimber Blackburn – President
Misha Cao
Leslie French – Secretary
Michelle James – Treasurer
Greg Naeve
Kendall Patton
Erika Ragland
Steve Roditti – Vice-President
Helen Scully
Cathy Topham
Marie-Cecile van de Lavoir

We extend our sincere thanks to outgoing Board members Paul Anderson and Laurie Bernstein.

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

Monterey Heights Second Annual Spring Garden Tour – Sunday May 21st from 3-5PM

The MHHA is again organizing a tour through several 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.

We have already heard from some of you that you would like to open your gardens to your neighbors, but we would like to have some more

gardens to put on the tour. Also, if you would like to display your art or other professional or hobby items (think: honey, wine, pottery, weaving, jams etc.) for your neighbors, we would love to match you up with a garden. Please e-mail us at info@montereyheights.org (or return the attached survey) if you are able to participate as a garden host or displayer.

Tour addresses will be announced by postcard which will be hand-delivered at a later date. We hope to see many of you there! Coffee, cookies, and some libations will be served.

Traffic Calming in Our Neighborhood

Our Board of Supervisors and the SFMTA support the Vision Zero program with a goal toward eliminating all traffic deaths by 2024. Part of this program involves traffic calming -- a project to control vehicle speeds and thereby protect pedestrians and prevent accidents. If any homeowners are interested in applying for traffic calming on their block, please visit <https://www.sfmta.com/node/77946>. This link explains the program and includes the application. If speed humps are not feasible, other measures may be considered by the City. Applications for the 2017/2018 program are being accepted from February 1, 2017 to June 30, 2017.

Plant a Street Tree in the Neighborhood with Friends of the Urban Forest

On Saturday May 13th, the Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF) is sponsoring a tree planting event in the Monterey Heights, Sunnyside and Miraloma neighborhoods. Although the deadline for requesting your own tree has passed (April 5th), you can still participate in the actual neighborhood planting itself. Please e-mail us at info@montereyheights.org (or return the attached survey) if you are interested in participating.

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/>.

Participatory Budgeting

This year, Supervisor Norman Yee has again sponsored a Participatory Budgeting Program which invites Residents to have a say in the allocation of monies to pedestrian safety, culture, neighborhood services and school, education & youth in their District. We hope you received our e-mail announcing the period for voting, which ended March 31st. (Note that if you are not on our e-mail list, you can join by visiting www.montereyheights.org and clicking on the register tab.) While the MHHA's proposal for reducing vehicle speeds on Yerba Buena did not make it on the ballot (as the SFMTA was reluctant to install speed cushions), the MHHA is still working on other options outside of the Participatory Budgeting Program including installing a crosswalk on Yerba Buena at Casitas and Hazelwood.

In 2016, the MHHA's proposal to renovate the triangle at the intersection of Yerba Buena and Miraloma to increase safety and enhance beauty was funded. Thus far, two tree trees which had previously blocked drivers' vision have been removed. Once the rainy season ends, the City should replace the retaining wall and replant the area with drought-tolerant plants.

NERT and SAFE (Reprised from our Spring 2015 Newsletter)

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.

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. The website sf-fire.org has more details on when and where these classes will be held.

Be a good neighbor: Please help decrease street parking

Some streets in Monterey Heights are so narrow that parking cars on both sides of the street makes it impossible for more than one car to drive past at a time. Partially parking on the sidewalk is actually against the law and statistics show that street-parked cars get broken into more frequently than off-street parked cars.

What's the solution? Park on the street as a place of last resort, or if you're just going to drive off again in a few moments. Particularly if you own more than one car, please consider using your garage and driveway as your parking spots of preference. By being a considerate neighbor we can work together to help eliminate neighborhood congestion.

Winter Holiday Celebrations

In the spirit of "it's never too early to plan ahead" the Board would like to gauge Homeowner interest in social activities in December. We are considering throwing an all-ages Holiday Party and planning a Christmas Caroling Event. Please give us your input on the survey below or e-mail us at info@montereyheights.org.

* * * * *

Survey

Name

Address

Phone number

E-mail address

- I would like to participate in the Garden Tour as a host or displayer.
- I would like to participate in the Friends of the Urban Forest Tree Planting.
- I would be interested in attending a family Holiday Party.
- I would be interested in participating in a Monterey Heights Christmas Caroling event.

Additional comments: _____

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