

## Parking Solution on Dorking Place

By Laurie Guitteau

As reported in the last MCA Newsletter, the county plans to improve traffic safety in Mission Canyon, especially in Mission Canyon Heights, through consistent regulation of on-street parking to meet Fire Code requirements, a move that will drastically reduce the number of legal parking spaces. Bill McCullough, an MCA board member who lives on Dorking Place, discovered that the current plan would eliminate more than 50 percent of on-street parking on his street, including areas where neighbors had provided cutouts into their property. While McCullough supports the concept of improved safety, he felt that the one-size-fits-all approach would reduce property values. Rather than whine, he contacted his neighbors and organized a meeting with County Planning to review the problem and seek a compromise that would save parking without compromising safety.

After actually walking the road with neighbors, County Planning agreed to accept a minimum of an 18-foot width in place of the 20-foot minimum requested by County Fire, which would preserve all but three or

four spaces. The residents also felt the compromise would provide safe ingress and egress yet retain the neighborhood feel of Dorking Place. They also preferred this solution to a one-way street option, which the Fire Department had okay'd and would only need a 15-foot lane. The neighbors supported painting fog lines on the road to ensure safe parking and stated they'd rather not have a centerline.

The next step is to do an environmental impact study and then present it to the Supervisors for approval. If the striping concept is approved, County Planning will work with the neighborhood to help determine judicious placement of the striping. At that time, or sooner, vegetation will need to be cleared to the edge of the pavement to maximize the available road width and will need to be maintained that way in the future.

Bravo, Bill, for being proactive and negotiating a solution that benefits everyone!

Sadly, the MCPAC meetings last year in April, July, September, and November to review the parking proposals in the Mission Canyon Community Plan were poorly attended. We encourage all residents, especially those living in the Heights, to be aware

of the width of your road and how your street parking will be impacted if fog lines are painted at the 20-foot width. You may examine the maps being used for this process and details about how the change will affect your street at [longrange.sbcountyplanning.org/planareas/mission\\_canyon/documents/Parking%20Strategy%20Project/Updated%20Parking%20Maps%2012-16-09.pdf](http://longrange.sbcountyplanning.org/planareas/mission_canyon/documents/Parking%20Strategy%20Project/Updated%20Parking%20Maps%2012-16-09.pdf).

Once those fog lines are in, all legal parking must be to the right of those lines. If you, like Bill McCullough, foresee a problem, contact your neighbors and together devise an alternative proposal that is consistent with safety and present it to County Planning whose staff members are eager to work with the residents. Contact Rosie Dyste at the Office of Long Range Planning, [rdyste@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:rdyste@co.santa-barbara.ca.us), or Peter Imhof, [pimhof@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:pimhof@co.santa-barbara.ca.us), to set up a meeting or for information.

In addition, County Public Works will work with homeowners to create more parking that is outside the 20-foot minimum but within the county right-of-way. To do this, you will need an encroachment permit.

## Wildflowers!

Sunflowers and coreopsis and lupin are everywhere, and it's only February. Dr. Robert Muller, director of research at the Botanic Garden, tells us that not only is there more sun due to the loss of trees and other dense vegetation, but many seeds germinate best when smoke and ash are present. Just shows that there are silver linings ...

To take advantage of the open canopy, make *Food Not Lawns'* seed balls and use a slingshot to shoot them up and down slopes. Seed balls are a simple mixture of seed, red clay, and compost, wetted and patted into small round balls, then dried for 24 hours. The mixture protects the seeds from bugs and birds, and the slingshot sends them further than you can throw, just in time for the last of the El Niño rains expected in March and April.



# Seeking Mission Canyon's Past

By Randy Reetz

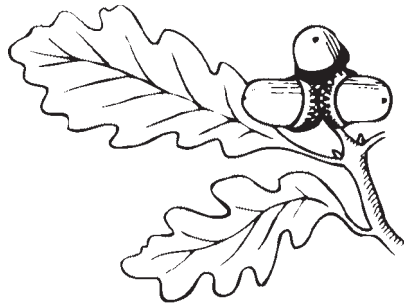
**O**ddly enough, our Mission Canyon has been generally overlooked in the many historical studies dealing with Santa Barbara. We have hundreds of books about the Spanish system of presidios and missions, the Chumash presence along our coasts, Fremont and statehood, the grand estates of Montecito, Pearl Chase, earthquakes, and the decline and fall of the *Santa Barbara News-Press*. But nothing about historic Mission Canyon and the people who shaped this community and the footprints they left behind.

Until now, anyway. Hidden deep inside the Mission Canyon Community Plan is something called "Goal HA-MC" which sets forth a goal of preserving and protecting historically significant landscapes, Places of Historic Merit or Landmarks, and other cultural, archaeological and historical resources in Mission Canyon. In furtherance of this goal, and with some financial support from the County Historical Landmarks Advisory Commission and the Mission Canyon Association, Michel Nellis, a professional historian, with the assistance of a few volunteers, including myself, undertook an extensive survey of Mission Canyon's origins beginning with the early Chumash settlements and continuing up to the present time.

The survey covered every property in the lower Canyon below Foothill, as well

as the historic properties lying along Mission Canyon Road and through the Mission Creek watershed. Most interesting, the survey traced back our earliest settlers ranging from the laborers and farmers who provided services to the Mission fathers, then to the artists, authors, potters and craftsmen who plied their crafts here in Mission Canyon, and then to the families such as Rogers, Gane, Dreyfus and Williams who built their dream homes here in what then would have been Santa Barbara's hinterlands. Crackpots and visionaries lived here side by side with doctors, architects, bankers and lawyers.

Ms. Nellis' work is comprised of two weighty volumes, heavy with old photos, personal profiles, genealogies, and tales of early Canyon life. As more information is collected, the project will expand and deepen. Canyon residents interested in this project and who wish to contribute their skills and expertise should feel free to contact Randy Reetz, 451-4067, or [rreetz@cox.net](mailto:rreetz@cox.net).



# Support Our Firefighters

By Laurie Guitteau

**C**alifornia's budget woes are old news, but these woes are rearing their ugly head in Santa Barbara County as our Fire Department faces a possible \$6.8 million budget deficit for 2010-2011, according to the presentation Chief Michael Dyer made to the County Supervisors on February 23. Fire was one of many county departments that outlined the cuts necessary to meet an overall 7 percent budget cut to the supervisors, who will now study the proposals in order to make their final decisions, probably in late May or early June.

This process is a heads-up for Mission Canyon residents because we could lose valuable services. MCA encourages all residents to contact the Board of Supervisors to insist that this is NOT the time to cut funds for fire protection and to express support for full funding of the Fire Department.

Chief Dyer outlined a list of 12 potential cuts and their impacts, ranging from a delay

in replacing equipment to reassigning personnel out of firehouses and into the general "firefighter with suitcase" pool. County Fire now receives 50 percent less funding from the County General Fund than it did three years ago and has two fewer safety positions than it did 20 years ago. Chief Dyer, new to Santa Barbara, commented on how impressed he was with the efficiency of our Fire Department, which must work with a budget based on 11 percent of its district property taxes, compared to Ventura County at 15 percent, and Los Angeles County's 17 percent. Chief Dyer encouraged the supervisors to pursue the legislation required by Prop. 13 to make Santa Barbara County Fire's budget more proportional to surrounding counties'.

County Fire needs our support during early May, before the next round of budget talks. Send letters to Supervisors Janet Wolf, Doreen Farr, Joni Gray, and Joe Centeno at 105 East Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101. Email addresses can be found at [countyofsb.org/bos](http://countyofsb.org/bos). Keep your eyes open for

# Neighbors to the Rescue



PHOTO: Albert da Costa

**T**he cheerful foursome above just dug up a load of plants to use in restoring a Jesusita-destroyed property. Top-of-Tunnel-Road dwellers Karen and Nancy Keltner (on left) contacted Tom Jacobs, chair of MCA's architectural review board, and his wife and partner, Cass Ensberg, for help wrangling with their insurance company over professional services. As the architects learned the extent of the Keltners' loss, Ensberg (second from right) offered to round up her Garden Volunteers, including Georganne Alex (right), to help at least restore their garden. "It gave me great joy to cut away at some of my greens knowing that they were going to a new home," said Alex. "It just felt good to do something simple that held promise."—JY

budget news. Attend the meetings if you can. Our 1st District Supervisor Salud Carbajal knows the importance of the Fire Department to us, but some of the others do not represent districts where fire safety is so crucial. Supervisor Carbajal can be reached at 568-2186, [SupervisorCarbajal@sbcbos1.org](mailto:SupervisorCarbajal@sbcbos1.org).

You can show your support for our firefighters in more tangible ways, too. Send a donation to the Santa Barbara Firefighters Alliance, the county and city fire departments' fund-raising arm which was responsible for purchasing the night-vision goggles used by helicopter pilots during the Tea Fire. Check out [sbfirefightersalliance.org](http://sbfirefightersalliance.org), where 100 percent of donations go to procure the things the Fire Departments and rescue teams need. Your donation to the Alliance will help preserve the Fire Departments' manpower budgets. Spread the word to your friends who live in other parts of our county and city.

Let your voice be heard as we all work to keep our canyon safe.



### Good-bye, Ed

With the departure of CEO Ed Schneider from the leadership of the Botanic Garden in June, the future of the Garden's relations with its neighbors may be brighter. Schneider has long been associated with the expansion plans the Garden has promoted during the past two decades, which have angered Mission Canyon preservationists. After spending \$3.8 million on the most recent of three increasingly scaled-down plans, Schneider is moving on to a directorship at the U of Minnesota's arboretum. His leaving, however, does not necessarily mean development plans will stop.

The Garden needs a number of improvements to remain abreast of other internationally recognized botanical gardens, said Dr. Bill Koonce, a member of the Garden's Board of Trustees. Controversial improvements, like paving dirt paths to assist wheelchair-bound visitors, are necessary, stated Koonce, who, as a geriatric specialist, knows from wheelchairs.

The latest twist in the rocky road to county approval of the Garden's plans are appeals of the Planning Commission's October decision by the Coastal Chumash Band, Friends of Mission Canyon, and Mission Canyon Association. At the county-required facilitation process between MCA and the Garden in January, compromises were suggested, but negotiations broke down. The appeals are currently set for May 4 before the Board of Supervisors.—JY

### Cheltenham Closure

A storm drain project on Cheltenham Road will reduce the area between Foothill Road and Windsor to one lane for about five weeks. From approximately March 22 through April 23, Lash Construction will be burying runoff pipes under the edge of Cheltenham. At some time during the project, the placement of a manhole will temporarily close Cheltenham completely. During construction flagmen

will direct traffic, but the road will be open when the workday is over. Windsor residents can access their homes via Foothill Road, while Cheltenham residents are advised to enter through Tye Road.—JY

### Pine Beetle Borers

While helping a couple Heights homeowners take down some 50-foot pine trees, we learned what's been killing these trees. Arborist Richard Mason told one homeowner that a fungus carried by beetles piggybacks its way into the pines, traveling through the tree's inner tissues and causing the needles to begin turning brown. Once established, there's little you can do to stop the fungus' spread. Ag scientists speculate that a hybrid pine may be the only way to combat this particular disease.

The bore beetle and fungus attack are usually secondary problems for the tree, Udy Loza, the county's urban forester, told us, because the tree is probably 40 to 100 years old and just weaker and susceptible to disease. Environmental changes, such as fire, flood, or root cutting from construction, can also weaken the trees' resistance. The Monterey pines have been the most affected trees from here to the Bay Area, and the best solution is to avoid planting them.

Felling a number of very large pines and eucs ate up a good chunk of MCA's Fire Safe Council grant for 2009, and was money well spent as these trees could have blocked Cheltenham, Glen Albyn, and Mission Canyon roads if they had weakened further and fallen. The grant program needs a new grant manager as its current ad hoc administrators are themselves weakened by age and a susceptibility to overwork. Please contact Jean Yamamura ([jean.yamamura@gmail.com](mailto:jean.yamamura@gmail.com)) if you have experience writing or administering grants and are able to volunteer your time.—JY

### Creek Viewing

Two webcams are up and running, providing a view down Mission Creek. The USGS-installed camera at the debris dam on the 1400 block of Tunnel Road is viewable at [ca.water.usgs.gov/webcams/missioncr/](http://ca.water.usgs.gov/webcams/missioncr/). The Mission Canyon Association webcam monitors potential flooding and mud flows at the junction of Mission and Rattlesnake Creeks; residents may view at [mcawebcam.axiscam.net:1500](http://mcawebcam.axiscam.net:1500).

After the rain season, the webcam will be moved to its permanent home on TV Hill where it will monitor Mission Canyon

for early signs of wildfires. The webcam is one result of the Fire Safe Grant awarded to MCA last year.

MCA is pleased to receive partial support from Cox Communications for a dedicated Web hosting connection, making it feasible to stream live webcam video data of creek flooding and fire watch to canyon residents.—Ralph Daniel

### Slow Progress

Mother Nature is recovering much faster from the fire than homeowners. As of February 4, only six building permits have been issued for homes, though 12 have been issued for accessory buildings and repairs. Thirteen other homeowners are in various stages of moving forward. Recovery is a slow and complicated process.

For those of us fortunate enough to have homes that survived, don't be complacent! We have been blessed with lots of rain this year, but that means we will have even more vegetation. Make vegetation clearance part of your plans for late spring.

Our new County Fire Chief, Michael Dyer, plans to actively enforce vegetation management guidelines. Invite Station 15 to evaluate your property for fire hazards. Replacing a wooden fence, removing a tree, installing a sprinkler system can make a huge difference. My husband and I are convinced that our house survived Jesusita because we acted on advice we got from Station 15 on a fire inspection.—LG

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\*Chair of committee

The MCA Newsletter was prepared with the help of Lee Anne Dollison, graphics, production and photography.



# MISSION CANYON ASSOCIATION

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## Your MCA Newsletter Spring 2010

The Dorking Place Solution  
MCA Annual Meeting, April 22

MCA Dues Payment Due Today! Please Support MCA's Work!

### Speaking of Parking

Did you know that you could use the two large turnouts on Mission Canyon Road just above Foothill for overflow parking for special events? Both areas are posted "No Parking" because County Transportation wants them open and clear, especially during winter, to use for materials and equipment as necessary. However, residents can fill out a Special Event Permit with County Transportation to request parking for their event. Obviously, this needs to be done well in advance, but it gives residents a safe alternative for parking for a special occasion. Thank Fran Galt, an Andante Road resident, for alerting us to this.—LG

### New Street Names

Since the county has asked residents to propose new street names for long driveways on the 1100 and 1200 blocks of Tunnel Road and also along Foothill, some wags on Palomino, who must also rename their road, have proposed "Junkyard View Road." The process of renaming private roads should be formalized soon with residents receiving official notice and instructions from P&D and County Fire.—JY

## C A L E N D A R

- March 2** **MCA Board Meeting**, open to the public. MacVeagh House, S.B. Museum of Natural History, 2559 Puesta del Sol. 7:30 p.m.
- Mar. 22–Apr. 23** **Cheltenham Storm Drain Project**. Intermittent road closures. Details at page 3, "Cheltenham Closure".
- April 6** **MCA Board Meeting**, open to the public. MacVeagh House, S.B. Museum of Natural History, 7:30 p.m.
- April 22** **MCA Annual Meeting**. Natural History Museum expansion, parking strategies, rebuilding progress, and more. Fleischmann Auditorium, S.B. Museum of Natural History, 2559 Puesta del Sol. 6:30 p.m.
- May 4** **Santa Barbara Botanic Garden Vital Mission Plan Appeals**. County Board of Supervisors hears appeals and takes public comment. Supervisors' Hearing Room, 4th Floor, County Building, 105 W. Anapamu St. 9 a.m.
- May 4** **MCA Board Meeting**, open to the public. MacVeagh House, S.B. Museum of Natural History, 7:30 p.m.
- June 1** **MCA Board Meeting**, open to the public. MacVeagh House, S.B. Museum of Natural History, 7:30 p.m.
- June 12** **MCA Annual Brush Day**. S.B. Woman's Club, Rockwood, parking lot. For MCA members only. Dues accepted at parking lot (\$25). Residents using contractors, please come to Rockwood with first load to verify residence. 9am-3pm.