

MIRALOMA LIFE

Issue No. 3

Celebrating, Informing, and Strengthening the Miraloma Park Community

miralomapark.org

March 3

Neighborhood Clean-up

First Tuesday of the month
Meet in front of Tower Market

10am-11:30am

March 5

MPIC Board Meeting

Call 415-322-0211 to request
placement on the agenda

7pm

March 14

Clubhouse Clean-Up

Second Saturday of the month
at the MPIC Clubhouse.

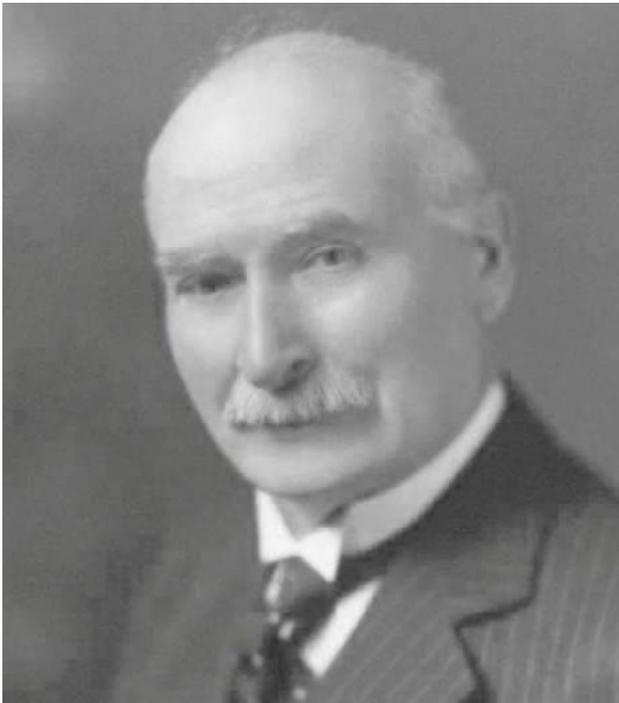
10am-noon

FEATURE

Michael O'Shaughnessy, Engineer Extraordinaire

A BRIEF LOOK AT A SAN FRANCISCO LEGEND

by Kate Clements



There is a through road that passes on the east side of Miraloma Park: O'Shaughnessy Blvd. There is a bit of irony to this, because Michael Maurice O'Shaughnessy, born in County Limerick in Ireland, was instrumental in the development of mass transit in San Francisco in the early 1900's. And much

more. As City Engineer, O'Shaughnessy oversaw creation of most of the Municipal Railway, a high-pressure water system to fight fires, new sewers, boulevards and highways, tunnels, and most famously, the Hetch Hetchy reservoir. So, not just the Muni system. Without his boosterism and a close working relationship with Mayor James Rolph, San Francisco might look quite different today.

According to multiple sources, O'Shaughnessy, born in Ireland to farmers in 1864, excelled at math, and after trying farming, decided instead to go school to train as a civil engineer. Matriculating at four different schools, he graduated from the Royal University of Dublin in 1884.

At first O'Shaughnessy went to London, but finding it difficult to obtain work, left for America with letters of introduction, landing in NYC in March of 1885. He immediately left by rail for California, purchasing a \$70 ticket. According to my inflation calculator, that would be \$2,339 in today's currency, which is pretty close to what it would cost today for a private room on Amtrak. Whether or not he traveled first class I do not know, but I imagine it took more time than it does today.

It took him until the following year to gain employment, despite his letters of introduction, and without the Irish community, employment might have been even more difficult. The worst of the discrimination against the Irish had passed, but there were still many subtle and not so subtle barriers

in existence which may have affected his job prospects. (By the 1880s, the Chinese had become the primary focus of widespread discrimination, along with southern Europeans.) Beginning in 1886, O'Shaughnessy worked as an engineer for two different California railway companies.

He subsequently opened his own practice as a consultant with an office in San Francisco. That led to two consulting jobs for the SF Board of Supervisors in 1891 and 1892, neither of which he was paid for. Surprisingly to me, anyway, he again went to work for the City, in 1893, serving as the chief engineer for the California Midwinter Exposition. (I hope he got paid upfront.) The 1890s were a period of vast economic depression in the US, and the exposition was considered a way to draw attention to the charms and opportunities of California. Other well-known names crop up here: Michael de Young, journalist and businessman (of de Young Museum fame), who was instrumental in getting the U.S. Congress's approval for the exposition to be held in Golden Gate Park, and John McLaren, Golden Gate Park Superintendent, who fought vociferously to block it. There's a tale for another time.

San Francisco was not his only client: he worked on designing railroads for mining, and spent parts of several years in Hawai'i, consulting on water irrigation projects before returning to San Francisco for good. Rather than bog you down in the details of his many consulting jobs and business ventures, and a whole raft of names many San Franciscans will be familiar with, let's turn to 1906, when Mayor Rolph offered him the job of City Engineer.

The job paid what was considered an exorbitant amount for a public employee, but was half the money he was making in private practice. San Francisco had suffered the devastation of a monumental earthquake; the City was in ruins and there were a significant number of projects which needed to be completed as quickly as possible. In his 1934 book, *Hetch Hetchy: Its Origin and History*, O'Shaughnessy wrote: "Two thousand three hundred acres of the city had been destroyed by fire in 1906 and 100,000 people deprived of homes. The reconstruction of public utilities was badly needed and domestic reasons above all, my wife being a native of the city, influenced my decision and favorable consideration of the mayor's proposal."¹

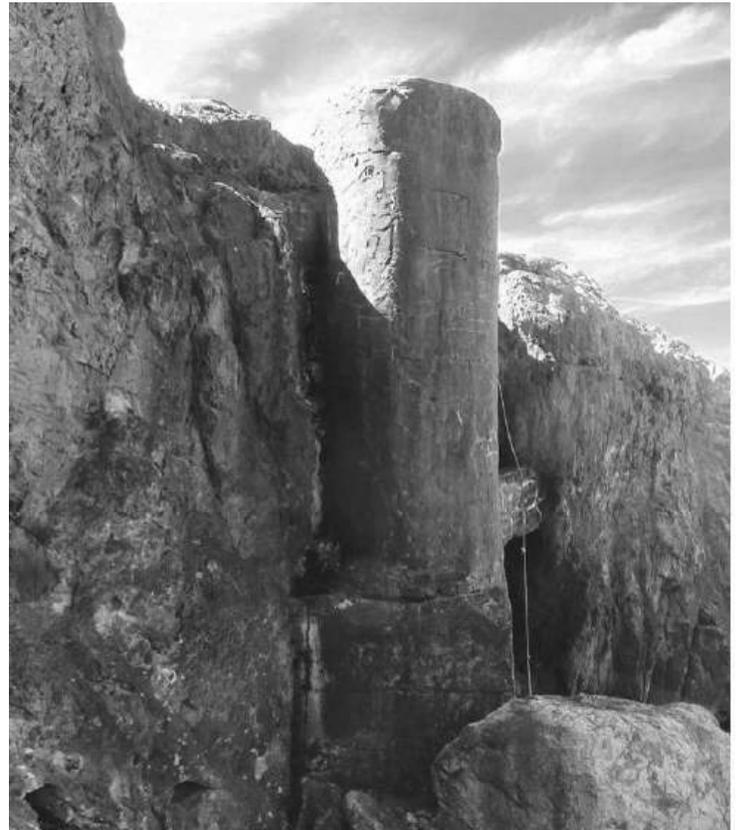
At the very start, there was a huge amount of work to be done developing streetcar lines for the Pan Pacific International Exposition to be held in 1915. O'Shaughnessy drafted those plans. The "A Geary-10th Avenue" line was apparently the first municipally owned streetcar line in any city in the United States. At the time, railways and streetcars were owned by private corporations. The private owners were loath to lose their streetcar monopolies, for obvious reasons. Many streetcar lines were built by the City to supplement the existing private lines so the entire PPIE fair was accessible to the hundreds of thousands of visitors who came during its run. Following the exposition, O'Shaughnessy turned to extending

new Municipal Railway lines into areas with no service, including the Mission District and the Outer Sunset, Parkside, and Ingleside districts. The Twin Peaks Tunnel was blasted, a monumental undertaking.



First car through the Twin Peaks Tunnel, driven by Mayor Rolph, emerging at West Portal., Feb 3, 1918

All these projects were financed from operating income and from assessments on the properties along the tracks. San Francisco's present streetcar system - the J, K, L, M, and N lines - were completed by O'Shaughnessy between 1915 and 1927. O'Shaughnessy also completed the work begun under his predecessors to rebuild the city's fire-fighting water and sewer services. One of these is Mile Rock Tunnel. The tunnel



still travels from Cabrillo Street northward under 48th Ave to its outfall near Mile Rock Beach. Used only operationally as an emergency overflow system today, at the time of its construction it was considered a true feat of engineering, utilizing a number of firsts in its construction.

The largest, and inarguably the most impactful and controversial project of O'Shaughnessy's tenure was undoubtedly the Hetch Hetchy project, which even today is responsible for 85% of the water used not just by San Francisco, but surrounding counties and municipalities as well. First proposed in the 1890s by a civil engineer working for San Francisco, the idea was championed by then Mayor James Phelan. Public ownership of water was seen as a good; private water monopolies were considered dangerous by many. However, the Sierra Club and John Muir decried the attempt to dam Hetch Hetchy Valley, saying: "These temple-destroyers, devotees of ravaging commercialism, seem to have a perfect contempt for Nature, and instead of lifting their eyes to the

God of the mountains, lift them to the Almighty Dollar. Dam Hetch Hetchy! As well dam for water-tanks the people's cathedrals and churches, for no holier temple has ever been consecrated by the heart of man."²

No matter. The earthquake and subsequent growth of San Francisco and nearby cities and towns meant water was needed, and the sympathies of the general public eventually sided with the plan. After many years of fighting, the Raker Act was signed in 1913 by President Woodrow Wilson, allowing the dam to be built within Yosemite National Park. O'Shaughnessy would oversee the construction and design details of the Hetch Hetchy project, and the eponymous dam. Work began in 1914, with construction of the dam itself beginning in 1919. The system of pipes, aqueducts and reservoirs stretching close to 160 miles was finally completed in 1934. Water flowed into San Francisco just 16 days after O'Shaughnessy, aged 70, died of a heart attack. Writing to a friend four days before his death, he said: "No Irishman you ever heard of has run away from a fight and I have had all the entertainment of that kind that any countryman of mine could desire in the last twenty years."³



¹ Martha Brennan, *The Irish Star*, 02/26/23.

² *The Yosemite* (1912).

³ Nora-Ide McAuliffe, *The Irish Times*, 2/26/2018.

Notes:

I consulted several websites including streetcar.org, Wikipedia.org, OutsideLands.org, and the above book and newspapers.

To continue your dive into San Francisco history:
https://www.streetcar.org/fair_please_streetcars_to_the/

All about Twin Peaks Tunnel:
<https://www.outsidelands.org/twin-peaks-tunnel.php>



Before and after photos of Hetch Hetchy and O'Shaughnessy Dam



President's Message

by Robert Gee, President

Thank you to everyone who have recently joined or renewed your MPIC memberships. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Young Miraloma Families Are Stepping Up

So far, it has been a very exciting and refreshing start in 2026. I've had the wonderful opportunity to recently meet with many new Miraloma families with very young children. These are families that have expressed interest and volunteered to help the MPIC foster ways to increase representation and creative programming for young families. The desire to hold block parties to strengthen neighbor connections was a recurring theme which MPIC wants to continue supporting.

I want to thank Wendy Lai and her sons, Chris and Danny, for volunteering at our February Second Saturday clubhouse workday. They helped with the weeding and trimming around the grounds as well as helped move some of our neighborhood disaster supplies. More importantly, I learned about their interests in community engagement and how the middle school boys want to create opportunities, with the help of their friends, to help in Miraloma Park throughout the year.

A Massive 104 Foot AT&T Cell Tower in Diamond Heights

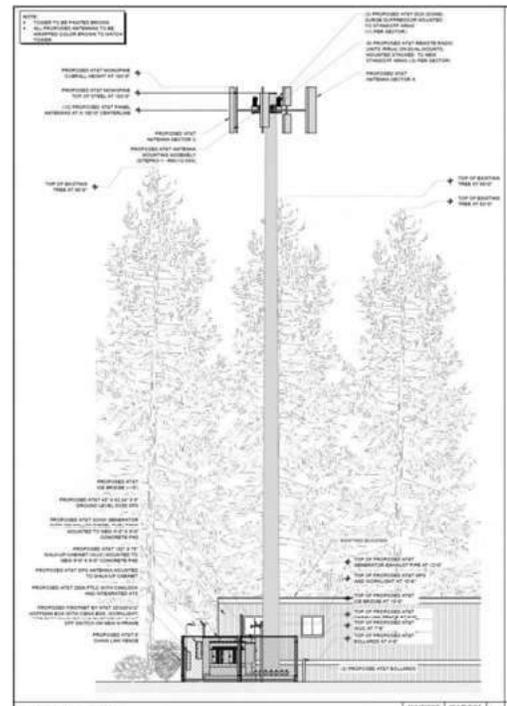
On February 10, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted to deny the two appeals filed by the Diamond Heights Community Association (DHCA) against the 104' tall cell phone macro tower proposed by AT&T at the San Francisco Police Academy at 350 Amber Drive.

In September 2025, the San Francisco Planning Commission voted to approve the AT&T proposal despite significant opposition from community members across Diamond Heights.

In October 2025, DHCA filed two appeals against the Planning Commission decision:

- **CEQA (environmental):** based on the justification that the project was simply too large for the residential community and parks (among other environmental concerns).
- **CUA (conditional use authorization):** based on the justification that the project in its proposed form was unnecessary, undesirable and incompatible with Diamond Heights and the General Plan of San Francisco.

AT&T said it needed this tower to provide adequate service to its customers in the area. Sup. Rafael Mandelman, who represents the Diamond Heights area, said that under the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the city had no choice but to allow this tower. Federal law limits the ability of cities to reject even monstrous cell towers as long as the provider has made an effort to seek alternatives, which AT&T claims it did. Supervisor Connie Chan was the only supervisor who voted to support the neighbors.



The proposed tower would rise above the trees in a residential area

The MPIC Board voted to support Diamond Heights' appeals as the Planning Commission's decision opens the door to allowing more massive cell towers throughout the City including in Miraloma Park. I want to thank long time Miraloma resident Kevin O'Connor for making the trek down to City Hall to attend the Board of Supervisors hearing and to give the MPIC's public comment in support of the appeals.

No timelines have been provided by AT&T regarding construction of the tower or when it will go into service.

A Resilient Miraloma Park

On January 29, 2026, the MPIC hosted 25 fellow SFFD

Battalion 9 NERTs from Miraloma Park and the west side. One of the guest speakers was the SFFD Battalion Chief from the Ocean Avenue fire station. I want to thank Mike Kelly, Sunnyside NERT coordinator, who is our new lead for Battalion 9 NERTs for 2026.

On February 2, 2026, we had another successful bimonthly Miraloma Park emergency radio operators drill led by Guido Van Rijn with 22 participants. There are over 45 Miraloma emergency radio operators with two-way radios provided by the MPIC.

On February 26, 2026, the MPIC hosted a Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) training at the clubhouse for our Miraloma Park block champions and emergency radio operators. MYN is a nationwide program adopted by many U.S. cities and fire departments. This training will help us get Miraloma Park prepared for disasters large and small. I want to thank Sue Brown who instructed the class. Sue, with the support of SFFD, has conducted over 300 MYN presentations here in the City.

I want to welcome our newest volunteers, Barbara Schoefel and Jill Sweringe, who will serve as co-leads for our Care and Shelter team. One of the goals of our Care and Shelter team is to help the vulnerable residents of Miraloma Park in times of stress and disaster.

Miraloma Seniors

On March 18 at 1 pm, the MPIC and the Community Living Campaign are co-hosting a Senior Community Connectors presentation at the clubhouse: “Tips from a Nurse: Making the Most of Your Doctor’s Visit” led by Arete Nichols, RN and Gerontologist. Miraloma seniors and seniors from other Community Connector neighborhoods are invited.

MPIC Safety

I have appointed MPIC Board member Matt Boschetto to serve as the interim MPIC Safety Committee Chair. We are looking for more volunteers to serve on the Safety Committee. Learn more at our Safety Committee web page at <https://miralomapark.org/what-we-do/safety-committee/>.

MPIC Board Approves New Anti-discrimination Policy

The MPIC board just approved our new anti-discrimination and anti-harassment policy to apply to all MPIC officers, board members, volunteers, employees, contractors and event participants. Having this policy is fundamental to good governance, as it establishes ethical standards, ensures legal compliance, and fosters a fair, inclusive environment. The new policy can be found on our website under the About tab. I want to thank MPIC Vice President Patti Moran for drafting the policy.

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GET INVOLVED

Miraloma Park Residents are Welcome and Encouraged To Attend the MPIC Board Meetings

We hold our board meetings on the first Thursday of each month (except for July) at the MPIC clubhouse starting at 7 pm. if you can't attend in person, we offer a Zoom option. Email us at miralomapark@gmail.com to let us know you would like to attend the next board meeting via Zoom as well as your name and contact info and we will send you the Zoom link.

Participatory Budgeting Applications Closes on March 20, 2026 at 11:59 pm!

by MPIC

Participatory Budget is back and the application period is now open. Participatory Budgeting (PB) is a democratic process in which community members propose projects and collectively decide how to spend part of a public budget. This year, Supervisor Melgar is looking for bold and innovative ideas as well as necessary neighborhood improvement projects. Grants awarded will now receive up to \$50,000 in funding. A total of \$400,000 will be available for general projects and a total of \$150,000 will be available for the category of Vision Zero.

Do you have a proposal for Miraloma Park that fits into one of the four categories listed below? **Your proposal must be submitted by neighborhood associations like the MPIC, non-profits, merchant groups, or institutions located in District 7. If you wish to have your proposal submitted through the MPIC, please email your completed proposal to the MPIC at miralomapark@gmail.com no later than March 13 so that we have enough time to evaluate it before the March 20 deadline.**

To read more about the timeline, deadlines, and details of the PB process and to submit your application, visit the PB website at: <https://sites.google.com/view/d7participatorybudgeting/home?authuser=0>

2026 APPLICATION TIMELINE

- Project Proposal Period: February 9 - March 20, 2026
- Department Review Period: March 21 - May 1, 2026
- Community Review Period: May 2 - May 17, 2026
- Voting Period: May 18 - June 1, 2026
- Announcement of Winners: June 8 - June 12, 2026
- Funds Released to Departments: Fall 2026

ELIGIBILITY

Successful project proposals will meet all of the following criteria for eligibility:

- Proposals must be submitted by neighborhood associations like the MPIC, non-profits, merchant groups, or institutions located in District 7.
 - Authoring entities not located in District 7 will be ineligible.
 - Individual residents and businesses must be sponsored by an organization.
- **Proposals should fit into one of the following categories:**

- **Health & Safety -- public safety, public health investments**
- **Neighborhood Beautification -- murals and maintenance of public space**
- **Vision Zero – traffic calming, crosswalks, public parklets**
- **Let’s go San Francisco -- vibes, baby!**
- Proposals must be for new projects that respond to a demonstrated community need.
 - Only one proposal per author/group can be submitted.
 - Proposals must align with at least one of the four priority area categories listed above.
 - Proposals must be a one-time expenditure.
 - Proposals must benefit District 7 residents.
 - Proposals must receive a minimum of 400 votes to be eligible for funding.

SUBMISSION PROCESS

All proposals must be submitted through the Google Form in the PB website. Proposals must include all of the following to be considered:

- Contact information for the proposer and project lead (if different)
- Detailed description of the proposed project
- Detailed budget for the proposed project
- Priority Area(s) addressed
- Neighborhoods and or communities served
- Description of community support for proposed project

SELECTION PROCESS

A committee of District 7 residents and community members from across the District who have subject-matter expertise will review and score proposals.

The 2026 Community Review Committee will be listed in the PB website when it becomes available.



Are you 55 or older? We invite you to join us at Community Connectors, our senior program in Miraloma Park. We have weekly programs, exciting gatherings and guest speakers.

**Wednesday, March 18 at 1:00 PM
At the MPIC Clubhouse**

**Tips from a Nurse: Making the Most of your Doctor's Visit
Speaker: Arete Nichols, RN, Gerontologist**



Doctor's appointments go more smoothly, and you'll benefit more from them when you prepare before you arrive. Learn what to bring, how to report significant symptoms and why it's always important to seek clarification and follow up.

Arete will review twelve essential tips for preparing to make the most of your medical appointment so that you may live feeling better.

Strength and Balance Exercise Classes

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:30 am at Cornerstone Church

Ukulele Class

Tuesdays at 2 pm at the MPIC Clubhouse

Questions?

Please contact Joyce Watson at joyce@sfcommunityliving.org or by phone at 415-821-1003 ext 137.



COMMUNITY CONNECTOR NETWORKS ARE PROGRAMS OF
Community Living Campaign, 1663 Mission St., Suite 525, San Francisco, CA 94103
415-821-1003 • ccnetworks@sfcommunityliving.org • www.sfcommunityliving.org
www.facebook.com/CommunityLivingCampaign

This program serving the community is funded by the City of San Francisco's Department of Disability and Aging Services. We also rely on private grants and donations to fund about 30% of our Community Connector Networks.



SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
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<https://sfpl.discoverandgo.net/>

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OR BY MAIL:

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NEW MEMBER RENEWING MEMBER Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Enclosed are my dues for the next 12 months (check one):

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$12 Senior Member | <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"/> \$100 Sustaining Member |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____ Other |

PLEASE SEND ME AN EMAIL REMINDER TO RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP!

Miraloma Life Survey

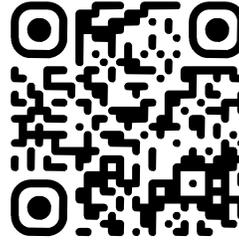
by MPIC

Since 1954, the MPIC has published a free 12 page newsletter, Miraloma Life, delivered monthly, 10 months per year. Miraloma Life and the website are published by members of the Publicity Committee, the President, and Ron Proctor, our web master. At the present time, the Publicity Committee is considering various ways to continue with Miraloma Life, but perhaps differently than the currently printed 10 editions per year. Nothing has been decided: that is why we are running this survey. Your opinion matters.

We are asking you, our readers, to please answer the following questions. Your personal replies will not be tracked. We are looking only at the aggregate response. Please do not reply more than once, as we want the most accurate reflection of the community at large. You may answer in any of the following ways: by linking to the QR code embedded in this newsletter; by email to feedback@miralomapark.org; or by phoning your answer to our MPIC phone number: 415-322-0211.

Miraloma Life Survey

1. Do you read Miraloma Life every month it is published? Please answer Yes or No
2. Would you be willing to donate your time/money to help with the publishing of the newsletter? Please answer Yes or No
3. Would you read Miraloma Life if it were solely published online? Please answer Yes or No



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MPIC Safety Committee Update

Crime Stats from January 1-January 31, 2026

Date	Time	Incident #	Description	Status	Intersection
1/6/2026	6:22 PM	260011401	Miscellaneous Investigation	Open or Active	MARNE AVE \ PORTOLA DR
1/8/2026	8:39 AM	260013190	Restraining Order Notification/Service of Restraining Order	Open or Active	EL SERENO CT \ MARIETTA DR
1/10/2026	11:25 AM	260018043	Trespassing	Cite or Arrest Adult	EL SERENO CT \ MARIETTA DR
1/13/2026	1:30 PM	260030194	Suspicious Occurrence	Open or Active	PORTOLA DR \ TERESITA BLVD
1/13/2026	5:51 PM	260013190	Stay Away or Court Order, Non-DV Related	Open or Active	EL SERENO CT \ RIO CT
1/16/2026	6:00 PM	260040789	Suspicious Occurrence	Open or Active	MARIETTA DR \ TERESITA BLVD
1/20/2026	11:34 AM	260013190	Restraining Order Notification / Service of Restraining Order	Cite or Arrest Adult	EL SERENO CT \ RIO CT
1/24/2026	11:12 AM	260045933	Vehicle, Impounded	Open or Active	EL SERENO CT \ MARIETTA DR
1/26/2026	11:00 AM	260049678	Aided Case -Property for Destruction	Open or Active	LOS PALMOS DR \ STANFORD HEIGHTS AVE
1/31/2026	5:25 PM	260061274	Aided Case	Open or Active	LOS PALMOS DR \ LULU ALY

prepared by Mathew Wong, MPIC Safety Committee

ANNOUNCEMENT

Clubhouse Clean-Up

MPIC's Second Saturdays to clean up the Clubhouse grounds continues. This month's date is **March 14**. The event takes place from 10 a.m. to noon. Come join us! Meet your neighbors! Rain cancels.



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Corresponding Secretary	Cary Matthews
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Todd Siemers	Darlene Ramlose
Daniel Louie	Stephanie Boudreau Ma
Mary Fitzpatrick	Cary Matthews
Patti Moran	Matt Boschetto
Kate Clements	Jessi Harrison
Johnny Grist	

Programs at the MPIC Clubhouse

Jazzercise

Wednesday and Saturday 9:00am
Monday 5pm
650 888 6129
sbjazzercise@comcast.net

Changs International Folk Dancing

7:00–10:00pm Friday
One hour lessons on the first and second
Fridays of each month.
changsdancers@aol.com

Fort Mason Artists

Learn to sculpt, paint and draw
Monday 6:15–10:15pm
Friday 10:00am–2:00pm,
2:30–5:30pm
Konrad Dunton; 650 868 6336
Fortmasonartists.org

Ukulele Class

Tuesdays 2:00pm–3:00pm
abbymmargolis@yahoo.com

Mary L. Harden Botanical Drawing

Monday 10:00am–1:30pm
maryharden@me.com

Figure Drawing from the Live Model with Linda Hope

Saturday 11am–2:30pm
415 334 3603
Lindahope.art@gmail.com

Grace and Truth Baptist Church

10am–2pm Sundays Pre service coffee
7pm–9pm Tuesdays (2nd, 4th)
7pm–9pm Wednesdays (1st, 3rd, 5th)
SFBaptist.church / Faithsaves.net

Guide Dogs For The Blind

2nd/4th Wednesdays 7:00 – 8:30pm
info@gdbsanfranciscopuppyraisers.com
or guidedogs.com/puppy

MPIC Directory

www.miralomapark.org

General Inquires for MPIC	(415) 322-0211
Clubhouse Manager + Rentals	(415) 322-0211
Webmaster: Ron Proctor	(415) 322-0211

Miraloma Life Staff

Contact: miralomapark@gmail.com
(415) 322-0211

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