



Malaga Cove Homeowners' Association

www.palosverdes.com/mcha

Fall 2009

Be a Part of History

With months to go, the Malaga Cove School project will be complete. A landmark in the Palos Verdes community, the school is a longstanding vision of excellence. In an effort to continue that vision, Malaga Cove Homeowners Association is raising money to landscape the public areas of Malaga Cove School. The new landscaping will continue with the Mediterranean feel of the Palos Verdes community and will enhance the beauty and ambiance of the Malaga Cove area.

Donations from neighbors are greatly appreciated. Send your tax deductible donation, made out to PVPUSD with "MC Landscape" in the memo section to MCHA PO Box 926 PVE. CA 90274. Also if you are interested in being a part of the Committee working on this project please send an email to mcha4u@gmail.com.

We are looking forward to completing this project and restoring the Malaga Cove School!

**The Via Arriba & Via Montemar
Traffic Circle landscape is finished!
Special thanks to the City, PV Beautiful,
the neighbors and your MCHA!**

Save the Date

The 5th Annual MCHA

Neighborhood Cocktail Party

Sunday November 22nd from 4:30-7:00pm

Look for your invitation in the mail

MCHA Proposes Questions to School Board Candidates

There are 6 candidates and 3 board positions available. The Malaga Cove Homeowners Association asked each candidate to respond to the following questions in 150 words or less:

- 1. In your opinion, what are the key educational issues facing students who reside in the Malaga Cove area?**

Karen Hunter Bird: From a school board standpoint, key issues are state funding and budgeting.

Barbara Lucky: The Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District seeks to provide a positive learning environment by ensuring that all students achieve their full potential in preparation for higher learning and the workplace. There are currently 64 students K-12 who reside in the Malaga Cove area. Most of them attend Montemalaga Elementary, Palos Verdes Intermediate or Palos Verdes High. 73 – 77% are performing on standardized tests at the advanced or proficient level which is outstanding.

Malcolm Sharp: California's financial condition is not improving. Based on 2008-09 and 2009-10 state budget cuts the District has lost nearly \$1,200 per student or the equivalent of \$13,000,000 in annual income. This is a multi-year crisis that doesn't show any signs of letting up anytime soon.

Anthony Collatos: Innovation and Equity. As an education professor I believe we must embrace the fiscal crisis as an opportunity to create innovative curriculum and cost effective best practices. I have developed successful k-12 education programs that increase student achievement and college access. Furthermore, my research examines the inequitable distribution of resources across, and within, k-12 schools in California. We must assure equity to all PVPUSD students—especially regarding bond money for schools and playing fields.

Heather Haddon Matson: All students want to accomplish their academic goals and be well prepared for their college/career choices. As an educator, I believe the district's priority must always be a quality academic program for all students. When a school board suggests removing the curriculum discussion from its agenda because of a fiscal crisis they have strayed from their mission. We need to focus clearly on the classroom first then craft the budget around the needs of the students.

Greg Royston: The biggest issue facing the ENTIRE district is the budget. The board currently has no one with any financial or budget background. The District's annual budget is more than \$80M. No company or organization in the world that has \$80M in annual revenue is run by people with no budget or financial experience. I am the only candidate with that background and experience. I have 19 years in public accounting, tax, financial/budget analysis, and business law.

2. (2 parts)What do you see are the issues in maintaining the soon to be restored Malaga Cove School campus (including the playfields and backboard area, both of which are not slated for restoration)? How will the district be a good neighbor in lower Malaga Cove going forward?

Bird: With district administrators moving to the Malaga Cove site, communication with neighbors will be facilitated by proximity. A recent agreement between the MCHA and the district is the beginning of an attitude of cooperation. The homeowner's association has agreed to purchase and install landscaping to beautify the campus, while the district has agreed to maintain those plants and improve the irrigation system. Combined with the improvements agreed to by the AYSO, we are on our way to making this campus as beautiful as its surrounding neighborhood. One of my goals as a new board member will be to encourage communication between the board and the community. I live in PVE and my husband is a PVE Councilman, so I am tuned in to the concerns of Malaga Cove homeowners.

Collatos: Good Neighbors Work Together. As Malaga Cove School becomes an administration center, we must work to mitigate changes (e.g. traffic patterns and evening activity) that might impact the local community. We need to re-prioritize as additional funds become available to promote youth and family outdoor recreation and protect the beauty and integrity of the Malaga Cove School. I embrace the opportunity to work in partnership with the MCHA to address these and any other issues.

Lucky: I am proud of being on the Board of Education that sought to preserve Malaga Cove, a true historical treasure. We are committed to maintaining the site. Because the District administration will be housed on that campus we will be sensitive to its upkeep. We are replacing cracked concrete sidewalks, installing an irrigation system and shall maintain the landscaping installed by the MCHA. The fields are to be maintained primarily by AYSO and the little league.

Matson: The district is making a \$9,000,000 investment in the Malaga Cove school which preserves the character of the original thus acting with sensitivity to the Malaga Cove character. As a PVE community member, I believe our neighborhood schools should all be good neighbors with the board focusing on an equitable distribution of resources such that all our schools fit well in their neighborhoods. Facilities refurbishment must always be prioritized to meet student needs first.

Royston: Biggest issue - ineffective oversight. The committees ensuring compliance w/bond issues have effectively been neutered by the current board. They can only advise on compliance, not give opinions on how board is actually spending money. They currently cannot. We should distribute money for restoration projects more equitably, not centering it on a particular school at the expense of other schools. Promoting equity, financial expertise, and communication will ensure us being good neighbors.

Sharp: The District will soon complete installation of an irrigation system that covers the entire site, including all playfields. The Homeowners Association has agreed to coordinate funding for the landscaping on the perimeter of the site. The City of PVE has made a commitment to donate trees and rocks for the landscaping. AYSO will fund a new driveway that will extend the upper drive to the lower play courts for parking. This will reduce the number of cars parked on the street.** The District will be responsible for maintaining the campus and is most appreciative of the partnerships and Homeowners Association's generosity toward the site's beautification. **as we were going to print, the local residents began discussions about this proposal and final decision is still under consideration.

MCHA Proposes Questions to Library Board Candidates

There are 3 candidates and 2 board positions available. The Malaga Cove Homeowners Association asked each candidate to respond to the following questions in 150 words or less:

- 1. Do you support or oppose the idea of renting the library for wedding receptions, etc? If you support such an idea, what will you do to protect the quality of life for nearby neighborhood residents?**

Connie Davenport: I support the idea of renting the Malaga Cove Library facilities for weddings, meetings, etc, just as we have in the past, as long as the District continues to work closely with the City to protect the quality of life for residents.

Diane Robinson: PV Library District's mission is to be a welcoming, innovative, responsive resource for our community and to work in partnership with all stakeholders. Private special events at the library may provide a welcome income stream and a beautiful historic setting for memorable occasions. However, events must be screened for appropriateness, considering all factors, including library security and the impact on nearby residents, who shouldn't be asked to deal with undue noise, parking problems, traffic or late evening disturbances. As a Board member, I would always work to protect our quality of life.

Barry Yudess: My platform is one issue. Money. Ninety percent of the PVLD's revenue comes from property taxes. The State is taking nearly \$500,000 to pay for its own financial incompetence. It's critical that we find reliable sources of revenue. My focus is to develop new revenue streams with the private sector to lessen our dependence on taxes. Therefore, I do support renting the library to generate revenue with tight usage restrictions developed with your input.

- 2. There have been several gifts of designated and undesignated monies which have come to Malaga Cove Library from Friends of the Library and other sources. How can these gifts be spent to make our library more user-friendly to middle and high school students and to the many adults/seniors who use Malaga Cove for reading papers, magazines, books and using the internet there?**

Davenport: The architectural preservation plan for Malaga Cove identified over a million dollars in needed upgrades and restoration projects. All fire/life/safety repairs and equipment upgrades are now completed. The continued restoration of the building is being done incrementally as funds are raised. The Palos Verdes Woman's Club has restored the Magazine area, and Bill and Pat Foltz restored the Tower Room. The Library was recently the recipient of bequest of \$392,000 from the Conze Family Trust. Customer surveys have shown a need more computers at Malaga Cove, so the Trustees have decided to use that bequest for the restoration of the mezzanine to a computer lounge.

Robinson: The current direction of putting gifts to good use is represented by the Vincent Conze estate bequeathal to the Malaga Cove Library. This donation will refurbish the Malaga Cove mezzanine, creating additional space for computers, quiet study and reading. More programs for seniors, including a newsletter, would be a goal of mine in the determination of future goals.

Yudess: I served on the Culver City Parks & Recreation Commission. When making decisions affecting local neighborhoods I asked for input from those people affected by the decisions. I will not be presumptuous to say that I know what is best for you. Given that these funds are designated to the Malaga Cove Library you should have a say in how these funds are used. I would engage you and then develop recommendations based on your input.

◆ The League of Women Voters is hosting a Library Trustee candidate's forum on Oct. 13th at 7pm at the Peninsula Center Library. The three candidates will be speaking and answering questions from the audience. The meeting will be recorded and run on Channel 35.

Malaga Cove Homeowners' Association
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Special Election Issue

ELECTION DAY NOVEMBER 3RD

