

Mediterrania Homeowners Assn.

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2025

MEDITERRANIAHOA.COM

2025 Board of Directors

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NOTE: To contact the Mediterrania Board or an individual Board member, please send an email to Mediterrania@Cox.net. If you are sending to a particular board member, please put their name in the subject line.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Craig Whited*

WELCOME. We hope to see you at our Annual Meeting & Dinner on February 2nd. We will have two after dinner speakers: Our City Mayor, David Bradley, to give us a brief update on the recent City of RPV challenges and the COO/CFO of UCLA – South Bay, Steve Yu, to give us an update on this coming Fall's activities on the campus.

We had a great year in 2024 after a very well attended Annual Meeting. We had a full complement of active Board Members for the last two years and have intensified our efforts in Safety and Security. While Lois Karp, our Vice President, and I had hoped to retire from our positions this year, we have both agreed to stay on for one final year to deal with, and hopefully complete, the projects that are in process. We are looking for interested members to join the Board this year with the intention of taking on one or more of the roles that our board members play.

What's happening in Mediterrania?

- AT&T has its portion of the new cell antenna up and running and Verizon's portion should be on soon.
- We completed a planting program along the sidewalk that stretches up PV Drive East above Ganado. There is another plan along Ganado in the upcoming next few years as soon as the cell tower project is complete.
- We have been working with the City on traffic visibility and signage improvements since 2021 and feel that we are getting

closer to a solution that should help reduce the number of accidents along the switchbacks and at the Ganado - PVDE intersection. The City has a Traffic Safety Committee meeting currently scheduled on January 27th, and you are all encouraged to attend virtually or in person if you are available. Subsequently, there will be a City Council meeting to determine which of the recommendations it has received will be implemented. Again, it will be important to participate.

- The entire traffic safety process began its current round in 2021 and is just now reaching a point where the City's staff will be making recommendations to the TSC and City Council. This process has been slow and laborious and now seems even more difficult as the City has been named in a lawsuit by one of the cyclists who broadsided a car starting to exit Ganado into PV Drive East.

- The MHOA sticker program has been a success, and it identifies all MHOA members' vehicles bearing the sticker to our Flock Security cameras and to the Los Angeles Sheriff Department. Every member is entitled to two stickers with their paid membership. The stickers can be picked up at the door to the Annual Meeting or directly from our Treasurer, George Crudge, see his article on page 4.

- During our October Wine and Cheese, I explained the financial situation where we owed a total of \$4,500 to Flock for previously unbilled leases as well as the increase that the City would not reimburse. I was successful in persuading Flock to absorb the entire amount, the late bill from 2023 as well as the 2024 increase for which the City did not provide matching funds. Due to the large and growing expenses to the HOA and with the decision going forward regarding whether or not to continue the Flock cameras, a straw poll was taken and those present were

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strongly in favor of raising dues to make certain that we could continue the Flock Security cameras and to encourage their neighbors who have not been paying their fair share to do so. With the increase for 2025 in dues by \$25.00 a year, we are on a solid financial footing as long as the City continues its cost sharing for the Flock cameras.

If you are interested in joining the Board or would like to attend a Board Meeting, we would welcome your participation. Please contact me in advance with your topic of interest, and we will arrange for your attendance. Please check out our website (www.mediterraniahoa.com) for meeting details.

Thank you for supporting the MHOA.

PROPOSED TRAFFIC & SAFETY CHANGES FOR THE PVDE & GANADO INTERSECTION & SWITCHBACKS

by Lois Karp

Everyone living here in Mediterranean knows we have a very dangerous traffic situation at the entrance to our HOA and on the switchback portion of PVDE from Crest going down to PVDS. Fifteen months ago, your HOA board made it a priority to write a formal letter after numerous conversations with city staff and LA Sheriff officials had not brought about any solutions regarding our previously ignored requests to try to improve safety at the Ganado and PVDE intersection even though the process had been started in February 2021 before the series of recent accidents took place. We have invested many hours with requests for a road signage and possibly a signal and were told that a traffic study was required before this could be done. In November 2023, the HOA Board sent a formal written request to the City regarding the safety hazards that still had not been addressed.

We have yet to see a resolution of our concerns in spite of several very serious accidents. Mediterranean has made it very clear to the City that we have invested much time and money to keep our entrance beautiful and will not agree to having it torn apart and made unsightly in a knee-jerk attempt by the City to save money. The City needs to make a good safe intersection and the whole switchback stretch of the PVDE roadway covering all of the switchbacks. Over the last fifteen years, there have been at least four fatalities and numerous serious injury accidents along this mile and a half section on PV Drive East.

After our formal letter in 2023 following multiple serious bodily injury accidents during the preceding months, it took many more months to get Public Works to agree that they would hire a consultant to prepare a Traffic and Safety Report that must be submitted to the RPV Traffic Safety Committee. This committee is charged with holding a public hearing to consider changes to the road and intersection. After completion of the traffic study, the Department of Public Works has had to ask their consultants to make multiple additional revisions. We have already had two cancellations of scheduled Traffic Safety Committee meetings. If the committee recommends changes, the process then goes to another Public Hearing at the City Council and, if approved RPV City Council, work can begin. We have a tentative date of January 27 at 6 p.m. at City Hall for the Public Hearing before the Traffic Safety Committee to start this process.

We recently learned that a bicyclist who broadsided a car while driving down PVDE has filed a lawsuit filed against the City as well as the driver of the car that was hit on our corner. This may cause another delay as the City reacts to the lawsuit. In the meantime, the City sent out its landscaping company without notice to cut all of the bushes in the median strip down to 30 inches, which most already were, and the landscaping contractor hacked some down to only 14 inches as they did not come equipped with any measuring device to determine the 30 inch height.

We hope you will consider attending the Traffic Safety Committee meeting currently scheduled for January 27th if you have had or observed any accidents at the corner of Ganado and PVDE, or on the switchbacks above or below the intersection. It also will be important to attend the City Council Meeting when decisions will be made on mitigating this unsafe roadway in our lovely City. You should receive written notice from the City in advance of these meetings.

MEDITERRANIA SAFETY AND SECURITY UPDATE *by Brent Schirripa*

Happy New Year to you! In the year of 2024, there were over 400 reported Part 1 crimes (violent crimes and property crimes) in the City of Rancho Palos Verdes. These crimes include burglary, grand theft, petty theft, robbery, assault, and arson. Since January 1st of this year, there has been both a theft and a burglary reported within a mile of the MHOA. We believe the Flock cameras are effectively deterring crime from happening within our HOA. Thankfully, none of these crimes were reported in the Mediterrania HOA area. If you would like to see where these crimes are happening, visit the City's reporting website: <https://www.rpvca.gov/1030/Crime-Reports-Mapping>

The MHOA continues to strive to make our community the safest in California. MHOA does that in a number of ways that includes providing Flock Safety's photo/license plate reader cameras, providing vehicle stickers to identify cars that belong to MHOA, and educating the community of safety and security procedures and concerns.

Please remain vigilant in 2025 to the top safety concerns that impact our homeowner association.

MHOA will continue to publish safety tips in our newsletter, share crime statistics and highlight community policies that enhance safety. Thank you all for helping make our neighborhood one of the safest in California.

MHOA ANNUAL MEETING



Please join us at our Annual Meeting which will take place on Sunday, February 2nd at 4:30 p.m. It will be held at the UCLA - South Bay Campus in the Café where we have had many Annual Meetings in the past. Guest speakers will be Steve Yu, UCLA - South Bay Chief Operating & Financial Officer and Rancho Palos Verdes Mayor, David Bradley.

Registration begins at 4:30 p.m. Dinner from Panini Kabob Grill will be served at 5:00 p.m. HOA Meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. The guest speakers will begin at 6:30 p.m. This is a BYOB event so you may bring a bottle of wine or beer to be kept at your table to enjoy with dinner.

If you have not already paid your 2025 dues (\$75.00) and received your car stickers for 2025, you will be able to pay at the door. Please plan on coming closer to 4:30 p.m. if this is what you'll be doing.

Please Remember --- this is a member's only event. Hope to see you there.

TREASURER'S REPORT *by George Crudge*

On behalf of the Mediterrania Homeowners Association (MHOA), I would like to acknowledge and extend my appreciation to all the members who have paid their annual dues for 2024. Your support and dedication provides the opportunity for all of us to be united and safer in our beautiful community during this past year. Despite the recent Portuguese Bend landslides, the MHOA was fortunate to have survived 2024 without any new or major problems. Now it's time to be grateful that we have been so fortunate while other neighborhoods have been horribly impacted by catastrophic fires and high winds.

As your Board of Directors was preparing for 2025, the Board Members reflected on our successes in 2024 and the work that we still have in front of us. The first major issue is that our expenses for the Annual Lease / Maintenance Plan for Flock Security Cameras has increased and that the City is no longer contributing 50% share of the cost. This news was discussed at the last Wine and Cheese social event and the majority of the attendees voiced a strong desire to keep at least the same level of programs and to increase our annual dues to cover our increasing costs. A straw vote was conducted and the majority of the members present said they were strongly in favor of increasing the membership dues to cover all of the increasing security costs and to encourage those who had not been paying their fair share to do so.

After the Wine and Cheese, the MHOA Board of Directors unanimously agreed to move forward on the suggested membership fee increase of \$25 making the annual dues \$75.00 per year, which works out to \$6.25 per month, for 2025. It was concluded that we can no longer feasibly provide the amenities you have been receiving for the \$50.00 annual membership. Our membership dues pay for the Flock Cameras to help keep our neighborhood safe and secure. It pays for the beautification and maintenance of our entrance, holiday themes, an annual dinner membership gathering, and a Wine and Cheese gathering. It pays for newsletters to every residence, and vehicle stickers identifying members to the Los Angeles Sheriff Department when they enter or exit the neighborhood. Your membership contribution unites us in our desire for more security and safety and provides social events to keep us informed as a neighborhood.

While the MHOA's expenses have increased over the last few years, the City's reimbursement has decreased. The new dues level will enable us to move forward and continue to provide what we have been accustomed to. If we are able to get more households to pay their fair share by paying dues – only slightly more than half of these currently do – we should be able to limit further dues increases. In our next newsletter, we will once again be listing those households who have paid. I encourage you to inform all of your neighbors who have not yet paid their dues to join you in sharing the costs of maintaining our neighborhood and of the benefits the annual dues provide.

Please use the envelope provided for payment. If you prefer to use Zelle, please use my email (georgecrudge@rocketmail.com) and include your name and address for identification. You can mail or drop off the envelope in my mailbox (3415 Coolheights Drive)

Allow me at this time to wish you all a Happy New Year!

(Please cut out and return with your Dues payment)

Mediterrania Homeowners Association

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2025

Name(s): _____

Check One: Homeowner/Member Renter/Associate Member

Address: _____

Phone(s): (Primary) _____ Other: _____

E-mail(s): (1) _____ (2) _____

Opt-Out (check): I do not wish to receive the newsletter and notifications via email.

Make your **2025** annual dues (**\$75.00**) payable to "Mediterrania HOA" and mail or deliver to: **George Crudge, Treasurer, 3415 Coolheights Drive, RPV, CA 90275**

Thank you for supporting your Mediterrania Homeowners Association!

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