

# THE ISLAND BRIDGE

SEPT/OCT  
2015

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

## Aloha Summer!

### BIIA SEPT/OCTOBER 2015 CALENDAR

Saturday, September 12  
Taste of Balboa Island  
5:00-7:00pm

Thursday, September 17  
General Membership Meeting  
7:00-9:00pm

Thursday, October 8  
Board Meeting  
7:00pm


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3rd Annual

# TASTE

of Balboa Island




Ice Cream Sponsor



Saturday, September 12th

Event Sponsored By



**5-7pm at Balboa Park**

Food, Fun, & Music Extravaganza

**Silent Auction!**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Terry Janssen



Patti &amp; Terry Janssen in a historic ride

I know what you are thinking. Why is there another photo of the First Lady and me in the Parade? The photo that Jon published in the last edition of The Island Bridge was not a photo of us in the actual Parade, but, at the conclusion of the Parade. **Lee Pearl**, BIIA Vice President, actually coffered us in his 1971 Olds Cutlass 442. He took it out of 16 years of moth balls to be in the Parade. This is not just any Olds Cutlass it is 1 of about 90 W30's made, and 1 of 16 that exist today. Both Lee and I are "Car Guys". When Lee got the car out of storage we reverted right back to our high school days. I put on my shop coat, just like in "Auto Shop", and Lee and I went to town giving this special car new points, plugs, condenser, rotor and spark plug wires. A day in the life of American Graffiti.

On a more serious note, on Saturday, July 25th the Balboa Island Improvement Association hosted the first Town Hall Meeting of 2015. I know many of you attended as there were probably 200 folks at the Fire Station. The topics were the



July's Town Hall Meeting was well-attended

Park Avenue Bridge and Sea Walls. For the most part the City conducted the meeting. **Mayor Selich** opened the meet-

ing with his ten point plan to resolve the sea wall issue followed by **Dave Webb's** (Public Works Director) "A" Team. Renderings were presented of the new bridge and a solid plan was present to make our sea walls structurally sound. As a byproduct of the new bridge, our C.E.R.T. will most likely have storage under the stairs on both Islands for equipment. It seemed that the biggest concern was traffic and parking during construction. From the meeting I summarized our concerns along with some recommendations and sent them to Mayor Selich. The Mayor personally assured me that if plan A for traffic, parking and construction does not go as planned we'll go to plan B and fix the issue. This project will be federally funded and included in the projected cost is a provision for traffic control. It is estimated that construction will take up to a year and no matter how good the plans are it is going to be an inconvenience to all of us. For those who have been around for a while, you will remember construction on the Marine Bridge. We had the same fears then as now, and if you lived through that construction, we'll survive this one.

**It's Taste of Balboa Island time!**

September 12th is the date set for this fun Island(s) event. **Bill Longfield**, Taste of Balboa Island Chairperson, tells me it will top last year's event. **Crocker's** will be back from last year and this year we have some new blood to include **Small Cakes**, **Borolo's**, **Island Market** and the **Island Grill** with **Tony** and **Joanne** of **Caio's** sponsoring ice cream to go along with your small cakes. **Abrams Coastal Properties** has so generously become the Event Sponsor, **Jack Callahan** has been collecting Silent Auction Items for the event. He does such a great job as a bark-er on the microphone. Last year we raised about \$5000 for the Association. Speaking of raising money, Island resident **Lee Cassidy**, is working on converting the Association status to a 501C. This is not a quick process as the Government is involved, and she tells me it could take up to a year and a half to change our status.

Every year I get questions about

membership...is it annual or just what is it? It is annual, but we are planning on doing something different for 2016. We're going to bill you and make paying your dues a no brainer. Look for your statement around the end of 2015.

At the last Association Board meeting it was agreed that we would reduce publication of The Island Bridge to four editions. There are a several reasons for doing this. First of all we now have the ability to communicate with you via blast email. Speaking of that I'm adding a new Constant Contact named Presidential Scoop where I'll will group several topics in order to reduce the number of emails you receive each month. Secondly, this is a big expense for the Association. Last, The Island Bridge is available on our BIIA website mybiia.com about two weeks before it hits the street (I'll let you know when it is available).

In a Constant Contact I told you about the Pet Butler. Every Wednesday our bay front sidewalks are cleaned. In that Constant Contact I said "your comments are welcome" and boy did I get comments and some very creative ones I might add. Please let me know what you think about the new service.

Lastly, the Holiday Home Tour is set for Sunday December 13, 2015. This is your Association's biggest and only fund raiser of the year. We have room to add a



Tickets in hand, the Home Tour is a favorite

couple more homes this year so if you would like to show off your new, restored, or just great island home please contact me at 949.933.0283. Whether of not your home is on the tour, plan to attend.

Write the FAA at:

**9-anm-socialoapm@faa.gov** regarding your concerns about the flight path.

TerryJ@mybiia.com



## August 8th Sandcastle, Fun in the Sun!



*Best Castle Winners*



*Classic castle theme*



*Surfer coming out of the tube!*



*Starfish, flower, or wheel in the works*



*"Hmmm, what did I do with my plans?"*



*Unidentified Contest Judge*

## What's Cooking?



The Balboa Island Cookbook was such a success that we are cooking up another batch that will come out of the oven in September. We will announce the arrival on the bridge marquee and via Constant Contact.

### RECIPE OF THE MONTH

#### CHICKEN MARCO POLO

6 chicken breasts, cooked  
2 lbs. broccoli  
4 cans white sauce  
6 oz. canned mushrooms  
1 lb. grated Cheddar cheese  
Dash of Worcestershire sauce  
Pinch of dry mustard  
Salt and Pepper

Cook broccoli until tender. Place in bottom of casserole. Dice chicken and arrange on broccoli. Heat white sauce. Add mushrooms, seasonings and 3/4 of cheese. Pour sauce over casserole and top with remaining cheese. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes. **ENJOY!**





by Leigh Kelly

# What's

## July Garden - 111 East Bayfront



Jim, Judy, and puppy Henry

How would you like to stretch your imagination? If you would, then go stand in front of 111 East Bayfront. Close your eyes and try to picture this house painted pink and white with a 10-foot hedge all



An outdoor dining room surrounded by potted flowers

around it--blocking the view of the bay from inside the property lines, and blocking the view of this home and garden from the sidewalk. This was the condition of July's Garden of the Month when it was purchased by its owner, **Jim Busby**, forty plus years ago.

Today 111 East Bayfront is truly one of the island's best maintained, original-structured, and stately homes. This home was built in 1941 out of random-width timbers because lumber was scarce--the majority of it going to our military.

The owners of this majestic home have done an incredible job of replanting, upgrading and maintaining a garden that could be spectacular in 1941--and remains so in 2015. Lawns and hedges, rose gardens, trees and everything floral is placed in such a way that it showcases the view over the harbor if you are sitting inside the property line, and stops all foot traffic walking by because it is so "picture perfect" to the passerby.

**Jim Busby** and **Judy Richards** have cared lovingly for this home and its gardens for decades, and now have the help of Sabino Garcia of Sabino's Gardening as the upkeep has become more of a chore. The ficus trees, potted camellia bushes, topiaries, and gorgeous roses are all from the owners' hands, and you find yourself looking at 40 years of gardening wisdom and hard work. Jim (originally from Pasadena), brings his father's love of roses to this home, and Judy (originally from Georgia) brings her mother's knack for a

Photos: Leigh Kelly



One of the many hanging floral arrangements

grand southern garden. Their puppy, Henry, brings a friendly welcome to everyone walking by.

This home has seen the raising of 5 children, entertains up to 18 grandchildren, and has been through 3 remodels--yet gives you the feeling that 1941 was just last week.

What a pleasure to meet Jim and Judy...truly kind people in a one-of-a-kind home. Take a moment to say hi if they happen to be out and ask them about their remodels and how they kept the home's period style. The history of this home is incredible, the stories of it captivating. The garden is spectacular. Well done, Jim and Judy! **Congratulations!**



Roses and gardens being admired by a passerby (happens all the time).



# Blooming!

August Garden - 308 Apolena Avenue



Photos: Leigh Kelly

*John and Mona next to the liquid amber tree*

Did you ever have connect-the-dots puzzles as a child? I did. I drove away from meeting the winners of this month's Garden of the Month award, I thought of those puzzles. So much history and love of family and friends are woven into the ownership of 308 Apolena Ave.

**John and Mona Swain** have lived at 308 Apolena for almost 50 years. Their home was built in 1936 and this couple works hard at maintaining the integrity of their cottage--in both renovations and gardening. John comes from a family of orange growers....so gardening is really second nature to him.



*Flower box on front patio*

A large liquid amber tree is front and center and provides great shade in the summer. This is the third liquid amber tree to establish itself at this home--the two prior ones having to be sacrificed for renovations. Roses were, and still are, the main staple of all things flowering in the front. Except for the front walkway, all the beautiful gardening takes place in containers.

John and Mona have raised two children (**David** and **Cheryl**) in this home, and like so many grown children from the island...they have returned, which has allowed this couple to enjoy family that is close by. John and Mona reminisce about the joy of watching their grandchildren grow up while living just a few houses away. They tell me that the bus let the grandkids off and they would make their way through their refrigerator on their way home.

When their daughter Cheryl was lit-

tle, she managed to turn their 8 x 12 back patio into a small farm complete with corn and vegetables of all kinds. Today it is the owners' private garden, with a magnolia tree, morning glory vine and a small potting shed for Mona's beautiful orchids.

Because John and Mona like to travel, they try to choose hearty plants that can survive while they are gone. Lacey boxwood hedges, silver sheen trees, coleus, salvia and marigolds are some of their choices.

Just like last month's winners, there is so much history to this home. If you walk by to admire their garden and they happen to be out, ask about the home, its prior owners, how they came to own the house, and life on the island for the last 50 years. See if you don't think of connect-the dots. And see if you, like John and Mona, can understand how this home has turned friends into family. **Well done, John and Mona!**



*Hibiscus and a flower bed*



# Local Jewels



by Vicki Frank

## Discover Buck Gully...

### Who is Buck Gully?

**Shhhhh....It's the next best kept secret.**

Buck Gully Reserve is a natural coastal canyon in the city of Newport Beach!

Did you know you can escape the noise and the stress in less than a 10 minute drive!

On the corner of 5th and Poppy Ave in Corona Del Mar begins this local treasure and convenient escape.

Buck Gully is filled with wonderful flora and fauna while dotted with a few streams. You can choose between a semi flat partly shaded stream filled out and back trail, or traverse uphill for a magnificent view of the Newport bay. My personal favorite is the 4 mile moderate difficulty loop that combines both. At a good clip it will take about 2 hours. The park is open dusk till dawn and mountain bikers are welcome.

Science is now telling us that when you combine exercise with being in nature (hiking, surfing, paddle boarding, etc.) you are taking the benefits of exercise to an exponential level and magnifying all effects. So give it a try and explore the richness of Newport Beach's Buck Gully Reserve. You will do your mind and body good.

For more details go to [www.letsgetoutside.org](http://www.letsgetoutside.org)

**Happy Hiking!**

*VickiF@mybiia.com*



Photos: Vicki Frank



# NEWS AND NOTES

By Sue & Ed Siebel

In any emergency, communication can be crucial – perhaps especially here on the Island. After a large earthquake, major flooding, or other severe event, in all probability we will need to be able to communicate our needs and resources to the “outside” world.

Phone land lines may be down, or the capacity flooded with too many calls. In that case, cell phones might still be able to get through.

However, there is a significant possibility that no phone service would be available. That’s where CERT comes in! The Island has a number of licensed “CERT Comms” – that is, people who are fully qualified to operate ham radios, and have a short wave “ham” radio of their own in their possession. These people stay in contact, and have a plan in place for organizing in an emergency. Using their radios, they would be able to communicate throughout the Island and with the City’s Emergency Operations Center, relaying needs and coordinating efforts and supplies. They each would also assume a general leadership role in the early phases of an Island emergency, until City resources could take over.

In addition, CERT has a supply of simple, hand held radios for each sector of the Island [(1)Beek Sector – from the alley between Diamond and Sapphire to the east end of the Island, including Collins Island; (2) Marine Sector - from the alley between Diamond and Sapphire to the Grand Canal; (3) Little Island Sector – all of the Little Island]. These radios are programmed for use on the Island, and in an emergency may be used on a temporary basis by unlicensed people. The radios will be used by CERT members in teams surveying sections of their Sector for status and needs, communicating to a CERT Comm, who in turn

would be able to communicate with the City’s Emergency Control Center.

We hope we never need to use the plans – but, if there should be a need, CERT will be there!

If you are not yet a CERT member, there are three series of Fall trainings from which to choose. One is eight Tuesday & Thursday evenings (7:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.) beginning October 1st and continuing through October 27th; a second is held on four consecutive Thursdays during the day (9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.) beginning October 8th and continuing through October 29th; and the third is three Saturdays (8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.), October 10th, 17th and 24th. All three series will include the “Drill the Skills/Graduation on Saturday November 7th (9:00 – 1:30).

Classes will be held at Newport Beach Fire Station #7 (20401 Acacia), at the top of the Back Bay, and are FREE for Newport Beach residents! To register, you must complete a CERT program application. Applications are available at: [www.nbcert.org](http://www.nbcert.org) or call (949) 644-3112. You will need to register to attend one of the series, but may make up missed classes from any of them. The classes informative, helpful, and - they are interesting! Do become a member of CERT!

## A Special Note for all current Island CERT Members:

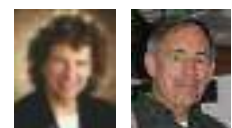
A “learning party” has been planned to train all Island CERT members in the basic use of our emergency radios. On Tuesday, September 29th, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., at Beek Center, we will first talk about how to assemble our handheld short wave radios and how to use them to report an “incident”. After the introduction to the radios, each person will be



individually instructed on the assembly and use of the radios by one of our CERT Comms. Then, the CERT member will report a simulated “incident” to “Island Net Control” by radio. It’s a short process, 10 to 15 minutes, and can be repeated if you like. Those who want to refresh skills, as well as beginners, are most welcome.

Come by – learn to use a radio – practice – talk to your neighbors – and experience the new Park Avenue Café, even before its official opening! Alex Robinson, the Café’s owner will be providing coffee and special “noshes” for this CERT event ☺

Many THANK YOUs to Alex, the Park Avenue Café, and Posh Events catering!! CERTs – we hope we’ll see you there!



Sue and Ed Siebel - CERT Coordinators



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**Pet of the Month**

Owner: Jerry & Nancy Kelleher  
Favorite Pastime: Walking, sniffing.



By Sue Olsen

**Block Captains Needed**

The Neighborhood Watch Program is being revamped by myself and Kristine Taft. We are looking for Block Captains to volunteer to add valuable eyes and ears for the NBPD.

We are having a get together at Sue Olsen's house, 110<sup>1/2</sup> Amethyst on September 9th at 5pm.

**Block Captain duties involve:** Distributing Information, maintaining a contact list of neighbors, engage new residents, periodically hold Block Meetings, encourage neighbors to use available safety strategies.

**BIIA BOARD MEMBERS:**

Please use these bullet points to select volunteers on your block to be Block Captains. Please ask them to attend the Cocktail party at my house on 9/9 at 5 PM. I hope you will be able to attend with your volunteers.

**sueolsen56@gmail.com**



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**

**Pots of the Month**

by Betty Christy



**Agate Ave. & North Bay Front**  
**Thanks Dottie Siemens**



**Ruby Ave. & North Bay Front**  
**Thanks Lucy Mendocino**