

# Castellammare Mesa Home Owners NEWSLETTER April, 2014



Dear Neighbor: This newsletter updates you on the community news and the results of the Annual General Meeting which was held on February 25. Thanks to all of you who attended and participated in this important once-a-year community meeting. The meeting was well attended.

But first we want to tell you about the HOME TOUR, which will be on Saturday, May 17, from 1:30 to 4:30. We have three exciting homes to view and it promises to be a very fun day for the community. The charge is \$20 per person to help defray the costs of printing, food, drinks and other costs. A shuttle will be provided for those who may not feel they want to walk the distances between the houses. You should have received your invitation by now, but if you haven't, please contact Muriel Janes.



## Summary of the news from the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

BOARD ELECTIONS: You elected the following 2014 Board Members. Officers were elected by the Board at its first meeting on March 26:

- Kim Clary, President
- Mike Lofchie, Vice President
- Muriel Janes, Secretary
- Doug McCormick, Treasurer
- John Cordic
- Aly Montes
- Mo Sahebi

The Board appointed the following to the Architectural Committee (AC):

- Mo Sahebi, Chair
- Margaret Churchill, Secretary
- Kim Clary
- Flora Cordic\*
- Bob MARRS\*
- Marlena Newmark
- Anthony Punnett\*
- Reuel Sutton

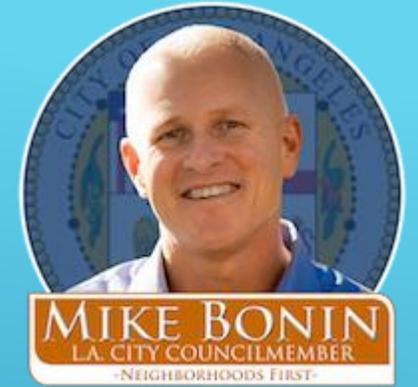
(\*Denotes alternate)

Sadly, Andrew Martin and Gerald Nadler, two longstanding and very dedicated members of the AC, resigned this year. They served the community for over 15 years each and their contributions will be sorely missed by the AC and the community.

The Board appointed David Morena, Mike Lofchie and Mo Sahebi to the Professional Services Committee. Kelly Comras and Kim Clary were re-appointed to the Getty Villa Community Relations Committee. Bob MARRS will continue to be our Records Custodian.

## COUNCILMAN MIKE BONIN:

- Discussed the new administration at City Hall, stating that half of the City Council is newly elected as is the Mayor and the City Controller.
- Some of the goals of the new administration: Back to the basics - citing better street maintenance and adequately staffed first responders; an attempt to balance the budget; new transparency and updating the website with as much information as possible, making it easier for residents to get information about City government; a pilot project to get new and better equipment for first responders.
- The California Incline Project is projected to begin approximately in the fall of this year.
- LADWP - The Mayor is focusing on reforming this department. A new General Manager, Marcie Edwards, has been appointed.
- Street and sidewalk conditions: Street are graded A through F. The City has given up repairing D and F graded streets, because funding would be exhausted on them. There will possibly be a referendum in the future to clear the backlog of street and sidewalk projects.
- Street sweeping - Our neighborhood is a non-posted area, which are supposed to be cleaned once per month. Cars are not required to be moved, and the sweeper goes around them.



## FILM L.A. REPRESENTATIVES ARTURO PINA, AMY SOULE AND LAPD SGT. TURVEY:

- Due to the recent filming at Villa Leon, and the subsequent road closure, Film L.A. was asked to attend the community meeting and discuss the issue. Mike Lofchie, CMHO Board Vice President, read a Resolution which would limit filming at Villa Leon, not allow road closures and have traffic controlled by LAPD, not private companies.
- Sgt. Turvey explained the process of reviewing applications and issuing permits for film shoots: LAFD is involved if the location is in a fire area; notices of filming is given to residences within a 500 foot radius, more if necessary; regular filming hours are M-F, 7am-10pm, extended hours require a community survey; Film L.A. has an on-site monitoring process if there are special concerns (Villa Leon is always monitored); the street closure was issued for safety since it is a blind curve.
- Dr. Anna Fuchs, the owner of Villa Leon, attended the meeting and spoke. She stated that she would not have allowed the filming if she had known that the road was going to be closed and will not allow any future filming that requires road closures. She also stated that she does not approve of any parking above or below the site on Tramonto. She gave her cell phone number and asked to be called if there are issues with filming. It is 1-310-666-7130. Subsequent to the meeting, Dr. Fuchs has continued to work very positively with the community.

## LAPD SENIOR LEAD OFFICER MICHAEL MOORE:

- Discussed homeless encampments' fires are serious problems in this area.
- Explained why it is difficult for the LAPD to remove possessions and break down encampments of homeless persons. Due to a lawsuit, new procedures are in place. Also, some of the camps are on private property and the police can't touch them unless the owner calls them. He wants all encampments reported. The number to call is 1-800-994-4444.
- The latest response time is approximately 5 minutes. There should be a car assigned to this area at all time, however, if the car is involved in transporting someone to jail, it will be longer.
- Encouraged not giving money to the homeless since that encourages their continuing stay in the neighborhood.
- To report suspicious activity or behavior, call 877-ASK-LAPD (877-275-5273) the non-emergency number. Website: [www.alertcommunity.com](http://www.alertcommunity.com).

## LAFD: CAPTAIN JOHN HICKS, firefighter and paramedic explained the structure of the fire department within the City.

- There are approximately 3,000 fire personnel in the City. Six full time firefighters are assigned to FS 23.
- Besides firefighting/paramedic responsibilities, other duties are maintaining fire hydrants and enforcing fire regulations.
- He explained the procedure to "knock down" a fire.

**REAL ESTATE UPDATE: JUDY ORSINI** of Gibson International, reported that 2013 was a good year in residential real estate and expects this trend to continue. Sales are up 15%. Her report is attached for your information.. If you have any questions about this report or have any real estate needs, please contact Judy at her office, 310-496-5998, or her cell, 310-739-2421.

## CMHO BUSINESS

- **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Doug McCormick reviewed the financial report for January through December 2013 at the meeting. At year end we had a total of \$33,983 in all our accounts. We currently have \$16,466 in our General Account (Checking), \$4,836 in the Legal Defense Fund and \$14,233 in the Money Market account for a total of \$35,535 in all accounts.
- Paid membership for 2013 was 72%, which is good for a voluntary HOA. Thanks to all of you for your continued support! Membership this year is currently at 120. If you have not already paid your dues of \$85 for the year, please send them to PO Box 742, PP, 90272. The Board provides extra services with your paid membership dues, including newsletters, email announcements, crime and safety alerts and Architectural Committee updates. These services will not be provided to neighbors who don't pay their dues.
- Remember, you receive a Getty Villa card if you pay your dues. Please make arrangements with Kim or Doug to pick up your card if you have paid and not already received it.
- The guard rail at Tramonto and Coperto was repaired and painted at a cost of \$1,300.00
- **THE GARDENAIRES** continue to garden weekly at FS 23 and the corner of Los Liones and Tramonto and anyone who wants to join them on Tuesday at 10 am are welcome.
- **ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE REPORT:** The AC had another busy year, with 13 projects to review in 2013. The Architectural Guidelines that are given to realtors and new owners have been helpful in providing useful information for owners wanting to remodel. There are ongoing issues with two homeowners who are unhappy with the AC, and the CMHO has a lawyer involved in these cases. Kashani, the owner of the property at the cliff on Tramonto at Bellino has yet to build and with the new Baseline Hillside Ordinance, he most likely will have to revise his plans to build a smaller house. His long-standing law-suit against the CMHO should be over soon.
- **A VIEW DECK** at Coastline and PCH at Will Rogers State Beach is being constructed and is due to be open by October 2014.

## OTHER COMMUNITY NEWS/UPDATES

- **THE FORMER LANDMARK PROJECT:** This is the site of the former Ocean Woods Apartments. Although it is difficult to get information on this project since it was sold, geological studies were completed a few months ago and heavy duty equipment is currently working on the site, removing the trees and excavating the dirt. It seems likely that grading may begin soon.
- **THE GETTY VILLA AND THE GETTY VILLA COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE (GVCRC):** The Getty Villa's current exhibition "Heaven and Earth: Art of Byzantium from Greek Collections" is organized by the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports in Athens, Greece, with the collaboration of the Benaki Museum in Athens, in association with the Getty Museum and the National Gallery of Art in Washington. The exhibition traces the development of Byzantine visual culture from its roots in the ancient pagan world through the opulent and deeply spiritual world of the new Christian Byzantine Empire. Featured are nearly 200 objects of mosaics, icons, frescoes, sculpture, manuscripts, metalwork, jewelry, glass, embroideries and ceramics drawn from Greek Collections. The Exhibition will be at the Getty Villa from April 9 - August 25, 2014. The Outdoor Classical Theatre will be presenting "The Persians" starting in August and through September. For more information on exhibitions and the theatre, please go to the Getty Villa website at [www.getty.edu/visit/villa](http://www.getty.edu/visit/villa).

The GVCRC continues to meet quarterly.

## ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE CURRENT PROJECTS

One of the CMHO's primary responsibilities, through your Architectural Committee (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. It is best to contact the Chair of the AC with preliminary plans in order to help avoid inconvenience and needless expense. The AC can examine or discuss preliminary plans and render a tentative non-binding opinion on their acceptability.

We have recently put the CMHO's CC&R's on our Website. We also have developed Architectural Guidelines to assist property owner's and real estate agents and these are available upon request.

### Current projects:

- 269 Bellino Dr. The owner submitted plans to build a new house on this site and has been approved. The house will be one story with a basement (an underfloor story) with a pool.
- 257 Bellino - The same owner as 269 Bellino submitted plans for a one story house with a basement (underfloor story) and a pool. The AC is working with the owner's architect and going through its usual process.
- 247 Quadro Vecchio Dr. The owners have submitted plans to add a guest room over a lowered garage. The AC has asked the owner to install story poles.

## **TRAFFIC PROBLEMS**

The first of two long-term construction projects on PCH began April 15. One south bound lane of PCH will be closed for 1 year along a 900' stretch south of Chautauqua while workers complete a sewer project. Closure begins at The Beach Club and goes to the Annenberg Community Beach House. The hours of work will be Mon. - Fri., 7am to 7 pm and nights from 9 pm to 5 am. Sat. will be 8am to 4 pm with no work on Sun. In September the CA Incline is due to be closed for one year to undergo stabilization work and Moomat Ahiko Way will undergo a brief repaving prior to the CA Incline closure.

## **CALIFORNIA FRIENDLY LANDSCAPE TRAINING**

A free class is being offered on May 17, from 10 am - 1 pm on how to create a California friendly garden using sustainable materials and techniques. It covers the use of native plants and edibles, water-efficient irrigation devices and much more. It is sponsored by the Metropolitan Water District, the County of LA and others. It will be held at the Topanga Library. To register call 310-371-4633 or visit [www.sbesc.com](http://www.sbesc.com). Please see attached flyer for further information.

**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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John Cordic 310 630-8670 john@rjcbuilders.com  
Aly Montes 310 310-8158 teamtramonto@gmail.com  
Mo Sahebi 310-664-9311 Mo101@planex.us

**Architectural Committee Members**

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Margaret Churchill, Secretary 310 573-1713 bermarg@roadrunner.com  
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Marlena Newmark 310 454-4592 PaulMarlena@aol.com  
Anthony Punnett\* 917 573-7896 anthonypunnett@gmail.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:** Mike Bonin, Councilman, District 11, [councilman.bonin@lacity.org](mailto:councilman.bonin@lacity.org)

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

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

Norman Kulla, Senior Council for Pacific Palisades and Brentwood: [norman.kulla@lacity.org](mailto:norman.kulla@lacity.org)

**Getty Villa Community Relations Committee:**

Kelly Comras: 1-310-459-5661; [k\\_comras@hotmail.com](mailto:k_comras@hotmail.com)

Kim Clary 1-310-230-8041 [kimjdave@msn.com](mailto:kimjdave@msn.com)

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

Remember to conserve water & to recycle!!