

THE MARINVIEW

Marinview Community Association Newsletter

January 2014

www.marinview94941.com

REPORT BY MCA PRESIDENT, BERNARD CATALINOTTO

Happy New Year!

On behalf of the Board, we hope all Marinview association members had a good 2013 and will have a happy new year in 2014.

Last year we oversaw enhancements to the entrance landscaping, extensive fire mitigation activities, and some major trail improvements. We responded to resident crime concerns with a community meeting in December, and we fortunately dodged a bullet when a potentially harmful fire was extinguished by county firefighters.

Next year we have a full slate of projects to pursue, including: entrance landscaping and tree removal; extensive fire mitigation (as part of county activities); and additional trail improvements (in partnership with TCSD). We also plan to initiate community hikes to promote trail use and develop a disaster preparation plan.

We ask you to please review the committee reports and other articles in this newsletter for details. And also, please feel free to attend our board meetings and contribute your ideas and concerns to our association, so we can continue to respond as best we can to your issues, and, in some cases, enlist you in the solution.

We thank all members for your support, and ask that you send your check to us in January so we can use your dues to maximum effect in 2014 to safeguard and beautify your neighborhood.

Best regards,

Bernard Catalinotto,
bernardcatalinotto@gmail.com.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Since Marinview is in a high fire danger area, we recommend all residents prepare:

1. by making your house fire-safe (for which see John Lynch),
2. by keeping the gas tanks of all your vehicles at least half-full at all times;
3. by keeping an emergency pack in all your vehicles and in your house;
4. by knowing in advance at least two routes by which you could walk or run away to safety, and
5. by hiking these routes periodically to make sure they are navigable.

We are fortunate that we have an excellent set of roads and trails that could, if necessary, be used for a rapid escape from a major fire. The disaster preparedness committee plans to prepare a map of potential disaster routes for the community in the coming year. If you have suggestions or wish to work on the maps, please let us know.

ARE YOU IN THE LOOP?

Recent events that have occurred within our community have brought to light the need to encourage MarinView residents to subscribe to one or both of the communication facilities that the MarinView Community Association uses to issue alerts and to disseminate important community information to our residents.

If you did not get the recent email alerts about the suspicious brush fire on the GGNRA land adjacent to our community, or the alerts about the recent burglaries; the invitation to join in the community discussion meetings that were held regarding these events; or, information regarding the steps

that are being taken to make our community safer, and you have an interest in knowing what is going on within our community, then you should subscribe to one or both of the following services:

1. The MVCA homeowners/renters email list: compiled a few years ago through a newsletter solicitation, it lists 167* email addresses.

To get yourself listed on the MVCA email list, send an email to:

mvca@marinview94941.com with your name, address, phone number and email address.

2. The MarinView Yahoo Groups: A private for-MarinView-residents-only "chat" line started by Mitch Waite several years ago. This facility is used by resident subscribers to communicate information, share ideas, and solicit recommendations on home maintenance and home improvement service providers, etc. Currently there are 86* subscribers to this service.

To subscribe to the MarinView Yahoo Group, send an email with your name, address and the email address you would like to register to:

marinview-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

* There are 241 homes in our community, and while no attempt has been made to determine if the subscribers to the Yahoo Group are also listed in the MVCA email list (or vice versa) it is safe to assume that at least 1/3 of our residents are not listed in either of these important community communication facilities.

FIRE MITIGATION

As most of you by now know, last August a wildfire erupted on along the Rhubarb Trail in Tennessee Valley. Fortunately, prompt action by fire crews knocked down the fire before it spread to Marinview. Since that fire, your community association was able to persuade the County to perform extensive fuel reduction measures on its lands surrounding Via Recodo. Your association

will also continue to monitor the scope of annual fire mitigation maintenance by Tamalpais Community Services District (TCSD) and the County.

While both of those agencies in the past few years have greatly increased the scope of fire mitigation efforts in Marinview, we were disappointed to recently learn that due to the "sequester," GGNRA did not create a fire break on its lands adjoining Marinview. Nevertheless, your association will continue its efforts to ensure adequate fire mitigation measures on GGNRA lands.

All homes in Marinview should have adequate defensible space; i.e. reduction of flammable vegetation within at least 100' of buildings. Highly flammable trees and shrubs such as Monterey pines, Eucalyptus, Junipers, and Broom should be removed wherever possible. Crowns of trees should be at least ten feet apart and shrubs should not be placed under trees so as to create "fuel ladders."

In order to assist residents in maintaining defensible space, with the assistance of TCSD, we have scheduled a chipper day to be conducted in the latter part of February. Details for that event will follow under separate cover. TCSD will also be conducting a green waste day on March 22, 2014. We urge all residents to take advantage of one or both of those events.

If you have any questions about providing adequate defensible space for your property, contact John Lynch, our Fire Mitigation Coordinator, at attyjlynch@aol.com,

LANDSCAPING

In its recent board meeting, the MVCA board agreed to look into expanding the entryway garden further up the medium and to explore removing a number of eucalyptus trees on the right side of the entryway near the top of the medium strip. The goal is two fold: beautifying the entrance to our community while at the same time reducing the fire hazard that surrounds the only entry and exit point for Marinview.

Given the community's limited resources, it is anticipated the medium garden expansion will be accomplished in stages with the next step to solicit a design that builds on the current plantings while enhancing fire resistance, being water wise, and maintaining visual interest.

In order to further reduce a major fire hazard at the entryway, the committee has explored partnering with the TCSO and adjacent homeowners to remove the five eucalyptuses which are on the right side of the entryway. Partnering with the TCSO and adjacent home owners allows our community to accomplish more with our resources than we would be able to accomplish alone. Presumably, removal of the eucalyptus trees will have the added benefit of reducing entryway maintenance costs.

Our goal is continued support of those who have paid their dues in the past and increased participation of those who have chosen not to contribute. If as a member of the community, you are pleased with the progress to date and desire to see more progress, please send in your dues.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

We have experienced a few residential burglaries in Marinview in the last year or so.

Also, a suspicious vehicle was found in a homeowner's driveway when he returned home. The car left quickly, and the license number was not obtained. The Sheriff says this is a fairly common occurrence. The potential thieves knock on the front door, and if no-one answers, one person waits out front while the other tries the side and back doors to gain entry.

To prevent this happening to you, please do your part to reduce or eliminate the opportunity for these crimes to take place by following these steps:

- Keep all doors locked.
- Lock the garage entry door to your house, if you have one. Sometimes the garage door opener is stolen from the car allowing entry through the garage.
- Set your alarm system, if you have one.
- Alarm systems and home security cameras, which now cost as little as \$200, are effective tools for preventing burglaries.
- Inspect door and window locks around your house.
- Take photos of any suspicious cars and trucks in the neighborhood, including the license plate.
- Record serial numbers of items, such as computers, cameras, firearms, bicycles, etc.
- Take photographs of valuables for identification purposes.
- Don't leave valuables in plain sight in your car.
- Watch out for anything suspicious in the neighborhood, and alert the Sheriff at 479-2311 of suspicious activity.

Fortunately the Sheriff's office deems our community a low crime area compared to other neighborhoods, so let's do our part to keep it that way. The consensus of the latest board meeting is that a neighborhood watch sign will be posted near the entrance. Call the Sheriff if you see anything suspicious, and post your suspicion on the chat group mentioned above.

Volunteers are always needed. Please help if you can. All positions are voluntary and uncompensated. The current Board members are:

President: Bernard
Catalinotto

Vice President: Jim Burns.

Treasurer: Susan Burns.

Secretary: John Lynch.

Newsletter: Anna

Tennenhouse (388-4520).

Architecture Committee:

Irving Bernstein (chair), Jim
Myers, Leonel Figuerdo.

Fire Mitigation/Landscape

Committee: Walter Reinsdorf
(chair), Jim Burns, John

Lynch, Bernard Catalinotto.

Trails Committee: Jim Burns
(chair), Bernard Catalinotto,
John Lynch.

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2014 Annual Membership Dues – Marinview Community Association

(\$125 per single-family residence)

Name: _____ Amt. enclosed: \$ _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Suggestions for the Marinview Board meetings/other comments: _____

Please send your check in the enclosed envelope to: 349 Carrera, Mill Valley 94941