



Miraloma Life

2016 MPIC Holiday Party: Best Ever! *See photos on Pages 2-3.*

Bill Kan, MPIC President

The annual holiday party and pot-luck cook-off is definitely THE MPIC EVENT of the year. It reflects the best of Miraloma Park. Over a few hours, about 140 of fellow Miralomans packed the MPIC Clubhouse for great food and fun for what may be the best-attended MPIC event in years. While adults mingled over food and drinks, kids huddled around Boswick the Clown for his funny gags and balloons. One of the bigger kids, a long-time retired resident, told me that Boswick is the main reason she comes every year. Laura Lee Brown & Company entertained everyone with great live music. In case you didn't know, the Clubhouse magically transforms into a dancefloor with a live band after Boswick's groupies head home for the school night.

Your participation made it great. The 40-50 dishes submitted for the cook-off highlighted the talent and diversity in our community. Robert Gee and Cassandra Mettling-Davis, who handled voting, said the number of dishes submitted in the cook-off hit a record high. The

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www.miralomapark.org

Events in January and February

**MPIC Board of
Directors Meeting**
January 5 and February 2, 2017,
7:00 PM*

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

MPIC Testifies at the Joint Planning and Recreation and Park Commission Hearing to Protect Mt Davidson Forest

Robert Gee, MPIC Board Member

From 2009-2012, the Miraloma Park Improvement Club (Club) submitted substantive comments and concerns to the Draft Environment Impact Report (EIR) for the city's Significant Natural Resources Areas



Citizens queue to speak to city planning officials.

Management Plan (Plan). The Club's comments were specifically focused on the Plan's impact to Mt. Davidson. The Club raised significant environmen-

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MPIC Wants YOU!

Bill Kan, President

The Miraloma Park Improvement Club (MPIC) invites you to join or to renew your membership. For the price of a pizza, a \$25 family membership says that you support the MPIC's mission to improve the quality of life in Miraloma Park. Your membership strengthens our voice to City agencies as the MPIC advocates for our community. It also shows support and backing for the programs advanced by our all-volunteer board. And your membership helps the MPIC become better stewards of community resources. Miraloma Park is one of the few neighborhood associations in San Francisco that owns its own Clubhouse, the site of the annual holiday party and various community events throughout the year.

All residents are welcome to attend the MPIC's monthly meetings on the first Thursday of every month. It offers insight into issues that affect our community. The range of topics discussed range from traffic and safety in our neighborhood streets, community safety, trees on Mount Davidson, ways to improve the Playground, preparedness against natural disasters, zoning and planning, and a host of others. We often have guest speakers on these and other issues. There is something for everyone. We encourage you to become members and consider volunteering to play a part, large or small, to improve the quality of life in Miraloma Park.

2016 Miraloma Park Holiday Party!

(Continued from page 1)

top vote getters were Hot Corn Dip for appetizer, Thai chicken salad for soup/salad/side dish, cannelloni for entre and raspberry almond flan for desert. The top three dishes in each category received gift certificates from local merchants. Twelve local businesses contributed with the largest from Mollie Stone's (\$100), Le P'tit Laurent (\$50) and Zanze's Cheesecake (\$32). Help Miraloma Park by showing your appreciation the next time you are visiting one of these merchants and others listed on in this issue.

The vibrancy of our party helped showcase the strength of the Miraloma Park community. Smiles on the faces of everyone he met left a very positive impression on District 7 Supervisor Norman Yee. What a great way for him to associate faces to the people that the MPIC represents. Developing and maintaining relationships with the Supervisor, other City agencies and local merchants are some of the ways that the MPIC seeks to improve the quality of life in Miraloma Park.

Everyone in Miraloma Park is welcome to join the party and to pitch in. The MPIC is an all-volunteer organization. Special thanks to Board members Kathy Rawlins, Dan Liberthson and Robert Gee for doing much of the heavy lifting that made the party great. Peter Renteria, long-time resident and volunteer, helped secure many of the gift certificates for the winners of the cook-offs.



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2016 Miraloma Park Holiday Party!

(Continued from page 2)



Here's to
Another Great
Year in
Miraloma Park!



MPIC Testifies at Mt Davidson Hearing

(Continued from page 1)

tal concerns in the Plan that needed to be mitigated such as the removal of up to 1,600 trees, the impact to carbon sequestration, wind, noise, animals, costs, the use of herbicides and the tree replacement plan.

In November 2016, the Planning Department finally released its Responses to Comments to the Draft EIR, a document that is over 700 pages in length, which addressed every comment that was submitted including those by the Club. It was also announced that on December 15, 2016, the Planning Commission and the Recreation and Parks Commission would hold a joint hearing. At that hearing, the Planning Commission would consider certifying the EIR and the Recreation and Park Commission would consider approving the Plan.

In preparation for attending the December 15, 2016 joint hearing and to make public comment on behalf of the Club and its 400 members, as your MPIC board member and past president, I spent a significant amount of time reviewing Planning's responses to the Club's comments as well as to the comments of everyone else. They are located at <http://sf-planning.org/environmental-impact-reports-negative-declarations>. In summary, **all of the Club's comments** as well as the comments of others were determined by Planning to be insignificant or not relevant to the Draft EIR or not supported by evidence and that in general, all of the impacts the Club cited were viewed as having a "less than significant impact" as previously addressed in the Draft EIR. So basically, nothing was changed in the Draft EIR based on the Club's submissions.

On December 15, I and hundreds of other citizens, including my fellow MPIC board member Karen Breslin as well as many residents from the Miraloma Park neighborhood, trekked through the heavy rain to City Hall to attend the joint hearing that was to start at 1 pm. I've attended numerous city commission and Board of Supervisors hearings in the past to advocate on behalf of the Club and its members. But I knew this hearing one was going to be different. Upon arriving at City Hall before 1 pm, the hearing room was already packed and the line to get into the room was all the way down the hall as far as I could see.

This was the first hearing I've attended where there was so many people both passionately for and against the Plan who wanted to attend and give their comments.

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While waiting in line we all completed a speaker request card. We were then told that the hearing could easily run 5 plus hours but that everyone who submitted a speaker card would be given 3 minutes to speak. All of us standing in line were told we could then go to the North Light Court to watch the hearing and when our name was called, we could then come back up to the hearing room. After 4 hours my name was finally called and I went back to the hearing room and waited in line looking forward to making my comments on behalf of the Club which are reprinted below. After making my comments, I had to leave for home. I think it was almost 5:30 pm. But as I turned around to look at the room, I was far from the last person in the hearing room. It was still filled and I noticed many of my fellow Miraloma Park neighbors still in the room waiting for their turn to make public comment.

The hearing continued for over 6 hours and then the Planning Commission voted 6 to 1 to certify the EIR and the Recreation and Park Commission immediately followed by unanimously approving the Plan and not considering any of the alternatives to the Plan that were deemed to be environmentally superior. It was a long day for me and the hundreds of people who attended and waited patiently to give their comments to the Commissioners. As your MPIC Board Member, it's part of my responsibilities to represent the Club and its members to advocate for a wide variety of issues that impact our neighborhood. The Plan's impact to Mt. Davidson is one of the most important issues that the Club and the Miraloma Park community has faced. I wasn't surprised at all that the Planning Commission quickly approved the EIR and that the Recreation and Park Commission followed by approving the Plan as is. Even with over 6 hours of public comment where plenty of people spoke for and many against the Plan, it would seem the Commissioners already had their minds made up.

MPIC's Testimony at the December 15, 2016 Joint Hearing of the Planning Commission and Recreation and park Commission

Good Afternoon Commissioners,

My name is Robert Gee. I have lived in San Francisco for over 50 years. I am a board member and past president of the Miraloma Park Improvement Club. Miraloma Park, is a residential community of 2,200 homes along Mt. Davidson that will be heavily impacted by the

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MPIC Testifies at Mt Davidson Hearing

(Continued from page 4)

proposed Plan. I speak to you today on behalf of the Club and its 400 members.

The Club supports native plant habitat restoration, and the Miraloma Park Improvement Clubhouse supports one of the most noted and best maintained native plant gardens in the city. We have actively advocated for the inclusion of a natural areas plan in the City's General Plan. We work collaboratively all the time with the local Rec and Park employees. Yes, our forests do need management. But the proposed Plan before you today is extreme.

With a focus specifically on the impact to Mt. Davidson, the Club submitted numerous and detailed comments and concerns to Planning on why the Draft EIR was inadequate, inaccurate and not objective.

Planning's Responses to all of the Club's comments with respect to Mt. Davidson regarding (1) cutting down 1600 trees and its related impacts to the environment, carbon, noise, wind, animals, financial resources and the tree replacement ratio, (2) closing 2,900 feet of trails and limiting public access to 6 acres and (3) using hazardous herbicides were deemed to be summarily, "insignificant," "not relevant" and "not supported by the evidence". In essence, all of the environmental impacts the Club cited were viewed by Planning as having "a less than significant impact" as addressed in this EIR.

The Club absolutely disagrees with Planning's responses and believes the Final EIR remains inadequate, inaccurate and not objective. Therefore it should not be certified. Further mitigations must be put in place and these mitigations considered by the Planning Commission.

However, if the Plan is certified, we urge the Rec and Park Commission either to approve the Maintenance Alternative to the Plan which the Club has consistently supported as the environmentally superior alternative. Otherwise, if the Plan is approved, the Club has already asked Mayor Lee and again ask the Rec and Park Commission as stated in our correspondence to the Commission on August 29 this year, that certain forested portions of Mt. Davidson be removed from the Natural Resources Department and returned to the Rec and Park Forestry Division.

The Club wants to protect Mt. Davidson.

Thank you.

Update: Teresita Boulevard Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Improvements

MPIC Safety Committee

It's been 10 years since the MPIC began working with the SFMTA to improve traffic and pedestrian safety along Teresita Boulevard. Much has finally been done, but we still need to push the project through the finish line. The MPIC, with Supervisor Norman Yee's assistance, continues to engage the SFMTA staff on getting them to complete the outstanding improvements. Here are some of the open items that the MPIC recently asked the SFMTA to respond to. The MPIC has asked for deadline dates for these open items as well as an onsite meeting to review:

(continued on page 6)

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PENDING SALES, cont.

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Update from the Miraloma Safety Committee

(Continued from page 5)

Should a larger red Yield sign be installed at Teresita Blvd and Fowler? SFMTA says they have looked at this sign and don't necessarily agree that visibility of the sign is a problem or that a larger sign is needed. But they said they could install a larger sign if that is what the community feels is an important concern. We will survey the community on the need for a larger red Yield sign.



Red Yield sign at Teresita and Fowler

What is the status of the planned tightening of the curb radius on Teresita Blvd at Isola by adding painted lines and Safe Hit posts? Adding a painted curb radius along with Safe Hit posts will visually reduce the width of the roadway to slow cars down. SFMTA says this work will be completed as part of the current project.



Teresita Blvd at Isola



Example of painted curb radius lines and Safe Hit posts

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Update from the Miraloma Safety Committee

(Continued from page 6)

What is the status of reinstalling Safe Hit posts on top of the painted curb radius lines on Teresita at Bella Vista Way? SFMTA said this will be completed as part of the current project.



Teresita Blvd at
Bella Vista Way

What is the status of painting red zones at intersections to prevent cars from parking so that visibility at the intersections (“Daylighting”) are improved? SFMTA said this will be completed as part of the current project.



Teresita Blvd at
Bella Vista Way

The MPIC has received a commitment from SFMTA to fund 3 more speed cushions along Teresita Blvd. There is currently one speed cushion on Teresita Blvd that was reinstalled after the new paving that is smoother and doesn't cause cars and trucks to bounce, make a lot of noise and cause vibration to the adjacent houses. In early 2017, the SFMTA said they will propose locations along Teresita Blvd for the 3 speed cushions. SFMTA will typically ballot residences on the blocks of the proposed speed cushions.



Current speed cushion on Teresita Blvd

Whether additional high visibility “Continental” cross walks can be painted in other intersections along Teresita Blvd to improve pedestrian crossings? The SFMTA has asked the MPIC which intersections may need the “Continental” crosswalks. MPIC will survey our residents and then forward the results to SFMTA Traffic Operations for their evaluation.

(continued on page 8)

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Update from the Miraloma Safety Committee

(Continued from page 7)



High visibility "Continental" crosswalks

Whether the improvements completed along Teresita Blvd to date mitigate the findings of the speed study SFMTA conducted in 2014 where the study found that:

(1) cars were going above the speed limit up and down the hill along the 900 block of Teresita Blvd, (2) cars were going above the speed limit

northbound on Teresita Blvd between Reposa and Isola Way and (3) cars were going above the speed limit in both directions on Teresita Blvd between Gaviota Way and Arroyo Way. SFMTA said they expect speeds to be lower given the recent improvements but can conduct speed surveys at select locations prior to installation of any subsequent speed cushions.

Lastly, the MPIC asked SFMTA for feedback on some of the traffic and pedestrian safety ideas (such as additional stop signs) proposed by our residents at the May 2015 community meeting. SFMTA said they didn't recall receiving the list of ideas even though the MPIC presented and discussed them to the SFMTA at a meeting in July 2015. We have again shared that list with the SFMTA and plan on discussing it with them yet again.

Safety Tip of the Month

MPIC Safety Committee

Besides having a gas shut off valve inside your home, did you know that every house has a gas valve shut off

in front of your house either on the sidewalk or in your front landscaping?

In the event of an emergency or a disaster you'll want to have access to the outside gas valve to shut it off quickly. This is especially important for emergency responders as well as your Miraloma Park Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) members. But over the years many of the outside gas valves have been covered up with dirt or landscaping resulting in precious minutes loss in trying to find the gas valve.



Gas Valve Covered



Gas Valve Cleared

So this month, take a few minutes to locate your outside gas valve cover and remove the dirt and landscaping so that it's easily accessible. This simple task could save your house, your neighbors' houses and lives!



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2016 NERT Year-End Report

Joan van Rijn, Miraloma Part NERT Coordinator

At this time of year, we focus on staying healthy, warm and enjoying the lights of the season. I want to thank all of you for your continued involvement and support in our NERT Team. This year we accomplished many tasks and trying to learn ICS (Incident Command System) was one of them. I thought I would list a few of our successes in 2016:

- Held a second NERT training at Miraloma Elementary School
- Miraloma Park Improvement Club sponsored our team and we bought staging area supplies with the \$500 grant.
- Miraloma Park Improvement Club (Resilience Program) was awarded a grant of \$25,000 by Supervisor Yee's office through Participatory Budgeting. Those supplies will fund our staging area and other Neighborhood comfort and care sites.
- Conducted training classes on ICS
- Visited the Battalion 9 on Ocean and Phelan and saw our "yellow boxes"
- Attended the Citywide Drill
- Attended the Triage training at the Fire Training center
- Conducted a drill at our staging area- Miraloma Park tennis courts

What will 2017 bring?

We are applying for another Participatory Budgeting grant of \$20,000 to fund the Block Captain program. This will help train more neighbors to be ready and feel confident they can respond in case of emergencies.

Our NERT Team schedule is moving to Thursday nights. Our first meeting is January 19, 2017 at 7:00 pm at the Miraloma Park Clubhouse.

NERTS who took the training in 2015, will need to re-certify and take Class 5 and Class 6.

We are so fortunate; Sunnyside is hosting a training at St. Finn Barr on Edna Street, almost in our neighborhood. Mark your calendars for those two classes: March 23, and March 30.

Many of us will be taking those classes, hope to see you there.



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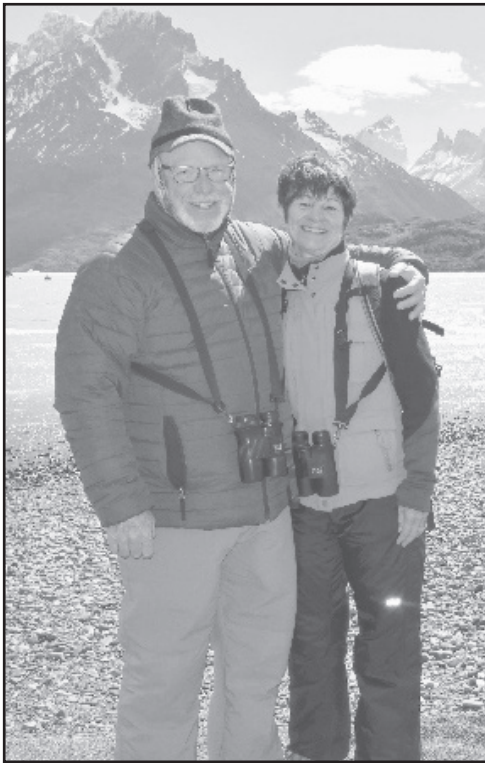
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Call for articles on volunteering:

Do you volunteer to make a difference in our community? If so, let's share your story!

The MPIC is interested in publishing articles on how residents of Miraloma Park donate their time to make a positive impact on our community. Whether you volunteer individually or through a nonprofit organization, we'd love to share your experience and the good work you do in order to help inspire others in the neighborhood. Please email your article to miralomapark@gmail.com with "Miraloma Life" in the subject line (please keep articles under 800 words and all submissions will be reviewed by the MPIC Publicity Committee).

Volunteering is a Special Part of Jean Perata's Life



Volunteering is a special part of Jean Perata's life. Jean has lived in Miraloma Park since 1992 and is a member of the "700 Club" of Teresita Blvd. About 15 households belong to this informal club. The neighbors near the intersection of Teresita Boulevard and Los Pinos Drive socialized prior to Jean's arrival. A few years ago, at one

of the group's gatherings, someone suggested that they call themselves the 700 Club, since most live on the 700 block of Teresita. The title stuck. Jean says, "We are friendly. We socialize and take care of each other. We celebrate each other's joys and successes, and together,

mourn the sad times." Jean is also the Block Captain for this area and is a Board member of Resilient Miraloma Park.

Jean has been volunteering at the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory (GGRO) for 29 years. The GGRO was founded about 35 years ago. It conducts long-term, citizen-science projects in an effort to monitor the populations of birds of prey. These birds include Red-tailed Hawks, Cooper's Hawks, Sharp-shinned Hawks, Northern Harriers and American Kestrels. GGRO volunteers monitor and track the autumn raptor migration over the Marin Headlands, principally through GGRO's Hawkwatch and Banding programs. Jean participates in the Banding program, trapping and banding raptors and taking measurements and health data. The bands which Jean places on the raptors are issued by the Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL). The BBL sends GGRO information on banded hawks that have been recovered. This information helps answer questions about raptor movement and ranges, as well as insight into causes of raptor injuries and deaths.

I asked Jean, "Why do you volunteer?" Jean enjoys being a citizen-scientist and sees its value. Banding birds from August to December is one way she contributes to the scientific study of birds of prey. In the Spring, Jean volunteers for the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, monitoring Great Blue Heron nest activity at the Palace of Fine Arts. And in the Spring, she is a Waterbird Docent at Alcatraz. Snowy Egrets and other birds nest on Alcatraz. As a Waterbird Docent, Jean educates visitors about the nesting birds and their ecology.

Jean and her husband, Dennis Davison, just returned from an exciting trip to Chile. They traveled with Alvaro Jamarillo, author of the Field Guide to the Birds of Chile. The purpose of the trip was to learn and observe more about the birds and people of Chile. Jean was hoping to see an Andean Condor and King Penguins. She was successful. Their trip took them to the Atacama Desert, the Andes, temperate rain forests, Patagonia and Torres de Paine National Park.

Closer to home, Jean and Dennis have a bird feeder in their backyard. They enjoy birding on Mt. Davidson. In the past, a pair of Red-tailed Hawks nested on the mountain and Great Horned Owls have roosted there.

"Bird watching is a wonderful way to learn about your environment," Jean says. She continued, "One place to

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Jean Perata's Volunteering

(Continued from page 10)

see many birds is to visit the Golden Gate Park Arboretum. If you're a City resident it's free! And the Golden Gate Audubon Society offers bird walks at the Arboretum and other San Francisco open spaces."

Jean loves living in Miraloma Park. It has a park-like setting; great views; is close to BART, and has easy freeway access. But most of all for Jean, "Our neighbors make it the best place to live. Dennis and I are so lucky we have our friends as neighbors."

Interested in the programs mentioned? For more information on GGRO's programs and research, visit www.ggro.org. Golden Gate Audubon's program offerings are available at www.goldengateaudubon.org.



Mia Waller
415-841-3495

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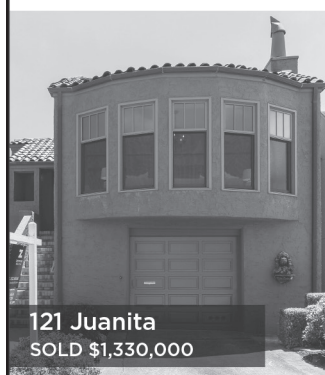
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No MPIC membership information is shared with other parties or organizations.

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Security Survey/Nbd.Watch	415-673-SAFE
Office of Citizen's Complaints Against SFPD	415-241-7711
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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, our neighborhood-specific *Guidelines* facilitate the process of permit application and Code-mandated design review and can prevent costly, time-consuming Discretionary Review proceedings. Learn more about them at www.miralomapark.org

MPIC Board of Directors

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Article Submission Policy

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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.