

# Castellammare Mesa Home Owners NEWSLETTER April, 2012

Dear Neighbor: We have exciting news about the upcoming home tour and the results of the Annual General Meeting which was held on February 21. Approximately 30 residents attended. Thanks to all of you who were willing and able to come and take part in the meeting.

- **THE HOME TOUR** is on Sunday, April 22 in the afternoon. Three houses are included in this walking tour. This is not a fund-raiser but a community event and is not open to the public. There will be a charge to cover refreshments and other expenses. Payment must be made prior to the event. Please see the enclosed invitation for more information. Volunteers are needed - if you can help, please contact Alice Beagles at 310-454-2101 [alicebeagles@verizon.net](mailto:alicebeagles@verizon.net) or Muriel Janes at 310-459-4616 [mjanez@aol.com](mailto:mjanez@aol.com).

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

- **BOARD ELECTIONS:** You elected the following 2012 Board Members. Officers were elected by the Board at its first meeting on March 13:
  - Kim Clary, President
  - Mike Lofchie, Vice President
  - Muriel Janes, Secretary
  - Doug McCormick, Treasurer
  - Nina Montee-Karp
  - Bennett Murphy
  - Mo Sahebi
- The Board appointed the following to the **Architectural Committee (AC)**:
  - Kim Clary, Chair
  - Andrew Martin, Vice-Chair
  - Margaret Churchill, Secretary
  - Bob Marrs
  - Gerald Nadler\*
  - Marlana Newmark\*
  - Reuel Sutton(\*Denotes alternate)

Marlana Newmark has stepped down as Secretary of the Architectural Committee after holding this position for three years. We want to sincerely thank her for all of her work that this time-consuming job takes. Fortunately, she has agreed to stay on the Architectural Committee as an alternate.

At the first Board meeting, Marlana presented a Community Service award to Reuel Sutton for neighborhood work over many years on both the Architectural Committee and the Board.

- The Board appointed David Morena, Gerald Nadler, Bennett Murphy and Mo Sahebi to the **Professional Services Committee**. Kelly Comras and Kim Clary were re-appointed to the **Getty Villa Community Relations Committee**.

- **LOS LIONES AND CASTLE ROCK BEAUTIFICATION PROJECTS:** Kelly Comras introduced the group of volunteers, named the Gardenaires, who have been planting and maintaining these areas. At Castle Rock, they have been working with the County Parks and Beaches who will be presenting them with an award for their volunteer service. The Gardenaires received significant support from both the Pacific Palisades Garden Club and Junior Women's Club this year and a resident "angel" donated \$2,000 to the project. The fun margarita party at Kelly's home later in February raised \$600 towards the plantings.

The volunteers work at one of the sites every Tuesday at 10 am for one hour. If you are interested in helping them and getting some fresh air, please call Doug at 310-459-1382.

- **OVERVIEW OF THE 2011 YEAR:** Board President Kim Clary reported the following:
  - Approximately 70% of residents supported the CMHO by paying dues.
  - The annual picnic in September was another success, thanks to Joan and Harvey Rochman who organized it and to Laura Gerson who arranged the many fun activities for the children.
  - The traffic light was installed at the corner of Sunset and Los Lions, thanks to the Waldorf School.
  - After many years, the light at Castellammare and Sunset was realigned to the Von's entrance.
  - There are two difficult projects that the AC is working with at the present time that may become litigious. If they come to fruition, the Board may have to ask the residents to contribute to the legal defense fund.
- **ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE REPORT:** Andrew Martin, AC Vice-Chair, thanked residents for cooperating with the AC by submitting preliminary plans to them before going to the expense of finalized plans. This saves time and effort in the event changes must be made. He also reported that there were 15 requests for site visits and review of plans in 2011. The vacant lot on the bluffs at Tramonto and Bellino, (the five year lawsuit that is now almost over) is awaiting City approval of the plans, which should happen during the month of April or May. When that occurs, our attorney will file the paperwork to make our CC&R's good in perpetuity, as per the judge's ruling.
- **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Doug McCormick handed out and reviewed the financial report for January through December 2011 at the meeting. Legal expenses were considerably less in 2011 than in 2010. Membership went up from 143 in 2010 in to 152 in 2011.

We currently have \$10,373 in our General Account (Checking), \$6,361 in the Legal Defense Fund and \$14,222 for a total of \$30,956.

Membership this year is currently at 111. **If you have not already paid your membership dues of \$85 for the year, please send them to PO Box 742, PP, 90272.**

**Remember, you receive a Getty Villa card with your membership. Please make arrangements with Kim to pick up your card if you have paid and not already received it.**

- **REAL ESTATE UPDATE:** Judy Orsini of Coldwell Banker, who usually gives the update, was out due to a surgery. Her colleague, Carolyn Lyon, gave a very insightful report, complete with handouts that explained real estate terms such as short-sale. If you would like a copy of the real estate update handout, please contact Judy at judyorsini@aol.com or call her at 310-230-2427.

- **LAPD SENIOR LEAD OFFICER:** Michael Moore discussed the recent crime increase and gave the following suggestions:
  - The concept of neighborhood watch is awareness and knowing the habits of your neighbors, who their gardeners and vendors are and what days they come.
  - Keep doors locked at all times, and answer through a closed door if not expecting someone. If solicitors knock, let them know you are home, but ask them to leave from behind your locked door.
  - Report any suspicious behavior and always report crimes.
  - A few weeks ago, a young woman resident was followed home. Be aware when out at night especially, and if you are being followed, pull over, stop and see what the other car does. You should drive to the fire station or a well-lighted, busy area.
  - To report suspicious activity or behavior, call 877-ASK-LAPD (877-275-5273) is the non-emergency number. Website: www.alertcommunity.com.
  - A resident suggested that homeowners light their property adequately, since we have no street lights.
  
- **COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT):** Patric Cohen, CERT Trainer, discussed the purpose of the program, which is to involve neighborhoods in disaster preparedness. It involves a 17 hour training which organizes residents. It is meant to relieve the fire department of certain duties, such as notification of residents and marking of homes of the disabled and homebound, for instance, allowing the officials to perform their more crucial duties. If you are interested in becoming a CERT volunteer, the website is [certla.org](http://certla.org) or you can contact Patric at [smiledr535@gmail.com](mailto:smiledr535@gmail.com).
  
- **JOAQUIN MACIAS, SENIOR FIELD DEPUTY for Councilman Rosendahl** attended and discussed the following:
  - The Councilman will be running for a third term.
  - Questions were asked about the frequent filming at Villa Leon. It is legal and through Film LA, which monitors this activity. If there are questions or complaints re suspected violations, you may contact the City Film Permit Office at 213-977-8600 or contact the Councilman's office.
  - Fire 69 lost one engine last year due to budget cuts. Fortunately there have been no negative consequences from this action.
  - ATSAAC Program - 29 traffic signals on Sunset Blvd. will be upgraded and will be manipulated from a central location. More speed feedback signs will be installed.
  - Work on the California Incline has been delayed.
  - Redistricting for District 11 (our district) has not yet been finalized.
  
- **SAFETY COMMITTEE:** As explained at the meeting, the CMHO Board of Directors cannot organize a safety committee, as such an activity is not mandated in our CC&R's. However, you as residents can do so on your own. We have had several people state they are interested in such a committee. Cindi and Bart Young have graciously offered to host a meeting at their home sometime in the near future. If you are interested in becoming involved, please contact Cindi directly at [cyoung@youngcompany.com](mailto:cyoung@youngcompany.com) or 310-459-0447.

## OTHER NEWS:

### • ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE-CURRENT PROJECTS:

The AC has recently been asked to become involved in decisions regarding remodeling by prospective buyers. Due to the fact that our CC&R's state that they apply to the property owner, and the AC has a process they must follow, which includes receiving two sets of plans, meetings, possible site visits, and fee for their service, we cannot work directly with a possible buyer. We will be happy to work through the owner with the prospective buyer if the owner wishes us to do so to facilitate their sale.

- 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.
- 17537 Tramonto Dr. Revised plans have been presented to the AC by the owner and the AC is currently reviewing them.
- 17475 Revello Dr. The owner is 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.
- 350 Bellino - The owner constructed an addition to the garage without submitting plans to the AC, which is required by the CC&R's. The AC requested, in writing, for a copy of the plans for this remodel. To date the owner has not submitted plans nor responded to our written request..

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

***Board Members***

Kim Clary, President	310 230-8041	<a href="mailto:kimjdave@msn.com">kimjdave@msn.com</a>
Mike Lofchie, Vice President	310 459-5661	<a href="mailto:mlofchie@gmail.com">mlofchie@gmail.com</a>
Doug McCormick, Treasurer	310 459-1382	<a href="mailto:Dougmcco@gmail.com">Dougmcco@gmail.com</a>
Muriel Janes, Secretary	310 459-4616	<a href="mailto:mjanez@aol.com">mjanez@aol.com</a>
Nina Montee Karp	310 476-4440	nina@thehappiestbaby.com
Bennett Murphy	310 459-8395	<a href="mailto:bmurphy@dl.com">bmurphy@dl.com</a>
Mo Sahebi	310 664-9311	Mo101@planex.us

***Architectural Committee Members***

Kim Clary, Chair	310 230-8041	<a href="mailto:kimjdave@msn.com">kimjdave@msn.com</a>
Andrew Martin, Vice-Chair	310 459-5310	<a href="mailto:a.forbesmartin@gmail.com">a.forbesmartin@gmail.com</a>
Margaret Churchill, Secretary	310 573-1713	<a href="mailto:bermarg@roadrunner.com">bermarg@roadrunner.com</a>
Bob Marrs	310 454-2030	<a href="mailto:bobmarrs@yahoo.com">bobmarrs@yahoo.com</a>
Gerry Nadler*	310 459-3746	<a href="mailto:Nadler@usc.edu">Nadler@usc.edu</a>
Marlena Newmark*	454-4592	PaulMarlena@aol.com
Reuel Sutton	310 459-1286	<a href="mailto:reuel.sutton@yahoo.com">reuel.sutton@yahoo.com</a>

\* Denotes alternate.

***Other Important Numbers:***

**LAPD:** Senior Lead Officer Michael Moore: 1-310-444-0737; [27995@lapd.lacity.org](mailto: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](mailto:councilman.rosendahl@lacity.org)

Joaquin Macias, Sr. Field Deputy for Pacific Palisades: [Joaquin.Macias@lacity.org](mailto:Joaquin.Macias@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!!*

*Castellammare Mesa Home Owners  
PO Box 742  
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272*