



the mission bell

DECEMBER 2008

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT
Connie Cain
721-0598

themissions@att.net

VICE PRESIDENT
Tom Coley
231-9437

janet.coley@cox.net

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Nick Ruddick
754-2410

Nick@ruddick.com

SECRETARY
Gerry Wolfson
757-9770

gwolfson@prodigy.net

MEMBER-AT-LARGE
Linda Sweeney
433-6668

Sweeney5@cox.net

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

ARCHITECTURAL
Dick Parrish
433-6443

HOSPITALITY
Norma McAfee
439-2778
&
Sue Ruddick
754-2410

SOCIAL
Ellen Stotmeister
754-2227

NEWSLETTER
Pat Kellenbarger
231-9609

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

According to the calendar, winter is upon us. Although the weather is not currently cooperating with a winter theme, the Social Committee is planning a holiday decorating contest (details provided elsewhere in this issue).

Since this is the season of giving thanks, I'm personally thankful for so many things, not to mention people in our community. The time given by your Board of Directors, Traffic Committee, Architectural Committee, Social Committee, Newsletter Editor, Website Manager, Hospitality Committee and our Chief Graffiti Officer, make this an extraordinary community in which to live. Take a moment to thank them when you see them.

Mark your calendar for next year's Annual Meeting, to be held April 2, 2009. Being on the Board is a great opportunity to be involved in our association. There will be two Director positions open for voting next year. Please give some thought to becoming part of the Board, as new ideas and new faces are always welcome.

Happy Holidays to you and yours,

-- Connie Cain

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LOOKING AHEAD

Dec. 15 - Holiday Decorating Contest

Jan. 14 - Board meeting, 2PM. Library Community Room
(Note change of usual day)

Website: www.the-missions.org

YOUR BOARD AT WORK

The Missions board meets every other month on the third Thursday at 2PM at the Oceanside library, 3861-B Mission Ave., Oceanside, unless otherwise notified on your monthly billing statement. All homeowners are welcome to attend and participate in the homeowners' forum.

The board has solicited and received bids from two landscape companies. In addition, we received a letter from Bemus, our current landscape company proposing an increase in their fee to us for next year. The board will be meeting with all three landscape companies in the beginning of December, after which it will make a selection for the coming year.

The traffic committee is continuing to work with the city in an effort to address the traffic and parking issues at our two entrances. A solution not involving a vote of the community is being pursued.

We can all look forward to a revised architectural guideline book being issued sometime next year. Revision of the guidelines has been made necessary by changes in state and local laws. Issues such as usage of drought-tolerant ground cover will be addressed.

Our CFO, Nick Ruddick, presented a draft 2009 budget which included an increase in the monthly homeowner's assessment from \$56 to \$62. The budget was reviewed in detail and adopted. By now all homeowners should have received a blue copy of the 2009 annual budget summary.

--Gerry Wolfson, secretary

Important Notice

Please note the HOA President's new email address in the contact information column on the front page.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

EDITOR

Pat Kellenbarger
231-9609

ckellenbarger@cox.net

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Ray Chesloff
967-7834

WRITERS

Ray Chesloff
Norma Craig
Carola Phelps
Trish Munley
Sue Ruddick
Ellen Stotmeister

We welcome your
comments and
input.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

Friday,
February 21, 2009

From Pat's Pen

It hardly seems possible that it is time to get out the ornaments and write Christmas greetings. The more mature I become, the faster the weeks fly!

No one claimed their hidden address in the last issue. Will you find your encoded address in this issue? Call if you are the winner.

Many thanks to neighbors and friends who have shown concern, brought food, put out trash cans and offered any time help as Charlie deals with the fracture and re-fracture of his arm & shoulder and some advances of Parkinsons Disease. Once again, this neighborhood has shown its true spirit of neighborliness.

I also want to publicly say thank you to Rex Martin for stepping forward and running for election to our City Council. I am not the only neighbor who appreciates your efforts on behalf our our city.

Wishing you a holiday season filled with good friends, family gatherings, good health, and lots of chocolate. May the coming new year bring a new season of peace and understanding.

— *Pat Kellenbarger*

OUR GREAT KIDS

Our family-oriented community is proud of the accomplishments of the younger generation. Let's share the good news about our "kids". The media focus is too often negative. Let's brag about student awards (*15 D*nz*) and milestones, scholarships, and athletic achievements! PS. Clairvoyance is not one of my gifts – so pass on the good news.

J.J. Whittaker has been photo-featured in the *North County Times* Sports section several times during the recent high school football season. He is a member of the league-winning Oceanside High School varsity team.

UPDATE ON EYEGLASSES FOR IRAQ PROJECT

The Rotary Club of Camp Pendleton would like to thank our Missions residents who contributed their old eye glasses to their collection drive. The Club collected over 4,000 pairs of glasses and they were recently shipped to Iraq for distribution to those in need. Thank you for your support.

— *Trish Munley and Carola Phelps*

Carola's Corner

If you haven't done a seasonal check on your builder-installed DSC PC2550 alarm system this year, it's really time to do so. If you've misplaced your owner's manual, email me and I will send you a pdf formatted version for your reading. Many Missions homeowners have already replaced their alarm batteries after the system warned that the battery was failing, but remember that the internal sealed lead-acid battery life is limited and if your battery is over 10 years old, it may need proactive replacing. Also, Alarm Manual available on the website, under "Forms".

Although this is a repeat note from some time ago, it is appropriate for this time of the year. Our hint for inventorying valuables is to make sure your camera's date clock is up to date and turn on the date stamp feature (you know, those irritating numerics in your photo). Photograph today's newspaper page and then your valuables with your face included in the photo. And as for that 13-karat yellow diamond pendant, do include your jeweler's receipt! Now you have a date stamped photo record to burn to a cd or dvd and store off-site.

On a lighter note, to keep that Thanksgiving bouquet lasting longer add a few drops of gin or 7-Up in your vase water. (*Courtesy of the Garden Editor at Sunset Magazine, 7/2008.*)

-- *Carola Phelps*

SHARING IS CARING

Several neighbors are involved with local charity organizations that benefit our community and world at-large. Here are some alternatives to putting your discards on the curb on Tuesday morning. If you have a favorite local charity with specific needs, please share this information.

Furniture, baby items, kitchenware – needed by junior enlisted military families. Ginny Parrish

Men's clothing and women's bras (gently used ok); hotel toiletries and sleeping bags – needed by local agencies helping homeless folks - Pat Kellenbarger

Gently used clothing & shoes – Brother Benno's, Assistance League & Women's Resource Thrift Shops, Oceanside

Books and recent magazines are welcomed by the Mission Branch Library used book shop.

Old cell phones – Women's Resource Center, Oceanside

GARDENING IN THE MISSIONS

It is holiday time again and I'm sure the last thing on your mind is your garden. If you are too busy to give the garden much attention this month, you are in luck. Most plants will do quite well with only an occasional boost from you. Just make sure to protect your plants if the weather is cold, or keep them watered if the weather is unseasonably hot and dry.

If there are children in your family who seem interested in plants, you can spark their imagination by making them a fantasy garden. Or you can give them the ingredients and help them make it.

Arrangements using houseplants and succulents can be kept indoors as long as a year. For these, don't make a hole in the bottom of the container. Put a layer of fine gravel in the bottom mixed with agriculture charcoal, to keep the water pure. You can make all kinds of themes such as Zoo or forests of ferns and miniature cycads inhabited by dinosaurs, or Indians stalking cowboys in a desert scene of rocks and succulents. Just let your imagination go. You will need to get some miniature animals or people to fill in you diorama, but there is no limit you what you can think of.

Everyone loves poinsettias in the house. Buy them early to get the healthiest plants. You can make them last until March with a little preparation. Line a large ornamental basket with several layers of plastic cut to fit. Pour in a layer of styrofoam packing pellets to hold roots above water. Arrange the poinsettias in the basket on top of the pellets. Surround the poinsettias with low profile houseplants to add beauty and provide a moist atmosphere. Place the arrangement out of drafts in a warm bright area, but away from direct sunlight. Water the plants when the soil feels dry to the touch. You can feed them occasionally with a weak, balanced fertilizer starting the end of the month.

Stay happy and healthy and enjoy the holiday season.

--Norma Craig

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Restaurant reviewer Ray Chesloff is taking a well deserved vacation from the challenges of finding new and exciting dining venues. We look forward to seeing his new discoveries in the next *Mission Bell*.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

CONDOLENCES

We extend heartfelt condolences to Rose Goodson and family on the recent passing of her husband, and our neighbor and friend, George.

We extend our sincere condolences to Alice Klaeser and her family on the death of her husband, Richard. Alice and Richard have lived in *The Missions* since 1992. Richard spent hours maintaining their meticulously neat corner property and was always ready to stop for a chat.

Condolences also to Rick and Cheri Klaeser and their family on the death of his father, Richard.

WELCOME

We would like to welcome:

Dai D. Nghiem and Phuong Le
340 Huelva Court
(760) 730-5804
E-mail: Nghiem5000@aol.com

FAREWELL:

Robert and Heidi Jablonski

WELCOME HOME FROM IRAQ

It is always wonderful to be able to report good news. Sgt Aaron Chambers (Marine Corps) returned home on Friday, November 21st, after seven months in Iraq. Sgt Chambers is Gretchen Miller's daughter, Ashley's husband and Ethan's daddy.

CONGRATULATIONS

Terry and Norma Craig – celebrated 60 years of marriage.

Dick and Ginny Parrish welcomed great-grandchild number six and traveled to Colorado Springs to help the new family and 16 month old big brother.

MILESTONES

Should you wish to share the news of a family milestone with your neighbors via this newsletter, please do so. Births/adoptions, birthdays, and anniversaries will be published as information is received. The Hospitality Committee does not maintain a listing of this information.

Neighborhood Awareness

There have been three known daytime break-in burglaries in the neighborhood recently, two of them occurred in one week. Here are some of Serge Duarte's suggestions of things that could be beneficial to all of us when thinking about what we can do to protect our homes and personal property.

- Lock all doors, even when you're in your house.
- Install deadbolt locks on all exterior doors.
- Make sure all doors and windows are locked before you leave your house.
- Make your house look occupied. Leave some lights on, and use timers to turn various lights on and off.
- Ask your neighbors to pick up your newspapers, flyers or packages if you're away for some time.
- Install motion-detector lights outside.
- Trim shrubbery away from windows and walkways to reduce cover for burglars.
- If you have an intrusion detection system (IDS) installed in the house, set the system even if you don't have monitoring services. The siren will scare off most burglars and will alert your neighbors.
- If you don't have your IDS monitored, consider that service.
- Monitoring services will provide you with signs that you can place outside your house indicating that your house is protected by a monitored IDS. This may be enough to keep a burglar from choosing your house as a target.
- Many IDSs allow you to disable motion sensors when you're inside the house so you can move around without activating the IDS.
- Multiple camera video surveillance systems with internet access capability can be purchased for as little as \$500. These systems offer a variety of monitoring/recording capabilities, and many cameras have low-light capability to capture images during darkness.
- The majority of burglars are young males 15-25 years of age.
- A burglar may knock on your door first to see if anyone is home.
- If you see suspicious activity at your house, or at a neighbor's house, get as much information about the person(s) or vehicle(s), and their direction of travel, and immediately call 911 to report this information.

The county of San Diego has a program known as the Automated Regional Justice Information System (ARJIS). ARJIS can be accessed via the internet and provides crime mapping as a free service. You can access this service at <http://mapping.arjis.org/main.aspx>

The non-emergency numbers for the Oceanside Police Department Crime Prevention Office are 760-435-4543 or 760-435-4547.

Many thanks to Sue Ruddick for this timely reminder to always be watchful.

As an editorial addition to Sue's article above, two other items to keep you and your home safe:

Be sure to let your neighbor(s) know when you will be away for a few days and be sure that they have an emergency contact phone number of a friend or relative if you will be out of the country or unavailable to contact in case there is an emergency dealing with your property.

Our insurance broker advised us to carry a disposable camera in each vehicle and to keep one handy at home to document license plates, suspicious or dangerous behavior, etc. A picture is often worth more than many words.

A REMINDER.....

If you are planning *any improvements or changes* to the exterior of your home, approval must be given by the Architectural Committee BEFORE you start the project. This approval is in addition to any city permits that may also be required.

Project plans, such as the addition of solar panels, landscaping changes to your front or back yard or additions to your home affecting the exterior must be submitted to the Architectural Review Committee for review. If you have questions regarding your project plans, please contact the Architectural Committee chair, Dick Parrish at 433-6443.

LATE BREAKING NEWS

The race car built from scratch by students in the Advanced Motor Shop class at El Camino High School won the contest against Ramona High's car. Both cars were driven by profession race drivers. Phil Wentzel was part of the ECHS team building this vehicle.

The Mission Bell
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The articles herein represent the opinions of the submitters for informational purposes only and neither express nor infer an endorsement or recommendation by *The Missions Homeowners' Association*, its officers or agents.

Editor: Pat Kellenbarger
PH: 760-231-9609 email: ckellenbarger@cox.net

From Your Social Committee

Block Party



The annual Missions Block Party was held in Borrego Court on Saturday, September 15. Neighbors brought wonderful dishes to share and the raffle was better than ever! The money our committee receives from the sale of raffle tickets is used to provide all paper products for the party as well as for purchasing items for next year's prizes.

We had a piñata full of candies and prizes for the children. Unfortunately, there were no children at the party, so we donated it to the Women's Resource Center's shelter.

Most of the people who attended this block party were also the ones who attended the Cul-de-sac Happy Hours. Those informal get-togethers were very enjoyable, well attended, and much less work for the Social Committee. We, the committee, want to plan events that the neighborhood will enjoy and support; so in the future, there will probably be Cul-de-sac Happy Hours only. If you feel very strongly about continuing Block Parties, please let me know. We really want to plan events for all of our neighbors.

Holiday Decorating Contest

This year the Social Committee is sponsoring a holiday home decorations contest, and we encourage everyone to participate. Decorations make our neighborhood festive and even more beautiful. Wooden yard signs will be awarded to winners in three different categories: Most Festive, Most Beautiful, and Most Creative. These awards will remain in the winners' yards until after Christmas, then picked up for future use. Judging will take place on Monday, December 15. Annette Bramhall has graciously volunteered to head up the judging committee.



Cul-de-sac Happy Hours

These parties proved to be very successful this past year, as we alternated the locations throughout our many cul-de-sacs. Neighbors met in a designated cul-de-sac and brought their own beverages and an appetizer to share. Many preferred to bring non-alcoholic drinks. We will continue this monthly tradition when our evening weather warms up a little more. We will probably resume them in April or May. Be sure to read your *Mission Bell* for future information.

E-Blasts

Since the Mission Bell is only published quarterly, and since events may occur and pertinent information may be needed in the middle of the publishing cycle, the Social Committee is proposing E-Blasts as a way to communicate with the neighborhood. The chair of the Social Committee would maintain a list of Missions' residents' e-mails, and send E-Blasts to notify (or remind) neighbors of upcoming events or meetings. This list would be confidential and shared with no one, and no e-mail addresses would be used without the permission of the residents. Many of you have published e-mail addresses in the directory already. We still will get your permission to include them in this new process. Please send me your e-mail address if you wish to participate at ellenstot@aol.com.

Please let us know if you have new ideas for fun events for the neighborhood. We are always looking for new members for the Social Committee as well. Our neighborhood is so special in many ways, and one of them is the fellowship we share among neighbors.

We hope you all have a safe and healthy holiday season, filled with peace and joy and love!

– Ellen Stotmeister