

Castellammare Mesa Home Owners NEWSLETTER July, 2012

Dear Neighbor: We hope you are having a pleasant and restful summer. This newsletter will update you on recent and upcoming events in the Castellammare community.

- **THE HOME TOUR** on Sunday, April 22 was a big success and an exciting event. Three houses were included in the walking tour: We started at Valerie Hervey's house on Quadro Vecchio, and were given a tour of her lovely home and beautiful scenic gardens; we then walked to Alice Hanks' home for a very interesting historic tour of her late husband's--Indy 500 Race Car driver Sam Hanks--trophy room; we last toured the incredible Villa Leon where the owner, Dr. Anna Fuchs, graciously showed us around. We were then treated to wine and cheese on the terrace of the Villa overlooking the ocean. It was a perfect ending to a wonderful day.

Thank you to the committee who worked hard over many months to make this event so successful: Alice Beagles, Muriel Janes, Alice Hanks, Judy Orsini, and Mary Alice Hawkins. Many thanks to all of the volunteers who helped on the day of the event: Shirley Haggstrom, Billy Koenig, Kenneth Friedman, Doug McCormick, David Morena, Bernie Orsini and Cindy and Bart Young.

Although this was meant to be a community get-together, not a fund-raiser, \$1,228 was raised for the HOA.

- **THE COMMUNITY PICNIC** is usually held the end of September or early October. we will send you a "save the date" notice when the date is determined so you can mark your calendars. You won't want to miss this fun community event!
- **TREASURER'S REPORT** - We currently have a total of \$13,834 in our General Checking Account, \$6,262 in our Legal Defense Fund and \$14,222 in our Money Market Account for a total balance of \$34,318.

To date, 151 households have paid their yearly dues of \$85. If you have not paid yet, please send your check, made out to CMHO, to PO Box 742, PP, 90272. You will receive a Getty Villa card with payment of your dues, which allows you to walk-in to the Villa at any time and take any amount of guests with you. If you have paid and don't have your Villa card, please make arrangements with Kim to pick one up.

The CMHO's Treasurer is managing the Los Liones and Castle Rock Planting Projects, which have a total balance of \$7,092.

- **LOS LIONES AND CASTLE ROCK BEAUTIFICATION PROJECTS** - Progress is ongoing and the gardens are looking well. Now that it is summer, several of our volunteers are traveling and we could use a couple of people to help out for an hour on Tuesdays at 10am. We have fun working together and it is a nice, short way to make a contribution to the community and get to know your neighbors. How about it? Give Doug McCormick a call at 310-459-1382 if you can lend a hand. Thank you!
- **CRIME AND SAFETY** - Home burglaries continue to escalate overall in the Palisades. Between July 11 - 18 in the 200 block of Bellino Dr., a suspect forced open a rear office window and stole a television, laptop computer and suitcase. Recently, on lower Tramonto, outside of our tract, a gate was rammed by a large-type of vehicle in what the police believe may have been an unsuccessful burglary attempt to gain entrance into the house. In addition, we have had suspicious types selling magazines in the past few months and other kinds of sales people knocking on our doors. . We also had a rash of burglary thefts from vehicles a couple of months ago. These were crimes of opportunity and from unlocked cars.

Remember to keep your doors and windows locked at all times, even when you are at home. Be sure to keep nothing of value visible in your cars and lock them. Report all crimes and suspicious activity to our Senior Lead Officer Michael Moore and to your CMHO Board (contact information on the last page of this newsletter). And, in an emergency, call 911.

- **THE GETTY VILLA & THE GVCRC** - The Getty Villa Community Relations Committee continues to meet every other month to assure that community relations between the Getty Villa and its neighbors run smoothly. Lately, there have been no complaints from neighbors. The Outdoor Theater Production this year will be Euripides' Helen. It promises to be an exciting play so try to see it if you can.

The Getty Villa initiated a composting and recycling program in June, 2011. Now, all food, paper products, flowers, plants, wood and other organic waste is removed for composting to a composting center. All other recyclable waste, such as glass and plastic, is taken to a recycling center. Initially, only 20% of the Villa's waste was recycled. Today, 100% diversion has been achieved. The Getty Center is utilizing a similar program.

- **17433 TRAMONTO DRIVE** - This is the large project on lower Tramonto, outside of our tract where a lot of earth movement is occurring. Many of you are asking what is going on there. The City required the new owner to excavate the entire hill, compact it, and put it back. The owner held community meetings last year to explain the project. They will be building an approximately 17,000 sq. ft. house, another 2,000 sq. ft. smaller house, an unlighted sports court, a meadow and an orchard. The project is scheduled to take about 2 years to complete. Both the owner and his contractor have graciously contacted the board with their contact information to call them if anyone has any questions or complaints. The home has just won an international architecture award.
- **OUR LONG-TIME NEIGHBOR, LINDA LEFKOWITZ**, Superior Court Judge, was in the news in June when she left for work one morning and didn't show up at court. She was missing for hours and was found later confused in another city, but thankfully unharmed and ok. She later asked if we would put this in the newsletter:

"To friends and neighbors in Castellammare. As some of you know, I had a chemotherapy related kind of glitz and went MIA on June 19 - finding myself some 10 hours later. LAPD, the Sheriff and SMPD were helpful in assisting my family, but the most support came from many of you who went out of your way to be kind and offer your prayers. Some of you I know well and will thank personally, but others were just wonderful members of this community who helped my family greatly with their caring who we do not know other than waving during walks.

This is why many of us continue to live on the hill. It is truly a community and I cannot express how deeply Frank and I, and our family, thank you for your warmth and solace during this event.

With Deepest Appreciation - Linda Lefkowitz"

Thank you, Linda, for your appreciation and also for putting into words how many of us feel about this special community.

- **ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE REPORT AND CURRENT PROJECTS:** One of the CMHO's primary responsibilities, through your Architectural Committee (the AC) is to uphold the CC&R's. Property owners are required, as per the CC&R's, to bring their construction projects, no matter how small, to the AC early in their process to save time and money.

For owners and real estate agents, we have *Architectural Guidelines* which are available via the internet. Just ask Kim if you would like a copy.

- 318 Bellino Dr. - Owners built a shed on their property which they said would be temporary (6 - 9 months). It has now been 11 months and they have been asked to remove it as it is against the *CC&R's*.
- 17929 Castellammare Dr. - Owner submitted plans to remodel a current roof-top deck. Plans were approved
- 228 Monte Grigio Dr. - Owners were approved for a two-bedroom addition to their home.
- 17475 Revello Dr. - The owner is apparently proceeding with construction of an approximately 6,200 sq. ft. house without approval from the *AC*. He has indicated that the plans are the same as presented to the *AC* in 2009, and the *AC* is awaiting confirmation of this from him.
- 17526 Tramonto Dr. - Owner was approved for a small remodeling project by his pool and a deck by his office
- 17757 Tramonto Dr. - Owners have presented plans to the *AC* for a room over their garage, a new deck and a small addition to the rear of their home. The *AC* is going through its process and the owners have installed story poles.
- 17708 Tramonto Dr. - This project, where the owners are remodeling to add square footage to both ends of their house, has been approved by the *AC*. A neighbor is protesting the decision and is demanding that the Board overturn the *AC's* decision. The Board intends to formally respond to this demand in a timely manner. In its review of the complaint the Board is limited to determining whether the *AC* followed the procedures as stated in the *CC&R's*.

Castellammare Mesa Home Owners
PO Box 742, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272
<http://castellammaremesa.com>

Board Members

Kim Clary, President	310 230-8041	kimjdave@msn.com
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Architectural Committee Members

Kim Clary, Chair	310 230-8041	kimjdave@msn.com
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Margaret Churchill, Secretary	310 573-1713	bermarg@roadrunner.com
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Marlena Newmark*	454-4592	PaulMarlena@aol.com
Reuel Sutton	310 459-1286	reuel.sutton@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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