



Dear member,

Here's the June 2015 edition of our monthly newsletter. June Gloom will soon be over!

FYI

❖ Vacation rentals

The City is undertaking a review of its policy regarding vacation rentals. The issue is complex and is unlikely to be resolved soon. Although zoning ordinances ban vacation rentals in single-family residential neighborhoods, the City collects Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) revenues from owners who are violating these ordinances. The most likely outcome will be new restrictions on vacation rentals but not an outright ban.

The UEA Board wants to know your opinions about this issue, and a questionnaire will be sent out shortly. We'll review the results, discuss them at our July 8th Board meeting, and share them in the July newsletter.

❖ Safe Passage

On May 21st, the Mission Heritage Trail Association/Safe Passage Working Group held a public workshop to review the latest conceptual plans for safety improvements to the corridor from the intersection of East Los Olivos and Laguna Streets up through Mission Canyon to Foothill Road. Over 60 people attended and had a very productive exchange of information and ideas for improving the safety within this corridor. Link [here](#) for more detailed information on the workshop results.

❖ Zoning Information Reports

The Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury has recently released a report entitled *City of Santa Barbara Zoning Information Reports – Inconsistent and Unreliable*. The report is compelling in its documentation of problems with the ZIR process and makes recommendations to correct them.

City Council is required to respond to the Grand Jury report within 90 days. Here is a [link](#) to the complete report.



Out and About in Upper East

❖ Upper East History – A little girl and a regal dog

He has been standing guard in front of the grand house at the corner of Mission and Garden Streets for more than a century now, his head turned in a heroic pose. The stories that have

surrounded this larger-than-life bronze casting of a Labrador are equally heroic – that his real life counterpart saved a child from drowning, that he saved a family from a raging inferno, that his grave is underneath the statue.

All rumors were laid to rest during a 1979 newspaper interview with then-owners of the property, a Mr. and Mrs. Dumas. A little girl named Eleanor Willits and her dog were both born in Michigan in the year 1877. When the dog died of old age, Eleanor asked that a statue be made of him. When her family moved to Santa Barbara to the house at Garden and Mission, the statue was brought along, and it has occupied the spot on the front lawn ever since. Mr. and Mrs. Dumas heard the story from Eleanor herself who died in 1964 at the age of 87. The home has changed owners several times, but the dog, often dressed in thematic holiday outfits, has become a fixture.

❖ **Walking with Mo**

Recently, Mo and I actually had to go and get the umbrella for our morning walk. It was great to see real water coming from the skies. As we often do, Mo and I look at how precious water is being used to preserve our landscaping. This morning, however, we saw water running out a locked six-foot-high fence and into the street. Someone at the property had left a hose going all night long, preserving neither water nor landscaping. If you see something like this, you can report it through the city's **water hotline** at 564-5460.

The Upper East Association board is currently looking at several issues including the vacation rental phenomenon in Santa Barbara and elsewhere. As issues come to our attention, the board tries to assess the pulse of our members. Thanks to board member Milt Hess who designs and distributes surveys to help in those assessments.

I am sure you are all aware this newsletter is a contribution of several people, especially our board members, so when you encounter them, give them a big thank you. We have a great working board, but as current members choose to step down, we are always looking for potential new board members. So if you see Mo and me walking, stop and share your thoughts about who might be a good candidate for the coming fall election.

Hope you enjoyed that rainy day as much as Mo and I did!

Fred



Mark your calendars for the UEA garden party and annual meeting

When: November 8th

Where: Serra Hall (corner of Garden and Los Olivos Streets)

Who: Guest speaker, City Administrator Paul Casey

What: Refreshments and the opportunity to socialize with your neighbors

Hope to see you there!