



**M A D I S O N H E I G H T S**

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**President's Report: Looking Back, Looking Ahead**

*By Neil Kleinman*



For our first newsletter of the year I wanted to review what MHNA accomplished last year and then discuss the issues we face for the coming year.

In 2009, we had major accomplishments in terms of civic involvement. Our Towne Hall Forum for City Council candidates was a huge success with large attendance and news coverage. Once again, our neighborhood association set a standard for other associations to

follow.

We also held a successful workshop in support of the City's Update of its General Plan. We were able to send a clear message about the need to constrain excessive development and protect the architectural integrity of our City.

I'm glad to report that our neighborhood is taking the water shortage seriously. We were able to distribute information on water conservation via email and supported Terry Tornek's water conservation fair in Allendale Park. As I walk through our neighborhood, I meet many residents who have reduced watering and have begun to switch to drought tolerant plants. Beautiful gardens are one of the hallmarks of our neighborhood. So far we have been able to preserve their beauty.

At our Annual Meeting we honored former Councilman Sid Tyler for his contributions to the City and support of our neighborhood. His work personified the Neighborhood Association - City relationship that benefits all of us.

We have also tried to help insure that the South Lake Avenue Business Area is responsive to the needs of our neighborhood. As a nonprofit organization we don't promote any specific business activities, but we do try to present resident concerns about vacant stores, lack of parking and any possible impacts on traffic.

[mhnapasadena.org](http://mhnapasadena.org)

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## Blair IB Middle School Under Construction

Many residents have asked about the construction project at the corner of Marengo and Allendale. Work has begun on the new Blair IB Middle School using funds from the Measure TT School Bonds. Upon completion in 2011, middle school students now using Allendale will move over to the new school building.

The school building will be situated as far from residences as possible to minimize the impact of any noise. The building will surround an inner courtyard and the tunnel

under Marengo to the High School will have its entrance within the courtyard. This design approach will reduce the student traffic on the streets during school hours.

Ultimately, portable classrooms that currently serve the ninth grade will be eliminated. At present, there is no specific plan for the Allendale Elementary School once the middle school moves to its new facility. The MHNA board will monitor PUSD plans as they develop.

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## Crime Prevention Update

The Pasadena Police Department is asking for your assistance in fighting crime. Over the past few months, there has been an increase in vehicles being stolen and/or burglarized. To help prevent individuals from becoming victims of these types of crimes, please do not leave your valuables in your vehicle. The items of interest in burglaries are GPS systems, laptops, wallets, purses, cell phones, electronic items and any item of value. Please lock your vehicle and set your alarm to help with deterring burglars.

If you see any suspicious activity or persons in your neighborhood, or if you become a victim of a crime, please report it immediately to the Pasadena Police Department.

For general questions or non-emergency calls, which consist of delayed theft reports or a delayed call for reporting suspicious activity, please call the non-emergency number at 626-744-4241

If a crime is in progress, or just occurred please call 911

Cynthia Murphy of the Pasadena Police department has served as our neighborhood's Community Services Representative for the past three and a half years. She will be going back to Patrol as part of normal shift rotation. I want to express our appreciation for the dedicated work she has done to keep us informed on safety issues and respond to individual residents with concerns about neighborhood safety. Many of you may have met her at our Annual Meetings.

Her replacement will be Laura Morris. We look forward to working with her.

Many of you have emailed us reports about criminal activity in the neighborhood. This information along with bulletins from the Police Department is often passed along to our residents via our email list serve. You can email reports to Laura Morris at [lmorris@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:lmorris@cityofpasadena.net).

Our email list serve has become an effective tool for distribution of information on neighborhood events and public safety concerns. I want to express my thanks to the many of you who have expressed appreciation for the emails and/or responded with suggestions. We received many questions for the City Council candidates that helped us organize the structure of the Forum.

Of course our Annual Fourth of July Parade and Picnic was, once again, a major success. Much of the credit for this success goes to our event chairwomen, Joyce Kelly, who has served our board and neighborhood tirelessly for many years. Joyce retired from our board this year, and her shoes will be hard to fill.

During the parade I couldn't help noticing that the children who were in strollers a few years ago are now riding bikes with training wheels or on scooters. There is now a new generation of children in strollers. We see many more parents and grandparents in the parade as they accompany the very young children. Our event has certainly become a family affair in every way.

### **Looking Ahead for 2010**

We need everyone's help to continue these successes in the coming year. Our most important need is for greater participation from our residents. Our board has shrunk so we have a critical need new members. We've set a "reorganization" board meeting for March 2nd, and invite residents who would like to serve on the board or just provide direction for our activities to attend. The meeting is Tuesday, March 2nd, at the Assistance League, located at the corner of Hudson and California Avenues. The meeting will start at 7:00pm and refreshments will be served. There is plenty of parking.

We also need more resident involvement

in the planning and organization for our annual Fourth of July Event. For the past several years, a few of us have worked very hard to make this event a success. Frankly, more help is needed. It is very satisfying to be part of something that brings an entire neighborhood together to celebrate community values and pride in country. We hope that those interested in help will come to our March 2nd meeting.

The costs of staging the event have risen over the past years, and we can't rely on food sales to cover a large portion of the costs. In order to maintain the excellence of the event we will need sponsorship donations to cover such things as security, insurance, rentals and entertainment. At last year's event many people expressed a desire to have some form of music to lead the parade. Again, this is something that would require sponsorship.

As we move forward in 2010, we need your suggestions for issues to tackle as well as neighborhood needs to address. For example, during workshops for the Update of the General Plan several residents expressed concerns about the state of neighborhood sidewalks that have been uplifted by tree roots. We've reached a point where some spots are dangerous for pedestrians or children riding bikes or scooters. Should our association press the City to make repairs or at least share costs with homeowners who voluntarily want to make repairs? We need your inputs and suggestions. If you can't attend a board meeting, please email them to [info@mhnapasadena.org](mailto:info@mhnapasadena.org). Your suggestions and opinions are important especially as the City moves ahead with its General Plan Update.

I consider myself to be very fortunate to have now lived in Madison Heights for 10 years. Each year I learn more about our wonderful neighborhood and its residents. I urge everyone to become more involved and share this excitement and satisfaction.



# M A D I S O N H E I G H T S

**Important  
open board  
meeting**

March 2nd at 7p.m.  
Assistance League  
Meeting Room

Current Resident or

## Web Site, Email and Dues

Newsletter issues are now posted on our web site. Our goal remains for the site to provide more current information in the past. We hope to make news available about speakers and key topics at our upcoming board meetings.

We continue to update of our email list to make sure we've updated addresses and added new addresses you've supplied. Our list now exceeds 500 addresses so we can get critical information out to most of our neighborhood. Please try to provide us with an address if you have one and haven't already done so. As stated in the past, the email list is confidential and is never provided to outside organizations.

Thanks to all of you who made generous dues contributions last year. As usual, this year's dues envelopes will be enclosed with next newsletter. Your support is critical to our activities and the betterment of our neighborhood.

## MHNA Officers and Directors

<b>Neil Kleinman</b> <i>President</i>	Janine Abell
<b>Chuck Livingstone</b> <i>Vice President, Operations</i>	Joe Crowley
<b>John Latta</b> <i>Treasurer</i>	Jay Dupre
<b>Judy Kleinman</b> <i>Secretary</i>	Judy Jenkins
<b>Lucian Carter</b> <i>Vice President, Membership</i>	John Latta
<b>Vacant</b> <i>Events Coordinator</i>	Rey Rodriguez
<b>Gordon Squires</b> <i>Webmaster</i>	Gordon Squires
<b>Suzie Boyer</b> <i>Neighborhood Beautification</i>	