

EUCALYPTUS HILL

IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2019

JOIN US FOR THE EUCALYPTUS HILL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, May 5, 3–5 p.m.

Hull Estate
815 Cima Linda Lane

Guest Speaker:
Fire Chief Eric Nickel

Come and say hello to your neighbors, enjoy good food and beverages, and learn more about our neighborhood, disaster preparedness, and personal safety.



FROM THE PRESIDENT **RAIN, GLORIOUS RAIN!**

We're finally getting the El Niño they've been talking about for years. Even though the drought designation has been lifted, the US Drought Monitor has listed our area as "Abnormally Dry" which is down from "Extreme Drought." As much as the rain is welcome, when the natural vegetation begins to wither and dry-out in the summer and fall, we will once again be in **high fire danger** status. Make sure to review your emergency evacuation plan, create and update your emergency kits, and prepare your home defensible space. If you would like a free evaluation of your defensible space, you can contact City of Santa Barbara Fire Services Specialist Chris Braden at 805.564.5737 or email him at CBraden@SantaBarbaraCA.gov.

Also, be sure you are signed up for **Aware and Prepare** emergency notifications! www.AwareAndPrepare.org

The Annual Meeting is being held on Sunday, May 5th, from 3–5 p.m., at the magnificent Hull Estate at 815 Cima Linda Lane. Please join us for a beautifully catered affair in which you will experience an afternoon with you neighbors, learn information about your neighborhood, meet Board Members and your Block Captains and listen to informational speakers. In addition, some lucky attendees will go home with great emergency raffle items!

Our guest speaker at this year's EHIA Annual Meeting will be our new Fire Chief Eric Nickel. He has worked in six southern and northern California fire departments in his thirty-one years of service. Come welcome him to our neighborhood and listen to his "strategic planning and strategic doing" ideas for Santa Barbara.

I recently attended a "Coffee with a Cop" event down at Coffee Bean & Tea

Leaf on State Street, to find out what is happening with crime in our neighborhood. If you haven't ever attended one of these events (they are held monthly at different locations), I highly recommend it. The coffee is free and you can talk directly with your neighborhood beat cops about all kinds of neighborhood issues. I was told crime is down in our neighborhood thanks in part to neighbors putting in surveillance/video cameras (like RING), neighborhood watch, lockable mailboxes, and neighbors being more vigilant about keeping their cars and homes locked.

Communication between neighbors and law enforcement is our best defense. Be Safe!

Sue Burk

Sue Burk
EHIA President

HISTORY OF OUR HILL



Do you know that the early residents of Eucalyptus Hill were five titans of industry, sometimes referred to as the “Hilltop Barons?” In the early 1900s C.K.G. Billings and George Owen Knapp of Union Carbide and Carbon Company built grand estates on our hill. They were soon joined by Fredrick Forrest Peabody of Arrow shirt and collars, David Gray of Ford Motor Company, and William H. Cowles of The Cowles company (publishing).

Their interest in the area coincided with the relocation of Montecito Country Club from the Channel Drive area to its present location on Summit Road. Did you know that the club was established in 1894 on the lawns of what is now the Biltmore Hotel and it is the second oldest club course in California?

The first plantings of eucalyptus trees in the area were made by James Barker who planted a grove as a commercial venture in the Barker Pass Road area. The “Hilltop Barons” subsequently planted in excess of 20,000 more on their estates.

It’s hard to believe, but Santa Barbara held the record for the highest temperature recorded by US Weather Service for seventy-five years. In 1859, a freak blast of super-heated air known as a simoon hit the area driving the heat to 133 degrees. The record was verified by a US Coast Survey boat working in the area. The record wasn’t broken until 1934 when Death Valley recorded a high of 134 degrees.

Learn more about the unique history of our beautiful neighborhood at this year’s annual meeting on May 5, 2019. Our own local neighborhood historian will talk about the years of yore.

—Terry Tyler

2019 EUCALYPTUS HILLS IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION (EHIA) BLOCK CAPTAIN MEETING



A recent block captain meeting provided an opportunity for training as well as feedback on how to improve the program for Eucalyptus Hill Improvement Association members.

Thanks to all those who participated in the block captain meeting on March 24, and to those who took the block captain survey. It really helps us to understand what information we need to get to you and how we can improve the program.

We realize from the survey that block captains would like for us to provide more information on earthquake preparedness and also more specialized training. We are researching the Express CERT Training Program and hope to have a class available in the near future.

We were happy to hear that a very large percentage of neighbors are signed up for Aware & Prepare emergency notifications. If you haven’t already done so, **please** be sure to sign up at www.AwareAndPrepare.org.

Bob Meltzer put together a large map of the Eucalyptus Hill neighborhood showing where each block captain lives and which ones are radio carriers. The map helped us to see where we need to add new block captains and radio carriers. If you are interested in becoming a neighborhood block captain, please contact one of the EHIA board members.

John Ahlman gave a demonstration and shared information on how to properly use a fire extinguisher. Always remember the word **PASS** when using a fire extinguisher:

- **P**ull the pin to break the seal.
- **A**im at a safe distance.
- **S**queeze to the handles together to discharge the extinguishing agent.
- **S**weep the nozzle from side to side as you approach the fire.

One of the main goals of the EHIA is to help create a sense of community where neighbors are communicating with each other, especially in emergencies and our block captains are key to carrying this out. So we want to thank each and everyone of you for volunteering for this program.

NEIGHBOR PROFILE

JOHN AND BARBARA AHLMAN

Destiny's hook for John Ahlman was his fascination of the green fire engines of the US Forest Service and the job they were called to do. When a violent tornado-spawning fire broke out near the polo field of Carpinteria, John approached the truck wanting to help. No one was around so he grabbed a shovel and joined the crew. He was seventeen. He knew about the USFS. He was not old enough to be a part of it. He kept his head low and tried to blend in.

Soon after the polo field incident, the famed Coyote fire broke with fury and force. John joined with the Red Cross to bring supplies to the effort. Investigators connected his familiar face, and car license to the earlier fire. John was summoned as a suspect for arson. Unfazed by the gravity of the situation, he appreciated his good fortune to meet the legendary chief of the USFS. After intense interrogation, he was released by an impressed fan base. John took his chance to tell the fire chief that all he really wanted was to be part of the crew. The chief didn't forget. John attended City College, turned eighteen and promptly landed a job with the Hot Shot crew of the USFS, a tough back country post with rugged field camps. Food was dropped by helicopter in heavy canvas bags and often arrived as a mash of flattened cans. The training was a primer for his ascension to an engine, then battalion chief of SBF. After thirty-four years of fire service, John continues to volunteer for causes of both fire prevention and conserving nature's habitat, the two sides of our community coin.

John and his wife, Barbara were childhood friends brought together by friendship ties of their fathers. After high school, life took them separate ways, fate brought them back together. They are enthusiasts for research and education of wildlife conservation. Kindred spirits, they share a multitude of interests and an active outdoor lifestyle. Lifelong residents, they recall Santa Barbara's agrarian days of avocado and

lemon orchards, dairy farms, the grocery store of John's grandparents at the corner of Haley and Milpas, ocean catches of Bonita, shaking olive trees—curing the fruit to eat later, and the remote Veronica Springs as Barbara's neighborhood. He grew up in the Eucalyptus Hill neighborhood. It was everything a kid could desire, a bountiful paradise.

A retired special education teacher, Barbara volunteers with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and continues to promote education. Both are active with the Audubon Society. John is a craftsman, does field support for Ranchos Vistadores, and is chair of the Santa Barbara County FireSafe Council. He is a board member and past president of EHIA. Both are avid volunteers for the community. They are a unified team giving back to the hometown and neighborhood where their story began.



In addition to their community involvement, Barbara and John Ahlman are active birders.

DISTRICT FOUR CITY COUNCILMEMBER

KRISTEN SNEDDON

As a resident of the Eucalyptus Hill neighborhood, you now have your own City Council member to approach with your concerns. This is due to the fact that in November 2017,



the first City Council members in Santa Barbara were elected by district rather than city-wide. The only exception is the mayor's seat, which is elected by all voters in the City of Santa Barbara. This change was based on a City Council action in the spring of 2015, when they approved a district map setting six districts.

The Eucalyptus Hill neighborhood is in District 4, along with the Upper East, Riviera, Foothill, Cielito, and East San Roque neighborhoods. It is the largest geographic district in the city.

The representative for District 4 is Kristen Sneddon, a resident of the Riviera neighborhood, who teaches environmental geology at Santa Barbara City College. As a council member, she serves on numerous city committees, including those involving water issues, transit, police station ad hoc, the update of De La Guerra Plaza, and is liaison to the Coast Village Association. Council Member Sneddon shared several concerns affecting the Eucalyptus Hill area. First, fire safety. She is working with the new fire chief to design and implement a new fire evacuation plan, and considering ways to take fire risk into account when reviewing development designs. She would like to have the staff-recommended banning, or at least regulation, of accessory dwelling units in high fire areas. Finally, she wants to ensure that development city-wide incorporates a balanced approach between meeting housing needs—which are critical—also considering the city as a whole, not just rushing forward with development.

For neighborhood issues, Council Member Sneddon can be reached by email at ksneddon@santabarbaraca.gov.

WHY BELONG TO YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION?

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS & AWARENESS

The EHIA has a neighborhood disaster plan, praised by many local emergency experts, to help our area prepare for disasters in which first responders are overwhelmed and unable to help. The disaster plan includes:

- A **telephone tree**, to rapidly inform the community of impending danger (used during the Jesusita Fire).
- An **email network**, to alert members of emergencies, prevention activities, and training sessions.
- A **block captain program** with nearly forty volunteers who collect data about special needs, skills, and equipment.
- A **radio network** which includes a base station, repeater

system, battery back-up, antenna, and up to thirty radios with trained operators on our streets.

- A **web site presence** to inform the community of training programs and emergency situations.
- The **Red Flag Alert program**, to inform neighbors when there are high fire danger weather conditions.
- Twenty-five **members who have participated in Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** training provided by the City Fire Department.

We welcome your participation!

YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Your voluntary \$35 annual membership in the Eucalyptus Hill Improvement Association is an investment in your neighborhood. Memberships paid now will apply through April 2020.

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.

PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG SIGNS



Beginning in 1976, ordinances were added to the Santa Barbara Municipal Code to regulate animal nuisance issues. The animal control section of the code we specifically address in the Eucalyptus Hill area is Ordinance 6.12.020:

“Dogs Creating Nuisance on Beaches, in Public Parks and on Sidewalks. No person owning or having custody or control of any dog shall knowingly or through failure to exercise due care or control permit such dog to defecate or commit any other nuisance and allow such nuisance to thereafter remain on any beach, in any public park, or other public property, upon the sidewalk or parkway of any street, or upon any private property which is improved or occupied, without the consent of the owner or person in lawful occupation thereof. A person shall not be considered in violation of this section if the person has necessary equipment, i.e., shovel, bag, etc., readily available and does take immediate and necessary action to accomplish the removal of such nuisance. This section shall not apply to any blind person owning or having possession, charge, custody or control of a guide dog or to a police dog. (Ord. 4968, 1996; Ord. 4621, 1990; Ord. 4460, 1987; Ord. 4346, 1985; Ord. 4067, 1980; Ord. 3859, 1976)”

The Eucalyptus Hill Improvement Association has—available to paid members—signs to post in your neighborhood to remind people that they are responsible to pick up after their dogs when walking them along our streets.

Paid Members get one **free** sign; additional signs are available for \$20 each at the upcoming annual meeting; or contact Dave Gress or any board member for signs.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH UPDATE

Last year, the EHIA board members met with an SBPD detective about thefts in the neighborhood. Their tips on how to be proactive and reactive are timeless.

- Waves of auto and home thefts are widespread across the city.
- Investigations suggest that these are pros at what they do—quickly in and out via day (home thefts) and night (auto thefts).
- They can operate in groups of up to three and often use more than one automobile.

WHAT WE CAN DO

- **Lock** cars, gates, door at all times.
- **Report** incidents as soon as possible to aid the investigation process.
- Home surveillance **cameras, recordings, photos** are helpful to investigators.
- If you walk into a suspicious scene, **back away and call 911**. Inform dispatch of your **location** (especially calls from a mobile phone). If you feel **endangered**, communicate that immediately.
- **Report** tampering or suspicious activity in your neighborhood or on your property. Police investigators use our reports to track theft rings/gang activity. Our neighborhood watch program is effective when we work together. It is important to **report it!**
- California jails and prisons are at capacity. Punishments of these minor crimes are minimal. The perpetrators know this. They are soon released and back on the streets.
- Be aware, reduce their opportunities.
- **Contacts:** SBPD non-emergency 805.897.2300. Online reporting: SBPD.com.

THE EUCALYPTUS HILL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

EHIA works to sustain and improve our neighborhood. We keep you updated on changes impacting us with our web site, as well as with emails on time sensitive matters, and we provide a forum for community input and discussion on important issues that affect our neighborhood.

EHIA's ability to influence the issues and decisions of City and regulatory agencies is directly proportional to the size of our membership. In addition to providing financial support, your membership strengthens our ability to perform the work we're here to do.

We're stronger when we work together. If you're not already a member, please join today!

