

EUCALYPTUS HILL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

FALL 2021

FROM THE PRESIDENT

THE EHIA BOARD CONTINUES TO WORK HARD ON YOUR BEHALF

The year 2021 has been busy for our EHIA board. In May, we had our most well attended Annual Meeting. It was an overwhelming success and such an enjoyable event. We thank all our members for attending!

We had another fortunate year for avoiding wildfire in our neighborhood despite the ongoing drought, but the EHIA board is continuing to investigate our options for fire mitigation efforts in our canyons. We also let the California insurance commissioner know our thoughts on our fire mitigation efforts as it relates to homeowners and fire insurance rate schedules, and we hope that you commented as well.

Normally EHIA does not involve our association with political issues, but there has been some state legislation that has the potential to influence public safety—as we perceive it—and so we made our voice heard. Senate Bills 9

and 10, specifically SB9, can result in increased housing density within our neighborhood. We believe it can negatively affect public safety during fire evacuation. As such, we commented prior to passage of the bills, to no avail. Most recently we submitted comments to the Planning Commission and City Council to ask that extreme high fire danger neighborhoods, such as ours be exempted. Should we experience a wind-driven, fast moving fire, such as was experienced in Paradise, CA, our evacuation routes will be over-burdened with vehicles attempting to leave and it will become dangerous. We will continue to watch how this will play out and we encourage your participation as well.

We have continued to work with the SBPD for increased police enforcement in our area. Fortunately, the police department received a grant for increased patrols, so we hope to see the results of

that soon. As Interim SBPD Chief Melekian said at our meeting, “Be careful what you wish for!” Heads up, don’t speed and stop at stop signs.

We’ve also asked the city for more pedestrian safety signs along Alston, Barker Pass, and Eucalyptus Hill roads, and they will hopefully have been installed by the publication of this issue. Please continue to use safe practices while walking and cycling in the neighborhood.

This past year we have been honored to have many new members join our association and renewal of memberships. If you are currently not a member, we encourage you to join us! Thank you to all for your support!



Loy Beardsmore, EHIA President

FIRE DANGER ISN'T SOMETIME IN THE FUTURE, IT'S NOW!

Your board members have been continuing to investigate all our options for fire mitigation in our canyons. Some neighbors have been traditionally focused on maintaining views, but we realize that if we lose homes due to wildfire, there will be no views to protect. We encourage neighbors to work with each other if views are your focus, but EHIA's focus is on fuel reduction for reducing the risk of wildfire as our goal.

Recently we met with a company that conducts courses and field training up and down the state. Courses vary

from basic fuels reduction to advance tree felling. California Conservation Corps, Santa Barbara City Fire, Santa Barbara County Fire, and Cal Fire have contracted with this company to conduct courses throughout the state with training for hand crew fuel management and reduction.

We are hopeful that our remaining two canyons might be good opportunities for these courses. We will continue to work with them to see if our location will be a mutually beneficial area for both our goal of fire mitigation, as well as

providing a good teaching experience, to support the rationale for how and why mitigation efforts are necessary. We are hoping that our canyons will be able to provide these training opportunities. Please know that we are also continuing to pursue our grazing projects as well, as these two efforts would go hand in hand to reduce the fuels for wildfire.

Lastly we greatly appreciate your financial support and donations this year and we will continue to keep you informed with our progress. Working together will keep us all safer. Thank you!

EHIA CURB ADDRESS PROJECT

EHIA board members have been noticing that neighborhood addresses on our curbs have faded or are nonexistent. These numbers are so important for emergency vehicles (fire department, ambulances, police, etc.) so they can easily identify the location they have been called to assist.

EHIA has partnered with a local education and physical fitness nonprofit that benefits students—Santa Barbara School of Squash (SBSOS)—to repaint these essential curb numbers. This also

gives students a chance to complete their community service hours for school.

Neighbors on La Vista Grande and Knoll Circle were the first streets to be completed. For a \$5 donation to the SBSOS, twenty homeowners had their curb addresses repainted by Sofi and Jesus. EHIA donated the funds for the paint and supplies.

As time permits with the student's busy schedules, we hope to get the rest of the neighborhood done in the coming weeks.



SAFETY REMINDERS

With regard to wildfires, we continually need to look at our evacuation plans, defensible space, hardening our homes against wildfire, planting fire-wise landscaping, and controlling vegetation management around our homes.

We cannot stress enough that you need to have a robust plan for evacuation in the event of wildfire. Please designate a meeting place *outside of our neighborhood* where you can meet other family members in case you lose cell service.

As you consider your earthquake preparedness plans, you should have at least one week's food, water, medications, and other needs stored. Please plan accordingly with your family for where you will meet, arranging for children to be picked up from schools, planning for elderly or infirmed family members, pets, and other such arrangements.



At the risk of sounding like a broken record, this past year we have continued to experience mail theft and vehicles being rummaged through for valuables. Please, we cannot stress enough that a locking mailbox and locked vehicles, with nothing of value inside, will help to eliminate these crimes of opportunity from our neighborhood.

NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE

SUNNY AND MARK INGALLS

When you go to the home of Sunny Ingalls (an EHIA board member) and her husband Mark on Eucalyptus Hill Drive, you will first be greeted by the “Spice Girls,” Curry and Cardy (Cardamon), their rescue dogs from China. Ready to adopt a dog, they contacted Atlas Animal Rescue in Paso Robles, a dog adoption group that partners with an international group with the unlikely name of Slaughterhouse Survivors, that literally rescues dogs from meat markets in China. Curry was shipped to Los Angeles, and then Cardi—her kennel mate of one year—landed at LAX six months later. Caring for dogs runs in the family, as Mark’s mother has been breeding Labs for years as part of the group Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Sunny was born in Nebraska and spent summers in Santa Barbara with her father starting in 1977, and finally moved here in 1989 to go to UCSB, graduating in 1991, the same year she met Mark. They married in 1993 and have a son and daughter.

Their rustic home site and last names, Olson (maiden name) and Ingalls brings to mind the TV series *Little House on the Prairie*, barn and all! Their barn home is a story unto itself. It was built in 1915 as the barn/carriage house/stable for the grand Solana estate just up the street. Also on their property is the old caretaker’s cottage, where their daughter now lives. Solana was also used as the Institute for Democratic Studies from 1958–1978. Local architect Richard Kelty converted the barn to a house in the '70s. After Mark and Sunny married, they lived on the Mesa for seventeen years in the home where Mark was born, and then in 2009 they purchased and moved into their present “barn” home.

Mark has deep roots in Santa Barbara, being the third generation of the long-established Ingalls Plumbing family. The business was started in 1916 and after working in the family business for seventeen years, he left to help build the Camino Real shopping center, of which he is now the general manager. Mark is no stranger to the Eucalyptus Hill neighborhood. As a kid, he had a friend who lived on Summit Road and they used to ride their bikes to the archery range portion of the Solana property—what is now Hale Park. His family was part of the construction of the

Coronado Circle development during the '80s and before he met Sunny, he also lived on Knoll Circle in the home that his great aunt built.

Both Sunny and Mark are very involved locally. As well as being on the EHIA board, Sunny was on the board for the Santa Barbara High School MAD Academy, a multi-media arts and design program. Mark, being a strong advocate for public education, served on the board of the SB Education Foundation for twelve years, spending two terms as their president.

Both keep very busy managing their family’s numerous properties both locally and in Sunny’s home state of Nebraska. Mark’s family also has had a ranch for thirty years just outside of Paso Robles and they are now starting to run cattle again after a hiatus. Ahh, the country life with lots of work!

Sunny teaches yoga during the day, but during Covid turned her attention more fully to gardening. She coaxed Mark and a good friend into building her three planter beds which she promptly turned into a vegetable garden. She happily makes jellies and jams, and pickles fruits and veggies from her garden. To help foster the “prairie” image they “rescued” a number of chickens from a neighbor and a backyard chicken coop—fresh eggs now. They would love to be able to just live off the beautiful land of Eucalyptus Hill, and they seem to be well on their way.



WHY BELONG TO YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION?

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS & AWARENESS

EHIA's volunteer member efforts have built a strong response network. Our goal is to help our small community be self-sufficient in disasters when first responders are overwhelmed. Our system has been praised by local emergency experts, and other homeowner groups are now following our lead.

Our efforts include:

- **Telephone tree network** to rapidly inform EHIA residents of impending danger (used successfully in Jesusita Fire).
- **Email ALERT networks** to homeowners from block volunteers.
- **Block volunteer program** with forty-three block volunteers who have collected data on their blocks regarding special needs, skills, and equipment.

- **Radio Network:** a base station, repeater system, battery back-up, antenna, and thirty-six radios with trained operators throughout the Eucalyptus Hill neighborhood.
- **Our website:** www.eucalyptushillia.com
- **Red Flag Warning program** ready to activate in high fire danger weather conditions.
- We have numerous **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** trained neighborhood volunteers.

These programs require a constant inflow of volunteers. If you would like to join our collective effort, we welcome any time you can offer. Email us at info@eucalyptushillia.com for more information.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Your \$40 annual membership in the Eucalyptus Hill Improvement Association is an investment in your neighborhood. Memberships paid now will cover one year of dues. Our website can also process membership payments, so visit www.eucalyptushillia.com/renew-or-join to join today! If you would like to renew your membership or join by mail, please use the form below and send this with your check to the address at the bottom of this form.

Name(s)

Address

City

State

Zip

Home Phone

Cell Phone

Email(s)

Comments or suggestions

Make checks payable to Eucalyptus Hill Improvement Association. Mail to: EHIA, PO BOX 40182, Santa Barbara CA 93140-0182.

RADIO NETWORK UPDATE

Our dedicated team of thirty-six emergency radio carriers is always on the lookout for fire, extreme wind, earthquake, and other neighborhood threats. Our monthly radio network tests are now attended by over 80% of our carriers. We have been upgrading radios to a newer, higher power version over the past year. The higher power, along with longer “high gain” antennas, provide better access in our hilly terrain. We now have coverage in the Hale Park/Aleeda Lane area that was previously “dark.” Some homes, though, especially those built with steel mesh in the walls (typical of stucco construction), still require the radio to be outside to work well—the steel provides an excellent “shield” against radio signals, keeping inside signals inside and outside signals outside.

If you think you might be interested in being a radio carrier, please contact Loy Beardsmore at loyalbme@gmail.com to see if we need more coverage on your street or a backup for the current carriers.

RODENT PROBLEMS? TRY USING WORKING CATS TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM

If you live in our area, the odds are very good that you have a problem with rodents (rats, mice, gophers, etc.).

There is a simple solution that is safe for our hawks, falcons, and house pets—working cats! Poison baits are, well, *poisonous*, and not necessary. Feral and semi-feral cats are available from the local Animal Shelter Assistance Program (ASAP) cat rescue.

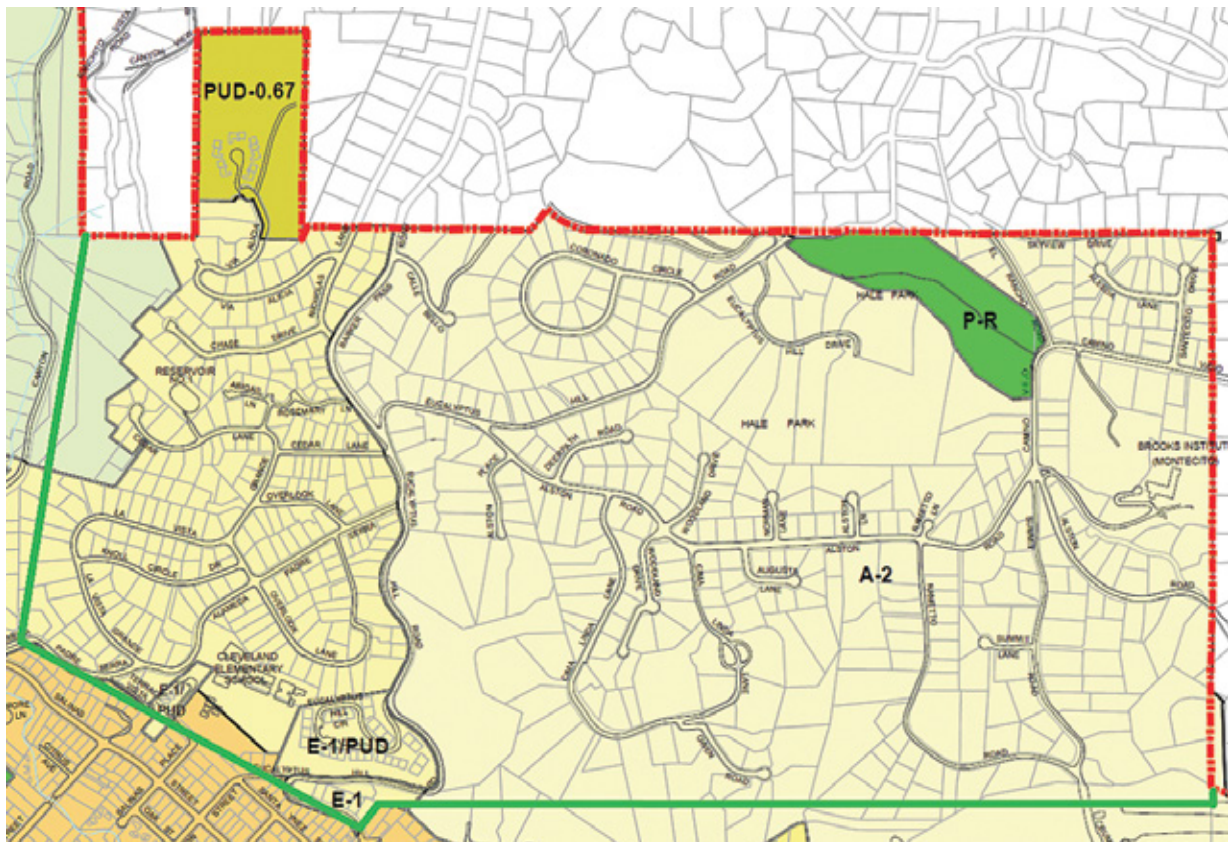
The requirements for adopting a working cat are minimal: feeding once or twice a day and a space sheltered from weather and predators. A fenced yard is preferable but not necessary. Once a working cat claims your yard as its territory, all rodents will be dispatched

promptly without poisons.

If you are interested in a working cat, contact workingcats@asapcats.org or call 805/699-5739. Check out the ASAP Cats website at asapcats.org and look under “Adoptions” to see if working cats would be a good fit for you.



EUCALYPTUS HILL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION MAP



EHIA BOARD

OFFICERS

Loy Beardsmore, *President*
loyalbme@gmail.com
Sue Burk, *Vice President*
sue@jsburk.com
David Gress, *Treasurer*
drgress@cox.net
Barbara Ireland, *Secretary*
barbaraireland41@gmail.com

DIRECTORS

John Ahlman
sbaarff1@aol.com
Marcy Burton
mburton@partnervest.com
Sunny Ingalls
sunnyingalls@gmail.com
Maureen McDermut
mmcdermut@aol.com
Tom Schleck
tschleck3@icloud.com
Andrea Wilson
abwcambridge@gmail.com

ADVISORS

Bob Ehrmann
Kathy Marvin
Bob Meltzer

BLOCK VOLUNTEERS

ALEEDA LANE

Chris Russo
chris_r_russo@yahoo.com
Emergency Radio Carrier

ALSTON PLACE

ALSTON ROAD

Barbara Ireland
barbaraireland41@gmail.com
Emergency Radio Carrier
Dan Street
dan.danstreet@gmail.com
Emergency Radio Carrier
Tom Schleck
tschleck3@icloud.com
Emergency Radio Carrier
Andrea Wilson
abwcambridge@gmail.com

ALAMEDA PADRE SERRA

AUGUSTA LANE

Marcy Burton
mburton@partnervest.com
Emergency Radio Carrier

BARKER PASS

Brad AuBuchon
brad.aubuchon@gmail.com

CALLE BELLO

Pat St. Clair
pcstclair@gmail.com
Emergency Radio Carrier

CAMINO VIEJO

Alisa Baur
alisabbaur@gmail.com
Emergency Radio Carrier
Andy Tymkiw
atymkiw@aol.com
Emergency Radio Carrier

CEDAR LANE

Jay Miller
jbird642@yahoo.com
Ken Rourke
kenneth-rourke@cox.net
Emergency Radio Carrier

CHASE DRIVE

Bernie Parkins
biparkins@gmail.com
Emergency Radio Carrier

CIMA LINDA LANE

Susan Jordano
susanjordano@cox.net
Emergency Radio Carrier
Marcy Burton
mburton@partnervest.com
Emergency Radio Carrier
Susan Budinger
susanbudinger@me.com
Emergency Radio Carrier

CORONADA CIRCLE

David Kuehn
davidkuehn@cox.net
Emergency Radio Carrier
Bob Ehrmann
ehrmannr@yahoo.com
Emergency Radio Carrier
Jerry Cohen
bjcohen@polsci.ucsb.edu

DEERPATH ROAD

Rick Gehrke
rickgehrke@cox.net
Emergency Radio Carrier

EL RANCHO ROAD

Maureen McDermut
mmcdermut@aol.com
Emergency Radio Carrier

EUCALYPTUS HILL CIRCLE

Ed Edick
ed@villagesite.com
Emergency Radio Carrier
Andy Clare
arclare@cox.net
Emergency Radio Carrier

EUCALYPTUS HILL DRIVE

Sunny Ingalls
sunnyingalls@gmail.com
Emergency Radio Carrier

EUCALYPTUS HILL ROAD

John Ahlman
sbaarff1@aol.com
Emergency Radio Carrier
David Gress
drgress@cox.net
Emergency Radio Carrier
Jane De Veer
janemacedeveer@gmail.com
Emergency Radio Carrier

KNOLL CIRCLE DRIVE

Bruno Herzog
brunowherzog@gmail.com
Emergency Radio Carrier

LA VISTA GRANDE

Sue Burk
sue@jsburk.com
Emergency Radio Carrier
Debbie Armstrong
sbdeb@hotmail.com
Emergency Radio Carrier

NICHOLAS LANE

Sharon Sutton
skaysutton@gmail.com

NORMAN LANE

Susannah Rake
zannabelleredux@gmail.com
Emergency Radio Carrier

OWEN ROAD

Marcy Burton
mburton@partnervest.com
Emergency Radio Carrier

OVERLOOK LANE

Loy Beardsmore
loyalbme@yahoo.com
Emergency Radio Carrier
Joanna Brownstein
brownsteinjoanna@gmail.com
Leon Smith
leonsmith@cox.net
Emergency Radio Carrier

RAMETTO ROAD

Phil Van Horn
philvanhorn@gmail.com

ROSEMARY LANE

SANTECITO DRIVE

Nicole Delagnes
nicoleadmchugh@gmail.com

SUMMIT LANE

Joe and Melissa Erickson
mericks2001@yahoo.com
Emergency Radio Carrier

SUMMIT ROAD

John Lewis
jwlew@cox.net
Emergency Radio Carrier

VIA ALICIA

Bob Meltzer
rcmeltzer@gmail.com
Emergency Radio Carrier
& *Radio Tower Location*
Sharon Sutton
skaysutton@gmail.com

WOODLAND DRIVE— SOUTH

George Eskin
geskin55@gmail.com
Emergency Radio Carrier