

Castellammare Mesa Home Owners NEWSLETTER July, 2011

- **THE COMMUNITY PICNIC** - Once again, we are preparing for the annual picnic, which is usually held the end of September or early October. We will send out a "save the date" notice when we it has been determined so you can mark your calendars. You won't want to miss this fun community event!
- **THE LOS LIONES TRAFFIC SIGNAL** is installed and running, thanks to Westside Waldorf School and The Getty Trust. After many years, we finally have a light at this busy intersection. We also owe a big thanks to our City Councilman, Bill Rosendahl and his Northern District Director, Norm Kulla, for their perseverance in making this light a reality.

As you all probably know, the cost for the light rose considerably in the years it took for Waldorf to come up with the funds to have it installed. If any of you would like to donate to Waldorf's light fund, please feel free to do so. We all benefit from the increased safety of this light.

- **POTHOLE REPAIR DAY** - Thanks to all of you in the community who participated in the City's Pothole Repair Day and Board member Laura Gerson, who organized all of your input and worked with the City. The project was a great success. Many of our potholes were filled, making our streets easier and safer to maneuver.
- **TREASURER'S REPORT** - We currently have a total of \$14,186.00 in our General Checking Account, \$6,386.00 in our Legal Defense Fund and \$14,220.00 in our Money Market Account, for a total balance of \$34,792.00. We are managing the Los Liones Planting Project, which has a balance of \$696.00 in its account, and the Castle Rock Landscaping Project, with a balance of \$925.00.

To date, 148 households have paid their dues.

Dues-paying members are eligible to receive a **Getty Villa card**. If you don't already have yours, please contact Kim to make arrangements to pick it up.

- Sincerely, Doug McCormick, Treasurer

- **LOS LIONES AND CASTLE ROCK BEAUTIFICATION PROJECTS** - Los Liones Planting Project: Now that the signal is fully operational, the volunteers will be repairing the irrigation system at Fire Station 23, weeding and trimming, and getting ready to replant the areas disturbed by the construction. On-going work continues at the corner of Los Liones and Tramonto on Thursday mornings between 9 and 11 am. Please contact Norma Spak if you would like to help.

Castle Rock Planting Project: A very great effort to eradicate weeds from this area is starting to show results. New planting is underway and dune restoration around the restroom will take place in late fall. Project Manager Doug McCormick is working with volunteer residents Al Werker, Reuel Sutton, Muriel Janes, Lew Whitaker and John Staley. Please contact Doug if you would like to join the volunteers on Tuesdays from 10 to 11 am.

Many thanks to all of you who have volunteered or contributed to the planting fund. We have accomplished a great deal and everyone involved deserves a big Thank You.

- Sincerely, Kelly Comras

Norma Spak, Randy Young, Maria Bane, and Carol Leacock have been working very hard for months doing major brush clearance in Los Liones Canyon for fire safety. State Parks is not required to clear brush. We owe a lot of thanks to this group for their efforts in helping keep the Canyon fire safe.

- **TREES AND FOLIAGE BLOCKING NEIGHBOR'S VIEWS** - The Board continues to get calls from frustrated residents whose views are being impeded and sometimes totally blocked by neighbors who refuse to prune their trees or bushes. Besides the very real loss of a view, which is why many people buy their home here in the first place, the loss in property value is also great. Some homeowners have said they may sell their home and move due to neighbors who will not cooperate by trimming their trees. PLEASE be considerate about your neighbor's views and cut your trees and bushes back.
- **THE WOODEN RAILING AT THE BULKHEAD** at Coperto and Tramonto has been repaired by the City, thanks to Marlana Newmark and Norma Spak, who reported the decaying railing to Norm Kulla, Northern District Director for our City Council. Thanks Norma, Marlana and Norm Kulla!
- **CRIME AND SAFETY** Although we received a notice from Senior Lead Officer Michael Moore to be sure and keep our doors and windows locked due to increased burglaries in other areas of the Palisades, our area has not experienced any incidents of burglaries lately. Please remember to lock your house and your car and report any crime or suspicious activity to the police and to your CMHO Board so that we may alert your neighbors.
- **THE GETTY VILLA AND THE GVCRC** The Getty purchased the warehouse located on Los Liones and owned by Gene Gladden on Bellino to use as storage. This is the warehouse that Chabad had previously leased to use as a pre-school but was unable to obtain access. The Getty also recently sold their property at the corner of Sunset and Los Liones, which Chabad will use as a pre-school.

The Getty Villa Communications Relations Committee (GVCRC) continues to meet every-other-month to make certain that communication run smoothly between the Getty and communities around the Getty Villa. The Getty Villa is currently receiving zero to one complaint each month from neighbors.

The Getty Villa's outdoor summer play is The Trojan Women. It starts September 8 and continues until the end of the month.

- **BLOOD DRIVE AT THE GETTY VILLA** on Thursday, August 18 from 10 am to 4 pm. in VN111-112 in the Office Building. The Red Cross Needs blood donors now more than ever. The Getty is asking neighbors to donate to this important blood drive. Blood donations are particularly crucial this summer. Donations during May and June were at the lowest level the Red Cross has seen for those months in over a dozen years, while demand for blood products remained steady.

Folks should make an appointment in advance by visiting the Red Cross website at <http://www.redcrossblood.org/make-donation-sponsor> and typing JPGetty in the Enter Sponsor Code field. The instructions are straightforward from there. Alternately, people can contact Guy Wheatley at 310-440-7119 or gwheatley@getty.edu. Either way, Guy will make a parking reservation and the donor would enter through the Los Liones gate and park in the Business Parking.

- **17433 TRAMONTO DRIVE** - This is the proposed project on lower Tramonto just outside our tract where the deer feed. Information was sent to you previously about it and the upcoming hearing. The hearing was held on July 20 and a member of the Board attended. A long-term resident presented evidence to the Associate Zoning Administrator who was holding the hearing that the City had made a prior determination regarding this site. Circumstances have not changed since then and there are no grounds to permit changes. One of the City's prior determinations was that no more than 300 cubic yards of dirt is allowed to be excavated from this hillside site. The new developer is requesting that 71,000 cubic yards be excavated. They are also asking for variances that will allow additional retaining walls which are well above the needs of the property, and in the vertical height restriction. It is the opinion of the Board that this project attempts to transform a beautiful hillside into a conventional flat lot. This project, as proposed, should not be approved.

The Zoning Administrator recorded this information at the hearing. She ordered the owner's representative to arrange to meet with the surrounding HOA's to explain the project to the community. She wants to receive this information by August 22. When a meeting place and date has been arranged by the owner's representative, we will let you know. If you would like to send in comments to the City, the number on the hearing notice is (213) 978-1347 and the Case No. is ZA 2010-2544-CDP-MEL.

- **CURRENT ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE REPORT AND PROJECTS:** We all purchased our homes subject to the empowerment of the Architectural Committee (AC), which is authorized by our CC&R's to review and approve plans for new homes or remodel existing ones. Neighbors are reminded to please bring your construction projects, no matter how small, to the AC early in the process to save time and money. If the project does not require the AC's involvement, we will let you know.

If you are interested, the CC&R's are available via the internet (just ask Kim to send you a copy). Architectural Guidelines have also been established and are now available to owners and real estate agents upon request.

New hillside regulations, called the "Baseline Hillside Ordinance" were adopted by the City Department of Planning on May 9 of this year. Anyone building in this area may be affected by these new regulations and should work with their architect in order to comply with them.

No new AC projects have been submitted since the last newsletter.

- **STATUS OF LAWSUIT:** 17642 Tramonto Drive. This lawsuit, now more than 5 years old, looks like it is winding down. The AC recently approved the final plans submitted by the owners, contingent upon compliance with the terms of the CC&R's and with the specific conditions associated with this construction. The owners have applied to the City for additional structures (e.g., a 3 story storage, rec and equipment room with pool, deck and bridge...). If the owners decide to go ahead with these additional structures, they will be required to go through the regular AC process.

Board Members

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Architectural Committee Members

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Margaret Churchill*	310 573-1713	bermarg@roadrunner.com
Bob Marrs*	310 454-2030	bobmarrs@yahoo.com

* Denotes alternate.

Other Important Numbers:

LAPD: Senior Lead Officer Michael Moore: 1-310-444-0737; 27995@lapd.lacity.org

For non-emergency immediate service: (877) 275-5273

Fire Dept. 911 **Brush Clearance:** (818) 374-1111

City Services and Building & Safety: 311 or <http://www.lacity.org/boss/request.htm>

Note: This number is for any kind of question or concern re the City (graffiti removal, pot-hole repair, brush clearance, code violations, tree removal, etc.)

City Council Office:

Bill Rosendahl: LA Office: 200 N. Spring Street, Rm. 415, LA, CA 90012; 213-473-7011

West LA: 1645 Corinth, Room 201, West LA, CA 90025; 310-575-8461

councilman.rosendahl@lacity.org

Joaquin Macias, Sr. Field Deputy for Pacific Palisades: Joaquin.Macias@lacity.org

Getty Villa Community Relations Committee:

Kelly Comras: 1-310-459-5661; k_comras@hotmail.com

Kim Clary 1-310-230-8041 kimjdave@msn.com

Getty Villa Complaint Hotline: 1-877-625-4282

Remember to conserve water & to recycle!!

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