



MISSION HILLS



NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Mission Est. 1797


Est. 2005

www.mhnconline.org

July-August 2011

Of Special Interest:

The MHNC Board of Governors/Stakeholders General Meeting is held the 1st Thursday of each month - 6:30p.m. at Mission Area Police Station in the Timothy M. Falco Community Room
Please Join Us

 Changes in 3-1-1 operating hours:

Effective Tuesday July 19, 2011, the 3-1-1 Call Center will be closed from 4:45 pm to 8:00 am. The new operating hours will be 8:00 am to 4:45 pm daily, including weekends and holidays.

Inside This Issue:

Message from the President..... Page 2
MHNC New Board Members..... Page 2
Zoning & Land Use Report..... Page 3
Senior Committee Report..... Page 4
Public Safety Committee Report.....Page 4

Graffiti abatement Funding cutbacks began July 1, 2011
Page 4 has tips on reporting graffiti.



©Disney/Pixar

MHNC Presents

4th Annual Movies-in-the Park

Saturday, August 27, 2011

(begins at Sunset)

Andres Pico Adobe

10940 Sepulveda Blvd. (at Brand Blvd.)

FREE POPCORN & SODA

BRING BLANKETS & LAWN CHAIRS. DON'T FORGET THE KIDS!!

*This is a truly great **community event**. We look forward to seeing you there. Sorry, no pets please.*



Land Use Committee Volunteers

Some basic knowledge & understanding of Zoning and Land Use Ordinances, concepts and regulation of real estate development helpful. This is a challenging yet very rewarding opportunity to serve your community in one of the MHNC's most essential and productive committees.

MHNC Board membership not a requirement.

For additional information, please contact David Guzman at dguzman@mhnconline.org

Message From The President

Dear Community,

I would like to wish all of our Mission Hills residents a **safe and fun summer with your families**. As you get ready to take vacations or simply enjoy the rays of the sun here at home, please keep in mind that we must be vigilant at all times in our efforts to **keep Mission Hills a safe, decent and healthy community in which to live**.

I would like to **welcome** newly appointed Board Members **Helen Hatat and Clint Scott**. We look forward to working with you and thank you for making this commitment.

Here are a few issues that are ahead of us in the coming months: 1). The redevelopment plans for the shopping center located at 10310 Sepulveda Blvd. or better known to us as the **“Ralphs Shopping Center”**. The MHNC sponsored a town hall event at our last Board of Governors Meeting on July 7th in which Primestor Development sent a representative to speak to the community about their proposal for this site. This meeting was a great success The **MHNC** extends a special **Thank You** to June Kahl along with Betty Ley and the Mission Hills Neighborhood Watch for partnering with us in our outreach efforts to notify the community about this important meeting. This **team effort** brought together **over 100 MHNC community members** ready to ask questions, raise concerns and state their dedication and determination to support our local businesses in the Ralphs Shopping Center. This was just the beginning of many meetings with this developer which the MHNC will present to the community in order to ensure that our voices are heard loud and clear in this process. Remember, the MHNC will need your participation in this matter, so please go to mhnconline.org and click on the tab CONTACT US and sign up to receive email updates on this as well as other issues of importance to Mission Hills.

2) In the coming months, the MHNC will begin an **extensive outreach program to begin addressing and identifying blighted areas in Mission Hills** i.e: litter, graffiti, weeds, illegal dumping, abandoned vehicles and other blight that cause our neighborhood to look neglected and sends the message that we don't care. I will personally lead this project in the coming weeks and hope that you will **join the MHNC** in this effort as we partner with local business, Mission Area Community Police Station, Neighborhood Watch and the community at large. More details will be provided in the coming weeks via email, so, once again, sign-up now to be added to our email contact list.

3) On a positive note; the MHNC will be hosting our **4TH Annual Movies-In-The-Park** event on **August 27th** at the **Andres Pico Adobe Park at sundown**. Visit our webpage at mhnconline.org where more details will be provided in the next few weeks.

As we focus on the above issues, our **success depends on community participation**. Your first step in supporting the efforts of the MHNC and our committees is attending the monthly Council's Board of Governors/Stakeholders General Meetings the first Thursday of the month 6:30pm. All community members are encouraged to attend and actively participate in framing the discussion.

I want to thank all of you for showing enormous passion for our community and hope that you will continue to be involved. I also will continue to do my best to keep Mission Hills one of the most sought-after communities in the Northeast San Fernando Valley.

David Guzman
President, Board of Directors
Mission Hills Neighborhood Council

The MHNC Welcomes New Board Members

Dear Community and Stakeholders,

I just wanted to introduce myself to all of you. My name is Helen Hatat and I am a new board member at the Mission Hills Neighborhood Council and I am also the Secretary. I am very excited to be a part of it. I plan to do a good job for all of you and for the community. I am always very involved with the community and always try to do my best to resolve problems and issues with the best of my knowledge. We are going to do a great job all together. I will bring to you my energy and my enthusiasm.

Helen Hatat, Council Secretary, Board of Governors - 818-902-2361 email: hhatat@mhnconline.org



New Board Member, Clint Scott has volunteered to serve on our Zoning & Land Use committee. Clint's outreach and assistance on the Columbus Avenue case was a big help.- 818-902-2361 email cscott@mhnconline.org

Thank you to Helen and Clint for their enthusiasm and commitment to serving our community.

Zoning & Land Use Committee

The following cases are currently on the Zoning & Land Use Committee calendar

•**Case No. ZA-2010-2968 –10355 Columbus Ave. Request:: Construct an 8'-6" over in height wall with decorative iron.**

At the time of this writing, Applicant Dean Anderson has completed approximately 80% of construction excluding decorative iron and installation of gate.

A letter to the MHNC dated June 6, 2011 from Councilmember Richard Alarcón states [in part]: "In the case that there may not be an administrative remedy through the Zoning Administrator's office, if for instance the applicant is found to have gone through the necessary legal process to obtain City permits, then the City Attorney's Neighborhood Dispute Resolution Program may be an acceptable option to identify a compromise solution that would be amenable to all parties." The City Attorney's Neighborhood Dispute Resolution Program is designed to mediate civil disputes in the City of Los Angeles. In addition, the Councilman's letter acknowledged receipt of "troubling statements from the MHNC and neighbors regarding this case" and offered his "continued support to the MHNC with this matter".

Finally, Chief Zoning Administrator, Linn Wyatt, further recommends the City Attorney's Neighborhood Dispute Resolution Program as a means to resolve remaining issues concerning this case.

•**Case No. ZA-2011-0053-CUB1- 14666 W. San Fernando Mission Blvd. Request:** Conditional Use Permit pursuant to the provision of Section 12.24-W,1 of the L.A. Municipal Codes to allow the continued sale of beer and wine for off-site consumption in existing 924 square-foot mini-market/gas station having extended hours of operation from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily. In a letter submitted to the Zoning Administrator dated June 10, 2011, the MHNC stated support of Applicant's request with following conditions:

1. Support Conditional use permit requested for this property subject to conditions 2-4 (below). Carried unanimously 5-0 contingent upon LAPD Vice confirming no existing Vice violations. 2. Support the one hour extended selling time request (from 10PM to 11 PM. Carried unanimously 5-03. Support for condition that there be no single capacity selling pursuant to condition# 21 on application .Carried unanimously 5-04. Support for a 5 year renewal period instead of 3 year period. Carried 4-1

Subsequently, based on information obtained at a June 13, 2011 Zoning Administration public hearing, the MHNC, by motion for reconsideration, voted unanimously to withdraw it's prior recommendation of June 10, 2011 [referenced above]. In a second letter dated June 27, 2011, the MHNC and Zoning & Land Use Committee stated approval for Applicant's request for a Conditional Use renewal predicated upon the correction of all current violations as outlined in Office of Zoning Administration's June 10, 2011 Staff Investigator report and to include all current conditions in previous determination.

•**Case No.: ZA-2010-0337-CUB 11274 North Laurel Cyn. Blvd. Request:** Conditional Use to allow the sale of beer and wine for off-site consumption in existing mini-market/gas station

In a letter submitted to the Planning Commission dated May 2, 2011, the MHNC and the Zoning & Land Use Committee stated support of Councilmember Richard Alarcón's letter of opposition for this Applicant's request. A revised Public Hearing date before the North Valley Area Planning Commission was set for Thursday, July 7, 2011. The hearing involves an appeal of the Zoning Administrator's decision pursuant to Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 12.24-W,1, for the denial of a request for a Conditional Use to permit the sale and dispensing of beer and wine only for off-site consumption, in conjunction with an existing 2,153 square-foot convenience store associated with a gas station, both now open 24 hours daily with proposed hours of alcohol sales from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily and denial of the environmental clearance Mitigated Negative Declaration ENV-2010-338-MND.

•**Case No. ZA 2009-4028(CU)(ZV)(ZAA)(F) 10635 Woodman Ave. St. Ephraim Syrian Orthodox Church - REQUEST:** To allow the construction, use and maintenance of a new church with ancillary uses that will require certain entitlements.

A public hearing was held on June 3, 2011 at the Marvin Braude Building in Van Nuys. Applicant has appealed Zoning Administrators request for changes/corrections to original plans submitted by Applicant to allow a bell tower and cross at an overall elevation of 61 feet in lieu of the 45 foot maximum per section 12.21.1;2. At the time of this writing, the Zoning & Land Use committee has no information on the zoning administrator's determination for this case.



The Zoning & Land Use Committee would like to take this opportunity to offer our heartfelt appreciation to committee members Randy Kaluva, John Samuelson, Roger Lovil, Clint Scott, Linda Romney and Pamela Goldfinger for their continued dedication, commitment and support.

For information regarding the Zoning & Land Use Committee, please contact:

Jerilynn Hayashi, Committee Chair - 818-902-2361 or email Jerrilyn@mhnconline.org

Senior Event a Huge Success

The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council held its first Senior Outreach Event with great success. During the reception, everyone had an opportunity to meet and greet with other long time Mission Hills residents. A prize was awarded to a resident who has lived in Mission Hills for 65 years.

Entertainment was provided by Henry Samuels, an 88 year old senior who dazzled everyone with his incredible harmonica playing, wonderful songs, dance and humor.

Although we had a great time, the real focus of this event was to introduce the Mission Hills Neighborhood Council to our senior community. Many in attendance had no idea what the function or purpose of the Mission Hills Neighborhood Council (MHNC) was about.

The Neighborhood Council provides a forum for community participation through means of discussion of issues and projects (new developments) facing Mission Hills and will make recommendations to their City Council representative. In addition, they will consider funding requests and seek grants for community projects.

The council was very happy to recruit two new board members as a result of this last senior event and look forward to meeting more of you at any of our upcoming meetings and/or senior events. If you would like to be a part of the planning committee for the Senior Outreach, please contact the chair of Senior Outreach.

Joyce Sipes (818) 902-2361.



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council hopes that everyone had a safe and enjoyable 4th of July Holiday and that you are staying cool and comfortable during the summer heat. We have gotten estimates on purchasing and posting Neighborhood Watch signs and our budget enables us to purchase 20 signs. We'll be talking with the Neighborhood Watch members here in Mission Hills to get their input on where those signs should be posted. We'll also talk with Senior Lead Officer Ruiz to get his input before we determine the final locations. We have also acquired Neighborhood Watch window decals (approx. 4.5 inches by 5 inches in size) which you can pick up at any Mission Hills Neighborhood Council board meeting or the Mission Hills Neighborhood Council Public Safety Committee Meetings. Check MHNC online.org for meeting dates, times and locations and be sure to sign up for our e-mails to have all information delivered directly to your inbox. These signs act as a strong deterrent to crime in our neighborhoods. We encourage everyone to post a sign in your window.



→August 2, 2011←

National Night Out is an annual event that promotes community, brings neighbors together, and promotes public safety. Our local event takes place at the Andres Pico Adobe at 10940 Sepulveda Blvd. at Brand from 4:00pm to 7:00pm. This is an opportunity to meet your neighbors, meet Mission Area Capt. Wm.Scott, Senior Lead Officer Ruiz and learn about our local Mission Hills Neighborhood Watch. **Free Food! ★ Lots of fun for everyone! ★ Free admission! ★ Sorry, no pets.** The MHNC is proud to be a sponsor of this annual public safety event.

Since we are on the topic of Neighborhood Watch, what better time than now to join or form a watch group for your block The Mission Hills Neighborhood Watch meeting for Basic Car 19A43 begins at 7:00pm and is held on the fourth Tuesday of every month in the Timothy M. Falco Community Room at Mission Area Police Station. **To learn more** about National Night Out or for information on how to begin a watch program for your neighborhood, contact Senior Lead Officer Phil Ruiz at 818-838-9843 or Betty Ley at 818-837-3664.

If ignored, graffiti becomes a terrible blight on our community. **Fast removal is imperative** and is proven to be the best deterrent. Call the Mission Hills graffiti franchise, Graffiti Busters, at 818-767-7711 or Fax to 818-767-7737 or email: Rogelio@pacoimagraffitibusters.com. Provide the following information: 1. Specific address 2. A North, South, East or West direction and cross street are helpful (red curb on West side of Sepulveda, one block south of Devonshire) 3.Surface type (stucco wall, wood fence, street sign) 4. Color of surface 5.Your telephone number is helpful but not required. 6. **PLEASE BE BRIEF.** Following this simple guide will **improve** response time. Reporting to the City web site or calling 311 will **delay** response time.

Doug Stolhand, Committee Chair 818-902-2361 dstolhand@mhnconline.org