

# Mediterrania

Homeowners Association Newsletter

March 2008

## 2008 Board Members

Please feel free to contact any of the 2008 Mediterrania Homeowners Association Board Members should you have a question or topic that is relevant to the Mediterrania residents.

| POSITION              | NAME                     | EMAIL  |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|
| President             | Lois Karp                | <a href="mailto:jlkarp@cox.net">jlkarp@cox.net</a>   |
| Vice President        | Gary Mattingly           | <a href="mailto:garymattingly@cox.net">garymattingly@cox.net</a>   |
| Treasurer             | Mort Bauchman            | <a href="mailto:mortpv@yahoo.com">mortpv@yahoo.com</a>   |
| Secretary             | Pang Mueller             | <a href="mailto:muellercc@cox.net">muellercc@cox.net</a>   |
| Arts Jury             | Phyllis Reed             | <a href="mailto:phylreed@cox.net">phylreed@cox.net</a>   |
| Newsletter            | Lily Wang<br>Brent Komoc | <a href="mailto:lwlife@insurer.com">lwlife@insurer.com</a><br><a href="mailto:holisticdoczen@yahoo.com">holisticdoczen@yahoo.com</a> |
| Streets & Landscaping | Don Ott                  | <a href="mailto:Pattyo@cox.net">Pattyo@cox.net</a>   |
| Neighborhood Watch    | Lisa Vavic               |  |



Left to Right, Front row: Phyllis Reed, Lois Karp, Lily Wang. Back row: Pang Mueller, Mort Bauchman, Gary Mattingly, Don Ott, and Brent Komoc. Not pictured: Lisa Vavic

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Mediterrania Homeowners Association Newsletter will continue to be available online. To access the newsletter, simply log on to [www.palosverdes.com/mha](http://www.palosverdes.com/mha) and click on newsletters. There, you will find the most current issue as well as past issues of the newsletter for your reference.

To write an article or suggest a topic for future issues, please contact Lily Wang. Your request will be considered based on content and space availability.

## Why Pay Dues?

We live in a beautiful community. The Mediterrania Home Owners Association is committed to help keep our community lovely and to enhance the feeling of community.

In order to meet that commitment we need the support of the community through your \$ 15 annual membership dues.

The membership dues will be used to maintain our landscaping, beautification projects and other activities involving the Mediterrania Home Owners, including voting at the Mediterrania Home Owners Annual Meeting.

Please pay your 2008 annual dues and return to me in the envelope provided with this newsletter.

Thank you your continuing support.

Mort Bauchman

## Information Slip

Please complete the information below. If including payment for 2008 dues, please make your check payable to **Mediterrania HOA** in the amount of \$15.00.

Send this slip along with your payment, if applicable, in the pre-addressed envelope:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

The Board would like to hear from you for this year's neighborhood event to be held in early Fall. Please make a selection or a suggestion below:

Wine and Cheese

Barbeque

Brunch

Other suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

## Meet Your New Neighbors

Please welcome Brent Komoc, one of the newest residents to our neighborhood. Brent, originally from Russia, is an energetic individual who has relocated from the Los Angeles area to the Palos Verdes Peninsula. He chose the Mediterrania area so that he could have close access to his dental practice which is located in Long Beach, California. Our clean ocean air along with our magnificent views made his decision to purchase his Ganado home an easy one.

Brent is a very active individual who is athletic and enjoys mountain biking, tennis, swimming and scuba diving. He also loves to travel and has wonderful stories to tell about his adventures. In addition to his busy schedule, he was willing to volunteer to be a Board Member (pictured on page one) for the Mediterrania Homeowners Association.

## Annual Meeting

Ron Sandvig from the Terranea Resort on the former Marineland site was the guest speaker at our annual meeting. The Terranea Resort will consist of both villas and casitas, with restaurants and spas that will be open to the public. The resort is expected to open in the summer of 2009.

Abbas, the President answered questions about the maintenance of the Mediterrania projects and offered a brief discussion on the Marymount expansion project.

The following were nominated and elected to serve on the Mediterrania Board for 2008: Pang Mueller, Brent Komac, Lisa Vavic, and Lily Wang.

Outgoing Board members were Barry Ryan, George Zugsmith, Dorie Marshall, and Abbas Mohaddes. See page one of this newsletter for the entire new Board for 2008.

The members enjoyed pizza and salad. The meeting was well attended.

## President's Message

It is my pleasure to be elected once again to be President of our homeowners association. Our main task is the upkeep and enhancement of our neighborhood. This is a very special place that is why we are all here.

I hope everyone has noticed the newly completed renovation of the upper sign. We try each year to find a project that fits within the City beautification guidelines. We have received grants from \$3,000-\$4,500 each year that they have been available. If you have any suggestions for a new project, be sure to send them to me. Remember, we cannot use the funds for any type of maintenance.

Sincerely,  
Lois Karp  
President  
Mediterrania Homeowners Association

## Marymount Update

There is no project in the City of RPV that could impact our neighborhood more than the Marymount Facilities Expansion Plan. The College will be increased to more than double its size of approximately 210,000 square feet. The addition of dorms and a huge gymnasium will bring unwanted people, noise, traffic, safety and parking issues to our front door. The preparation of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is to study and try to mitigate the impacts this project will have on our neighborhood.

I hope all of you took notice of the silhouettes that were placed on the Marymount property in December-January outlining just four of the many proposed buildings. The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) had public hearings in November and December of 2007. The report is presently under review by the Consultants. If you wrote letters or testified at the hearings, answers to your specific questions are to be answered by the Consultants in the Final EIR, which is scheduled to be released for Public review sometime in April or May.

After the circulation of the Final EIR there will be a Public Hearing before the Planning Commissions who will vote at that time. The vote can be appealed to the City Council by either side so it will definitely be heard by the City Council.

## New Mediterrania Upper Sign

Every year homeowners associations in RPV are given up to \$3,000 from the city for improvements in their areas. This is money the city gets from our recycling efforts. This last year a new Mediterrania upper sign and landscaping was completed with money from the 2007 recycling grant program. In previous years some of the projects have been the lower Mediterrania sign and landscaping, planting of 8 large trees along the intersection of Ganado and Floweridge and plantings of Oleanders along Ganado.

We strongly encourage homeowner to contact any board member with ideas for the "2008 recycling grant program" and remember, recycling is good not only for the environment, it's also good for your neighborhood!!

Happy Recycling!!!



## Brush Clearance Tips

Spring is fast approaching. As we start to enjoy the warm weather, we need to be mindful of the dry brushes in our neighborhood. Below are brush clearance tips from the Los Angeles County Fire Department:

### Home Landscaping and Yard

- Remove flammable vegetation and other combustible growth within 30 ft. of any structures. Increase to 50 ft. in high hazard areas. Thin out or remove other vegetation an additional 70 ft. from structures for a total of 100 ft. (200 ft. in high hazard areas)
- Single trees, ornamental shrubbery and ground covers may be permitted provided they do not readily transmit fire from native vegetation to structures
- Landscape with plants that are drought tolerant and fire resistant. Maintain plants!
- Space trees and shrubs a minimum of 15 ft. apart or three times their diameter from other shrubs
- Trees should be spaced to allow a minimum of 30 ft. between canopies at maturity
- Trees taller than 18 ft., prune lower branches within 6 ft. of the ground
- For trees and shrubs of less than 18 ft. prune lower branches to one-third of their height
- Maintain all plants by regularly removing dead branches and leaves
- Remove all stacks of combustible materials
- Stack wood at least 30 ft. from structures. Remove flammable vegetation within 10 ft. of woodpiles
- Locate fixed butane/propane tanks at least 10 ft. from any structure and maintain 10 ft. of Clearance

### Home Access

- Identify at least two exit routes from your neighborhood
- Post road signs to show traffic restrictions such as dead-end roads and height and weight limits
- Clear back flammable vegetation at least 10 ft. from roads and driveways
- Cut overhanging tree branches above roads to provide minimum of 16 ft. of clearance
- Make sure street names and numbers are visible at intersections
- Post address on front of house. If your house is not visible from street, post sign next to the vehicle entrance

## Neighborhood Watch

You probably have been reading and hearing that the crime statistics for our community were up for the past year – some would say going through the roof. A lot of the crime is crime of “opportunity” – cars left unlocked, homes unlocked, etc. I read recently that some are objecting to having to lock one’s car and home in our community.

We are all responsible for ourselves and, to a degree, for our neighbors. The fact is that neighborhoods with a strong Neighborhood Watch presence were the least likely to be hit; the non-Neighborhood Watch areas were actually hit the hardest. According to Gail, crime has now dropped to almost nothing and let’s hope it stays that way.

Have common sense when dealing with strangers – do not hire anyone soliciting for any type of work be it gardening, roof repair, etc. If you need work done, ask a neighbor for a reference. Do not be fooled by someone pretending to be a utility worker or city employee. If you did not request a service call, it is probably bogus. Call the utility or city and ask if they sent someone. The No Soliciting laws have changed and the No Soliciting signs mean nothing. However, if you have a “Do Not Disturb” sign visible on your property, no individual or organization is allowed to approach your home for purposes of soliciting for any reason. Unfortunately, this also includes Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. The City provides these signs for free and your Block Captain should have some. If not, they can contact Betty Riedman at [bwr1083klr@cox.net](mailto:bwr1083klr@cox.net) for some or the signs can be obtained at the RPV City Hall reception area.

As we live in a semi-rural area, we have also wild life to contend with. Aside from the annoyance of rabbits eating our lawns and plants and gophers digging holes in our yards, we have possums, skunks, fox, raccoons and coyotes as well. Their favorite dinner is cat. Please do not leave your animals outdoors to avoid attracting wild animals and be sure to bring in your pets at night for their protection.

Identity theft is one of the major crimes (if not the biggest) and you must be vigilant at all times. Do not leave envelopes paying bills in your mailbox; hand them directly to your carrier or take the mail to the post office or drop it in a USPS box. Do not give any personal information over the phone to anyone unless you are the one that has initiated the call. Do not respond to any email requesting account information; call the bank/company, etc. and ask if they solicited you for information. And do not believe the email from anyone in India-Africa-China-Iran that says they have money to get out of the county and will split it with you. You are the one that will be fleeced!

NW still needs a block captain for Floweridge / Eaglehaven Circle. Please consider becoming the Block Captain for these two streets (only 13 homes) Contact Betty Riedman. Being a Block Captain is not a big job. If you are not already a member of Neighborhood Watch, please join us. It only takes a few minutes to complete the application form. You can get a form from any block captain. There is no “fee” to join but a \$5 donation is appreciated. Your donation helps to pay for the printing of the Rancho Palos Verdes Neighborhood Watch Newsletter. We do not receive any funds from either the City or the Sheriff’s Department. Your membership helps to keep our neighborhood safe.

Watch, listen and report to continue to keep crime in our community low!

## 5 Things You Never Knew Your Cell Phone Could Do

There are a few things that can be done in times of grave emergencies. Your mobile phone can actually be a life saver or an emergency tool for survival. Check out the things that you can do with it:

### **FIRST** Emergency

The Emergency Number worldwide for Mobile is 112. If you find yourself out of the coverage area of your mobile, network and there is an emergency, dial 112 and the mobile will search any existing network to establish the emergency number for you, and interestingly this number 112 can be dialed even if the keypad is locked. Try it out.

### **SECOND** Have you locked your keys in the car?

Does your car have remote keyless entry? This may come in handy someday. Good reason to own a cell phone: If you lock your keys in the car and the spare keys are at home, call someone at home on their cell phone from your cell phone. Hold your cell phone about a foot from your car door and have the person at your home press the unlock button, holding it near the mobile phone on their end. Your car will unlock.

Save someone from having to drive your keys to you. Distance is no object. You could be hundreds of miles away, and if you can reach someone who has the other 'remote' for your car, you can unlock the doors (or the trunk).

**THIRD** Hidden Battery Power. Imagine your cell battery is very low. To activate, press the keys \*3370# Your cell will restart with this reserve and the instrument will show a 50% increase in battery. This reserve will get charged when you charge your cell next time.

### **FOURTH** How to disable a STOLEN mobile phone?

To check your Mobile phone's serial number, key in the following digits on your phone: \* # 0 6 #, a 15 digit code appears on the screen.

This number is unique to your handset. Write it down and keep it somewhere safe. When your phone gets stolen, you can phone your service provider and give them this code. They will then be able to block your handset so even if the thief changes the SIM card, your phone will be totally useless. You probably won't get your phone back, but at least you know that whoever stole it can't use/sell it either. If everybody does this, there would be no point in people stealing mobile phones.

And Finally....

### **FIFTH**

Free Directory Service for Cells Cell phone companies are charging us \$1.00 to \$1.75 or more for 411 information calls when they don't have to. Most of us do not carry a telephone directory in our vehicle, which makes this situation even more of a problem. When you need to use the 411 information option, simply dial: (800) FREE 411, or (800) 373-3411 without incurring any charge at all.

Program this into your cell phone now

## Announcements

The Palos Verdes Peninsula Chamber of Commerce and the City of Rolling Hills Estates will present the 21st Annual Palos Verdes Street Fair and Music Festival on Saturday, May 31 from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and on Sunday, June 1 from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Crossfield and Indian Peak Drives in Rolling Hills Estates.

For information call the Chamber at 310-377-8111, or visit [www.pvstreetfair.com](http://www.pvstreetfair.com). Parking and entrance fees are free.

Throughout Mediterranean we have many talented and knowledgeable residents of ALL ages. We have homeowners who need help getting babysitters, pet sitters, house cleaners, gardeners, computer "gurus." etc.

If you or anyone in your family is interested either in helping (or making some spending money... babysitting, pet sitting...odd jobs...computer repair) or need a service, please contact a member of the Homeowners Board so that your name, phone number of what you can provide or what you need can be added to our newsletter.