

Miraleste Hills Community Association/ 2024 Annual Meeting

November 18, 2024, at 7:30 PM PST via Zoom

Website: MiralesteHills.org

In Attendance:

Board members:

President: Lauren Babek

Vice President: Larry Rubin

Secretary: Nancy K. Brigden

Treasurer: Di Grossett

Member at Large: Al Cellier

Community Volunteers:

Communications Liaison: Anthony Todora

Landscaping Liaison: Beth Phillips

Flock Camera System: Michael Phillips

Welcome Committee: Michael & Kathleen Gibbs -Unable to attend.

Neighbors in attendance: Linda Rubin, Beverly Palmer, Sharon Amos, Ann & Rick **Wold**, Jeff Rudolph, John & Elisa Dicarolo, Laura Rabb, Elaine Denham, Julie & Sam Aschidamini, Nicola & John Schneider, Priya & Janesh (**last name?**), Norm & Gisele Herrington, George & Olympia Harris, Steve & Heather Fowler, Dr. Gail Shibayama, Matthew Agajanian, Vince **DiMeglio**, and Tanner Bennett (Lauren Babek's husband).

Financial report- Di Grossett

- Di Grossett: 2024 MHCA finance review
 - The financial report is attached.
 - This year, our expenses were higher than last year because the trees by the fountain needed trimming, some sprinklers needed repair, and the fountain needed a deep clean.
 - Dues: 74% of residents have paid their dues. That is close to the amount collected in previous years.
 - Dues help maintain the fountain and are for social events.
 - Dues request letters are sent in January, and a few reminders are sent during the year.
 - The account deposits are from dues collected (74% of residents have paid) and the 50% rebate on the flock camera. (\$1125.00)

Request for Help with Community Website- Al Cellier

- Al's primary duty has been installing and maintaining our Crownview entry street camera.
- Al is asking for technical assistance to bring it up to date.
- There are some local wildlife photos neighbors may enjoy on Miralestehills.org.

Matthew Aghajanian offered to help.

(I will add that miralestehills.org is a treasure trove of information pertinent to our neighborhood. The weather is for Crownview (not just RPV) because the instruments are on Al's property. You can look up our air quality, fire maps, information on the ships in the harbor, and much more!)

Follow-up on our first annual community walk- Lauren Babek

- Our first yearly community walk was successful. Around fifty to sixty residents participated.
- Thank you to Anthony Todora and his team for sponsoring the ice cream at the end of the walk.
- We plan another walk in January or February, depending on the weather.

2025 MHCA Board Member Election (Neighbor: Tanner Bennett)

- Reminder: only one nomination per dues-paying household.
- Tanner opened the floor to anyone wanting to run for office or nominate someone else.
- No nominations were received.
- Only the five incumbents were on the ballot.
- The ballot Google link was sent in the chat.
- Eighteen votes were received from dues-paying members.

Elections were held, and the Board remains unchanged:

Lauren Babak, Larry Rubin, Nancy K Brigden, Di Grossett, Al Cellier

Guest speaker: Lomita Sheriff Station Community Relations- Deputy Derek Clotworthy

He wants to talk about two things: Property crime and E-bikes

- Residential burglaries are the chief concern of the Sheriff's Department.
- Time of day doesn't matter.
- Be vigilant and lock your car and home. A locked mailbox is a good idea.
- Get cameras; if hardwired, criminals can't jam the Wi-Fi.
- Groups like our HOA are helpful because when neighbors know each other, it is easier to spot unusual activity.
- Call the station to report anything unusual, even if it seems minor.
- The shopping centers have had an uptick in thefts.

- Deputy Clotworthy assured us that despite residential burglaries nearby, our neighborhood doesn't have much crime compared to sister cities.
- There is always a Sheriff unit driving in the community.
- The Sheriff's office wants to keep its internal strategies private and not tell us which streets burglaries have occurred.
- E-bikes are a problem. They are new, and legislation hasn't kept up, so the rules are unclear.
- Because juveniles chiefly use the E-bikes in our area, they have implemented an educational approach to addressing the problem. (attached)

Discussion:

Community question:

What do you do when driving home and knowing you are being followed?

Deputy Clotworthy:

Call 911 and stay in your car or drive to the Sheriff's station. (The fire station can be empty if they are on a call.) They strive to be there within three to five minutes.

Community question:

Comment about finding mail on the street from mailboxes that don't have locks. Suggest neighbors should upgrade their mailboxes.

Deputy Clotworthy:

That is a great suggestion, though some locked mailboxes get compromised. Additional security would be to have cameras that face your mailbox. It is also good to have a camera watching the street.

Community:

We have a Flock camera at the entrance.

Deputy Clotworthy:

Flock camera only takes photos of license plates; a high-definition 24/7 camera is also a good idea.

Community:

We have a camera that works during the day but not at night because we don't have streetlights.

Deputy Clotworthy:

I encourage everyone to get cameras and point some of them toward the street. Best to hide cameras in discrete locations.

Community:

How many patrol cars do we have on this side of the hill?

Deputy Clotworthy:

I shouldn't answer that. There are enough, even though we would prefer more. Response times can be under ten minutes for emergencies, twenty minutes for priority calls, and up to an hour for routine calls.

Community:

What time of day do most burglaries occur?

Deputy Clotworthy:

It used to be at night. Now, it's all the time. There was a recent daytime burglary on the other side of the hill. The burglars used a Wi-Fi jamming device to interfere with the cameras. Luckily,

they had hardwired their cameras with ethernet cameras in their homes and were able to alert the Sheriff's station.

Community:

Around 1:30-2:00 in the morning, loud cars race along PV Drive East. Have any been apprehended?

Deputy Clotworthy:

Yes, they have, but they keep coming back. They love the switchbacks.

Community:

Should we even call?

Deputy Clotworthy:

Yes, always call. There are only four ways in or out. Officers can coordinate and catch them.

Two deputies are assigned only to traffic enforcement with some extra overtime service funded by the city.

Two weeks ago, we did switchbacks enforcement and wrote about 40 to 50 citations in that area, hoping to curb that activity.

Community:

Can something be done about mail-order deliveries being left on the street instead of at the doorstep?

Deputy Clotworthy:

Since it's not a crime, we cannot address the issue. Maybe take it up with the city council.

Community:

We're right above PV Drive East and hear the cars racing at 1:30 a.m. At 5 p.m., we sit out in our backyard and witness cars speeding and dangerously passing on the very tight S curve there—the section of PV Drive East near Via Frascati.

Deputy Clotworthy:

I'll forward it to the guys, and maybe we can get a targeted operation over there. At the very least, they'll add it to their list of places to visit.

Everyone thanked Deputy Clotworthy. He invited us to call him at the Lomita Sheriff Station with any other questions or concerns.

Lauren asks the community to ask questions and voice concerns:

Community discussion:

Giselle is worried because the road at 29735 Knoll View Dr. is lifting and impacting her car when she drives over it.

Fred assumes it's a root from a nearby pine tree.

Lauren asks if it is under the purview of Public Works or the City.

Norm thinks we should call the city of RPV.

Vince points out that people aren't picking up after their dogs and what we can do about it.

He also points out that people are letting their plants get overgrown in some areas and obscure the road.

Beth was very disappointed on the 4th of July because neighbors on the canyon side were blowing off rockets and fireworks, and she is concerned about potential fires, insurance rates, or insurance cancellations.

Elaine explained that a dear friend lost everything during the recent Mountain fire, and over 200 homes burned. So, if someone is using fireworks, Elaine emphasized we must call the police—it's too dangerous.

Norm wants to know what's going on with a house on Knoll View, where construction has been going on for about two years

Beth explained That the city stopped construction because they did not pull permits. There's also one on Grand Point.

Norm questions if it is due to land movement.

Beth thinks it was simply because permits were not being pulled. Now, they are waiting to get the permits and engineering documents to support the work they want to do and to get it passed.

Lauren adds that that's the information she also has based on what Michael has shared.

Meeting adjournment at approximately 9:00 PM

Nancy K Brigden respectfully submits minutes for your review.