

THE OLD ROAD NEWSLETTER

Published by the Malibu Road Association

Issue #2 Vol. 16

July/August 2010

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HEY, WE'VE BEEN

STRIPED!!!

While your MRA Board has been pressuring the City of Malibu over many months about road resurfacing, it has been clear for some time that budgetary problems reflective of the economy in general have been the main sticking-point. So we applaud and appreciate the cooperation of Public Works Superintendent Richard Calvin, and Public Works Director/City Engineer Robert Brager for their efforts in making the so-long overdue restriping happen.

An immediate benefit, which we're sure residents have happily noted, is that because of the newly-visible foglines, there has been an immediate, quite dramatic reduction in – and finally, enforceable – dangerous illegal parking on the westbound side of our street.

Doggie Days

As you may have noticed, there have been an alarming number of incidents involving scary, unruly, and outright vicious dogs attacking both people and other dogs along Malibu Road and on the beach.

In several cases, pets have been killed or seriously injured, their treatment costing as much as several thousand dollars. And most of them in blatant violation of Malibu's leash-laws. In order to be better informed on the rights and responsibilities of dog owners, Officer Rachel Riva from the Department of LA County Animal Care and Control spoke at our July meeting Board meeting.

Ms. Riva's excellent and informative presentation included the following advice for residents:

- Dogs must be under the control of the person accompanying them. A leashed dog must not be able to lunge.
- Dogs are not allowed on the public beach areas.
- Dogs are never allowed in the water.
- If you witness an attack by a dog – or witness a dog roaming the beach or street unattended, please make a report. To do so, e-mail: RRiva@animalcare.lacounty.gov Or phone: 818.991. 0071 (leave a message).

When you make a report BE SPECIFIC! State the time, date, location/street address, and a detailed description of the dog, the dog owner (by name if possible), and of the incident. TAKE A PHOTO, if possible.

We love our dogs, and want them, ourselves and our neighbors protected from other dogs and careless owners. We value our safety and our tranquility – and too many such incidents go unreported.

While choosing to look the other way may perhaps momentarily avoid offending a neighbor, to not notify Animal Care of such violations can, and has resulted in further violence and injury. So please, next time you witness such an incident, be a really good neighbor and report it.

CAMPING UPDATE: AN ONGOING, COSTLY FIGHT

Our attorney, Greg Aftergood, is in continuing negotiations with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy people, arguing on our behalf to eliminate or, worst case, reduce the number of camp sites above Malibu Road. As reported previously, a number of the planned campsites are less than 200 feet from beachfront homes, and their plans include a paved parking area and toilets directly opposite the residence at 24608.

Greg is also working closely with the City and similarly-threatened homeowner association representatives to present a united effort to keep our neighborhoods safe from the very real dangers – mostly but not exclusively – from fire, which will result from the establishment of campsites in residential areas of Malibu.

We, and our attorney have stated publicly on behalf of the Association that its members are adamantly opposed to overnight camping – as is the City of Malibu – and we're still waiting to see the SMMC's revised plans that are supposed to address and respond to our concerns.

In early June, Greg met with the other attorneys (Christi Hogin for the City, Steve Amerikaner for Ramirez Canyon, Stan Lampert for the Winding Way/Escondido Canyon Homeowners, and Dennis Seider, the City's representative to the SMMC). The upshot of the meeting was that we should try to move to serious negotiations with the SMMC before the City and Ramirez Canyon Homeowners have their hearing (probably in September) -- characterized as the "head shot" -- which if successful could serve to permanently set aside the Public Works Plan approved by the Commission in June of 2009 – when camping at Bluffs Park was approved out of thin air, without advance notice to anyone.

Moreover, Mr. Aftergood has met with Paul Edelman, the Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, and has raised a number of procedural and substantive issues regarding defects of the draft environmental impact report ("EIR") for the subject project.

Shortly after the June meeting, Greg learned from Laurie Collins, Chief Staff Counsel for the SMMC, that advance information regarding the SMMC's revised plans would not be shared with us. This brought any hope of a meaningful settlement dialogue to a grinding halt, forcing us to wait for public dissemination of the proposed final draft EIR – which will no doubt be approved despite threats of ensuing litigation.

The SMMC seems to be spoiling for yet another fight with the people of Malibu, and that wish will likely be fulfilled. Hopefully the City Council will continue to pursue the course of litigation to prevent the outrageous cram-down of overnight camping in, and especially as it impinges on and threatens the residents of Malibu Road.

This ongoing fight, which for our safety your Road Association must not abandon, costs a lot of money, so come join us to help cover our legal expenses. And, if you have already paid your 2010 dues, PLEASE consider sending a donation to help us continue this very important battle.

SEWERS – THE LATEST FLUSH

The Regional Water Quality Board has refused to consider any new scientific reports on water quality, and on their highly questionable/outright inaccurate contention that Malibu Road septic systems somehow pollute the lagoon.

This stance has resulted in a planned mandate that within a few years, starting at the eastern end of Malibu Road, homes along more than half its length will need to be hooked up to sewers. The RWQB has submitted their plan to the State Board, which can accept, reject or send it back to Regional for modification.

Hearings will be scheduled, at which the Malibu Road Association plans to make a presentation to the State Board. When hearing dates/times are available, we will notify residents, and provide a preview of our statements. MRA president Bill Rhodes is on the local Board committee and he keeps close watch on their proceedings.

DUES – Help Make Your Slice of Paradise Even Better!

Many thanks to all of you who during past years have joined our group and paid your modest annual dues – only \$100, or \$40 if you're a renter, and what a bargain! It's time to do it again, for 2010.

For those who may be unfamiliar with what your voluntary **Malibu Road Association** does for you – member or not – consider the recent, vastly improved trash pickup arrangement. That did not happen by itself, but rather because of the **MRA** Board's persistence and insistence over several years of meetings and negotiations with City and County representatives, wherein we made demands, based on our residents unique needs.

But that's only a portion of it! Here's a partial list of what your dollars – and hopefully your voluntary participation – accomplish:

- Speed signs. Those nifty – and pricey – radar signs are not provided by State, City or County. Rather, they are a product of **MRA**-solicited member-donations, as well as your dues.
- Other signage.
- Weekly road cleanup.
- Disposal of dead seals and sea lions.
- Advocacy/liaison with City, County and State – as in our current problems re: camping, our ongoing

campaign to get the road repaved – and a place for you to air your concerns and gripes.

- Our handsome Website. Visit us at www.MalibuRoad.org. There, you'll find archived back-issues of our newsletter, as well as pertinent information you can use – and a ready-way for you to contact us with your issues and concerns.

Our board Members volunteer their time – for all of us, so c'mon – join the **Malibu Road Association** – and if you can afford the time, for such activities and services as distribution of announcements, we'd love to have your help!

One big challenge your Association faces is finding a way to reach all of the newer Malibu Road residents & owners. If we can't find them we can't ask them to join.

So, if you live near a new resident who may not know about us – PLEASE give us a heads-up about them (and, if you can, tell them about us, and the valuable services we provide) and we will send them a special welcoming letter. Or if you are moving away, please tell the new owner how great we are and give us their name(s) for our records.

PLEASE send your check today, to PO Box 415, Malibu, CA 90265. Or, pay via credit card (using PayPal), at our website: www.MalibuRoad.org! Moreover, you are always welcome to attend our monthly Board Meetings. There, you can see how we operate, and air your views on urgent matters! Contact us by phone or Email for the time and place of our next meeting. mail@MalibuRoad.org, or 310.317.1040.

SOME VITAL CONTACT INFO

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| EMERGENCY, of course | 911 |
| Sheriff | 310.456.6652 |
| Fire | 310.317.1122 |
| City of Malibu | 310.456.2489 |
| Lifeguard | 310.457.2525 |
| Animal Control & Care | 818.991.0071 |
| Solid Waste (Universal Waste Syst.) | 800.631.7016 |
| Wildlife Rescue | 310.457.WILD |
| Dead seal on beach burial | 310.317.4717 |
| (We contract w/the Labor Exchange for this.) | |

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Remember, your **Malibu Road Association** is here to serve in any way it can, renters & owners alike.

Newsletter edited by Holly & Tom Sawyer