

# EUCALYPTUS HILL

## IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

FALL 2019

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

This spring our beautiful Eucalyptus Hill entrance stone was installed to numerous accolades. Eucalyptus Hill Improvement Association (EHIA) worked to get the fire hazards in Hale Park mitigated. We are also working with fire officials with other areas of concern. We are engaged in strategic planning with the Santa Barbara Fire Department, giving our input and concerns regarding our neighborhood and the services that they provide.

As the new president of the EHIA, I have chosen my primary focus to be the safety of our neighborhood and emergency preparedness. We have been faced with numerous challenges, including drought, fire, debris flow, earthquakes, and possible public safety power shutoffs (PSPS). As with many Santa Barbara neighborhoods, we have also experienced burglaries, mail theft, and speeding issues on our streets. We are in regular communication with the Fire and Police Departments regarding neighborhood concerns; they have been very responsive.

We attempt to make you aware, and hope that you are taking steps to protect and prepare yourselves, your family, and neighbors to be ready for all possible challenges. Please visit our newly designed website ([eucalyptushillia.com](http://eucalyptushillia.com)). We welcome you to take some time to look at it as we have many helpful links for disaster preparedness, information, and services. For your convenience, you can also now renew your dues or become a new member online at [www.eucalyptushillia.com/renew-or-join](http://www.eucalyptushillia.com/renew-or-join), as well as sign up to receive the newsletter by mail. Also, if we do not have your most current email address, we cannot

reach you to keep you informed of important local, neighborhood information through Aware and Prepare. Please email me your current contact information ([info@eucalyptushillia.com](mailto:info@eucalyptushillia.com)), if we need to update that.

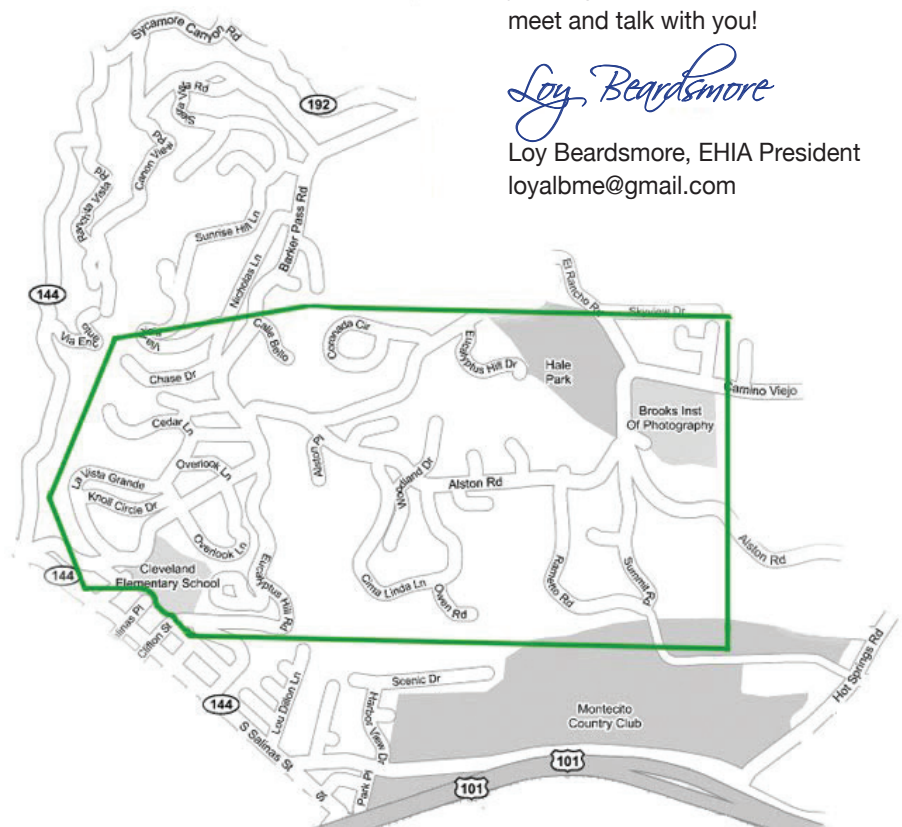
EHIA also wants to improve our neighborhood by maintaining our Block Volunteer Program (formerly called our Block Captain Program). We welcome a few neighbors to take an extra step to communicate with each other and the EHIA. We need a few more people to bring our neighborhood closer together for communication and support, in case we ever need to lean on each other. EHIA

has its own emergency radio network, which is vital! If we lose power or our cell towers go down, communication could be lost in a disaster. We'd like to have more block volunteer/radio carriers throughout our neighborhood. Areas needing someone are Aleeda Lane, Owen Road, Santecito Drive, Summit Road, Barker Pass, and Woodland Drive. This position could be shared with another neighbor on your street as a team. Please contact me if you are interested. I'm happy to explain how easy it is to be involved in this important piece.

Also, reach out to me at any time with ideas, suggestions, concerns, or just to get to know each other! I'd love to meet and talk with you!

*Loy Beardsmore*

Loy Beardsmore, EHIA President  
[loyalbme@gmail.com](mailto:loyalbme@gmail.com)



## THE EHIA RADIO NETWORK

The EHIA has put together a team of ordinary citizens trained to come together in an emergency to effectively communicate the needs of individuals and the Eucalyptus Hill neighborhood amongst each other and the outside world. This network may be the only means of communication with emergency services and neighbors during periods of extended power outages, or if cellular communications are lost. We have been approached by local organizations such as the Mission Canyon Association, Montecito Association, Santa Barbara Bucket Brigade, and others to share how we have set up our block volunteer and radio carrier network. They want to emulate what we do to keep our neighborhood as prepared as possible for any challenges we might face.

With a full charge, the radios we have are usable for several days during a power outage and can be recharged from

a car charger during an extended loss of power. We try to have at least one radio carrier on each street in the EHIA neighborhood and more than one on longer roads. At present we have twenty-seven radio carriers and are in need of several more, most importantly on Summit Road, Santecito Drive, Aleeda Lane, Woodland Drive, Barker Pass, and Owen Road.

We prefer that radio carriers also be block volunteers who would then have contact information for everyone in their area of responsibility. Requirements are minimal: keep the radio charged and turned on at all times; keep it close during fire, windstorms, earthquakes, or other emergencies; and participate in a monthly network and radio test. If you are interested in being an EHIA radio carrier, please contact Loy Beardsmore (loyalbme@gmail.com) or Bob Meltzer (RCMeltzer@gmail.com) for more information. —*Bob Meltzer*

## NEIGHBORHOOD WILDFIRE DEFENSE

As many as 80% of the homes lost to wildfires in the past could have been saved if homeowners had followed a few simple safe practices, according to CALFire. Those practices are called creating “defensible space,” an area around a structure where vegetation is modified to reduce wildfire fuels that burn hot and fast.

Eucalyptus Hill is considered a high fire hazard area. The Santa Barbara Fire Department offers valuable and free voluntary defensible space evaluations for your home and property.

Every homeowner who asks for an evaluation and follows through with the recommendations is assisting the fire department to improve the fire safe defense of the entire neighborhood.

To schedule a free walk-through Voluntary Defensible Space Evaluation for your home, call the Santa Barbara Fire Department at 805/965-5254. It's informative, easy, and wise.

## CLEVELAND SCHOOL UPDATE

The remodel project at Cleveland School has been completed and we would like to **thank** all those neighbors, students, parents, and staff who donated to the Go Fund Me page for the new dolphin logo that was put up on the gymnasium. The new logo gives a fresh new look to the school and our neighborhood.

EHIA has been a supporter of Cleveland School by donating funds to cover transportation costs for field trips that allow the students to experience local museums and educational events.

Another way neighbors can help Cleveland School is to volunteer with their reading program by going once a week for one hour to read to younger students. If you are interested in helping, you can set up an appointment with Gabe Sandoval, Cleveland's principal, by calling the school at 805/963-8873.



## DO YOU HAVE HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE CONCERNS?

Has your homeowners insurance been cancelled or are your rates skyrocketing? We are aware that homeowners in our neighborhood are being contacted by their homeowner's insurance company and are experiencing cancellations, much higher rates, and are being required that certain measures be taken to mitigate loss from wildfire. The California Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara, wants to work on cases like these, and can also help guide you to a new insurance company. Call the California Insurance Commission hotline at 800-927-4357 for help.

Here are some ways to work with the insurance commissioner:

- You can file a complaint on your insurance company and they'll investigate.
- If you can't find a company to insure you, the insurance commissioner's office can try to locate one for you.
- The commissioner's office has a list of insurance companies offering policies in California.
- The commissioner's office has insurance resources for homeowners, and that website is: [www.insurance.ca.gov](http://www.insurance.ca.gov)

The Eucalyptus Hill Improvement Association Board is actively working with the Santa Barbara Fire Department to participate in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. For information on the update visit: [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/wildland](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/wildland).

If you are interested in a Voluntary Defensible Space Evaluation to learn more about home hardening and defensible space for your property, please call the Fire Department at 805/564-5700. Evaluations are free of charge and provided through the City's Wildland Program and the Wildland Fire Suppression Assessment District services. EHIA is doing our best to keep our neighborhood as safe as possible from wildfire.



## DO YOU NEED POWER BACKUP SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR HOME?

There several more permanent power backup solutions to consider. A solar system with an *adequate battery back-up* or a generator powered by natural gas or diesel fuel are options. (Note: If you have solar power, but no battery backup, you will NOT have power during an outage.) These systems can be set to turn on automatically in the event of an outage, are expensive and require professional installation by a licensed contractor. In addition, permits from the City may be required. Always work with contractors who are licensed, insured, and have provided you with local references.

At the other end of the cost spectrum are portable gasoline powered generators. These are the kind that are often used by contractors, campers, and sports fans at tailgate parties. They come in a variety of styles, power ratings (as measured in watt production), and prices. They are relatively inexpensive and can be purchased at most large hardware and tool stores, big box outlets, or online. Most do-it-yourself types, familiar with gas powered equipment, can handle this type of project. The starting point is figuring out the wattage requirement needed by adding up the total watts needed to power the appliances in your home.

Naturally, the more watts needed, the more expensive the generator. Supplying power to a refrigerator, an electric room heater or natural gas furnace fan, a few lights, and computer can be done for around \$500–\$1,000. Prices will vary based upon the features selected, which also include the noise level of the machine. Remember to also purchase outdoor rated power cords to run from the generator to your indoor appliances. If you lack experience with gasoline powered equipment or are unsure of your skill level please seek help before attempting to set up a system for your home.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** All fossil fueled generators must be placed outside of any buildings during operation. Plan accordingly. Please be safe.

## EUCALYPTUS HILL ENTRANCE STONE

The newest addition to our neighborhood, which I'm sure many of you have seen on your way driving up APS from the Salinas roundabout, is the Eucalyptus Hill Neighborhood Entrance Stone. Members of the Board of Directors worked over many weeks with city personnel and neighbors to present plans and obtained all the permits necessary to make this new entrance stone a reality.

In particular, we would like to thank key neighbors who helped make this project happen. **Peter Da Ros** from Da Ros Masonry, and Santa Barbara Stone who donated the stone and the crew who skillfully installed the stone; **Deborah and Jed Hendrickson** of Santa Barbara Monumental who did the engraving; **Derrick Bailey** from the City of Santa Barbara, who helped us get a grant to help pay for the permits; and **Betsy Harris** and **Dan Morris** of Freedom Sign for their design work.

Once the project was completed, the Board orchestrated a dedication at the new entrance stone site that took place on Wednesday, July 17. About twelve people attended and **John Palminteri** hosted the event; it was on KEYT News that evening. We have had nothing but compliments and are all happy that this project will become a permanent fixture as you enter our neighborhood from the west.

—Sue Burk



## WHY JOIN THE EHIA?

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! Use the enclosed form and mail in your check, or join online by visiting our website at [www.eucalyptushillia.com/renew-or-join](http://www.eucalyptushillia.com/renew-or-join).

# 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 thirty-five 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-seven radios with trained operators throughout the Eucalyptus Hill neighborhood.
- **Our website:** [www.eucalpytushillia.com](http://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](mailto:info@eucalpytushillia.com) for more information.

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## YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Your \$40 annual membership in the Eucalyptus Hill Improvement Association is an investment in your neighborhood. Memberships paid now will apply through October 2020. Our new website can also process membership payments, so visit [www.eucalpytushillia.com/renew-or-join](http://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

## HOW PREPARED ARE YOU FOR A DISASTER? TAKE THIS SHORT QUIZ.

What would you do if a major earthquake or wildfire were to occur in Santa Barbara affecting our beautiful neighborhood?

If you had to evacuate, where would you go? What would you do with your pet? Would your insurance cover you if your house were damaged?

Take the preparedness quiz below, writing down your letter answers, and use it to determine how really prepared you are.

### If the power went out during the evening, I would:

- ☐ A. Sit in the dark, waiting for the power to come back on.
- ☐ B. Light candles.
- ☐ C. Search the kitchen drawers for flashlight batteries: they've got to be there somewhere.
- ☐ D. Know exactly where to find flashlights, battery-powered lanterns and fresh batteries.

### If our home were without water for a day or two, we would:

- ☐ A. Drink soda or juice and wash up at the YMCA or the office.
- ☐ B. Visit relatives or friends where we could take showers and use the bathroom.
- ☐ C. Check the bottled water stored in the garage and try to remember how old it is.
- ☐ D. Drink and wash from a supply of bottled water that we replace every few months.

### Our Important papers and records are:

- ☐ A. Misplaced, we have no idea where they are.
- ☐ B. Scattered in various locations throughout the house.
- ☐ C. Filed in the home office.

- ☐ D. Secured in a water and fireproof box.

### We've made the following arrangements for our pets:

- ☐ A. We have no plans. Why do we need a plan? They go wherever we go.
- ☐ B. We'd leave them at home with plenty of food and water.
- ☐ C. We'd take them with us, hoping we could find a shelter or hotel that will accept pets.
- ☐ D. We've made plans with family, friends and our vet to take them at a moment's notice.

### During an emergency, I would depend on the following for information:

- ☐ A. My neighbors.
- ☐ B. The television.
- ☐ C. The internet.
- ☐ D. A battery powered radio.

### If I suddenly had to leave my home for five days, I would:

- ☐ A. Hang out at the mall and wait to hear how long before we could return.
- ☐ B. Throw some clothes and necessities in a suitcase and take an impromptu vacation.
- ☐ C. Leave, then coordinate with family members or friends about what to do.
- ☐ D. Grab my emergency kit and follow the steps in our family preparedness plan.

### My emergency kit is:

- ☐ A. We don't have one.
- ☐ B. A drawer with flashlights and batteries, bottled water in the garage, a first aid kit in the bathroom.

- ☐ C. A bin with flashlights and batteries, bottled water, canned foods and a first aid kit.
- ☐ D. Water to last three days, a battery powered radio and flashlights with extra batteries, canned food, a first aid kit, extra medications and a potable "go" kit in the car.

### If my neighbor told me to evacuate, I would:

- ☐ A. Refuse to leave. Most "emergencies" don't turn out to be a big deal.
- ☐ B. Wait to see if the situation worsened, then decide.
- ☐ C. Wait for evacuation orders from the local fire department or police.
- ☐ D. Follow the advice of local responders and evacuate immediately to ensure my safety and theirs.

### I've made the following plans for my family members if I am not at home:

- ☐ A. Nothing specific, the authorities will take care of them.
- ☐ B. I would call them and together we'd decide what to do as the situation unfolds.
- ☐ C. We've agreed that they would call the nearest relative to come and get them.
- ☐ D. I've helped them assemble their own emergency kit, and we have an extended family plan for relocating them if they need to leave.

### How Did You Do?

"D" is the best answer to all these questions. If you answered "D," you are as prepared as you can reasonably be.

If you answered "C" to most questions, you're on the right track, but still not prepared enough.

## TWO THINGS YOU CAN DO TO BE MORE PREPARED FOR A DISASTER

Register with **Aware & Prepare** at [www.awareandprepare.us](http://www.awareandprepare.us). (This is a community alert service to keep you informed on what matters most—used by law enforcement personnel and government agencies.)

Register for **Reverse 911** at <https://member.everbridge.net/index/892807736723794#/signup> to receive Aware and Prepare Emergency Notifications.