

Balboa Island Improvement Association

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www.mybiia.com



Volunteers Needed!

We are expanding our volunteer base. From planting flowers in our public areas to docents at the home tour, volunteers for the parade we love our volunteers. Please contact **Sue Sibley** at sueS@mybiia.com

Associate Director Program

Want to take a test-drive as member of the BIIA Board? The Associate Director Program is a way for you to try us out before you fully commit your time to the Board. Please consider joining us as an Associate Director. You will be as involved as you like and can be a part our efforts to make life great for our residents. Please contact **Kristine Taft** at kristineT@mybiia.com

Parade Volunteers!

Contact **Stephanie Reddin**
at love4seas@yahoo.com or
Caitlin Smith at iriecate@gmail.com

Pot of the Month

By Betty Christy



Collins and South Bayfront
Jane Patterson



Let us recognize your historic home with a beautiful bronze plaque.
(Homes built prior to 1953)

Please note that this plaque designates year of construction only and does not place any restriction on property.

GREAT GIFT FOR THE HISTORIC HOMEOWNER

Please contact:
Robert Lambert
949.675.7985

Doggie Bag Dispenser Advertising!



There are several prime locations to display your year-long ad or message.

Help the BIIA offset the \$10,000 cost of purchasing doggie bags and help keep your island clean.

For more info contact:
Jon Remy – jtremy@yahoo.com

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THE ISLAND BRIDGE

SPRING
2016

The Only Official Balboa Island Newsletter - Published by the Balboa Island Improvement Association since 1919

BIIA SPRING 2016 CALENDAR

Wednesday, April 20
Board Meeting
6:00pm

Wednesday, May 18
Board Meeting
6:00pm

Saturday, May 21
General Membership Meeting
6:00pm

Sunday, June 5
Balboa Island Parade & After Party
11am-4pm

Wednesday, June 15
Board Meeting
6:00pm

Saturday, June 18
Pancake Breakfast & Awards
8am-11am

*General Membership Meetings
are held at the Fire Station*

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Lee Pearl

*Welcome to the spring
addition of the Bridge —
your neighborhood newsletter.*

Springtime is one of my favorites on Balboa Island, with our bridge lined with flags and flowers as well as the flower pots at the end of each street. Please consider joining the BIIA and contribute to our beautification efforts. Many thanks to all of the dedicated volunteers who donate their time.

For many of you, this President's Message will be a supplement to information you've already gleaned from being on the BIIA Constant Contact email list. If you're not a subscriber and would like to get on the list, just send me an email.

HOT TOPICS: Park Avenue Bridge



The Park Avenue Bridge project is moving forward with scheduled completion in early 2017. For information www.parkavebridge.com questions 888-600-7590 and to get the weekly email updated inf@parkavebridge.com. At a meeting at the fire station regarding the bridge, some residents expressed concern about the additional congestion when the junior lifeguards are on the island. I met with the City Lifeguard and Police staffs to discuss the impacts of this program on the island. Your concerns were relayed to the City and hopefully we will see some improvements.

Short Term Rentals

If you rent your property short term or live near a weekly rental, here is a City item that should be of interest to you. From the City Website: The short-term rental market has experienced substantial growth over the last few years. The City has seen a change in the local rental market due to the launch of online hosting platforms such as Airbnb, Home Way, VRBO and others. The City is seeking public input on its current regulations to help ensure the interests and needs of the community are heard and balanced. For further information go to:

www.newportbeachca.gov/government/departments/finance/revenue-division/short-term-rentals

I have requested that the City hold a community meeting at the fire station regarding this important topic.

Bayside Drive

If you were at the last fire station meeting you know that there is a proposal to modify Bayside Drive from Coast Highway to Jamboree (Marine).



The design is to improve safety and mobility and may propose changing Bayside Dr. from a four lane road to a modified two lane road. The City has promised to return to us with a design prior to moving forward on a plan. This will be at a future fire station meeting.

Continued on page 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - from page 1

Proposed Back Bay Landing Project

The proposed Back Bay Landing Project is moving through the approval process. The project is located on the NE side of PCH bridge at Dover and is about seven acres. It involves up to 49 new residential units as well as commercial and marina space.

2016 Centennial

The April Centennial Celebration has been moved from April to the evening of June 25th at Harborside Pavilion. Local bands will be featured and we will honor some of the families that have made the island their homes for almost a century.

The proceeds from the event will go toward Island beautification.

The September Centennial Celebration in combination with the BIIA Taste of Balboa Island will be the island's main Centennial event. No date has been set.

To commemorate the Centennial, several art concepts are being discussed including a bronze sculpture depicting life on the island and a mural of historic Balboa Island.

Our own resident sculptore, **Mariam Baker**, has offered to create an art piece for the island that will be located at Marine and south Bayfront. The sculpture is of an actual couple who were fifty

year residents, relaxing on a bench. They lived out their lives on the Island, exactly what many of us hope to do. Mariam has generously offered to donate her time and artist fees for the sculpture. The foundry, bronze and other costs are approximately \$50,000. The project is to be locally funded and includes a donor plaque to recognize contributors. The donors and their families will be able to visit the studio and follow the progress of the piece and will be introduced at the dedication ceremony. If you would like to help us fund this effort, please email me. There are several \$5,000 slots that remain before the project is fully funded.

LeeP@mybiia.com

LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

By Mary Pat Earl



Photo: Larry Dummire

The 23rd Annual Balboa Island Parade and Island Centennial Sunday, June 5, 2016 at 11:00AM

Returning Parade Chairs **Mary Pat Earl**, **Jack Callahan** "Coconut Man" and co-chair **Kristin Currey** have been strategically working hard to putting together this years Parade along with 30-40 volunteers that make this parade happen!

Volunteers Needed:

Contact **Stephanie Reddin**
at love4seas@yahoo.com or
Caitlin Smith at iricate@gmail.com

An Island tradition filled with children on bikes, island dogs, decorated golf carts and floats, vintage cars, USC Marching Band, Keystone Cops, drill teams, marching bands, local dignitaries, King of Redonda and much more!

This year's theme "**100 Years of Sun and Fun**" so get your game on and decorate your golf carts and compete against your neighbors. To enter the parade Contact **Pat Nangle** at BIParade@att.net or call 949 673-2281. Bridge Closes at 10:30AM, so get here early. Parade Starts at 11:00AM and After Party in front of the

fire station with live music by TBD and performance by local musician **Gunnar Gehl** starts at 1:00PM – 4:30PM

A Special thanks to our Sponsors **BIIA**, **Abrams Coastal Properties**, **Jeff Gehl**, **Karen and Barry Meguire**, **Gus Nelson**, **Shopoff**, **Herdman for City Council**, **Mary Pat Earl**, **Patti and Terry Jenssen**, **Village Inn**, **UPS Bayside**, **Balboa Island Ferry**, **City of Newport Beach**, **Ciao**, **Balboa Candy**, **Ed Selich**, **Union Bank Bayside**, **Hyatt Regency**, **Thinc** and **Fletcher Jones**.

MarypatE@mybiia.com

**It's a busy Spring for CERT!**

First, CERT was asked to participate in the Maritime Disaster Drill sponsored by the Newport Beach Fire Department, which involved 19 federal, state, county and municipal agencies from all of Orange County. The exercise postulated a collision of two vessels off the Corona del Mar beach creating 84 "victims," with life guards, paramedics, ski-dos, Harbor Patrol, Coast Guard boats, and helicopters from three different agencies affecting "rescues." Eighty people were saved within 30 minutes! Twenty-one CERT members helped with registration, problem-solving, organizing & monitoring fire truck parking, food distribution, and acting as victims. Of these volunteers, EIGHT were Balboa Islanders! As always, Balboa Island CERT shines.

Next, the Annual Emergency Preparedness Workshop, sponsored by Balboa Island CERT and the NBFD, was held at the beginning of April. After

NEWS AND NOTES

By Sue & Ed Siebel

Island CERT members covered Island protocol and gathering places in an emergency, Fire **Captain Mike Liberto**, a Terrorism Liaison Officer (TLO), spoke to the events surrounding an active shooter incident and the associated responses. Disagreeable thoughts, but good things to know about, given the news these days.

Additionally, the City-wide Preparedness Drill will be held on the morning of May 14th. Balboa Island CERT will participate for the third year.



do to help. If you aren't already a member of CERT, do think about taking the training next Fall. Focusing on pre-paring you to help yourself, your family, and your neighbors in the event of a catastrophic disaster, the sessions cover disaster preparedness, disaster medical operations, disaster psychology, fire suppression, light search and rescue, team organization & terrorism awareness. The time commitment for the sessions is approximately 20 hours. And, it's free for Newport Beach residents! You can find full information at:

www.newportbeachca.gov/government/departments/fire-department/life-safety-services-division/community-emergency-response-team-nbcert

Wishing you a safe and happy summer!



Sue and Ed Siebel - CERT Coordinators

And, finally, CERT green vests will be appearing again on Island Parade day, June 5th, helping with communications, entry organization, lost parents, questions from viewers, and anything else they can



This year the 20th annual Balboa Island Holiday Home Tour will be held on Sunday, December 11, 2016. This event has become the largest annual fund raising event to support the mission of the BIIA to enhance the beauty, safety and livability of Balboa Island. The Holiday Home Tour is an opportunity to showcase the unique homes, both old and new, that contribute to charm of our Island. In addition, since this is a holiday tour, home owners

Seeking Homes to Showcase in the December Holiday Home Tour

By Tom Popplewell

can proudly display their talents in decorating their homes for the holidays.

Our goal this year is to showcase 7-8 homes. We are looking for homes on either the large or little island that represent the unique culture of Balboa Island. The Home Tour is a one-day event between the hours of 11am-4pm on Sunday, December 11.



To ensure a successful event, we would like to begin now to identify the homes that will participate in December. If you are interested in showcasing your home in December and assisting the BIIA with its fund raising efforts, please contact one of the following:

Tom Popplewell - 714 296-6196
trpopple@aol.com (Committee Chair)

Sue Sibley - 916 799-6053
suesibley55@yahoo.com

Gail Vasterling - 949 246-7110
gailvasterling@sbcglobal.net

Annette Giermann - 949 673-5523
balboalover@gmail.com

TomP@mybiia.com

Meet Your Neighbors



by Kristen Turner

Meet Leigh Kelly



Leigh and Jim at Crystal Cove

It has been said before that to plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow - which explains why **Leigh Kelly** sees the world through rose-colored lenses. As commissioner of the Garden of the Month Club, Kelly is planting the seeds for a better future for Balboa Island, one garden at a time.

Over the past 18 months, Leigh has become almost as acquainted with the gardens and yards of the island as she has

the people who tend to them. Almost being the key word. After years of spending summers and holidays at their vacation home in Newport Beach, Leigh and her husband **Jim**, fell in love in with the Balboa Island community and lifestyle. Two years ago, they decided to make the island a more permanent fixture in their lives, splitting their time between their Opal Avenue home and their Arcadia residence, where the two had established their careers and romance.

The pair struck up a love connection on the job while employed at Southern California Edison, Leigh as a financial analyst and Jim as an intern while in graduate school. He likes to say that he was the lowest paid employee in the company when he began. But they still married... and 35 years later Jim retired as Senior Vice President of SCE. Together they have two daughters, a grandson and a few more kids of the furry variety.

Between a busy consulting business and weekly jaunts between Arcadia and Balboa, Leigh and Jim like to spend time on the water aboard their Duffy boat or taking trips with their other recently retired

friends. And, of course, Leigh makes a point to get "back to her roots" and spend as much time as possible soaking in the scenery of some of Orange County's most enviable front yards.

Want to snag the title of Garden of the Month? Here, Leigh dishes the dirt on how to make the most of your green thumb:

MAINTAIN YOUR GARDEN: Keep the weeds out and the trees and bushes trimmed and under control.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT PLANTS: Low maintenance picks like succulents, citrus and olive trees thrive on Balboa Island and require little attention to make a big impact.

MIX & MATCH: Combine different varieties of flowers, plants, trees - even accessories like seashells or unique signs make for a fresh and unexpected result and are a great way to express your personality.

REMEMBER THAT SIZE DOESN'T MATTER: Get creative with limited land and make the most of what you've got. From walkways to window boxes, make every inch count.

10pm, 8 items for 9\$ from 8-10pm.

If you need motivation to get through a Monday **Wildfish** offers happy hour all night and they truly have the best bread and best crab cakes in Orange County. Check out the outside patio.

If you are wanting to leave the double bubble and venture past the 405...good lord get extra insurance...**Seasons 52** in South Coast Plaza has one of the best in Orange County. Enjoy live music from the grand piano inside the circular bar. They offer one of the best priced, tasty, and healthy happy hours in town.

If **you are** really daring, try a cocktail at one of the hidden speakeasy's around town. The **Pie Society** and **Five Crowns** are all I am going to say. The rest is up to you to find out where and how to get in.

Happy Hunting :)

VickiF@mybiia.com

Local Jewels



by Vicki Frank

I love trying new things and especially love a great deal.

One way I meet both those needs is trying out new restaurants and their happy hours.

If you enjoy walking or bike riding to Happy Hour one of my favorites is **21 Oceanfront** at the pier on the Peninsula. The bartenders are entertaining and the sunset view from the bar is fabulous.

I always feel a happy hour on the weekend is a double treat.

Some of the best local options are **Aqua Lounge** because of its extended hours from 3-7pm seven days a week. Their handcrafted drinks are exceptional. **The Cannery** stands out for the large menu



The Cannery

selection and water views. **Red O** and **Crow Bar** are also worth trying.

If you appreciate a good bottle of wine **A Restaurant** offers all bottles and glasses 50% off on Tuesdays.

For the night owls **Flemings** offers the late night happy hour called 8 for \$9 till



Celeste Dennerline and Tanner Hill Named Balboa Island Museum Volunteers of the Year



Tanner Hill, Shirley Pepys, Celeste Dennerline and Sue Sibley.

We cannot emphasize enough the importance of docents and volunteers to our Museum. They contribute time and resources serving as docents during the Museum's hours of operation, staffing the Museum Store, assisting in research, cataloging and archiving, helping to host events, and a number of other functions. The efforts that are put forth deserve our sincere appreciation and recognition. The

Museum Volunteer of the Year Award was created several years ago to annually recognize an outstanding volunteer whose dedicated service has made a significant difference in our community.

Museum volunteers were honored on April 10th at a festive Wine & Cheese Party at the home of **Shirley Pepys**. Over forty volunteers gathered and enjoyed spending quality time with each other. **Celeste Dennerline** and **Tanner Hill** were pleasantly surprised when Volunteer Chair Sue Sibley and Executive Assistant Jennifer Keil announced that they had been chosen to be this year's recipients of the Volunteer of the Year Award.

Celeste is a newer volunteer and came to the Museum with great experience. In this past year she has created educational programs that benefit the Boy and Girl Scouts and the Adventure (Indian) Guides. She recently became the Chair of the Museum Visitor Experience, overseeing the training of all volunteers through an interactive and enjoyable program presented once a month at a breakfast meeting. She also contributed extensive research for our newest exhibit on the Santa Ana River. We are so grateful for Celeste's enthusiasm about the history of our Island and Newport Beach.



Mandatory federal dredging will result in the formation of a new island in Newport Harbor. The forced dredging will result in an island in the turning basin with six residential lots. Millions of dollars will be saved by not barging the sand and waste out to sea. The separate lots will be auctioned off and sold to fund the project and as a City fundraiser. Bidding will start at \$9 million per parcel. At current starting bids and after expenses, the City stands to profit approximately \$30 million.

The Federal Waterways Commission has determined that Newport Harbor is too shallow. The harbor has reserved status as a

New Island Coming to Newport Harbor

federal port. This requires waterways to have a passage for ships to be no less than 20 feet deep. Newport has to the end of December of 2016 to get into compliance.

The sense of urgency has necessitated bringing special dredging equipment from Seattle Washington. The modern equipment will be able to complete the project and island formation in roughly 60 days. Utility permits have been applied for and are pending.

Seymour Beek has been contacted for ferry service. A new and smaller ferry boat will be commissioned to service the new island.

One of the lots will be reserved as a sea lion park. This was necessary as a compromise to secure California Coastal Commission approval. Also, as a compromise with the Coastal Commission, an eel grass "farm" will be planted in front of the sea lion park. Bayfront residents

Tanner started as a docent and quickly became one of our most dedicated volunteers. He is also one of our newest and the youngest board members. Tanner is always willing and available to help in any capacity, whether it is being a docent in the Museum, helping to host an event, or working on the archives. This year he has taken on a significant role in the 2016 Historic Home Tour, which will take place on June 18th. Tanner and his family are long-time Newport Beach residents. His welcoming and friendly personality is contagious!

The Museum would not work without volunteers like Celeste and Tanner. Because of their love for others and leadership by example, they always go above and beyond what is called for as a Museum volunteer. We also extend a special thank you to each and every docent and volunteer who contribute to our mission to preserve the history and heritage of our beloved Island.

Be sure to visit the Museum and experience the newest exhibit on the Santa Ana River, as well as the Museum Store.

info@balboaislandmuseum.org
949-675-3952
www.balboaislandmuseum.org

have expressed their concern of the noise of the sea lions. The Coastal Commission has said they are a protected species and there is too little land space in the harbor for the sea lions to mate.

The island will be high enough to eliminate the need for sea walls. City building officials have said the five buildable lots' structures will be limited to three stories and 4,500 square feet of livable space.

It has been rumored that **Donald Bren** will have the inside track and may bid for all of the lots. That being the case, the new island would be called Bren Island.

Contact your local Realtor for more information and a bidding application.

Editor's note:

This article was intended to be read on April 1st.

Please re-read editor's note.

KenY@mybiia.com



by Leigh Kelly

March Garden 201 Garnet Avenue



Maxine and her King Charles Spaniel "Katie"

As March arrived on Balboa Island, it came with its beautiful partner: **Spring**. This month I tried my best to pick a home that looked as though it would be spectacular once spring arrived. At the beginning of the month...islanders had young plants in the ground, roses had new shoots but no blooms--so I held my breath and chose 201 Garnet as this month's Garden of the Month.

A couple of weeks went by until I received a call from owner **Maxine Maly** for me to come by and take pictures. And there it was: the spectacular spring garden that I thought might be coming.

Maxine moved to this home in 2015 but she is a long-time resident here, having owned several homes previously on the island. The first thing Maxine did once escrow closed was tear out all of the plantings and start fresh with her incredible design sensibility. I learned that her last home had been on the Sherman Gardens tour. Her knack for gardening has become a side business for her. All of her jobs are by word of mouth and can be seen here and there around the island.

Maxine taught herself how to garden as a child who wanted a rose garden. So



Eden climbing rose, foxgloves, mystic spires and other spring flowers

into the dirt she went--first learning how to plant roses and then branching into blooms of every variety. Today she finds that three things dictate her gardening style: color, variety, and placement. I can tell that her garden is one that blooms all year long as she considers seasons in her placement. Maxine is known for rescuing plants from houses being demolished or remodeled on the island. She has an incredible knowledge of rare plant varieties and what will bloom in our climate zone. Just some of the things you will see in her garden: roses of every kind, mystic spires, Daffodils, Foxgloves, Shasta Daisies, California Poppies, Blue Hydrangea (fed by coffee grounds and rusty nails), Iris, Ranunculus, Azaleas, and variegated plants of different varieties. Even the street signs are used for structure for Sweet Peas to climb. A Lilac Crepe Myrtle is getting ready to bloom, as well.

Maxine, her dog **Katie**, and son **William** live surrounded by the beauty of Maxine's green thumb. When home from college, her other two sons, **James** and **Jonathan**, are able to enjoy her hard work, as well.



Roses ready to bloom, blue delphinium, and other spring flowers.

Photos: Leigh Kelly



Sabino amidst the French garden

April Garden "La Petite Folie"

April's "Garden of the Month" began with the thought that spring must be in full bloom on the little island, just as it is in my neck of the woods. So, my "Garden of the Month" sign and I headed on over to the little island, only to be met with construction on the bridge, construction on the streets, remodels, and new builds around every corner. I was wondering how I was going to even find anything. And then I made a turn and there it was: a gorgeous spring garden on the corner of Balboa Avenue and Abalone. A home also known as "La Petite Folie".

During construction, the owners of this home and garden worked with a designer from Armstrong's Nursery and together they came up with the idea for a French garden that honors loved ones who have passed. Since its initial design, there is a triffecta constantly working that consists of 1) ideas from the owners, 2) a

designer named **Patty**, and 3) **Sabino**, a gardener. Eighteen Double Delight roses are planted to honor a mom and sister who passed away within a short amount of time. Later, a friend made a donation for the owners to purchase a rose in honor of a father's passing, as well. After long consideration, the owners picked a gorgeous red rose which is planted amid the Double Delights. Curious as to the name of this rose that fit so well, the owner flipped over the tag on the rose bush that had so lovingly been chosen. Guess what it was. Drop Dead Red. I am not kidding.

If you walk by to see "La Petite Folie", take a second to notice the depth of the home: it is only 19 feet. But it is an amazing 19 feet surrounded by Cecil Bruner climbing roses, Lobelia, Alyssum, Geraniums, Boxwood Hedges, topiaries, and Azaleas. All are planted to give the illusion of a French secret garden and/or a British window box. Was that achieved? Absolutely. Congratulations "La Petite Folie". You are amazingly grand for being so small.

