

EUCALYPTUS HILL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2021

FROM THE PRESIDENT

HOPE, LIGHT, AND MOVING FORWARD

I'd like to thank all our members for all your positive emails and feedback during this past year. You often send us notes of appreciation and I'd like to take this opportunity to say that everything that the Eucalyptus Hill Improvement Association does for you and the community would not be possible without the tireless efforts of all our wonderful EHIA board members and block volunteers. They are all listed in our newsletter and our website. When you see them, please give them a big thank you!

Every month our radio carriers participate in a communication drill to make certain that our radios are operating correctly and that everyone

is familiar with their use. Past Board Member Bob Meltzer, our radio expert, is keeping our network up and operational. He's an invaluable resource!

As we move into summer, we encourage you to be certain that you are ready for wildfire, earthquake, and anything else that might occur. We have also let our members know how to protect themselves against burglary and mail theft. This pandemic has made us realize that we need each other during disasters and being prepared is the first step to coming out on the other side as best as possible.

Our board has voted to go ahead and hold our annual meeting on Sunday,

May 23rd from 3–5 p.m. at 815 Cima Linda Lane. We will follow safety protocols in effect at that time. It will be outdoors, as usual, and by May 23rd, hopefully most people will be vaccinated.

We understand some people will choose not to attend and we respect that choice. This past year has been a time for individuals to make personal choices for themselves and we respect that. If you feel comfortable in choosing to attend, we look forward to seeing you! Thank you all for your support!



Loy Beardsmore, EHIA President

JOIN US FOR THE EUCALYPTUS HILL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, May 23, 3–5 p.m.

Hull Estate
815 Cima Linda Lane

Guest Speakers:

Barney Melekian, Interim
Santa Barbara Police Chief;

Mike de Ponce, City of Santa
Barbara Fire Department Acting
Operations Division Chief



Come and say hello to your neighbors, enjoy good food and beverages, and learn more about our neighborhood, disaster preparedness, and personal safety. Information on homeowners insurance will also be available.

We request attendees be vaccinated and/or follow current health department protocols, including masks.

NEIGHBORS COMING TOGETHER

During this past year, we have faced many challenges. One thing that has helped us to get through these is working together as best we can in a multitude of ways. Now, more than ever, a sense of neighborhood and community is important.

After a year of isolation, and now that it is becoming safer to do so, if you have any new neighbors, we hope that you will find a way to welcome them to the neighborhood, or get to know your existing neighbors in a way that you feel comfortable. Pre-pandemic, many areas of EHIA had block parties. Hopefully we can look forward to those again soon!

We're hopeful that having a robust Neighborhood Watch in place, where we look out for our neighbors in many ways, will enhance safety. If a neighbor is on vacation, keeping a watchful eye for their home will be helpful. Keeping our homes, vehicles, and mailboxes secure is important. We continue to encourage you to report any crimes, whether or not anything is missing. It will increase police patrols if we do. We have many suggestions listed on our website.

Finally, EHIA has encouraged residents to register with ReadySBC Alerts and we encourage you to do this, if you have not done so. (You can sign up at readysbc.org, by clicking on the red "Register for Alerts" button in the orange box at the top of the page.) In the future, if wireless emergency alerts (WEAs) or Ready SBC alerts are issued, we are hopeful that by being a good neighbor, you will reach out to your immediate neighbors to confirm that they received any alerts that might be issued.

We never know when we will need each other; knowing our neighbors, and working together will be most helpful in keeping us all safer.



GOT YOUR GOAT!

The EHIA board is the process of researching and getting bids on an old school method for protecting our homes from wild fires—hiring a goat/sheep company to do “fuel reduction” in the canyons of Eucalyptus Hill.

If anything has proved helpful in fending off fires, goats and sheep are an important tool in fire prevention. The animals graze overgrown vegetation in attempts to reduce fuels and eliminate what stokes the fires in our canyons.

The goats & sheep usually graze a two to three acre electric fenced section, while being checked on by personnel to be sure they don't overgraze. Then the fences and animals are moved to the next section. The animals are quieter, cheaper and environmentally friendlier

than hand crews.

The City of Santa Barbara and the Montecito Fire Protection District have used goats and sheep to graze various areas such as Elings Park, Scofield Park, the San Marcos Foothills Preserve.

We have a tentative date of May 10th to begin the clearing on the upper Eucalyptus Hill Road canyon and are hoping to get financial support from neighbors who border these canyons, as well as support from all the homeowners in the Eucalyptus Hill neighborhood since everyone will benefit from this program. You can make a donation to this worthwhile effort by visiting our website at www.eucalyptushillia.com/grazing-for-fire-abatement.



Sheep and goats are kept safe by enclosing them while they practice their fuel reduction skills in fire hazard areas. The EHIA is looking to raise support for this worthy effort in our own canyons.

NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE

DAN AND DARCY KEEP

(We wanted to recognize Dan and Darcy Keep for this issue of our newsletter. Since Dan is in the publishing industry, it just made sense to have him write the feature. We needed to prod him into putting modesty aside. We are honored that he has chosen to do a publication on our area of Santa Barbara.)

Hello fellow Eucalyptus Hill residents! My name is Dan Keep. My wife Darcy and I have enjoyed living on Alameda Padre Serra for over twenty-two years. We moved here from Fresno and

decided to rent a home for a while to learn about the different parts of town and eliminate the pressure of purchasing something immediately.

We went to many open houses, but one day after attending a baby shower at a home on Summit Road, Darcy saw a house for sale on APS. After attending an open house that weekend, we purchased it. While APS can be a busy street, we've always enjoyed the privacy of our backyard.

Darcy has been employed with Cottage Health for the entire time that we've lived in Santa Barbara while I've had a variety of positions from being a merchandise manager and a property appraiser to owning three businesses. For the past three years I have been the publisher for *Montecito Neighbors* magazine and my new publication, *Santa Barbara Neighbors* magazine. *Santa Barbara Neighbors* is mailed to the Eucalyptus Hill and Riviera neighborhoods. The magazines are meant to be light, positive reads that are both helpful and enjoyable to the residents who receive them. The magazines feature a resident or family that lives in the particular area every month with a nice "meet and greet" article. I am also very happy to have the area associations, such as the Eucalyptus Hill Improvement Association, provide regular information for residents. It has been a pleasure to work with Loy Beardsmore regularly and Sue Burk was particularly helpful for a special article in the magazine.

Darcy and I enjoy travelling, having been to twelve countries in Europe, three cities in Mexico, three of the

Hawaiian Islands, three Caribbean islands, two trips to Alaska, a trip to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands, and numerous trips to locations in the continental United States. We are looking forward to a trip to the national parks in Utah in a couple of months and a trip to Maine with three other couples later this year.

We also enjoy supporting local nonprofits. Darcy is on the board of directors for the Mental Wellness Center and has been associated with the organization for twenty-two years. She is also in charge of the Mental Health Arts Festival held at De La Guerra Plaza every year. I help her



with matting the artists paintings and with set up and tear down of the event every year. I'm on the board of directors for C.A.R.E. 4 Paws, whose mission is to reduce pet overpopulation, keep animals out of shelters and improve the quality of life for pets and pet owners in need in Santa Barbara County. We also do volunteer work at the Wildlife Care Network and have helped out at the United Way Day of Caring for twenty of the twenty-two years we have been here. My two magazines feature a local nonprofit every month to help give them some exposure.

We are both animal lovers and have always had dogs as a part of our family. We've also had other pets, including a rambunctious Blue Front Amazon parrot, a friendly hedgehog, and now four chickens, who are providing us with a treasure trove of eggs each week.

We truly enjoy living in this part of town and are fortunate to have super nice neighbors. We spend much of our downtime relaxing on our patio and enjoy the songbirds and other wildlife that we so often see. To us, this area just has a "country" feel that we love versus other parts of town.

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 over forty 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-four radios with trained operators throughout the Eucalyptus Hill neighborhood.
- **Our website:** www.eucalpytushillia.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.

WHY BELONG TO YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION?

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 new 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.

IT'S ALL IN THE NUMBERS

A recent tour of the neighborhood show that most folks have adequate address numbering on their mailboxes, curbs, homes, or other structures. In a few cases there are no numbers, or they have deteriorated.

The ordinance reads that 3" letters are required. Although not usually enforced unless it's a new structure or a remodel, it's a good idea to identify your home.

Fire, police, Fedex, Uber, Amazon, and others depend on adequate numbering for prompt delivery and service. On one occasion a neighbor was painting his house and had to temporarily take down the address numbers. A food delivery service person scratched

his head before finally locating the house.

I'm certainly offering no pressure but it's a good idea to replace or add address numbers to your home. Those homes with circuitous long driveways really should pay heed. All suggestions here, but I believe good ideas. I'm sure the fire and police would agree. Thanks.
—John Ahlman



DROUGHT 2021

Santa Barbara was blanketed with hail on March 10th, an extremely unusual event for our area, but it didn't add much to our rainfall totals for the 2021 season. And with our rainfall totals being so low, it seems we will again will be experiencing severe drought this year.

Make conserving water a part of your daily life. Here are some ways you can help:

- Avoid over watering your lawn and water only when needed.

- If your lawn does require watering, do so early in the morning or later in the evening, when temperatures are cooler.
- Check your sprinkler system frequently and adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street.
- Water in several short sessions rather than one long one, in order for your lawn to better absorb moisture and avoid runoff.

- Use mulch around trees and plants to retain moisture in the soil. Mulch also helps control weeds that compete with plants for water.
- Consider rainwater harvesting where practical.
- Operate clothes washers only when they are fully loaded or set the water level for the size of your load.
- Operate automatic dishwashers only when they are fully loaded. Use the "light wash" feature to use less water.
- Never pour clean water down the drain when there may be another use for it. For example, use it to water your indoor plants or garden.
- Fix dripping faucets by replacing washers. One drop per second wastes 2,700 gallons of water a year.
- Check all plumbing for leaks and have any leaks repaired by a plumber.
- Consider purchasing a low-volume toilet that uses less than half the water of older models.
- Replace your showerhead with an ultra-low-flow version.
- Avoid letting the water run while brushing your teeth, washing your face or shaving.

—Sue Burk, EHIA board member

