

EUCALYPTUS HILL

IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2020

FROM THE PRESIDENT

COMING TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY DURING CHALLENGING TIMES

As I write this, we're amid the COVID-19 pandemic. My primary focus has always been the safety of our neighborhood and emergency preparedness. Previously, our more immediate disaster concerns were drought, wildfire, earthquake, and possible public safety power shutoffs.

While I have always considered the remote possibility of a pandemic, I don't think anyone could have predicted the extent of what we are faced with today. A two-week supply of food and water for earthquake preparedness, at the very least, seemed reasonable beginning preparation for a pandemic. That being said, I am still hopeful that our neighborhood will weather this current challenge as best we can, as we have so many others.

I have seen a silver lining. Before this as I've been taking my usual walk through the neighborhood, I might typically see three or four people walking. I'm now seeing many more. Obviously with the stay-at-home order, people have needed to get out and get fresh air. I've been checking in with those I see, and

everyone says they're doing well. People are talking with each other and getting to know each other. Neighbors are looking out for the most vulnerable in our neighborhoods as well as each other. The virus has resulted in this and it's at least one positive outcome!

The pedestrian shortcut to Coast Village Road via Hot Springs Road is open once again via the Montecito Country Club's (MCC) gate at Summit Road. EHIA has worked with the MCC for years to maintain the neighborhood's easement and wildfire evacuation route. It was closed during MCC's construction, but it is now open daily from dawn to dusk.

EHIA continues to be actively involved with the Santa Barbara City Fire Department Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). A CWPP is a community-based plan focused on identifying and addressing local hazards and risks from wildfire. Anyone from the community can participate. More information can be found at: <https://cwpp.santabarbaraca.gov>.

EHIA has also been working actively

with the Santa Barbara Police Department, and our neighborhood has now been placed on a regular rotating schedule for increased speeding and stop sign enforcement. We continually look for more traffic control solutions. We are also looking at the apps like Waze, to hopefully mitigate another impact like we saw with traffic diversion during the holidays. Hopefully you have also noticed that many of our street signs have been replaced throughout the EHIA neighborhood. Many had faded and had lost their reflectiveness and the new ones are a welcome sight.

As we look to the future at any challenges we face, our resilience is dependent on how we work together to get through them. I'm confident that the Eucalyptus Hill neighborhood will continue to rise together and be there for each other.



Loy Beardsmore
EHIA President

EHIA ANNUAL MEETING

Due to the pandemic,
we have rescheduled
our annual meeting to

Sunday, October 11
from 3–5 p.m.
at 815 Cima Linda Lane

CLEVELAND SCHOOL NEEDS YOUR HELP!

In an effort to get reading materials to the students of Cleveland School while they are home during the corona virus epidemic, Principal Gabe Sandoval is hoping the Eucalyptus Hill neighborhood will join together and donate new or used books that will be distributed to students. Donated new or used books for grade levels K–6, can be delivered to Cleveland School from 9 a.m. to noon, daily.

Cleveland staff and volunteers will divide the books according to student reading levels. Families will either pick up the books in the cafeteria using social distancing protocol, or we will deliver or mail them to students if needed. Cleveland will set up an exchange program for families to return books and get new ones that other students have completed (books will be sanitized between exchanges).

If you would like to join the effort, you can contact Gabe Sandoval at gasandoval@sbunified.org or call 805/963-8873 x1233.

TRAFFIC & ROADS REPORT

Many EHIA members are properly concerned about traffic violations on our neighborhood roads. Speeding, stop sign violations, and illegal passing are frequently observed. These transgressions endanger all local residents, as well as those passing through the area.

Frequently asked questions are: what has been done, what can be done, and what to do?

The Traffic and Roads Committee has worked extensively with the city traffic engineer and the police department to address these issues. The traffic engineer has modified the major roads (APS, Eucalyptus Hill Road, Barker Pass Road, Alston Road, and Camino Viejo) with fog lines and double yellow lines, when appropriate, to narrow the traffic lanes and create more space for pedestrians and cyclists. The intersection of Barker Pass Road and Eucalyptus Hill Road has been modified to prevent the recurring stop sign violations. New road signs have been positioned to indicate maximum speed on curves and straight-a-ways.

Custom "Please Respect" signs have been added to some speed limit signs. Placement of a portable radar trailer indicating driver speed has been used on some roads. Walking trails have been constructed next to some roads to provide safer space for pedestrians.

We are often asked whether speed bumps or additional stop signs could be used? The answer is no. Because these major roads are considered "Collector Roads" by the city, meaning they are used by emergency vehicles and for evacuation purposes, they cannot be restricted.

The police department has helped by randomly providing a series of intense traffic enforcement periods on our major streets. Because their traffic division is limited, these occasions are infrequent.

We are now dealing with the new problem of intense traffic congestion caused by traffic apps which direct vehicles on to our streets when Highway 101 is at a crawl. We will be contacting the city regarding banning the use of these apps within the city limits.

What can you do to help? Call the police department 805/897-2320 or 805/897-2300 and request traffic enforcement on our roads. — *Traffic and Roads Committee*

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE BARBARA IRELAND

For over fourteen years, Barbara Ireland has served as an EHIA board member and secretary. Barbara's dedication to this community group is inspiring.

Barbara was born and raised in the Los Angeles area. While attending high school, Barbara met her future husband, John Ireland, a friend of her brother, Greg. They dated for only eight months, fell in love and made plans to get married the March before she graduated high school. Ahh, young love. A year after they were married, Mary was born and soon after, second daughter Kathy. They moved to Santa Barbara in 1966 where John worked with the Retail Clerks Union as an advocate and business agent. They had another daughter, Cynthia, and as you can imagine, the three girls kept Barbara very busy.

When they moved to Santa Barbara, they lived on Shoreline Drive, then moved to San Roque and finally, to their home in the beautiful Eucalyptus Hill neighborhood.

As a young mom, she encouraged her daughters in art and business. She taught them to make jewelry and home decor items as she designed and sewed dresses that the family sold at the Cabrillo Blvd Art Shows. Barbara worked as an Avon Lady, ran a house cleaning business and babysitting business, all while raising her daughters with John. As the girls got older, Barbara went back to school at Santa Barbara City College to become a nurse and worked for fourteen years in the Cottage Hospital Orthopedics Department, where she cared for countless people in our community. During Barbara's time at SBCC, her life would be forever changed. Through a fellow student, who had great peace, despite also raising three teenaged girls, Barbara came to know Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior. That relationship has and continues to inspire every area of Barbara's life, including her love of others and commitment to be of service. Barbara shares that her faith is the foundation of her life.

Barbara is the ultimate entrepreneur. When a dear friend was suffering from breast cancer, Barbara supported and participated in the Avon Cancer Walk. She soon recognized the importance of pouring her time, resources, and talents into an effort that would benefit our community, one where she could be assured that 100% of the monies raised would go to research. In the year 2000, Barbara founded the Barbara Ireland Walk for the Cure. This work began as a collaboration with the Dr. Susan Love Foundation and in 2006, Barbara joined forces with Dr. Fred Kass, director of the Ridley-Tree Cancer Center and made their Cancer Foundation the beneficiary of her walk. Barbara has raised over \$800,000.00 for women's breast cancer research in Santa Barbara. This year marks the twentieth anniversary of the Barbara Ireland Walk for the Cure.

Along with being Barbara's biggest cheerleader in her walk, and every area of life, her beloved husband, John, gave back to his community and served the Eucalyptus Hill Improvement Association. John went to heaven in 2017, and their love continues.

Barbara keeps herself busy with volunteering at church, hosts Bible studies in her home, serves as a mentor, supports education, fights diseases of every kind, works to bring relief from religious persecution globally, fights for human rights locally & globally and continually serves her neighbors.

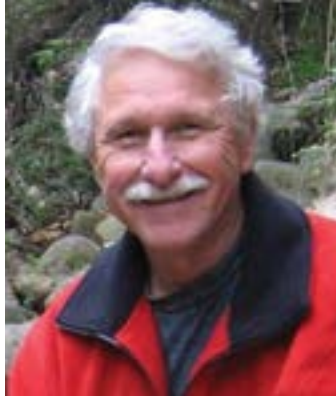
Barbara also enjoys dancing, Pilates, early morning daily walks, and the love of her six grandchildren.

Congratulations Barbara, for all your community support and volunteering to help your Eucalyptus Hill community!



FALL MEETING SPEAKER ED KELLER, PHD

The EHIA would like to introduce Edward Keller, PhD. He will be the guest speaker for our 2020 annual meeting, normally held in May but now rescheduled for October 11.



Dr. Keller is one of the foremost experts on tectonic geomorphology especially with regard to earthquake reduction and prevention. He received his PhD in geology from Purdue University in Lafayette, Indiana in 1973, then joined the faculty at the University of North Carolina.

In 1976, he accepted a joint position in environmental studies and earth sciences at the University of California, Santa Barbara and has remained there ever since. He also authored some 100 articles in international journals, governmental reports, and professional volumes. Even more impressive are the books he has written. Dr. Keller has also received several honors and awards for his contributions to the profession.

The beautiful wave cut terraces of the California Pacific Coast are excellent examples of the types of features that Keller studies. Dr. Keller has over twenty years experience in public service and consulting in a variety of subjects and cases including: flood hazard, erosion, coastal processes, landslides, and landscape history. The research he has done in relation to our region of California includes:

- Basic river processes associated with channel form, sediment sorting and routing
- The role of wildfire and the recurrence intervals of high magnitude flood deposits and debris flow deposits
- The role of large woody debris and other large roughness elements on channel form and process
- Environmental effects of channelization
- River restoration and management
- Flood hazard evaluation
- Understanding the earthquake hazard of the Santa Barbara area, and
- Understanding the La Conchita landslide hazard.

We appreciate that Dr. Keller is taking time out of his busy schedule to come and speak to us about such an important subject to our neighborhood and look forward to seeing him at our fall annual meeting.

WHAT IS A BLOCK VOLUNTEER?

A block volunteer, formally called a block captain, is an integral part of EHIA. A block volunteer is just that, a volunteer. They are your neighbors who have graciously volunteered to be a point of communication with EHIA. They are not a first responder. They are responsible for themselves and their family, and *if* willing and able, to communicate any needs of their neighbors to EHIA and first responders through our two-way radio communication system—if they are a radio carrier. EHIA has set up a radio system, funded through EHIA dues, with radio carriers dispersed throughout our neighborhood, prepared to assist with reaching out if we were to lose all other ways of communicating.

Our block volunteers also have an emergency directory form that they may ask their neighbors to fill out and return to them. These forms are for helping or protecting households in the event of an emergency or natural disaster, and this information is strictly confidential. It is not shared with other neighbors, or used for any other purpose. If we have the email or phone numbers of our residents, we can relay timely public safety information as well. You should also know that when first responders are called to a home, they do not know who lives there, how many people normally reside in the home, have contact phone numbers, etc. If a block volunteer can share this information with them, it can be most helpful. If you haven't filled out one of these forms, we would encourage you to contact your block volunteer to do so.

Our website (www.eucalyptushillia.com) and this newsletter have a list of block volunteers and radio carriers. We encourage you to reach out to them, if they haven't had a chance to reach out to you. It's a wonderful opportunity to get to know your neighbors before disaster strikes. We are also looking to get co-block volunteers to share the position, as we never know who will be at home when we might be faced with challenges. If you're interested, please let me know by emailing me at loyalbme@gmail.com. As always, we are hoping to enhance our program and welcome any suggestions for improvement. —Loy Beardsmore

LEAF BLOWER BLUES

Are you annoyed at the noise, pollution, and stench of your gardener's (and of your neighbor's gardener's) gas-powered leaf blower? You're not alone. But thanks to advancements in battery technology and increased production by garden tool manufacturers, there is a solution to this problem—the cordless battery-powered leaf blower!

There are now at least a dozen good cordless alternatives to antiquated gas-powered leaf blowers. You can search online or go to local home and garden stores to find suitable models. Be prepared to spend \$200 to \$300 for one which will do the job effectively. If you have a yard over half an acre, spending another \$100 for an extra backup battery is a good idea. There are also other battery-operated garden tools, such as hedge trimmers, lawn edgers, weed whackers, and even chain saws. Think seriously about purchasing any of these for your gardener to use on your property. You will be doing yourself, your neighbors, and the planet a huge favor! FYI—there is a city ordinance prohibiting the use of gas-powered blowers within the city limits, however, enforcement has proven to be difficult and is a low priority. —David Gress



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 twenty-nine 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@eucalpytushillia.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 apply through April 2021. Our new website can also process membership payments, so visit www.eucalpytushillia.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.

SANTA BARBARA FIRE DEPARTMENT STRATEGIC PLANNING AND COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

Several EHIA board members participated in the SBFDF's strategic planning meeting to be certain that our neighborhood safety priorities were registered with the city. We were heard, and we are pleased with the outcome of the meeting.

EHIA board members have also been engaging with Santa Barbara City Fire and other officials during the Community Wildlife Protection Plan (CWPP) planning meetings. We have made certain that areas of concern within the EHIA boundary where we have fire mitigation concerns, are recognized by the fire department. A few of these areas are along upper Eucalyptus Hill Road, the canyon below lower Eucalyptus Hill Road, and the area below Alston Road, for example. The CWPP is a "plan," and there may not be work done in all areas identified in the plan. It identifies areas of the city that are hazardous or priorities, and as funds and manpower allow, the SBFDF will mitigate as they can. Also, understand that mitigation must work within environmental constraints as well.

EHIA is always advocating for all areas for safety within our neighborhood. Your support is greatly appreciated.

MAP OF THE EUCALYPTUS HILL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION AREA



EMERGENCY CHECKLIST

LET YOUR FAMILY KNOW YOU ARE SAFE

When disaster strikes, register with Red Cross as "safe and well" at 1-866-GET INFO (866.438.4360).

Put this number in your cell phone, NOW!

This internet-based tool should be integrated into your emergency communications plan.

For more information, visit RedCross.org

RED FLAG WARNING

A Red Flag Warning is a forecast warning issued by the National Weather Service (NWS) to inform area firefighters and land management agencies that conditions are heightened for wildland fire ignition and rapid fire propagation.

When humidity is very low and especially when high or erratic winds which may include lightning are a factor, the Red Flag Warning becomes a critical statement for firefighting agencies. Local fire agencies often increase their staffing and equipment resources to accommodate the forecast risk.

To the public, a Red Flag Warning means high fire danger with increased probability of a quickly spreading vegetation fire in the area within twenty-four hours.

What Should I Do During a Red Flag Alert Warning?

- Review your Wildfire Action Plan spelled out in the Cal Fire Ready, Set, Go brochure (www.readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/get-set) with your entire household and practice it regularly.
- Have a minimum of two routes in which to evacuate out of your area.
- Have an out of the area emergency contact in case local phone service is interrupted.
- Have a portable disaster kit ready to take with you if you are asked to evacuate. It should contain all of your important paperwork, required medications, and other valuables.
- Keep up to date through local media. DO NOT call 911.
- Collect pets and have them so you can quickly load them in the event you must evacuate.
- Park your vehicles facing out in your driveway to keep roads accessible for emergency equipment.
- Have your driver's license with proof of residence on you, in case of road closures.
- Communicate with neighbors to make them aware of the increase fire and safety risk.
- Remember: A Red Flag Warning Means to be prepared, not panic!