



The Mulford Gardener

Presented By The Mulford Gardens Improvement Association

M.G.I.A. Volume XXXIV No. 3 March 2011

General Meeting – March 29, 2011 07:00pm

M.G.I.A CLUBHOUSE 13055 Aurora Drive, San Leandro, 94577 - mgia@live.com - www.mulfordgardens.org

Message from MGIA Board:

Remember that the Gardener is GOING GREEN. Visit our website: www.mulfordgardens.org to read the Gardener, check out City Events and view pictures of our Clubhouse which is available for rental for parties, meetings, gatherings. If you wish to continue to receive a paper copy delivered to your porch, please call Bob Johansen @ 510-206-4249. Send us your email to mgia@live.com and we will send you an electronic copy of The Mulford Gardener each month.

Chuck Porrill, MGIA President

Mulford Gardens Improvement Association General Meeting Tuesday, March 29, 7:30pm. Special Guest Speaker, Ms. Marian Handa

Ms. Marian Handa, San Leandro City Clerk, will be addressing the Mulford Gardens Improvement Association (MGIA) general meeting on **March 29** to explain the initiative and election process. MGIA would like to see the San Leandro Marina development issue before the voters in the next election so that every San Leandro citizen who votes has a say in the fate of our beautiful marina. Ms. Handa will be there to demystify the process for us. Everyone who may be interested in learning more on this important topic is strongly encouraged to attend. The **meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the MGIA clubhouse, 13055 Aurora Drive, San Leandro**. Please also visit our two websites: mulfordgardens.org and savethemarina.com for news and updates, and to reach us.

CITY MEETINGS OF IMPORTANCE TO YOUR WAY OF LIFE IN MULFORD GARDENS

March 21, 2011 – 05:30p – South Offices @ City Hall

Due to the change of date of the City Council work session on the Harbor Basin Alternative Study, the March 16th Shoreline Citizens Advisory Committee meeting has been cancelled. Instead, on Monday, March 21st, the City Council will conduct a work session on the plans for the harbor, starting at 5:30 pm in the South Offices at City Hall (next to the Police Station). The Harbor Basin Study results will be presented at this meeting and ESA, the consultant that performed the study, will be available to answer questions.

CITY COUNCIL HAPPENINGS - submitted by Audrey Albers, MGIA Board Member

At the Council meeting on March 7, there was much discussion and public participation regarding the proposed ordinance for parking of recreational vehicles on residential streets. It would provide for a 72-hour limit, with permit for 24 times a year. The present ordinance allows only 3 permits a year. This will be discussed further before the ordinance is adopted. Some street improvements and or changes that are being developed include:

- Landscaping (in the center of the street) and sidewalks on Doolittle Drive from Eden Road to Fairway Drive.

- AC bus fast-transit lane from San Leandro to Berkeley. This would be a bus-only lane in the middle of East 14th St. Details about reduced auto traffic lanes, center-street bus-loading zones, etc. are yet to be worked out.
- A new Eden Road angled from Doolittle Drive to Davis Street. This should relieve some congestion at the Davis/Doolittle intersection. Particularly, trucks headed for the transfer station from the North (98th Ave., etc.)

A City Council Ad-Hoc committee will be working on a plan to develop the recruitment process for a new City Manager to replace Stephen Hollister who will retire in June. Councilman Prola recommended that one of the criteria that the committee should consider is that the City Manager should live in San Leandro.

BART will receive some federal funds for a “BART /Downtown Pedestrian Improvement Project” to provide a downtown pedestrian-friendly and increasing vibrancy in the downtown area.” The City Council is cognizant of Governor Brown’s proposal to eliminate the state’s redevelopment agencies. San Leandro is ‘jumping the gun’ to protect the redevelopment projects that are in the works.

Do we have any idea how many boards and commissions serve the City? Recently, 15 at-large members were appointed or reappointed to various ones. When a new councilperson or mayor is elected, he or she is permitted to appoint individuals to various posts. Most of these serve without compensation.

A few months ago, Waste Management presented their plans to the City for improved recycling facility at their plant on Davis St. Improvements include the complete enclosure of the green waste facility. This will be a welcome addition, as it should eliminate any odor. The technology for this is very interesting. Eventually, all the activity will be enclosed including the dumping areas. Waste Management has made many improvements and adjustments due to complaints and suggestions from neighbors and we do appreciate their efforts.



Sounds ‘in the Gardens’...

In the early Spring of the 40’s in Mulford Gardens, time seemed to set its own pace. There seemed to be time for “things”; the air was quiet during the day and even more cloaked in velvet during the night. There was time to think, to muse and reflect. One could sit in the sun and soak in the warmth and contemplate the bee on the blossom, the wasp digging and fetching mud for its hive. With the warmer days, the frogs in the pond began to sing and toadies would creep out of their damp, dark hide-away. If you paid attention, what seemed to be quiet was really tempered with the natural sounds of nature, coming awake and stirring around the fields and lots. The earth was swelling, stretching itself and preparing for the coming year. The sharp, chilled scents of winter began to fade. More often, the warm fuzzy sweater was left behind in the house and you dared to bare your arms to the newness of sun and drifting cloud. You might even lie on the new grass and watch those puffy clouds slide silently across the sky and try to decide what might be an elephant or a castle.

The sounds of Mulford, when they broke the quiet always signaled something. The crunch of wheels at 1:00 pm on the driveway said the Golden State Milk Delivery truck was coming. The driver, affable and helpful, would swap bottles, fresh full, for washed empties, placed in a wire rack

by the shaded back door of the house. Sometimes butter, sometimes just milk. Always a greeting and inquiry about how everyone was. The rhythm of the crunching gravel would fade, to be repeated another day.

The sound of the mailbox, clapping shut around 3:30 in the afternoon meant there was something to be retrieved and brought into the house. At that time, a subscription to *Looney Tunes* might deliver Donald Duck and Mickey Mouse to be relished as a reading treat. If you submitted to "Aunt Elise," a column for kids to write and draw sponsored by the Oakland Tribune, you waited for that envelope with the green print letterhead announcing a solemn thank you for your efforts, or....if you were lucky, an announcement that you had won a prize and would be published! Then of course, the clap of the mailbox became an obsession because that meant a prize would be forthcoming! A parcel would appear, a beautiful pencil box, (with drawers) or a book, or a nice pen would encourage the fledgling author or artist. It also encouraged reading the newspaper section devoted to "Aunt Elsie, once a week, as well as how to address a letter in legible handwriting.

As Spring moved on, the sound of purring tractors, plowing and scribing the rich dark earth, would make you drowsy; the better to lie on the grass and count clouds. Flocks of noisy seagulls and smaller birds would dash about the sky, following the open furrows, waiting to dive and pluck juicy worms turned up in the churning of the earth. The tempo of life was definitely picking up.

At night, when the darkness was deepest, if you happened to wake, it wouldn't be long before you would hear the sounds of Southern Pacific steam trains passing on the track adjacent to Menlo Street. A wistful, longing sound floating out over the open fields to the water's edge and if the wind was right, the heavy sounds of wheels churning and steam hissing; the rails shuddering under the tremendous weight of these giant black workhorses.

During the war, many trains ran at night for security reasons and their presence folded into the tapestry of the war effort, as well as carrying commercial goods and fresh vegetables in refrigerated cars. Refrigerated cars at that time could be defined as box cars carrying boxed fruits and vegetables protected by ice blocks and sawdust together with heavier insulation in the walls of the cars.

The trains brought not only the wistful and powerful sounds of commerce but they also brought the phenomena of the free ride to new destinations. Mulford Gardens was often visited by "hobos and tramps," those men who rode the rails across the country or locally in search of work or subsistence from the local drop-off destination. Boxcars often had open doors and little monitoring. This provided a good opportunity to swing aboard and find a corner out of the elements and hop off somewhere else. Many of these men would offer to work for a meal, others would simply seek a meal or anything the homeowner would offer. At 5:00pm or later, the sound of a "tap tap" on the backdoor around dinner time might well be a bearded man wearing heavy clothing asking for food. If a householder was generous and offered food, the "hobo telegraph" would be a chalk "X" on a telephone pole near the home. This signaled that there was someone who would offer food nearby. If traffic got too heavy, residents would check poles and abolish the "X", or the local patrolman would do it. In time, after a few years, the practice ended, when the railroads added heavier security for boxcars and the dangers of hitching a ride became too dangerous to risk a free ride.

Life is more cluttered with sound now, a background white noise of freeways and busy airports, cars, sirens, helicopters seeking material for the 5:00pm newscasts and all the other sounds that mark modern living. But, once in while, on a crispy Spring morning, if you are out early enough, there is still a spot somewhere to warm in the sun, look up at the sky and try to figure out whether those fat puffy clouds are an elephant or a castle in the air...and if you listen carefully, you can hear a bee lighting on a new Spring blossom.

Fondly submitted by: Rae Vasconcellos, MGIA Board Member

MGIA Board

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M.G.I.A. General Meeting: Tuesday, March 29, 2011
Last Tuesday of each Month **Door Prize Drawing!**

Advertising information: Call Janet Porrill
510-352-6258

LOCAL CHURCHES IN SAN LEANDRO
Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church
2500 Bermuda Ave., 510-483-731

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
13901 Bancroft Ave., 510-357-9192

Life Change Baptist Church
13067 Aurora Drive., 925-755-8710

Faith United Methodist Church
788 Lewelling Blvd., 510-357-5484

PUBLIC MEETINGS

San Leandro City Council:
1ST & 3RD Mondays/each month
City Council Chambers, City Hall, 835 E. 14th St



Mayor Stephen Cassidy

Michael Gregory, Dist. 1 Ursula Reed, Dist. 2
Diana Souza, Dist. 3 Joyce Starosciak, Dist. 4
Pauline Russo Cutter, Dist. 5 Jim Prola, Dist. 6

Board of Zoning (BZA) 1st & 3rd Thursdays / each month City Council Chambers, City Hall

San Leandro School Board:
1st & 3rd Tuesday 7:00PM
City Council Chambers, City Hall



MGIA Club House Rentals
Bo Johansen 510-206-4249

Are you looking for a quaint, clean place for your Bridge/Card Club, Garden Club, Exercise group or Bunko Group Meetings? Our Club House is available for daily rentals as well as weekend/evenings. Call Bo Johansen for information on rentals: 510-206-4249.

Share your news, ideas, recipes, comments, weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, parties, awards, special events and we will make every effort to print it. Email to: mgia@live.com or mail to MGIA, P O. Box 4235, San Leandro CA 94579 or call Jean Morris (510-495-4480) with your news!



APPLY NOW FOR MGIA SCHOLARSHIP – Available to Graduating Seniors who live in Mulford Gardens. Call BoJohansen for application. 510-206-4249