



Miraloma Life

President's Corner

Bill Kan, MPIC President

I know holiday season is upon us when I see the all the Halloween decorations in Miraloma Park. The MPIC Board and members are also abuzz, planning the annual Miraloma Park Holiday Party and Potluck Cooking Contest. Going to the party and contributing a dish has become a tradition in my family. We see old friends and meet new ones every year. Everyone in Miraloma Park is welcome to this community event that will be filled with food, live music, and general holiday fun. Mark Decembr 4th on your calendar and see the enclosed insert for details. Contact the MPIC at miralomapark@gmail.com if you'd like to help put on the event.

(continued on page 3)

How Lupus Influenced My Life Choices, Part 2

Pamela Chan, Miraloma Park

The October issue of *Miraloma Life* featured Part 1 of Pamela's personal story, beginning:

I was diagnosed with lupus at the end of my first year in college, 8 years after the first symptoms occurred. Lupus is a chronic disease in which my own immune system attacks my joints, tissues and organs and it can occur anywhere on my body. Lupus is not contagious or a result of something that I did. Living with a chronic illness definitely influenced my future life choices. Lupus shattered some of my old hopes and dreams. It did also help me develop a new understanding of who I am and clarity of what I want.

I'm not new to life challenges. You can read the full text of Part 1 of this article in the October *Miraloma Life*: www.miralomapark.org/wp-content/files/2016-10-MiralomaLife.pdf. Here is the conclusion.

After eight years, I was relieved to finally be diagnosed. But I felt the world crashing down on me. I had worked so hard to get to where I am. What did I do to deserve this?

(continued on page 4)

Picturesque Miraloma Park

Jacquie Proctor

When I walk around Miraloma Park I find the artistic architectural details preserved by many of the residents to be especially appealing and the essence of what makes this neighborhood picturesque. The Meyer Brothers, who built the first homes in Miraloma Park, and others developing residential neighborhoods between World War I and II, found this Period Revival Style of architecture to be especially popular among home buyers. Replicating a medieval English cottage, French peasant house, or Swiss chalet, these fanciful interpretations of European country homes were very different



A.

(continued on page 2)

www.miralomapark.org

Events in November

MPIC Board of Directors Meeting
November 3, 2016,
7:00PM*

Events in December

MPIC Holiday Party and Cook-Off
December 4, 2016
5:00PM - 8:00PM
See insert in this issue

* Members wishing to address the Board of Directors should call 415-281-0892 to request placement on the agenda.

than the wood shingle bungalow, columned classical, or Victorian designs that preceded them. This article will focus on the Storybook version of this historic-revival trend, which laid the architectural detail on more thickly, looking more like something from a fairy tale, and often blends influences

Picturesque Miraloma Park

(Continued from page 1)

from England, France, and Germany. Arrol Gellner, who coined the phrase “Storybook style,” notes “Fairy Tale, Disneyesque, and Hansel and Gretel have all been used to describe this medieval European revival style popular in the 1920’s known for its exaggerated details, use of decoration to suggest antiquity, but most of all charm and a bit of whimsy ... created by an architect or designer with a distinct flair for theater, a love of fine craftsmanship, and good sense of humor.” Architectural historians also believe that the overseas experience of American soldiers during World War I enhanced interest in such designs, as well as, the use of them in Hollywood movies. Storybook style originated in Los Angeles as a link with the silent film industry, in particular the experience of Hollywood set designers, in creating the exaggerated appearance of age and ruins; the fact that many silent films were set in Europe; and the demand for homes that reflected the fantasy of film. A Meyer Brothers advertisement for such a home design in Miraloma Park described it as “Medieval English”.

Primary features of the Storybook style include asymmetrical and exaggerated details, arched entries and doors, multiple gables in varying directions with the forward facing one dramatically pitched (some swooping into a gate), turrets and towers, oversized and curving chimneys, slate roofing, dovecote-like vent pipes or miniature bird houses, arched wood plank doors with over-sized metal hinges, over-sized and/or cut-out design shutters, troweled stucco, half-timbering, and applied masonry or faux stone accents to create the appearance of aging European cottages.

Here are some examples of these historic details in Miraloma Park based on the Historic Context Statement prepared by the Planning Department for similar houses in the *Sunset District and Storybook Style: America’s Whimsical Homes of the Twenties* by Arrol Gellner:

A (page 1): A winding staircase inside the turret to the right provides a whimsical entry to the front door. A miniature witch’s capped tower on the left provides a slit window for light or throwing tar on your enemies - just for fun! Oversized frame around the center window adds articulation.

B: This steeply pitched and forward facing gabled roof asymmetrically swoops down on one side. Called a cat
November 2016 Miraloma Life Page 2

slide, it slopes onto a half-timbered entry gate which provides added separation from the street to the front door. The bay window adds articulation for the front facade. The over-sized chimney on the left hints of being hand-made with stone.

C: The rolled eave hints of a thatch roof and softens the sharp gables and eaves. The muscular chimney stack adds more whimsy and interest.

D: The charming multi-curved window panes on this original casement window were likely handcrafted - just like in the Middle Ages. The quaint recessed arched window on the right adds a whimsical contrasting decoration to the front facade.

E: A turreted entry provides a cozy and inviting front door. The roughly troweled stucco between the half-timbering creates the appearance of wattle and daub. The front gable slopes back at the top to form a small hipped roof end which is called a jerkin head or hipped gable.

F: Half-timbering and curved wood medallions add a whimsical touch to this example which also features a three-part pointed arch window that enriches the home’s facade.

G: A winding staircase leads to an arched wooden plank door deeply recessed within a second sheltering stucco arch and a sloping roof. A niche window adds more visual charm, as well as, the decorative railing and light. The decorative chimney next door provides a great example



B.



C.



D.

(continued on page 3)

Picturesque Miraloma Park

(Continued from page 2)

of how neighboring architectural details can enhance each other.

H: A distinctive pointed arch and multi-paned window is highlighted with angled shutters decorated with arrow cutouts. The decorative initial on the rain gutter adds a nice touch.



E.



F.



G.

H.



Note: Jacquie Proctor is the author of *Bay Area Beauty: The Artistry of Harold G. Stoner, Architect* and leads architecture walks for San Francisco City Guides.

President's Corner

(Continued from page 1)

A new item in windows that I saw walking this year were the OK signs. Thanks, everyone, for participating in the pilot program providing everyone in Miraloma Park with an OK/NEED HELP sign. With luck, no one will need to use it but it is good to have it handy after an earthquake or other disaster. Your sign will signal to NERT volunteers and other emergency responders that you do or do not need assistance. I left my sign up longer than the one week that was recommended in the last issue of Miraloma Life in order to raise awareness. Email the MPIC if you would like to print another sign. You can also get hard copies at the MPIC Clubhouse at the next event.

A growing concern that the MPIC would like to share with you is construction activity that is done without proper permits. There have been several projects in Miraloma Park that have come to our attention. Some include digging into the hillside of Mount Davidson or making non-permitted home structural modifications and excavations. The process of getting plans approved, obtaining proper permits and inspections for work completed may be inconvenient, but following City Planning and Department of Building Inspection processes first and foremost, reduces the risk of creating safety hazards (e.g., landslides, fires due to non-permitted electrical work, unsound structures). Non-permitted building also erodes the aesthetics of our neighborhood and compromises good neighbor relations. For these reasons, MPIC works with the City to ensure the safety of all of our residents and preserve the high quality of life in our neighborhood.

Please share your ideas for community events with the MPIC. At the October block party on Bella Vista, a conversation about the challenges that families face in the enrollment process for San Francisco Public Schools will turn into a workshop for Miraloma Park on how to navigate the process from kindergarten to high school. We are lucky to have Carol Lei, a fellow Miraloma Park resident, conduct the workshop. She has successfully steered her children through the system from Miraloma Elementary to Lowell and Lincoln High Schools. Carol was a volunteer enrollment coach and later a director at Parents for Public School.

Bella Vista Way Block Party

Robert Gee, Miraloma Park

How Lupus Influenced My Life Choices pt. 2

(Continued from page 1)

After a short bout of self-pity, I decided I was going to fight this disease. I was more determined than ever to become a doctor because I wanted to help others like me. Fighting lupus was not going to be easy. At the time, there were no medications specifically for lupus. The only treatment option was to suppress my immune system with a steroid. Unfortunately, this medication came with numerous side effects and cannot be taken at high dosage for prolonged periods. When I was on high dosage of medication, I had so much energy that I was only able to sleep an hour a day. The lack of sleep made me agitated and gave me high blood pressure. When I tapered down the medication, my symptoms would come back. I was on this roller coaster ride for two years. It made me doubt I would ever get better. Even my mother, who persevered through so many challenges, urged me to quit college and come back home so she can take care of me.

I landed in the hospital during senior year. I was so beaten down that I asked the attending doctor if I should quit college. He confidently said no. He gave me the confidence that I needed to go on when I was at my lowest. I graduated with a bachelor's degree in Biochemistry. I decided not to pursue medical school. Although many excellent doctors helped me in different ways, a doctor can only work with the tools they are provided. Instead, I wanted to provide doctors with better tools and help them fulfil my dream of finding a cure for lupus.

Today, I feel fortunate and proud to be able to work full time at a company that makes medicine to treat patients with life threatening conditions. I consider myself very lucky. Only one third of patients are able to work full time. I started volunteering with the Lupus Foundation of America in 2008 because I wanted to raise awareness of lupus so patients can get an earlier diagnosis. I wanted to raise funds for more research so we can discover better medications with fewer side effects. The Lupus Foundation of America hosted a walk on Sunday, October 23rd in Golden Gate Park to raise funds to provide programs of research, education, support and advocacy. There is still time to show your support!

For more information about lupus and to donate to the walk, visit www.lupus.org/california/events/entry/walk-to-end-lupus-now-san-francisco



On a sunny Saturday on October 1, the street on Bella Vista Way between Gaviota Way and Arroyo Way was officially closed to hold a neighborhood block party for residents in the area surrounding Bella Vista Way, Sequoia Way, Arroyo Way, Teresita Blvd and Molimo Drive. Over 80 residents including a large number of children all got together. I participated in the last Bella Vista Way block party over 7 years ago and this year's party was just as much fun and had an even larger turnout. Everyone got to know each other, and we built a stronger sense of community. Residents responded to the potluck theme and brought and BBQ'd an unbelievable amount of food to share. We even had a live band performance by Miraloma residents and a jumpy house for children to enjoy. Ingleside Station SFPD Officer Louis Tillan brought the vintage Ford Mustang talking police car and Miraloma Park's own SFFD Station 39 brought their fire engine. The kids definitely enjoyed climbing into the police car and fire engine.

We also had a table set up to share valuable information by the Miraloma Park Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT). A big thank you goes out to our certified NERT responders, Luise Custer and Randy Chang, for answering many questions, talking up personal disaster preparedness, and telling everyone about our fabulous Miraloma Park NERT team and how we train.

We also want to thank Canyon Market in Glen Park for generously donating a \$40 gift card for our grand raffle prize.

Our block party was organized by a group of 12 residents using in part the Neighborfest Host Toolkit published by the city's Neighborhood Empowerment Network. We all worked together to distribute flyers, secure the per-

(continued on page 5)

Bella Vista Way Block Party

(Continued from page 4)

mit to block the street, handle all the different logistics, setup, cleanup, and contacting SFPD and SFFD to have them participate. You can check this great toolkit out at <http://empowersf.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/Neighborfest-Host-Toolkit.pdf>. The toolkit provides all of the information you need to get your block party off to a great start.

To help build a stronger and more Resilient Miraloma Park community, the MPIC encourages residents to consider hosting a block party—it can be very small or as big as the one we just had. What's most important is that you get out and meet your neighbors!

West of Twin Peaks Central Council Resolution Calling for the Removal of Forested Areas from NAP and Implementation of the Maintenance Alternative for the Program

Note: MPIC is a participating organization of the West of Twin Peaks Central Council (20 West Side neighborhood/homeowner associations). The following is a Council Resolution supported by MPIC. For additional information about MPIC's advocacy for restrain NAP tree culling, visit <http://www.miralomapark.org/wp-content/files/2016-09-MiralomaLife.pdf>.

WHEREAS, The Natural Areas Program (NAP) of the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department intends to remove existing habitat on one-quarter of the City's parkland and replace it with native plants (arbitrarily defined as those here before European colonization); and

WHEREAS, The proposed Management Plan for NAP has been undergoing an Environmental Impact Review, which is likely to come before the Planning Commission for certification sometime in December 2016 or after the first of the next year; and

WHEREAS, The Recreation and Park Commission intends to hold a session to officially accept the NAP Management Plan on the same day that the Planning Commission certifies the NAP EIR; and

WHEREAS, After hearing presentations by Recreation and Park Department staff supporting NAP and the San Francisco Forest Alliance opposing it at its May 21,

(continued on page 6)

OK/NEED HELP Sign Drill: A Thank You Note

Guido van Rijn, Miraloma Park

Thanks to all who participated in the OK/NEED HELP sign drill by placing the OK sign in your street-side window. **Please KEEP your sign!**

April is the anniversary month for the 1906 earthquake. Repeating this drill will increase our awareness of the need to prepare for future quakes or other major disasters. (Besides, it's kind of fun to look around and see if other neighbors participated.) So please save the sign and place it where you can find it easily should it ever be needed in a real event. As a neighborhood, as individuals, and families, we need to be prepared. So, please keep your sign—it may save your life.

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80 Teresita	3/2	\$1,389,000	955 Rockdale	4/2.5	\$1,875,000
125 Evelyn	3/2	\$1,675,000			



West of Twin Peaks Central Council

(Continued from page 5)

2012 meeting, the West of Twin Peaks Central Council (WTPCC) voted to submit a letter opposing NAP to the Planning Commission on June 4, 2012 as part of public comment on the NAP Draft EIR; and

WHEREAS, That letter expressed WTPCC's concerns about NAP's plans to cut down 18,500 trees in parks controlled by the SF Recreation and Park Department, including removing 1,600 trees on Mt. Davidson, as well as our concerns about NAP's repeated applications of toxic herbicides to keep non-native plants from growing back, as well as our concerns about the loss of access to large areas of our neighborhood parks and the closure of 9.2 miles of trails; and

WHEREAS, that letter also called on the Recreation and Park Commission to rethink its support of NAP; and

WHEREAS, Appendix F of the NAP Management Plan, which gives details of the NAP Management Plan's urban forestry plans, refers to existing trees in parks like Mt. Davidson as "invasive," adding: "The long-term goal of urban forest management in MA-1 and MA-2 areas [which compromise most of NAP's areas] is to slowly convert those areas to native scrub, and grassland habitats or oak woodlands" (p. F-1); and

WHEREAS, The Miraloma Park Improvement Club, a

member organization, sent a letter to Mayor Edwin Lee on January 27, 2014, opposing any expansion of NAP on Mt. Davidson, and in particular, calling for management of the forested areas of Mt. Davidson be removed from NAP's control and returned to the control and maintenance of the Recreation and Park Department's Forestry Division; and


WHEREAS, The MPIC letter also opposed implementation of the NAP General Management Plan as written and supported the implementation of the Maintenance Alternative identified in the NAP EIR, an alternative that allows NAP to continue to manage native habitat that has already been created, but does not support any additional destruction of existing habitat for replacement with native plants; and

WHEREAS, UC Berkeley Professor of Urban Forestry Joe McBride, sent a letter to Recreation and Park General Manager Phil Ginsburg on June 29, 2013, stating that, "I conclude that the Significant Natural Resource Areas Management Plan for the removal and thinning of different portions of the eucalyptus plantation on Mt. Davidson is not justified"; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That, the West of Twin Peaks Central Council urges the Mayor, the General Manager of the SF Recreation and Park Department, the Board of Supervisors, the Planning Commission, and the Recreation and Park Commission to remove all forested areas such as at those in Sharp Park, and, in particular, the forested areas of Mt. Davidson, from NAP control and give management control of forested areas to the Recreation and Park Department's Forestry Division's trained arborists for routine maintenance, and prohibit the removal of any trees in NAP-managed areas except for reasons of hazard abatement or construction of buildings (but not habitat restoration); and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the West of Twin Peaks Central Council urges the Mayor, the General Manager of the SF Recreation and Park Department, the Board of Supervisors, the Planning Commission, and the Recreation and Park Commission to restrict NAP to implementing only the Maintenance Alternative identified in the EIR; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the West of Twin Peaks Central Council urges the Mayor, the General Manager of the SF Recreation and Park Department, the Board of Supervisors, the Planning Commission, and the Recreation and Park Commission to prohibit all Tier 1 and Tier 2 [the most toxic] herbicide use by NAP to ensure public safety in all park areas.



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SFSAFE Quarterly Meeting at the Clubhouse: Police Commissioner DeJesus Discusses the Search for the City's New SFPD Chief

Joan van Rijn, MPIC Board and Miraloma Park NERT Team Co-Coordinator



San Francisco SAFE held its quarterly meeting at the Miraloma Park Improvement Clubhouse on Thursday, Sept. 29. Petra DeJesus, one of the seven San Francisco Police Commissioners spoke about the search for our new Police Chief.

Commissioner DeJesus explained that they have 25 candidates who have expressed interest and they are reviewing and

vetting these applicants. They will send the Mayor 3-5 applicants that they recommend. The Mayor can select one or can reject the list and ask for a different list. There are a few "insider" candidates on the list. The real issue is whether to promote a department veteran familiar with the city or bring in an outsider who might be more aggressive with reforms.

The Police Commission is made up of seven commissioners. They are responsible for creating the police general orders: a manual of rules and regulations governing officer's code of conduct; prepare the budget, and act as judges at police discipline hearings. The Commissioners are trying to organize the police general orders, which are not compiled in a way that the force can use easily. The Use of Force policy is also being reviewed, following a disputed killing of a black person in December; a draft is being sent to the Police Officers Association for comment.


Commissioner DeJesus discussed the challenges our Police Department has in recruiting good officers. What is the minimum age and education needed to be a Police Officer? Will it make a difference in our force? In addition, the search for a new Chief comes at a sensitive time for the department, which is in the midst of a top-to-bottom review by the U.S. Department of Justice and the Community Oriented Police Service (COPS). They are looking at the police general orders and the Use of Force policies.

The Police Commission meets every week and their meetings are open to the public; they are televised on the SFGTV. The public may speak at the end of the agenda.

I love Mt. Davidson

Sky Charlesworth, Miraloma Park

Panting as we walk up Mt. Davidson makes me feel so alive. There are people alone, paired up or in groups, walking with or without dogs. Cooper loves running, finding pine cones or tennis balls, and sniffing everywhere. My ears are cold and drops of fog fall on my nose. Black tracteries of the eucalyptus trees against the grey fog are like embroidery. We see monkey flowers and forget-me-nots, and fog and woods. The wind is so loud with wild tones from high to low. It's blowing round the top of this mountain. It makes me feel like I am on an island with no town beyond the wind, especially today, enclosed by such thick fog. . The trees are so tall and full of mystery; their leaves shake and twist as they fall. Time to end our summer's day walk. Fifteen minutes and we're back home. I love Mount Davidson.



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How We Change

MPIC Board

In recent years, Miraloma Park has welcomed many new residents, and they might not be aware of the *Miraloma Park Residential Design Guidelines*, created for the purpose of preserving and enhancing for all the special visual appeal and character of Miraloma Park. Some history...

In 1986, San Francisco voters passed Proposition M, a voter referendum that limited high-rise construction to north of Market and that mandated preservation of the character of San Francisco's unique residential neighborhoods through City Planning design review of residential building projects. Although the high-rise restrictions have passed into oblivion, the neighborhood character provision survives in robust health.

The Planning Commission adopted the first City-wide Residential Design Guidelines in 1989:

"San Francisco is known for its neighborhoods and the visual quality of its buildings. From the Victorians of the Western Addition to the stucco-clad Mediterranean-style homes in the Sunset neighborhood and contemporary infill homes found throughout the City, the architecture is diverse, yet many neighborhoods are made up of buildings with common rhythms and cohesive elements of architectural expression. These neighborhoods are in large part what make San Francisco an attractive place to live, work, and visit...[so,] it is important that the design of new buildings and renovations to existing buildings be compatible with nearby buildings.

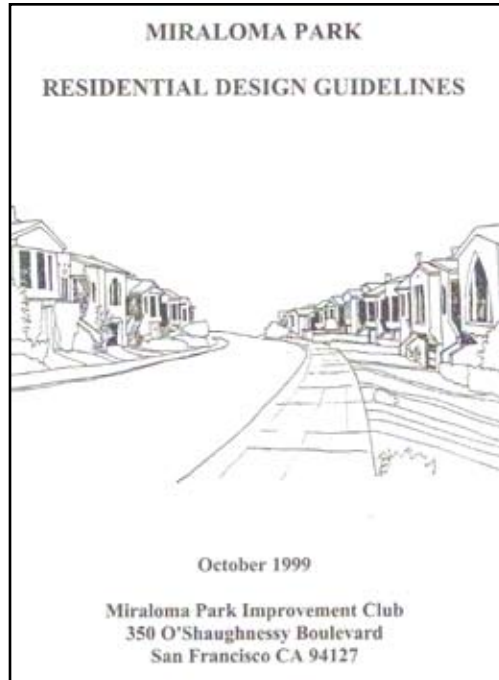
A single building out of context with its surroundings can be disruptive to the neighborhood character and, if repeated often enough, to the image of the City as a whole. The Residential Design Guidelines (Guidelines) articulate expectations regarding the character of the built environment and are intended to promote design that will protect neighborhood character, enhancing the attractiveness and quality of life in the City. The Guidelines address basic principles of urban design that will result in residential development that maintains cohesive neighborhood identity, preserve historic resources, and enhances the unique setting

and character of the City and its residential neighborhoods..." (*sf-planning.org/sites/default/files/FileCenter/Documents/5356-resdesfinal.pdf*).

Soon after the publication of the San Francisco Residential Design Guidelines, two West Side residential associations began work on their own residential design guidelines relevant to architecture in their respective neighborhoods. In line with the Planning Department's goal "to promote design that will protect neighborhood character, enhancing the attractiveness and quality of life in the City," the Westwood Park Association Residential Design Guidelines were adopted by the Planning Commission in 1992. Then, working with Planning Department senior staff, MPIC pre-

pared our own neighborhood-specific Guidelines, which the Planning Commission adopted in 1999. Along with the City-wide Guidelines, those of MPIC and WPA are stand-alone documents modeled on the City-wide guidelines, and both are incorporated into the Planning Code.

You can read and download these at <http://www.miralomapark.org/about/design-guidelines>.



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Morning Coffee with Neighbors

Serdar Yeralan, Miraloma Park

On a rainy Saturday morning my good friend and neighbor Sue called me up. She was about to go for a walk with her two lovely dogs that I love and cherish like my own. One of them is a black Scottie who is into all things related to food and mischief; the other one is her older brother with distinct personality of responsibility, very smart and emotional crossbreed, Napoleon. I jumped on the chance and suggested we go for a coffee while walking the dogs. As we walked down Teresita, we started catching up on life, the neighbors and the new families moving in. We have a tradition in our court Sue and her partner started years ago when they moved in 1999: When her partner and Sue bought the house the last neighbor who moved in before them threw a welcoming party and invited all the neighbors. Sue and her family became immediately familiar with all the neighbors and felt right at home. The tradition than started with Sue and her partner repeating the welcoming party when the next family moved into the neighborhood. Sue then organized many such events and spearheaded the neighborhood activities. I remember the same welcoming experiences when my wife and I moved into the court in 2008. We too felt immediately welcomed and became familiar with the neighbors. Many friendships we have today date back to those days and gatherings.

During our walk Sue made sure that I remember about the block BBQ she is organizing on a weekend. We talked about all the new families and how wonderful to have so many children around us. It is no longer a neighborhood of predominantly Silicon Valley working new-lweds but families who are establishing their roots right here in the heart of San Francisco.

Just as soon as we got to our local favorite coffee shop on Portola, we noticed one of our close neighbors and a good friend Mary sitting right by the window reading the latest edition of *Miraloma Life* newsletter. Mary has bought her house in early 60's and raised a wonderful family. She motioned with her hand and invited as to sit with her just as we approached the doorway. As we sipped our coffee, we talked about the changes in the economy, the neighborhood and the current events.

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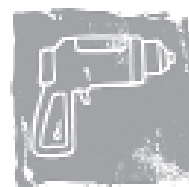
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Helping buyers and sellers realize their homeownership goals in our very complex local market is my mission. I am also a proud Miraloma Elementary parent and local resident since 2011.



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Announcement:
Workshop on Public School Enrollment Process
November 6, 2016 3:00 - 5:00 PM



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PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Do you have a child who will be enrolling in San Francisco's K-12 public schools for the 2017-18 school year? If so, you should be thinking of and touring schools starting this month. You're invited to attend the following workshop sponsored by the MPIC:

**WORKSHOP ON SAN FRANCISCO'S K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT PROCESS-
INFO, HINTS, TIPS, Q&A**

Date: Sunday, November 6, 2016 3:00 pm – 5:00 PM

Where: MPIC Clubhouse, 350 O'Shaughnessy Blvd at Del Vale

Presenter: Carol Lei, Program Manager for the City's Kindergarten to College Program.

Cost: Free

Prior to working for the City, Carol served as a volunteer enrollment coach and later as a director at Parents for Public Schools, speaking to thousands of parents annually on the SFUSD enrollment process. She is a long time Miraloma Park resident and has two daughters who attended Miraloma Elementary, Aptos, and Hoover Middle Schools and are now students at Lowell and Lincoln High Schools.

Morning Coffee with Neighbors

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Among us we could count more than a hundred names and families of our neighborhood. What a comfortable morning it has been I thought. Where else in the world could I ever possibly feel this small town welcoming feeling in a cosmopolitan city like San Francisco? Mary recalls the GIs returning from WWII and buying their houses in the neighborhood during JFK years. Life was different in a sense but the neighborhood was still a hidden gem because of its tightknit community and laidback sense of life.

As we were going through nostalgia, two of our close neighbors, Bert and Murray passed by as they were heading home from the bus stop. Both Bert and Murray are retired now but are more active than anyone of us with a full time job. Social and environmental causes like

bicycle coalition is near and dear to their hearts. Once we spotted each other, there was no choice for them but to join us for a few minutes. We all started joking about how this is just like an episode from Andy Griffith show and our neighborhood is the Mayberry USA. Sue commented about the ease of life we have right here smack middle of San Francisco in a hidden tight little community. We all joined in by complaining how hard life would be if we lived elsewhere.

As Sue and I continued sipping our lattes we said goodbye to our friends as they parted away from the group. Sue talked about how hard it was to buy her house in 1999 just at the beginning of the Dotcom boom. Sue thinks that at that time when the market was so very competitive, people spend more time trying out clothes than visiting a house before placing an offer. She and her partner had cash ready for down payment the old fashion way – years of savings. They were not shy from offering far more than the asking price and often painfully realizing after a few days of hope that they did not get

Morning Coffee with Neighbors

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the house they wanted. Sue told me that as soon as she saw the house she is in right now, she felt a connection with it. She felt it so strongly that she had to control her hopes. Given the bad experiences, she did not want to get her hopes too high. To her amazement she and her partner got the house; "must be the hard cash" she says.

Sue loves the neighborhood just the way it is. She and her partner plan to stay and enjoy the life they have built here. Working as therapists at various locations in the bay area is not easy for them but the life style makes up for all the frustration gathered during the commute hours.

I feel wonderfully lucky to have the neighbors like Sue where I can go out for a planned 30 minute coffee with a couple of adorable dogs and end up in spending nearly the entire morning visiting half the court. Again I ask myself, where else can this "Mayberry USA" life exist?



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Miraloma Park Improvement Club Membership Application

Please complete and mail with your dues to the Club address below. Make check payable to Miraloma Park Improvement Club, 350 O'Shaughnessy Blvd., San Francisco, CA 94127. (No cash, please). Thank you!

☐ New Member ☐ Renewing Member Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

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☐ Please send me an email reminder to renew my membership.

Enclosed are my dues for the next twelve months (check one):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$12 Senior Member(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Single Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Supporting Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Contributing Member | <input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ Other |

No MPIC membership information is shared with other parties or organizations.

Important Phone Numbers

EMERGENCY	Land Line 9-1-1 or Cell Phone 415-533-8090
All City Services	3-1-1 or www.mysf311.org
Online Police Reports	http://sanfranciscopolice.org/reports
Call Before You Dig (PG&E)	8-1-1
Poison Control Center	1-800-222-1222
Non-emergency Police Dispatch	415-553-0123
Suicide Prevention Hotline	415-781-0500
Ingleside Police Community Room	415-404-4000
Parking Complaints	415-553-1200
Abandoned Cars	415-553-9817
Security Survey/Nbd. Watch	415-673-SAFE
Office of Citizen's Complaints Against SFPD	415-241-7711
Narcotics Tips (anonymous)	1-800-CRACKIT
SFPD Tip Line	415-587-8984
Domestic/Family Violence (24hrs)	415-864-4722
Stray, Abused, or Dangerous Animals	415-554-6364
Dumped Item Pickup – DPW	3-1-1
Vital Records	3-1-1
Code Enforcement Hotline	415-554-3977
Graffiti Cleanup – DPW	3-1-1
Police New Graffiti Hotline	415-278-9454
MUNI Shelter Damage/Graffiti	1-510-835-5900
Ingleside SFPD Hearing-Impaired line	415-404-4009
School of the Arts	415-695-5700
Norman Yee, Supervisor Dist. 7	415-554-6516
(norman.yee@sfgov.org)	

Miraloma Park Residential Design Guidelines:

Adopted in 1999 by the SF Planning Commission to promote preservation of neighborhood character by encouraging residential design compatible with neighborhood setting, these Guidelines facilitate the complex process of permit application and design review and can prevent costly, time-consuming Discretionary Review proceedings.

The Guidelines are at www.miralomapark.org.

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E-mail copies of your article to miralomapark@gmail.com, with "Miraloma Life" in the Subject line. Articles must consist of no more than 800 words. Anonymously sent submissions will not be considered for publication.

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