



Dear member,

Here's the March 2015 edition of our monthly newsletter. Lots going on this month!

District Elections hearing

Urgent Notice

Wednesday, March 18th, 6pm

This Wednesday, March 18th, the Santa Barbara City Council will conduct a public hearing on the proposal to establish district boundaries for the November election. This community workshop will introduce the results and conclusions gathered through public input. Members of the public will also be able to provide additional comments.

As we wrote last week, the UEA Board submitted a proposed district configuration that we feel better aligns us with neighboring areas that share common interests and concerns. Here are links to the [letter](#) we sent and the [boundary maps](#) prepared by the City's consultant and the Association.

Location: Council Chambers, City Hall, corner of Anacapa & De La Guerra Streets

Radio Show about *Safe Passage*

Wednesday, March 25th, 10am live on KZSB 1290

Steve Forsell will be hosting Luke Swetland and Fred Sweeney talking about *Safe Passage*, the new Mission Heritage Trail Association and their ongoing work to create a safer way to traverse the Mission Canyon corridor between the Old Mission and Foothill Road. The show will be on live at 10am on KZSB 1290, and you can call in at 564-1290 with your comments and questions. If you would rather listen online, go to [newspress.com](#) and scroll down to the KZSB icon on the right side of the page. The show is streamed live.

County and City Multimodal Mission Canyon project workshop

Wednesday April 8th, 7:30 - 9 pm

The County and City of Santa Barbara have scheduled a third workshop on the Multimodal Mission Canyon Project – *Safe Passage*. Please make plans to attend this most important workshop about the project to provide a safe way to walk, bike, and otherwise travel between the Old Mission and the Natural History Museum on the west side of the Mission Canyon corridor. We urge supporters of the project to attend and express their support and ideas.

Location: Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

Mission to Mission Canyon Corridor Update (adapted from an article that will be printed in the upcoming Mission Canyon Association newsletter)

Last month Santa Barbara City Council, by a vote of 6-1, approved resolutions to put a plan on their capital budget list to develop a safe walking pathway between the Old Mission and the Natural History Museum. That was followed by the same action by the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors in a unanimous 5-0 vote for approval of the project to be placed on the County's future capital projects list.

This was the result of a three-year effort initiated by the Mission Canyon Association, the Upper East Association, and the Riviera Association in collaboration with the Museum of Natural History. That group, *Safe Passage*, now known as the Mission Heritage Trail Association, has grown to over 27 stakeholders including representatives from the Pearl Chase Society, the Santa Barbara Historic Preservation Trust, Old Mission Santa Barbara, Mt. Calvary Seminary, Garden Street Academy, Marymount School, and adjacent landowners, including the Santa Barbara Women's Club, and numerous credentialed professionals, historians, architects, and engineers. Of the 27 members, eight live on or near Mission Canyon Road. For a complete list and concept plans, go to the website: missionheritagetrailassociation.com.

The City Council and the County Board of Supervisors voted to prioritize the Safe Passage concept plan in the City and County capital budget plans in an effort to create a safe walking passage from the Old Santa Barbara Mission over the Mission Creek and northward to the Puesta del Sol turnoff to the Museum. This concept plan under consideration would require the shifting of less than 20 feet of the wall adjacent to the historic bridge at Mission Creek and the "stegosaurus wall" for the John Kay property to provide for new openings for a new pedestrian bridge on the western side of the stone bridge. The vehicular bridge we see today, while being a treasured historical resource, is not the original one. The "historic walls" have been moved previously when the bridge was widened in 1930. To allow for a safe walking path along the stegosaurus wall, Mission Canyon road will be shifted 5 feet back to its original course that was altered in 1930 for a total of a 42 foot wide road and pathway, including bike lanes ...not 60 feet as some have implied. All the trees on both sides of the road will stay in place just as we see today, with the exception of one tree growing right next to a power pole which will need to be moved. The plan under consideration would allow ADA access as mandated by law and not desecrate any of the numerous and well identified protected historic resources in the corridor.

The reality is that the City Council and the Board of Supervisors approved a plan to make a plan and nothing more. While concept drawings are an absolute necessity for responsible decision making at this point, they must not be interpreted as the "final plan". This project will take extensive concept and design work and must be fully compliant with the City and County processes for modifying any sites within this historic corridor.

The preliminary concept plan is opposed by the recently formed Coalition to Preserve Mission Canyon, which claims support from respected canyon residents. They have raised concerns that the character of the historic corridor will be changed and historic resources will be impacted in a very negative way. Statements and rumors that the plan will eliminate an eastern footbridge, desecrate 120 year old historic walls, speed traffic on Mission Canyon Road, block access to Rocky Nook Park

and include a massive ten million dollar steel footbridge bridge towering over the old historic stone bridge are unwarranted, untrue and inconsistent with the stated purpose of the Mission Heritage Trail Association. If the job is done right, the only thing noticeable will be the absence of anxious pedestrians, power poles, overhead wires and busted asphalt walkways

Doing nothing is not a viable option because ongoing failure to address ADA deficiencies and safety could take the matter precipitously into State authority, and local design controls would be lost. The self-appointed gate-keepers of Mission Canyon do not want to allow for any changes and continue to make the area "un-safe so that it will remain safe" and thus limit the number of people who can enjoy and experience this treasure of our community.

Lastly, this current west side plan approved by the City and County is only a subset of the longer range master plan being developed by the Mission Heritage Trail Association. That master plan will evolve and may be implemented over decades, will extend from the southern end of Laguna and Los Olivos to the northern end at Mission Canyon Road and Foothill. To prevent confusion, a "Master Plan" is not a set of working drawings to build a specific road, bridge, curb, sign or wall. The metamorphosis from master plan to working drawings requires an intense process of engineering, architecture, art, historical analysis, compliance with law at many levels and review by concerned citizens. Like a butterfly, the phase between the cocoon master plan and a beautiful and functional result can look a bit messy if one is too impatient, but if the process is allowed to take its course, the result can be very beautiful and satisfying.

Burglaries and peddlers

You may have read that there's been a rash of burglaries in Santa Barbara recently. Although we have no reports of burglaries in the Upper East, you want to be cautious. Some City residents have reported that 'peddlers' have been working their neighborhoods. Apparently, if the peddlers knock and find no one home, they go in back and break a window to gain entry and steal valuables.

The City has strict rules regarding door to door peddling/soliciting. Here is the [link](#).

In brief: "All persons conducting door-to-door solicitation in the City of Santa Barbara are required to obtain a City of Santa Barbara Business License Tax Certificate and apply for a Solicitor/Peddler permit."

The guidance concludes: "We encourage our residents to ask for the City business license and police-approved permit/photo identification. We encourage our citizens to call the Police if they are made to feel uncomfortable or the solicitor cannot show that they have complied with Santa Barbara's laws regarding solicitors. A Police Officer will respond promptly to complaints and ensure solicitors are adhering to the City's regulations."

Hedges, sidewalks and good neighbors

A little rain, longer days and our hedges are ready to burst with new growth ... sometimes a little too exuberantly. This is a good time to check your front and side lot lines for shrubbery that is crowding

the sidewalk. Upper Easters love to walk and admire the beautiful gardens, so a big thanks to those who keep their sidewalk right-of-ways well-trimmed and accessible.

The city website reports encroaching hedges is one their most [frequently asked questions](#):

Question #13: Who is responsible for shrubbery and vegetation [other than street trees] that grow into public sidewalks or streets?

The property owner adjacent to the sidewalk or street is responsible for maintaining plants to keep them from encroaching into street and sidewalks to create an obstruction or limit visibility. Property owners will be noticed by the city to clear the vegetation. Vegetation encroaching into public streets and sidewalks should be reported to the Public Works Department at 564-5388.



In search of ... a newsletter editor



Do you love to write a little and edit, want to get more involved with what is happening in the Upper East, and have a few hours a month to help out? If you would like to become part of the team that supports Upper East activities we have an opening for the Upper East Association newsletter editor position. All Board members contribute articles of interest, so the editor's task is simply to bring them all together using our present email newsletter format.

To learn more about what's involved (honestly, not that much) please call Milt Hess at 895-0116.

Upper East History – La Huerta at Old Mission Santa Barbara.

For over ten years now, hidden between the lower parking area and 2300 Garden Street driveway, Old Mission Santa Barbara's La Huerta Historic Gardens has been hosting thousands of visitors, mainly fourth graders, who come to learn how California Missions colonized California. It is the only historic landscape that exists in the twenty-one Mission chain and it is designed to teach how Chumash life and California native landscape changed as exotic plants and foods were introduced by the Spanish – and thus, how the foundation of California agriculture was laid.



The Huerta Project could not exist without a devoted group that shows up every Wednesday from 9am

to noon to pull weeds, plant, transplant new additions and more. Volunteers and those with gardening questions are encouraged to come and join.

La Huerta is open to the public from 9am to noon on Wednesdays. Upper East neighbors are especially welcome! More information is available on the website of Old Mission Santa Barbara.

Walking with Mo (my dog)



Well, Mo is busy with March the birthday month in our family and also he is busy accompanying me to all of these meetings this month, along with starting to think about “wedding plans” coming in May. So we will give you more next month when we have a little more time to take longer walks through our great neighborhood.

Fred

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fred Johnson".