

# THE OLD ROAD NEWSLETTER

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## MALIBU ROAD ASSOCIATION SPEARHEADS CURE FOR TRASH PROBLEMS

### CITY, COUNTY RESPOND TO COMPLAINTS ABOUT 3 TIMES PER WEEK PICKUP, VISUAL POLLUTION

In April our Board was invited to a meeting of the City Council and Staff, during which Malibu Road Ass'n. President Bill Rhodes read into the record a letter detailing our concerns about the visual blight created by the new trash containers, as well as the problems caused by the 3 day per week pickup schedule, and the need for residents/owners to find new ways to keep containers off the street. The MRA's presentation was dramatically highlighted by an array of color photos taken by Jan Currey, showing the unsightly containers on a typical day.

In May, MRA VP Lynn Griffin had a follow-up meeting with County and City officials (Yugal Lall City of Malibu / Public Works Director, Shari Afshari, LA County Dept. Public Works, & Nancy Steiner, Solid Waste Solutions, Public Safety Rep.), all of whom were extremely helpful, supplying us with guidelines and suggestions.

Part of the problem, the MRA has learned, is that the trash contractor, G.I. Industries, because of employee injury liabilities, must forbid their workers to lift these containers.

Moreover, as was spelled out for MRA Board Members, the G.I. Industries contract differs in another important way from our former pickup service, wherein the employees would remove the containers from residents' enclosures, empty them into the truck, and then return them to the enclosures. Written into the County's current contract with G.I. is a provision which does not permit the employees to enter private property. What this means is that G.I.'s sole responsibility is to wheel containers left at roadside into position so that the truck's lifting mechanism can grab onto them, dump them, and place them back on the pavement. Residents are responsible for placing them at roadside and, once they've been emptied, putting them back into their enclosures.

Thus, even if everyone on Malibu Road had a proper enclosure, since many are weekend, or otherwise intermittent residents, we would still have the offensive visual problem of containers standing at roadside for days at a time.

### SOLUTION(S)

It has been informally agreed that these problems need to be addressed first, before others, and then still others. Most of these changes will require the approval of a majority of residents.

1. Trash (recycle, trash, greenwaste) picked up on a single day, one time per week.
2. Residents will then be subject to enforcement of City Code requiring that trash containers be stored or otherwise kept out of sight until specified times prior to pickup, and removed within a specified time afterwards.
3. Concurrently with the above, the Board is exploring the possibility, and costs to residents, of hiring an additional worker (or workers) who would (a) remove containers from enclosures and place them in position for the contractor, and (b) return emptied containers to their enclosures. The Malibu Road Association would probably be required to carry liability insurance (workers comp.) for such personnel.

We appreciate the City taking an active role in helping us find a solution to these unsightly cans all over our Road, but let's face it neighbors – the real solution lies with us.

It is the responsibility of each of us to manage our own trash and trashcans. During this period in which City, County and the MRA are trying to remedy the situation, PLEASE don't just litter the street with your discards. Use the correct can, and place all your trash IN it according to regulations. Don't expect your neighbors or the sanitation workers to do it for you. If you have any questions about what goes where or when, please call G. I. Rubbish at 805.955.4342.

## VISITOR DOGS ON BEACH – PICNICKERS UNDER HOMES

From annoyed to frustrated to infuriated, a number of beachfront homeowners are suffering the above-mentioned problems and we sympathize.

Resident/former Board Member Joel Walker has done something about it. Joel has designed and supervised the manufacture of an attractive, polite-but-firm sign which residents can purchase from him at cost, for posting on their property.



The signs are 15' x 24", enameled aluminum (and thus for some installations may require a wood backing). The cost is only \$26. Please contact Joel at 456.5964.

In an attempt to help with this problem, and especially in hope of discouraging visitors with dogs, your Board has voted to create and place signs at the public beach access street entrances, bearing the following information: **Dogs are not permitted on the beach/this beach is monitored frequently by Animal Control.** Your Board continues to be friendly to Malibu Road residents who enjoy the beach with their dogs but wants to warn the professional dog walkers and non-residents that they may be cited or fined. Remember, you own your beach to the mean high tide line (wherever that is) and while the public has the right to walk across it below that line, it does not have the right to camp out, picnic or sunbathe on it. If you encounter such a problem, and a polite request from you to them to move doesn't do the job, please call the Sheriff.

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*Newsletter edited by Holly & Tom Sawyer*

## ANNUAL BEACH BASH SHAPES UP AS MAJOR WINNER – SAT, SEP. 11 – EXCITING PLANS FOR GREAT FOOD, ATTRACTIONS, FUN FOR ALL AGES

The Annual Beach Party for 2004 is scheduled for Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. You remember what a terrific event it was last year...well, this year's will be even more spectacular, so be sure to mark your calendars. We will announce all the details during the summer. If you would like to help, *please* call Cindy Rhodes at 317.1040.

## New Board Member!

With regret and thanks for his service we accepted the resignation of Board Member Elliot Medal, and announce his replacement. We welcome Chris Reed back to the Board to finish Elliot's term. Chris served several years ago and *despite* that, is willing to serve again. Thank you Chris – we're delighted to have you back!

## MRA AIDS OWNERS CITED BY PARKS DEPARTMENT

Acting on complaints from several very upset residents who live across from Malibu Bluffs Park, that the Dept. of Parks & Recreation was demanding the removal of any "non-native vegetation" they had planted along the north side of Malibu Road (across from the residents' beachfront properties), MRA President Bill Rhodes met with officials and worked out a successful informal compromise.

In broad terms, the threatened removal of such landscaping – for which at least one homeowner spent \$20,000 – following the August 1, 2004 deadline imposed by the department has been rescinded, with the proviso that any further plantings must be native vegetation.

The MRA is putting together, as an advisory, a list of such acceptable plantings, which will be circulated to residents when it is ready.

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

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