MIRALOMA LIFE FEBRUARY 2021 - ISSUE 2

Upcoming Events

4 FEBRUARY MPIC Board Meeting* 7:00 pm - Virtual

4 MARCH MPIC Board Meeting* 7:00 pm - Virtual

*Members wishing to attend the virtual meetings should email: mpicpresident@gmail.com for a Zoom meeting invite.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Cary Matthews

Last month, I asked you to consider making a small donation to help with the printing and delivery costs of the newsletter, and I am repeating my request again. The Miraloma Park

Improvement Club has been delivering a printed newsletter to every home in Miraloma Park since 1954, regardless of whether they are an MPIC member (that's about 2200 homes). Until clubhouse rentals can resume, the newsletter will not have the funds it needs to continue printing and delivery, and we are now having to consider an entirely online publication until our revenue returns. This is not easy for me to write. If you enjoy receiving a printed newsletter each month and you aren't a current member, please join MPIC today so that we can continue printing and delivering Miraloma Life. And if you are a member, and you can spare a little extra, we'd be extremely grateful. You can use the membership renewal envelope included in the January newsletter or you can

If you enjoy receiving a printed newsletter each month and you aren't a current member, please join MPIC today so that we can continue printing and delivering Miraloma Life.

mail a check to the MPIC Clubhouse at 350 O'Shaughnessy Boulevard, San Francisco, CA 94127.



GARDENING IS DECORATING OUTSIDE

The MPIC is excited to announce a new component to Miraloma Life! During the last year, as more and more of us Miralomans have walked with greater frequency in the neighborhood, many pause to admire and sometimes photograph the work of our neighbor gardeners visible from the street. We would like you, as readers of Miraloma Life, to enter the beautiful gardens you see into a feature we are calling "Garden of the Season." Winners will be announced guarterly, with an accompanying photo and profile of the homeowner/renter. We would like to highlight the hard work that goes into creating and maintaining a work that benefits all of us with its beauty, no matter how big or small. The value of gardens goes far beyond beauty and monetary value. Gardens support and shelter birds and insects, prevent soil erosion, reduce noise pollution and replenish nutrients in the soil.

Beginning now, if you see a garden you would like to enter, including your own, please submit a photograph(s), the address, and owner's name if you know it to: https://miralomapark. org/contact/. MPIC will contact the person(s) and ask permission to publish any photographs or information. Submitted photos will appear on the www.MiralomaPark.org website, where you can vote for your favorite. Our first season is Spring, so be on the lookout for early bloomers and unfurling leaves!

[continued from cover] President's Message ...

Please indicate on your check that any donation above your membership dues are for the newsletter. **Thank you** to everyone who has already joined or renewed, and a special thank you to those who donated above their membership dues!

A few days after moving to Miraloma Park, a Miraloma Life newsletter was delivered to my house. In the middle of unpacking boxes, I immediately sat down to read it. I have lived in San Francisco all my life and I'd never known that neighborhoods still took the time to print and deliver community information this way. All my life, I thought of myself as living in a city with a lot of people, and Miraloma Life was my first indication that I had moved to a community of neighbors. This may sound corny, but the newsletter is what prompted me to introduce myself to my neighbors, something I hadn't really considered doing at first. I believe the printing and delivery of Miraloma Life to be a vital lifeline in bringing Miralomans together. All this is to say, I value receiving this newsletter each month, and I would be heartbroken if I didn't.

Knowing I can't be the only one with a personal attachment to this newsletter, I'd love to hear from you. Please email <u>miralomapark@gmail.com</u> with your stories. With your approval, we'd love to share some of them in upcoming issues.

The MPIC Board meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00pm, and is open to all members to attend. During lockdown, we have been meeting on zoom. To attend a meeting or to bring an issue before the Board, please email <u>miralomapark@gmail.com</u> for instructions on how to join the meeting or get placed on the agenda.

Most of the business of addressing the needs and concerns of the Miraloma Park community are done by seven active Committees. Members are encouraged to join committees; you don't need to be a Board member to be on a committee. Committees that focus on advocacy and information include the Safety, Resiliency, Zoning & Planning, and Publicity Committees. The MPIC's operation issues include Clubhouse, Membership, and Finance.

We have a new Instagram account! Please follow @miralomapark. We'd love to highlight some neighborhood pictures; if you'd like to have a picture of yours posted on our account, please send your picture to miralomapark@gmail.com or tag us in your photo.



PROPOSITION 19 AND YOU

MPIC

In November 2020, California voters passed Proposition 19, which changes property tax benefits for families, seniors, severely disabled persons, and victims of natural disaster in our state. In response, the San Francisco Assessor's Office has consolidated resources, including video tutorials, frequently asked questions, forms and reference links to help you understand and prepare for the upcoming changes. Visit <u>https://sfassessor.org/</u> **Prop19** to access these resources.

In addition, the SF Assessor has organized a series of Digital Family Wealth Forums, online events designed to provide families with the necessary tools to understand this new law and continue their financial planning. To find out more about these Forums and to sign up for the Spring 2021 Forum on Proposition 19, go to <u>https://www.</u> <u>sfassessor.org/familywealthforum</u>.



GUNG HAY FAT CHOY!

Welcome the Year of Ox, beginning on Friday, February 12! Many of us are saddened to be missing one of the most beloved

yearly events in San Francisco, the Chinese New Year's Day Parade. Although the live parade is cancelled, there will be a special broadcast at 6 p.m. on February 20th. More details will be forthcoming in San Francisco's local media outlets.



The Ox is the second of the signs in the Chinese zodiac. The folktale surrounding the position of second place in the zodiac is quite entertaining, as the animals' final positions in the zodiac are true to their natures. Jade Emperor determined the order of the zodiac signs would be based on the arrival of the first 12 animals now represented on the zodiac following a race across a wide river. Rat asked the large and powerful Ox for a ride on its back, to which it agreed, being the kindly soul it was. When they had crossed the river, Rat jumped off Ox, ran ahead, and came in first!

Those born in the Year of the Ox are thought to be hardworking, honest, and loyal friends. We wish all of you born in the Year of the Ox an especially happy New Year!

	NEW MEMBER RENEWING MEMBER Date: Name: Address:		
MEMBER	Phone: Email:		
	Enclosed are my dues for the next 12 months (check one):		
OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!	\$12 Senior Member \$15 Single Member \$25 Family Membership \$35 Supporting Member \$50 Contributing Member \$100 Sustaining Member		
ONLINE AT: <u>https://miralomapark.org/join</u>	PLEASE SEND ME AN EMAIL REMINDER TO RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP!		
	yable to: LUB, 350 O'SHAUGHNESSY BLVD, SF, CA 94127. No cash, please. 94-6092576. Your membership donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. MPIC does not share		

LOVE IS IN THE AIR -SKUNK LOVE THAT IS ...

Jean Perata

February and March are the mating season for the Striped Skunk (Mephitis mephitis). Skunk spray can be a feature of the mating ritual, as a female skunk will spray its cloud of oil to repel unwelcome pursuing suitors.

Mating occurs at night; male skunks may travel 2.5 miles per night in their search for partners. The male tries to mate with several females and he defends against other males for a period of about 35 days. Once the mating period has finished, the impregnated females retreat to their dens and the males leave. Females may den under decks, wood piles, burrows constructed by other animals, hollow logs or even abandoned buildings.

The gestation period lasts around 59 to 77 days. Litters can consist of two to 12 kits, but 4 to 7 are common. Kits are born blind and sparsely furred, weighing 25 to 40 grams (less than one ounce to 1.4 ounces). The kits' eyes open after around three weeks, and are weaned by about two months of age. At this point, the kits may accompany their mother outside the den. The young skunks will follow their mother in a single file line (just like you see in cartoons! Amazing!) and learn to forage and hunt. The young become independent after 2½ months, eventually moving to a new domain.

Skunks are notorious for their spray. The skunk's spray is an oily liquid produced by glands under its large tail. We've all learned that it's a bad idea to approach a skunk. They have poor eyesight and spraying is a form of skunk defense. Before spraying, an agitated skunk will first: Stamp its feet; turn around (with backend toward target); raise its tail; look over its shoulder (at its target) and hiss. Muscles located next to the scent glands allow them to spray with a high degree of accuracy, as far as 10 feet.

Skunk spray causes no real damage to its victims, but it sure makes them uncomfortable. Skunk spray is a marvel of chemistry, made up of seven different major volatile components, a couple of which seem to be made to get trapped in fur and be released when damp. That is why it's hard to fully deodorize your dog or cat that's been sprayed. A warning to pet owners: Skunks can carry rabies or distemper.

Skunks are opportunistic eaters with a varied diet. They are nocturnal foragers who eat fruit and plants, insects, larvae, worms, eggs, reptiles, small mammals, and even fish. They'll also eat garbage and pet food left out overnight.

Because of its formidable defensive capability, the

Striped Skunk has few natural enemies. Predators in our neighborhood include coyotes and Great Horned Owls. We've all seen the result of an automobile-skunk encounter on the streets. These deaths are attributable to skunks' poor eyesight; they are unable to see objects more than about 10 feet.

Skunks have lived in North America longer than people. The earliest fossil finds attributable to Mephitis were found in the Broadwater site in Nebraska, in the early Pleistocene, less than 1.8 million years ago. By the late Pleistocene (70,000–14,500 years ago), the Striped Skunk was widely distributed throughout the southern United States, and it expanded northwards and westwards by the Holocene (10,000–4,500 years ago) following the retreat of the Wisconsin glacier. Their adaptability makes them successful urban dwellers.



MORE SKUNK FACTS

- The scientific name for Striped Skunk is Mephitis mephitis, mephitis being Latin for "bad odor". (How appropriate!)
- Juvenile skunks are capable of spraying at 8 days old, around two weeks before their eyes open.
- Skunks eat wasps and honeybees, and will often attack beehives.
- Immune to snake venom, skunks are known to eat poisonous snakes like rattlesnakes.
- Although skunks have very poor eyesight, they have excellent senses of hearing and smell.
- A group of skunks is called a surfeit of skunks or a stench of skunks.
- "Getting skunked" means being shut out or to be overwhelmingly defeated. It is a New England phrase that came into use around 1831.

WANT TO SHARE YOUR SKUNK STORY?

Have you had a close-encounter? Send your tale to miralomapark@gmail.com and we may print it in a future issue!





MIRALOMA PARK COMMUNITY CONNECTORS

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We wish you all the best going forward into 2021. We will overcome! Until we can gather back in person, we have fun, interesting educational events, exercise programs and other events for you to enjoy from home. See all your options at http://sfcommunityliving.org

We are continuing the socially distanced with masks neighborhood walks with Barbara:

Miraloma Walk the Neighborhood Thursdays at 1:00pm Meet at Cornerstone Church parking lot

Connectors Zoom Social Hour Fridays at 4:30pm

For more information contact: Darlene Ramlose, Miraloma Community Connector darlene@sfcommunityliving.org or (714) 423-8844.

Visit us on our Facebook page: **Miraloma Park Community Connectors**



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I am also a Miraloma Park resident, so you can trust I know what you need!



Lynn Tanatanyanon

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BACKYARD ADVENTURES

Kate Clements

When you are visiting Glen Canyon, whether for a hike or other recreation, please take a moment to marvel at the miracle of its present existence. At times a dairy and cattle ranch, the site of the first factory to manufacture dynamite, Crocker Real Estate Company's amusement park and private picnic grounds, a zoo, almost a freeway, and a proposed dam (!) to supply drinking water and irrigation, Glen Canyon Park now endures as breath of nature in our densely crowded city. It is one of San Francisco's "Significant Natural Resource Areas." Without the dedication of many citizens, most especially in the 1950's through the 1970's when the "Gum Tree Girls" organized the community and prevented the California Highway Department from turning O'Shaughnessy Blvd. into a 4-lane freeway, this cherished park would exist in a much lesser form.



Glen Park has one of the two last free flowing creeks in all of San Francisco. In its present rendition, Glen Canyon Park is home to numerous planted trees that have continued to proliferate over the years, including the towering eucalypts and lush streamside arroyo willows, along with red columbine, seep monkey flower and horsetail, a "living fossil." Endemic plants include coyote bush and silver mat lupine. Douglas iris, checker bloom, coast poppy, blue-eyed grass, mule's ears that all appear on the eastern slope during our rainy season.

Golden Gate Audubon considers Glen Canyon Park a birding hotspot, and indeed, if you look carefully you may see not just the red-tailed and red-shouldered hawks, and great horned owls, but Northern flickers, Bewick's wren, the elusive wrentit, and many others which stay hidden in the shrubbery. Four-footed animal residents and visitors include skunks, raccoons, and coyotes. San Francisco Rec and Park offers a wonderful map of the trails and access points to the canyon. https:// sfrecpark.org/Facilities/Facility/Details/Glen-Canyon-Trails-399 A north/south walk beginning either east of SOTA on the north boundary, or via paths on either side of the recreation building via the south side on Elk Street, is just over a mile. For those who enjoy a more challenging adventure, SF Rec and Park also offers a "Creek to Peak" trail map on their website. With 3.7 miles of trail within the 60 acres of open space, you can explore many different habitats from creekside to scrublands, with

both seasonal and year round animals and plants.

Another shout-out to Found SF: <u>https://www.foundsf.</u> org/ for all the wonderful historical photos that are accessible to all of us.

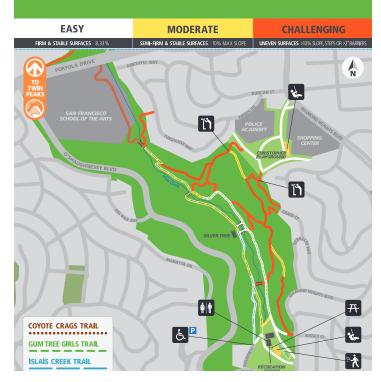
And many thanks to the Glen Park Neighborhood History Project for all the documentation and fascinating facts!

https://glenparkhistory.wixsite.com/ glenparkhistory/glen-canyon-c1cvj





GLEN CANYON PARK





Images from Glen Canyon Park vistas and trails. Historic black & while photo of Glen Park before trees from OpenSFHistory.org

MESSAGE FROM SUPERVISOR MYRNA MELGAR

Myrna Melgar



Hello Miraloma Park Neighbors! I am grateful to the voters of District 7 for electing me as Supervisor. During the past weeks, I am reminded of how precious our Democracy is and how each of us play a role in preserving it. Miraloma Park Improvement Club serves as a gold standard when it comes to demonstrating what a strong, vibrant community can achieve when neighbors come together to look after one another. I am so inspired by the leadership you have shown in community disaster preparedness and neighborhood resiliency. Your foresight and planning truly should be commended as it helped to serve so many neighbors--particularly seniors-- in the Miraloma Park neighborhood when the shelter-in-place started.

I will commit to working with all of you over the next four years to help us recover from the aftermath of this pandemic and improve the lives of people in our District. I will continue former Supervisor Norman Yee's popular District 7 Participatory Budgeting program to empower our residents to decide where our dollars should be best spent and will also work on completing previous years' awarded projects. I will work with all interested neighbors to support all our residents -- including those who have been historically disadvantaged -- to flourish here. I am committed to progress and equality, and will listen and collaborate, with a pragmatic focus on timely achievement of good results. I have been assigned as Chair to the Board of Supervisors' Land Use and Transportation Committee, as well as representing the Board on the First Five Commission, where I hope to support our efforts in early education.

Our District 7 office is up and running virtually, as City Hall is not yet open to the public. Our District 7 staff includes Jen Low, as Chief of Staff, Megan Imperial and Lila Carrillo as legislative aides and Jennifer Fieber as administrative aide. We will strive to be responsive and give the highest level of constituent services to our community. I look forward to working with Miraloma Park neighbors on projects like enhancing the Miraloma playground and improving Westside's access to senior services, pedestrian, bicycle and transportation improvements throughout District 7 and supporting the safety and resilience of neighborhoods and commercial corridors. Please reach out to us at <u>Melgarstaff@sfgov.org</u> if you need anything, and I look forward to working with you over the next four years.

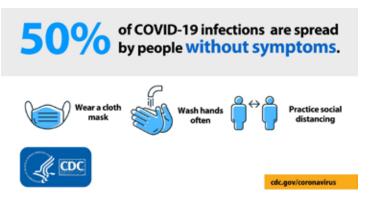
IT'S OFFICIAL: MIRALOMA PARK IMPROVEMENT CLUB IS ON INSTAGRAM

We Want Your Photos & Follows! The Miraloma Park Improvement Club has launched an Instagram account. Registered by the MPIC, **@miralomapark**, we welcome you to like, tag, follow and/or share your images. If you don't have or want your own Instagram account, you are welcome to submit photos to <u>miralomapark@</u> <u>gmail.com</u>. Looking forward to your take on the neighborhood!

DEALING WITH COVID-19 WHAT CAN YOU DO?

MPIC

- Call MPIC at 415-322-0211 or email <u>miralomapark@</u> <u>gmail.com</u> if you know someone who may need help sheltering in place or if you need help doing so (This is only for non-medical needs)
- Look for the latest MPIC COVID-19 Bulletin on MPIC's website (<u>www.miralomapark.org</u>) and MPIC's Nextdoor and Facebook pages
- Visit the City's single site for information about COVID-19 services, benefits, grants to businesses and non-profits, Public Health Orders, etc. <u>https://</u> <u>sf.gov/topics/coronavirus-covid-19</u>
- Comply with the City's and State's "Shelter in Place" Orders
- 5. Get the latest COVID-19 alerts by texting COVID19SF to 888-777
- 6. Sign up at CANotify. Add your phone to California's exposure notification system to get COVID-19 exposure alerts. You will only receive alerts if you were in close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19. Your privacy is protected as your identity is not known and your location is not tracked. <u>https://canotify.ca.gov</u>/
- 7. Consider getting a COVID vaccination. If you want a vaccine, check with your healthcare provider. Or, sign-up with San Francisco's vaccination program, <u>sf.gov/vaccinenotify</u>. SF's vaccine notify program is for people who live an work in San Francisco. After registering, you will receive a confirmation message and you will get a second message when you become eligible to get a vaccine.



The MPIC and NERTs, Block Champions and Miraloma residents are playing an essential role in supporting our vulnerable residents physically and emotionally during this difficult time. We are joining together and make sure our neighborhood stays safe, healthy and strong.



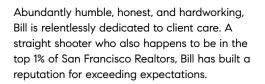
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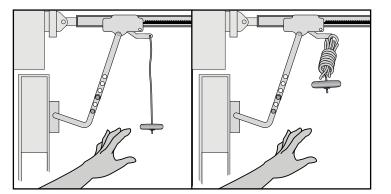
COMPASS

SAFETY TIP TO PREVENT GARAGE BREAK-INS

MPIC Safety Committee

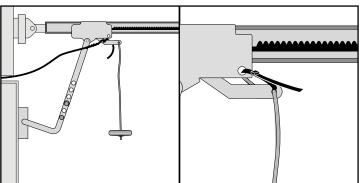
San Francisco, including Miraloma Park, is seeing a rise in garage break-ins. Here are some tips to prevent garage break-ins:

- Have motion-sensitive lighting over your garage, as well as night-time lighting.
- Install surveillance cameras.
- Have a mail slot in your garage door? The mail slot should have a hood to eliminate viewing into the garage.
- Reinforce windows in garage doors with shatter resistant adhesive film.



- Tie your emergency release cord into a small ball to make it more difficult for burglars to reach through a broken garage door window or try to grab with a coat hanger.
- Install an interior manual garage door lock.
- Always close your garage door.
- Do not leave a garage door remote in your car.

SF Safe has security specialists that will walk through your home, at no cost, to discuss ways you can make your home safer and more secure. The specialist provides a free, written report of the recommendations for improvements. To contact SF Safe for this service, fill out a Service Request Form at their website, <u>https://sfsafe.org/</u>.







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MPIC SAFETY COMMITTEE UPDATE

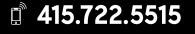
Crime Stats from December 1 - December 31, 2020*

*Partial report, full reports available online

INCIDENT DATE	INCIDENT TIME	INTERSECTION	INCIDENT REPORT
12/01/2020	2:30	Coventry Ln \ Hillcrest CT \ Myra Way	Burglary, Hot Prowl, Forcible Entry
12/01/2020	11:15	Teresita Blvd \ Juanita Way	Theft, Other Property, \$50-\$200
12/01/2020	18:00	Teresita Blvd \ Foerster St	Vehicle, Tampering
12/04/2020	1:00	Melrose Ave \ Detroit St	Theft, From Locked Vehicle, >\$950
12/06/2020	14:00	Bella Vista Way \ Sequoia Way	License Plate, Stolen
12/08/2020	5:20	Encline Ct \ Marietta Dr	Burglary, Hot Prowl, Forcible Entry
12/09/2020	6:03	Marietta Dr \ Reposa Way	Theft, Other Property, <\$50
12/13/2020	17:36	Sydney Way \ Fowler Ave \ Portola Dr	Theft, From Building, <\$50
12/16/2020	2:03	Cresta Vista Dr \ Coventry Ct	Theft, From Locked Vehicle, >\$950
12/19/2020	20:45	Stillings Ave \ Detroit St \ Vista Verde Ct	License Plate, Stolen
12/23/2020	18:30	Bella Vista Way \ Cresta Vista Dr	Theft, Other Property, >\$950
12/24/2020	8:00	Baxter Aly \ Casitas Ave \ Cresta Vista Dr	Theft, Hot Prowl, Forcible Entry
12/26/2020	2:00	Bella Vista Way \ Gaviota Way	Theft, From Locked Vehicle, >\$950
12/28/2020	0:00	Bella Vista Way \ Burlwood Dr	Theft, From Locked Vehicle, >\$950
12/28/2020	18:25	Sydney Way \ Fowler Ave \ Portola Dr	Robbery, Comml. Establ. with Force



Call/Text for a FREE Market Analysis of Your Home







HAPPY VALENTINE'S

GOOD TO KNOW:

The purpose of the Miraloma Park Residential Design Guidelines is to promote quality design and preserving as much as possible, the neighborhood's architectural character.

www.miralomapark.org/neighborhood/design-guidelines

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY FROM A LAND LINE	911
EMERGENCY FROM A MOBILE PHONE	(415) 553-8090
Suicide Prevention Hotline	(415) 781-0500
Poison Control Center	(800) 222-1222
Non-Emergency Police Dispatch	(415) 553-0123
Ingleside Police Community Room	(415) 404-4000
Anonymous Tip Line - Ingleside Police	(415) 587-8984
Anonymous Narcotics Tip Line	(800) CRACKIT
Domestic Family Violence (24hrs)	(800) 799-SAFE
Animal Cruelty, Distress, Injury	(415) 554-9400
Office of Citizen Complaints Against SFPD	(415) 241-7711 https://policecomplaints.sfgov.org/
San Francisco City Services (abandoned vehicles to graffiti clean-up to Muni issues + more)	311 https://sf311.org/
PG+E Call Before You Dig	811
SF Building Dept Code Enforcement Hotline	(415) 575-6863 Planning.CodeEnforcement@sfgov.org
Myrna Melgar, District 7 Supervisor	melgarstaff@sfgov.org
Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services	(415) 554-7111



MIRALOMA PARK IMPROVEMENT CLUB

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Advertising	Kate Clements
Graphics/Layout	Sarah Mergy

Article Submission Policy:

Email submissions to: miralomapark@gmail.com with Miraloma Life in the subject line. Articles submitted must be 800 words or less in length and should not be selling or promoting a product or service. Anonymous submissions will not be considered for publication.

Deadline for submissions is February 12, 2021

Submitted articles become the property of MPIC.