
HILLTOP BEACON

A PUBLICATION OF HILLTOP NEIGHBORS ASSOCIATION

August 2011

Dear Hilltop Neighbors,

It is with great pride in our neighborhood that I write my first *Beacon* letter as Hilltop Neighbors President. The year has flown by since our April 7th Annual Meeting was graciously hosted at St. Bede's Church. As you read on, there is an announcement on Community Emergency Response Team classes being offered here in Mar Vista. Many of your Hilltop Board members belong to our local CERT and will be here to help our neighbors in a natural disaster or emergency. I can't stress enough how important it is for all of our adult and young adult members to be trained. We have seen what has happened in communities that were unprepared. We have a very active, welcoming team who meet monthly. And I am pleased to report that 63 of our neighbors purchased the Rotary Club of Beverly Hills emergency earthquake kits for one or four persons, which amounts to about 240 people who will have three days of food, water, and additional necessities in their cars, homes, or offices.

With mid-summer in full swing, I hope you are looking forward to our Second Annual Block Party and BBQ at the North Venice Little League Field on Patriot's Day, Sunday, September 11th. More information follows.

As you know, your Hilltop Neighbors Board is here to assist our community in any way we can. Feel free to contact us with questions, thoughts, and/or suggestions at any time. See you at the Picnic!

Kind regards,

Judy Deutsch
President, Hilltop Neighbors Association

Hilltop Neighbors Association	Board Members
President	Judy Deutsch
Treasurer/Communications	Wayne Burklund
Beacon/Secretary	Sandra Casillas
E blasts	Jean Gottlieb
Web	Bill Scheduling
MVCC and Legislative	Kate Anderson
CERT	Mary Ann Sherritt
Block Captains	Susan Thurmond O'Neal
OVF	Judy Deutsch
NVLL	Terry Rangno
Corporate Relations	Christine Taylor & Shirley Munch
Airport	Walt Davie
Historical/Lead Officer Meetings	Donna Egstrom
Picnic	Susan Thurmond O'Neal and Vasara Schafer
PLUM	Kim Shafi

New HNA Website!

By Bill Scheduling

Our new website is:

<http://www.HilltopBeacon.com/>

and it was created to keep you informed of meetings, news, and emergency preparedness.

One main feature is the Early Notification System (or ENS). The ENS is used by the Hilltop Neighbors Association (HNA) to communicate with our stakeholders.

Nobody wants SPAM or junk mail, so we send very few emails. If you sign up for the HNA ENS you won't get SPAM from us, you will receive information from the Hilltop Board and we will NEVER give out your email address without your prior written permission. You can easily unsubscribe whenever you want.

If you start getting two copies of an email, don't get mad, as we will be in transition for a short while. Just let us know at HilltopNeighbors@HilltopBeacon.com and we will clear it right up.

If you ever have a question, send an email to HilltopNeighbors@HilltopBeacon.com.

Presently, you have indirectly subscribed to the ENS if you already receive HNA emails. We will add your name and email to the HNA ENS unless you want to OPT OUT. You don't have to do anything. We hope you don't opt out! If you choose to stay subscribed, we will add you to the ENS list and you will receive an email telling you that you were subscribed, and also explaining how to unsubscribe and other information about the ENS. It's that easy to stay connected. If you wish to opt out, all you have to do is reply to this email with UNSUBSCRIBE and that will be that.

Once the ENS system is fully operational, you may subscribe or unsubscribe whenever you want. In addition we will have other ENS streams that you can optionally subscribe to. For example: outreach, Block Captains, C.E.R.T. or crime reports.

If you want to subscribe yourself, or you change your email address go to www.HilltopBeacon.com, click on "Stay Connected" and enter your email address and first and last name. We only use the name to address you and to permit you to change the email address. Again, it's that easy to stay connected.

The HilltopBeacon.com website has other information about HNA activities, meetings, elections, etc. If you would like to contribute to the website or Hilltop Beacon, or the neighborhood association contact HilltopNeighbors@HilltopBeacon.com and we will get right back to you.

GREEN Living Workshops!

By Sherri Akers, co-chair MVCC Green Committee

Are you one of the lucky 100+ that took the FREE Sustainable Works Green Living Workshop in Mar Vista? It's coming back - please help us spread the word! OUTREACH, EDUCATION AND CONSERVATION are key components that can't be ignored with the new LADWP rate plan.

Normally, this course is only offered in Santa Monica and a \$50 donation is requested from LA residents. Based on the incredible impact that had in our community Councilman Bill Rosendahl awarded them an LADWP grant and there will be five more FREE workshops held in LA. Also, for the first time ever, they will offer 20 FREE business greening consults! Our goal – and the reason for our 2010 pilot – is to get these funded by the City of LA on an ongoing basis (as it is in Santa Monica). With rates for water and power climbing, we KNOW that the increases can be offset by the simple tips you learn in these programs.

The first workshop begins August 30th (in the Palisades – tell your friends!) and the second begins October 5th in Mar Vista. Pre-registration is required. To propose you business for the LA grant version of the business greening program, contact BORLIDO_SUSY@smc.edu.

Each week's class focuses on a separate aspect of greening your home and life – water, energy, waste, chemicals, transportation and shopping. The classes give you a deeper understanding of the issues and each week you leave with 10 actions that ultimately help you to:

- divert solid waste through recycling,
- become water efficient,
- eliminate toxic chemicals,
- minimize transportation impacts,
- reduce energy use, and
- and learn to make better consumer choices.

Please help us spread the word! Email sherri@marvista.org if you would like us to email you flyers. We are so grateful for Bill Rosendahl's support on this - help us make sure that LA gets a very clear message that this will make a difference.

Call for Contributions!

Would you like to see your name in print? Know an interesting neighbor whose story you would like to tell, an upcoming event that you think would be of interest to our neighborhood or an interesting historical tidbit? Well, here's your chance to contribute to the Beacon! We will take contributions from young and old, men or women, boys or girls. We probably wouldn't accept any submission from your household pets!

Please write up an article and forward it to the email address: HilltopNeighbors@aol.com. Please put "Beacon Article" in the subject line. Material will be published at the discretion of the editors.

Santa Monica Airport News and Information

By Susan Thurmond O'Neal

The Santa Monica Airport is right in the Hilltop Neighbors backyard. Here are some handy links to get information about events at the Airport, and about the particulars of flight patterns, etc.

Frequently Asked Questions are answered here – including information about noise, safety and general questions:

http://www.smgov.net/Departments/Airport/Airport_Commission/FAQs.aspx

Santa Monica Airport has created a new “WebTrak” for neighbors – it can be used to track flights (historically and live, up-to-date) as well as communicate with the Airport about any concerns:

http://www.smgov.net/Departments/Airport/For_Our_Neighbors/WebTrak.aspx

And here is a list of things to do at the Santa Monica Airport – including restaurants, events, art shows, etc:

http://www.smgov.net/Departments/Airport/About_the_Airport/Visit/Visit_the_Santa_Monica_Airport_.aspx

Did you know that you can use the Santa Monica Dog Park? You need only purchase a Santa Monica dog license. Particulars can be found here:

<http://www01.smgov.net/parks/dogs.htm>

Happy exploring!



HNA Block Party!!

Come one, come all Hilltop Neighbors!

The Hilltop Neighbors Association is having its second annual picnic and barbeque on Patriots' Day, Sunday, September 11, 2011, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the North Venice Little League field, adjacent to Ocean View Farms, our local community garden. The Community Emergency Response Team, and block captains will participate, and we are asking for volunteers to set-up, clean-up, staff the barbeques, and man the crafts tables and/or paint faces. Children are encouraged, but dogs are not allowed. As per last year, this year's event will more than likely be a potluck (neighbors with last names A - M, bring a side dish or something savory; N - Z bring dessert or fruit) and we are soliciting donations from neighborhood businesses for hot dogs, buns and etc. We are also looking to borrow tables and chairs. Last year we had about 60 neighbors participating - this year we want more!

Please contact HilltopNeighbors@HilltopBeacon.com to volunteer or offer up a well labeled table or chair! Come on, it will be fun!

How about a recipe for your bounty of summer tomatoes?

By Judy Deutsch

Too Many Tomatoes!

This has been an amazing year for tomatoes. For all of you who overindulged in tomato plants or found your zucchini has taken over the yard, here's one delicious solution used by Ocean View Farms gardeners:

10, six-inch zucchini

6 beefsteak tomatoes

2T butter, divided

8 oz. sliced light Jarlsberg cheese or Swiss cheese of your choice

Thinly slice the zucchini and quickly sauté in 1T butter, adding additional butter if needed. The zucchini slices should be tender and slightly browned. This releases the sugar in the vegetable and makes it more flavorful. Remove the zucchini from the pan, add the rest of the butter, and slice and sauté the tomatoes. In a buttered and lightly floured casserole dish layer the tomatoes and the zucchini, beginning with a zucchini layer and ending with a tomato layer. Salt and pepper each layer to taste. Cover the top layer of tomatoes with the cheese and bake in a 350 degree oven for 20 minutes until the cheese is puffy and browned. Serve immediately. You can also add layers of sautéed ground beef or pork for a noodle-less lasagna or substitute eggplant for the zucchini. Serves eight.

Do you know your Block Captain?

By Susan Thurmond O'Neal

Do you know your Block Captain?

If you are reading this article because you found it on your front porch, you can thank your Block Captain.

Your Block Captain has pledged to foster a sense of community in your block, and to keep an eye out for anything unusual. Your Block Captain has or will also try to school you, the homeowner, on basic safety practices. Your Block Captain (perhaps) organizes activities on your block, such as a multi-family yard sale, a potluck barbeque, a parade or an art fair. Your Block Captain delivers the Beacon and other neighborhood news via email, telephone or in person as you are out walking your dog, looking for your cat, watering your lawn, or picking up your mail or newspaper.

You can help your Block Captain be an even better Block Captain by getting to know him or her; by keeping his or her phone number and/or email handy to report any interesting goings-on; by being the good neighbor you already are and supporting any events that will bring you and your neighbors closer.

If you do not know your Block Captain, feel free to email me at susalq@hilltopbeacon.com, or call me at 310.560.7518 and I will be sure to tell you whom you can thank for the newsletter and all else the Block Captain provides.

Thanks Hilltop Neighbors - with your help we can become an even tighter community. It all begins with your block!

CERT Report

By Mary Ann Sherritt

Our Hilltop Team is alive and healthy. We have been alive a long time-- some of us longer than others – and we could sure use some help from the younger, more vigorous members of our Hilltop community! You will be able to view some of the emergency supplies that we have stored in our container on September 11th when you attend the Hilltop Block Party at the North Venice Little League Field. You will be able to meet some of the members of our CERT team, who have prepared for emergencies to be a quick response team in a disaster, including the medical members who will assist in the event of a disaster in our neighborhood.

Are you thinking about getting trained so you can help yourself and your family? The next class to be given by the LAFD is within easy distance of our neighborhood:

August 22 through October 3 - From 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Fire Station 5,
8900 Emerson Ave.
Westchester, CA 90045

If you would like to view other class offerings, check out cert-la.com

September is the national month of preparedness – ARE YOU READY? WATER is the most important item to have in sufficient quantities. You need to have, at minimum, one gallon of water per person per day, and don't forget the pets! The Fire Department is suggesting that you plan for a minimum of seven days.

The Great Shake Out will take place in California on October 20 at 10:20 a.m. This is a chance for all Californians to prepare ourselves for a major earthquake. This is a great opportunity to see that you are prepared with water, supplies, and an outside of California emergency contact for you and your family.

If you are interested in some of the excellent CERT programs that have been offered at Fire Station 59, we can electronically forward information to you, just send an email to HilltopNeighbors@aol.com and put "CERT" in the subject line.

Mar Vista Historical Society

By Nadine Gallegos

Did you even know there was a Mar Vista Historical Society? It's only been in existence for six years, but local members have been researching Mar Vista History. Mark Crawford has researched five neighborhoods and does two hour Sunday afternoon walking tours of each. He's finishing up his book, with photos and historical newspaper microfilm about Mar Vista. It will soon be available on our website. Did you know that Mar Vista has its own Historic Preservation Overlay Zone? The Gregory Ain Mar Vista Tract is an official City of Los Angeles Historic Zone. MVHS will be at the Hilltop Neighborhood Association annual block party on September 11 to tell some stories of historical Mar Vista, including stories of patriotic "Venice Reservoir Site", here on top of the hill. Did you know there was a military installation here protecting the airport from enemy submarines? Barrage balloons? What a vantage point! From an elevation of 189 feet there was a clear view of the coastline 2.8 miles away.

We look forward to hearing your stories and hope you will share your vintage pictures with us. We'd love to scan them for our historical archive, which we are beginning to assemble. Please come, listen and tell your stories. We are all Mar Vista neighbors!