Trying to keep the presidential tradition of the late and great Larry Norry by writing insightful and persuasive “President’s Messages” has been my challenge and my struggle. Larry Norry was an MGIA president for many, many years. Mulford Gardens has changed a lot since those good old days when Mr. Norry was president.

The challenges and struggles that Mr. Norry faced took place within a large community of home owners who would ban together to fight the evil “City Hall” in it’s timeless and incessant intent to allow the stuffing of more rental housing into an area that historically was a rural farmland replete with fruits, vegetables, and plenty of attitude from the Gardeneers. A land owning Mulford Gardens resident carried a lot of clout when he or she would show up at a City Council meeting downtown and would actively cheer on Mr. Norry as he railed against the powerful Hall of the City. It was then, the votes that were associated with those Gardeneer cheers, that created the ringing in the ears of the Council members as they left their chambers after a meeting.

Mulford Gardens could really shake it up downtown. We had the wherewithal to push back against a sometimes very determined project. Mulford Gardens Improvement Association had resources that other associations didn’t have. In addition to the huge dues paying membership of home owners, MGIA had a park and a clubhouse that was rented most weekends during the year. Advertising dollars in the Gardeneer actually self supported it’s printing and distribution. Mulford Gardens had money, members, and enough votes that a sitting member on council or a Mayor might not make it through the next election if they didn’t give the Gardens it’s dues. Mulford Gardens had leverage.

Now, not so much. Certainly the words I write allow me to vent. The meanings of the words may only serve only a handful of Gardenians who will usually ponder them about as long as it takes to toss this newsletter into the recycling bin. You do recycle them, right? All of you here in the Gardens however; home owners and those of you who choose to rent your homes, have the right to come to a general meeting on the last Tuesday night of the month and state your positions and opinions about the day to day business you experience in Mulford Gardens. You can gather consensus, and then change whatever is the problem. Yes, the by-laws give voting power to home owning members for things like spending MGIA money and electing board members. But there is nothing standing in your way to keep you from using MGIA for what you feel is a worthy cause.

I will continue to hope that if I can change the current Mulford Gardens resident’s paradigm from the perception that MGIA is an oligarchy to that of an egalitarian democracy, our voices and votes will combine such that City Hall listens and acts in our interest instead of theirs. I am grateful for the all of the work that Mr. Norry and other past activists who have supported the MGIA cause have done over the years. Without them, who knows what Mulford Gardens would be like now.

- Steve Modifer - MGIA President
Honorable Mayor Cassidy:

Concerned homeowners, residents, taxpayers, citizens possess and demand the right to TRANSPARENCY in City Government. Not merely what the City wants its citizens to know. Not only what’s in Mr. Zapata’s City Budget, posted on City website or offered to citizens. There are many unanswered questions around the Shoreline Development.

We Ask:
1. What are the financial details of the City’s deal with Shoreline Developer Cal-Coast?
2. What feasibility study was conducted comparing your new Shoreline businesses profitability with the demographic makeup?
3. By what manner will the $492,000 Environmental Impact Report be paid, and if it should fail, will the taxpayers absorb the loss?
4. What is the taxpayer’s liability should the entire Shoreline Development fail?
5. What is the plan for traffic ingress and egress on Marina Blvd, Mulford Point and Fairway Blvd—one way streets??
   Will you claim Eminent Domain?
6. How can residents, business, and visitors parking not be congested?
7. What specifically does your previously stated $14,000,000 estimate for Marina clearing include? And what will be the additional cost for the Harbor’s renovation?
8. Why have you made no current feasibility study to utilize private harbor management?
9. In 2006 and 2008 San Leandro was granted Federal Funds of $665,000 and $1,169,000 respectively—these monies were specifically designated for “annual inspections and periodic repairs of the Marina’s breakwater structure as well as maintenance dredging.” Maintenance in those years was negligible or minimal at best. What happened to these Federal Funds?
10. How will the policing of the Marina, often criticized as inadequate, differ between your proposed Shoreline businesses and residential community plan and from what now exists in the Mulford Point Marina recreation area?

Friends of the Marina www.savethemarina.com

FREE CERT - Emergency Training

What is CERT?
Community Emergency Response Team.
The purpose of CERT is to train people living in Alameda County to take care of themselves, their families and their neighbors in the event of a disaster.

CERT Training - CERT members are taught by Alameda County Fire Department Staff, its Reserves and CERT peer instructors. CERT members are taught basic fire suppression, utility control, light search and rescue, triage and shock treatment. Other topics include putting together your own disaster kit, disaster psychology and disaster incident management. The training involves attending all six evening sessions for a total of 20 hours. The training format is lectures, interactive skills based training, and it concludes with a hands-on exercise to practice the skills that were learned. You must be 18 years of age or older to participate. Also, if your interested a personal emergency class is available which is a one session only class. You can take either or both.

1.) PERSONAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
One Session only Class - Tuesday Aug. 19, 6:30 - 8 pm

2.) CERT COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM
Six consecutive classes, (20 hours)
Thursday evenings, Aug. 21st - Sept. 25th, 6:30 to 9:30pm total of six classes.

Location: San Leandro Senior Center, 13909 E. 14th St. To Register for either class: www.acfdcert.eventbrite.com or call (925) 400-9176 x 1605
The Life & Death of a Heritage Tree

Have you never watched a heritage tree grow? It takes a really long time. Huge trees are like the mountains or the oceans, most of us take them for granted. We go on with our daily lives never really thinking about the hundred year old trees like the one that stood 115 feet tall in the next door neighbor’s yard. It’s always been there.

The tree was there when your newborn came home from the hospital and it was there when he left for college. The tree was so big that it provided shade for you and your neighbor. The tree had been a home for generations of critters like raccoons, opossums, woodpeckers and the like. It’s size was a testament to it’s age and majesty. It’s always been there.

It’s always been there until one day when you came home and your neighbor, for reasons only he can rationalize, has cut it down. OMG! What just happened? There is now a huge hole in the sky. It’s impossible to believe. You need to sit down, regain your thoughts, and ponder what just happened.

To put this into perspective, one hundred years ago in 1914, World War One began. The first Mother’s Day was celebrated. Babe Ruth played his first professional baseball game and Henry Ford started the assembly line for the Model T.

Mulford Gardens, one hundred years ago, was mostly farmland. The farms probably weren’t called Mulford Gardens back then, but the real Mr. Mulford at that time, was taking shipments of fruit and vegetables grown here across the bay to San Francisco. Mulford also farmed oysters in the bay and in general was busy building his fortune.

And yes, in 1914 there was that little one year old Black Walnut tree standing in a place where a street called Neptune Drive would later be created.

Mulford Gardens in the coming years would expand all around the sapling. Homes were built one by one. Farms got smaller as the neighborhood evolved. Dirt roads and patches were covered and filled in with asphalt and concrete. All of that time passed, and the once small one year old tree grew and grew to become a dominant feature in the Mulford landscape.

Then, in the course of a couple of noisy afternoons the tree was taken down, it’s trunk and limbs lay lifeless in the spot that it lived for over 100 years.

Certainly a crime had been committed.

Of course the police were called and the chain saw terrorist was taken to jail. No one should be able get away with such an act against man and nature.

No, no enforceable crime was committed. There is no law in San Leandro, like there are in many other Bay Area cities that makes it a crime to cut a tree down that has a 100+ year history. Aside from the fact that the environment was served well from the creation of oxygen and elimination of carbon dioxide, there are many other reasons a tree that has endured 100 years on this planet should be protected. Instead, this tree was cut down for reasons beyond reason. A whim. Maybe there were too many leaves to rake. Who knows. We naively thought that it would always have been there.

City Hall has resolved to look into creating possible legislation to make it against the law to cut down 100+ year old “Heritage” trees

The one and only positive point to have come from this leafy carnage is that there is a movement now to end this kind if thing from happening again. As a result of this travesty, the demands of a small group of Mulford Gardens citizens shedding light on this “would be crime”;

including Gerd and Melissa Marggraff and myself, the City Hall has resolved to look into creating possible legislation to make it against the law to cut down 100+ year old “Heritage” trees (unless there is good reason like a disease or a structural problem).

Please support those of us who are moving this through the San Leandro system. If you see a petition being circulated, be sure to sign it. If you would like to go out and get signatures, send us a note to mgia@live.com (put “Heritage Tree” in the subject line) and we will get you started. City Hall has a full and busy agenda and this is not on the top of their to do list.

Hundreds of names and voices will be needed to convince the Mayor and City Council to sign it into law.

Please help. Future 100 year old trees are depending on it and will appreciate your efforts. - Thanks.
Remembering,
Helen Veronda

Helen Veronda long time resident of Mulford Gardens passed on February 15, 2014. She was just shy of her 92nd birthday.

Helen was preceded in death by her husband of 52 years, Raymond J. Veronda. Ray was an active member and past president of Mulford Gardens Improvement Association and caretaker of the MGIA building and grounds for decades. The Veronda home backs up to the Club House property. The Verondas moved into Mulford Gardens in 1947.

Helen and Ray had three boys Raymond, Ron and Steven Veronda. They are also survived by 5 grandchildren and 3 great grand children. The grandchildren have fond memories of Helen’s secret garden and Rays vegetables and fruit trees growing year round just over the fence from the MGIA The Club House, a long ago oyster shed, was part of their childhood as well. The Veronda backyard is still strewn with old oyster shells.

Ray, Ron and Steve all attended Garfield Elementary School, spent lazy summer days climbing the trees in the MGIA park and went to many MGIA barbecues. Steve passed away prematurely 10 years ago and Ray died unexpectedly just over one year ago. Ron, a retired school principal, lives with his wife and youngest son in San Carlos. Helen and Ray were very active in the Garfield PTA and Helen was past president of SLUSAC, the city-wide school advisory committee. She also worked tirelessly to create a community college in Hayward, so, as she would say, To make a college education attainable for anyone.

After her boys were well into school, she went to work as the receptionist/secretary at the Family Service Agency in Alameda, serving the children and families of Alameda. Ray worked for over thirty years at the Alameda Naval Air Station and was a member of The Fratellanza Italian heritage club in Oakland.

Helen was known for her quick smile and great sense of humor. She had a level of compassion that was impressive. She saw the best in others and loved life. She delighted in adventure and was known to do quite well at the slot machines now and then. But what made her stand out the most was her ability to see beauty everywhere; see the best in everyone (except Republicans :) and get personal pleasure by other peoples gains.

Mulford Gardens is losing a generation of dedicated elders that kept the community a great place to raise children. The next generation will have to take the baton.

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Mulford Gardens Float in Cherry Festival Parade

Volunteers Needed!

If you are interested in participating in the San Leandro Cherry Festival Parade on May 28, this year. We are planning to have a float for Mulford Gardens and possible Canada Geese Kazoo marching band. We would like to win the prize for “most creative” entry.

Joe Shaftner has offered to lend us his 20 foot car trailer, which can be pulled behind a truck. We are thinking of using the elements that are common to Mulford Gardens, i.e. raccoons, skunks, squirrels, canada geese.

And creating a float that is interactive.

If you are a creative sort or if you are good at mechanical “gizmotry”. The idea is to create flat figures of the different animals among a flat backdrop of trees, this will need to be double sided. We will have the illustrated figures and trees printed on banner material, then adhere it to coreplast. It would be great if the animals could wave, or chase each other. One idea was to have an electric train run along the float floor with a line of skunks attached, all in line following each other as they move around the edges of the float. 

Anyone have an electric train they could loan us?

If we get enough volunteers, the idea of having a Canada Geese Kazoo marching band, following the float marching in a “V” shape, tooting their kazoos, similar to our actual geese. Each band member would be holding a goose on a stick above their head. These could also be printed on banner material and adhered to coreplast. It would neat if all the members in the band had a tee shirt that said “We (Heart) Mulford Gardens, along with a billed ball cap, for uniform.

These are just ideas. If you are interested please call us at (510) 569-2484 we will be having a planning meeting on Tuesday April 22, at 7pm.

If you are interested please come and get involved it will be fun!

Scholarship Applications due May 15, 2014

MGIA scholarship application are due May 15, 2014 for high school graduates looking for scholarship opportunities to help a bit with their finances as they head off to college. We ask that the high school graduating student be a resident of Mulford Gardens and that they are attending college in the Fall of 2014. Which high school they are graduating from or which college they are planning to attend does not matter.

The scholarship is named after a past president whose love of Mulford Gardens is unsurpassed. It is the Larry Norry Scholarship.

An application can be found on our website: www.mulfordgardens.org

Mulford Gardens Park

Whats happening at the park lately?

Well, lots of flowers are in their full glory right now. Purple bearded iris are really making a big splash. We have already seen a lot of tulips and daffodils come and go already this year.

Big news, we are planning to put up an information kiosk near the front walk-in gate.

Thank you Shaftner family (West 130th) for your donation of the kiosk.

Oh did you hear, we are having our 3rd annual Mulford Gardens Art & Music Festival, Saturday, August 16, 2014.

It should be a nice warm summer day to enjoy the music and fine art and crafts. Proceeds from the festival help us fund the yearly scholarship.
LOCAL SERVICES

MARINA FAIRE CENTER
SAN LEANDRO’S FINEST FOOD COURT
CORNER OF DOOLITTLE DR. AND FAIRWAY DR.

FOR LEASING INFORMATION CALL (702) 369-9595

Your Ad Here!
Call Janet Porrill  510-352-6258

Margaret L. Yap D.D.S
General & Cosmetic Dentistry
13770 Doolittle Drive
(at Fairway Dr.)
San Leandro, CA 94577
510-352-3918

Mulford Garden’s Improvement Association
PARK RENTAL
with Club House and Grounds

- Call Steve Modifer
510-569-2484
Life Change Baptist Church
13067 Aurora Drive
San Leandro, CA 94577
Phone: (925) 755-8710
Rev. Dr. Johanes Sudarma
Senior Pastor
Indonesian Service 10:00 AM
Chinese Service 10:00 AM
English Service 1:30 PM
Spanish Service 5:00 PM
Sunday School all ages 12:30 PM
Prayer Meeting Friday 7:30 PM

Aloha Pet Services
Sabrina Almazan
Tel/Fax: 510-632-2600
Cell: 510-909-2163
1271 Washington Ave., #205 San Leandro, CA 94577
www.AlohaPetServices.com
Sabrina@AlohaPetServices.com

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Mulford Garden’s Improvement Association
PARK RENTAL
with Club House and Grounds
- Call Steve Modifer 510-569-2484

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### M.G.I.A. Board Elections at General Meeting:

April 29, 2014 - 7:30 pm

### Gardeneer Advertising information:

Call Janet Porrill 510-352-6258

### Mulford Gardens Food Pantry
Groceries for families in need.
4th Saturday of each month
from 10:00am – 12:00pm

### LOCAL CHURCHES IN SAN LEANDRO
(Full list on mulfordgardens.org)

- **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
Benny Lee, 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

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**MulfordgardensNextdoor.com**

Get to know your neighbors

It's like Facebook for your neighborhood
50 neighbors strong - so far

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**MGIA Park & Club House Rentals**

510-569-2484

Perfect for your next Family Reunion, Baby Shower, Baptism, Memorial, Birthday Party?

Our Club House and Park are available for daily/hourly rentals as well as weekend/evenings.

Call Steve Modifier for information on rentals: 510-569-2484. Ask about the newly renovated Youth Building for rent (perfect for classes)

**Share** your ideas, recipes, anniversaries, birthdays, awards, special events and we will make every effort to print it.

Email to: mgiaevents@gmail.com
or mail to: MGIA13055 Aurora Drive San Leandro CA 94577
or call 510-569-2484 with your news!

### Scholarship Applications available on line at www.mulfordgardens.org

Clip and mail in with your $3.00

**Annual Membership dues.**

(Please make check payable to M.G.I.A.)

Mail to: Mrs. Janet Porrill, Financial Secretary
1966 Arctic St., San Leandro CA. 94577
510-352-6258

Name______________________________
Phone_____________________________
Address_____________________________
Homeowner_____Renter_____

Donations to the M.G.I.A. Scholarship Fund are also appreciated.