

# *NEPENTHE NEWS*

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*A monthly publication of the Nepenthe Association  
1131 Commons Drive, Sacramento, CA 95825*

*Judi Graham, Editor*

*February, 2011  
(916) 929-8380*

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## **February is Short and Sweet**

Dear Homeowners,

February may have the fewest days of the months in a year, but it's full of great events: there's the Super Bowl on the 6<sup>th</sup>, Valentine's Day on the 14<sup>th</sup>, and President's Day on the 21<sup>st</sup>. As for the weather, we usually get surprised by some unexpected spring-like days. And for happenings within our community, check the Note These Dates section on pages 5-6 so that you don't miss an activity you want to attend.

Most important, February is American Heart Month. The media will be full of life-saving information about keeping your heart healthy and signs of stroke or heart attack. Take a minute to read or listen up. Don't ignore the symptoms. The quicker you get medical attention, the less the damage to your heart will be.

Have a plan in case you think you might be having a cardiac event. 911 is the all important number to call. They will keep you on the line until help arrives. Have your "relative to notify" and insurance information handy.

Judi Graham  
Nepenthe General Manager

## **Nepenthe Annual Election – Candidates Wanted**

The annual election of the Nepenthe Board of Directors is rapidly approaching. The Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, May 23. This year, three positions will be open for election. Board members Randy Friedman's and Bill Newbill's terms are expiring, and since Barbara Stromick was filling a vacancy. She is also up for election. If you are interested in running for a position on the Board, please contact Judi or Sue at the Nepenthe Clubhouse, and they will forward your information to the Nominating Committee. Monday, March 7 is the deadline for candidates to submit their names to be printed on the ballot. However, homeowners may campaign as write-in candidates after that date.

Following is a tentative list of dates related to this year's election:

- Monday, March 7: Names of Board candidates due to the Nominating Committee
- Monday, March 28: Nominating Committee submits candidate names to the Board
- Monday, April 18 : Ballots mailed to homeowners, to be returned no later than May 23

- Monday, April 25: Candidate's Night (prior to the regularly scheduled Board meeting)
- Monday, May 23: Annual Membership Meeting (ballots are counted and election results are announced)

More information will follow in future newsletters.

## Clubhouse is Closed for President's Day Holiday

In observance of the President's Holiday, the clubhouse is closed on Monday, February 21, 2011. It will reopen on Tuesday, February 22, 2011.

## New Mailing Address for Homeowners Monthly Assessment

There's a new mailing address for your monthly payments. If you pay by mail, you should send your checks to P.O Box 512989, Los Angeles, CA 90051-0989. If you pay online, you need to use the new internet ID that was sent to you. If you have questions, please call 1-800-428-5588, ext 6.

## Financials Update

### December 2010 Financial Summary

Assessment and Cash Summary		
Monthly Assessment Budget	Current Month Assessment Received	Operating Cash Balance
\$ 237,770	\$ 239,267	\$ 6,789

Operating Expense Summary			
Monthly Budget	Current Month Expenses	Year to Date Budget	Year to Date Expenses
\$ 102,863	\$111,129	\$ 1,234,356	\$ 1,233,426

Reserve Summary					
Monthly Contribution Budget	Current Month Contribution Actual	Current Month Expenses	Year to Date Contributions	Year to Date Expenses	Year to Date Balance
\$ 136,433	\$ 141,285	\$ 188,640	\$2,176,494	\$ 1,229,349	\$ 1,608,361

## Irrigation & Landscape News

The Board will select the next Zone to be automated at the February 28 board meeting. The Zone 4 work has been completed.

## Tree Removals

To date, Valley Crest Tree Care Service has removed 17 of the 29 trees identified as high priority in the removal plan. Three alders and 9 pear trees remain and the arborists reports will be submitted to the board for review and discussion at the February 28 meeting. Trees in question are highlighted in bold type below: The update of the tree inventory has begun. Pruning of trees is also underway.

Tree #	Street Address	Species
131	2315 Swarthmore	Liquidambar
98	16 Adelphi Court	Liquidambar
<b>*224-226</b>	<b>22, 26, 28 Adelphi Court</b>	<b>3 Pears</b>
147 or 876	4 Adelphi	Black Pine
1505	1304 Commons Dr.	Aleppo Pine
325	1025 Vanderbilt	Liquidambar
161	1219 Vanderbilt	Liquidambar
268	206 Elmhurst	Liquidambar
266	208 Elmhurst	Liquidambar
247, 248	306 – 310 Elmhurst	2 Chinese Elms
133	503 Elmhurst	Liquidambar
<b>*97</b>	<b>612 Elmhurst</b>	<b>Pear</b>
<b>Unnumbered</b>	<b>804 Elmhurst</b>	<b>Pear</b>
<b>Unnumbered</b>	<b>806 Elmhurst</b>	<b>Pear</b>
356	1003 Dunbarton	Liquidambar
59	813 Dunbarton	Tulip
168	508 Dunbarton	Ash
133	302 Dunbarton	Tulip
236	101 Dunbarton	Pistache
<b>*23</b>	<b>1515 University</b>	<b>Pear</b>
<b>*138</b>	<b>1563 University</b>	<b>Pear</b>
<b>*46</b>	<b>1593 University</b>	<b>Pear</b>
<b>138??</b>	<b>10 Adelphi</b>	<b>Alder</b>
22	14 Colby	Liquidambar
<b>1411, 1412</b>	<b>1428 Commons Dr.</b>	<b>2 Alders</b>

\*Under review. Will be re-evaluated.

## Roof and Gutter Cleaning Progress

The annual process of clearing your roof top and cleaning out the gutters continues. You will be noticed approximately two days in advance of the workmen's arrival. Only keep your gate unlocked between the hours of 8:30 am and 5:00 pm on the designated days. If you have any question about the process, please contact the office and we will be more than happy to answer your questions.

# Security Update

- **Additional Response from Sacramento Police**

Due to the persistent residential burglaries in our area (not high volume but definitely persistent), Nepenthe has been added to the current list of areas to be worked by the Crime Suppression Unit. This unit is a team of officers out of Central Patrol deployed to work on crime series, patterns, and/or hotspots of criminal activity. The team consists of one sergeant and four officers who work closely with out detectives and our POP team. They work flexible schedules and have access to a variety of equipment as well as additional personnel.

- **Neighborhood Watch**

We still need Neighborhood Watch Captains. Our goal is to have a Captain for each alley. So far we have 12 captains. That leaves 31 opportunities for a community-minded person like yourself to sign up.

- **Security Tips for Community Dwellers:**

Call the police when you observe suspicious subjects in the area. Not every burglar looks like a scary person, many look like students.

Officers have observed quite a few garage doors left open and the garage unattended during the day. Keep the doors shut when you are not right there.

If your car is outside, lock it.

Never leave your garage door or gate opener inside your car.

Keep your inside door from the garage into your unit locked.

Keep your patio gates locked.

When you find door hangers on your front door or flyers in your mailbox from commercial businesses, notify the business that you object to this type of soliciting and make it a practice to not patronize them.

Ask your newspaper carrier to start tossing the papers into your patio as a matter of course. That way, piled up papers won't be a tip off that your are away

## Housekeeping Safety Tip

When is the last time you had your dryer vent cleaned? This isn't just emptying the lint basket inside the dryer. The lint basket doesn't corner all the lint produced. It's about cleaning out the lines that lead to the outside of your unit. If it's been so long that you can't remember when or you have never had it done, we suggest that you do.

The build up of lint inside the lines to the outside vent is an extreme fire hazard that many homeowners don't think about... Plus, it leads to increased energy costs because it takes longer to dry your clothes. Do have this checked out. It takes about an hour and costs around \$100.

## Rene' Husakow Leads Dog Walkers

The Campus Commons Dog Walkers group met on January 20 to meet their new chairperson, Rene' Husakow, and to discuss events planned for 2011. If you are new to the community and aren't familiar with the dog walkers' group, it meets every other month for a social gathering and to briefly discuss events planned for the year. You don't have to own a dog to attend the meetings. FYI, dogs **are not allowed at the meetings** (sorry!). The walkers also maintain two dog waste stations: one on Commons Drive and one on Hartnell Place. The dog walkers' group paid to have these stations installed and the yearly dues of \$10 per member help pay for the upkeep of the stations, which includes purchasing the bags for the clean up and maintenance of the stations. The two waste stations help not only those who have dogs, but it also helps keep our community clean.

If you would like to make a donation to the upkeep of the stations, or if you have any questions, please contact **Rene' Husakow at 567-1972**. Every dollar helps and is greatly appreciated. FYI, the next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 24, from 6:00-8:00 pm in the Campus Commons Clubhouse. Please bring a drink and appetizer to share. See you there!!

### Note These Dates

<b>Thursday, February 3</b>	<b>Board of Directors/Dunbarton Cabana Group Informational Meeting 4:30 pm. This meeting is in the Nepenthe Clubhouse.</b>
<b>Friday, February 4</b>	<b>Nominating/Outreach Committee 5:00 pm</b>
<b>Saturday, February 5</b>	<b>The Clubhouse is closed for a private party from Noon to 600 pm</b>
<b>Monday, February 7</b>	<b>Chi Gong/Tai Chi Class 3:00 pm</b>
<b>Monday, February 7</b>	<b>Neighborhood Watch Captain's Meeting 4:30 pm in the Nepenthe Clubhouse</b>
<b>Tuesday, February 8</b>	<b>All Level Yoga Class 9:30 am</b>
<b>Wednesday, February 9</b>	<b>Social Committee 5:00 pm</b>

<b>Thursday, February 10</b>	<b>Grounds Committee 4:00 pm</b>
<b>Saturday, February 12</b>	<b>Architectural Review Committee 9:30 am</b>
<b>Monday, February 14</b>	<b>Chi Gong/Tai Chi Class 3:00 pm</b>
<b>Tuesday, February; 15</b>	<b>All Level Yoga Class 9:30 am</b>
<b>Monday, February 21</b>	<b>The Clubhouse is closed in observance of President's Day</b>
<b>Tuesday, February 22</b>	<b>All Level Yoga Class 9:30 am</b>
<b>Tuesday, February 22</b>	<b>Book Club at 1:30 pm Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese</b>
<b>Monday, February 28</b>	<b>Chi Gong/Tai Chi Class 3:00 pm</b>
<b>Monday, February 28</b>	<b>Nepenthe Homeowners Association Board of Directors 6:30 pm</b>

## **WINTER/SPRING 2011 CHI GONG/TAI CHI SCHEDULE**

**MONDAYS 3:00 -4:00 PM, NEPENTHE CLUBHOUSE**

**\$5.00 fee per class**

**Contact BARBRA GOLDBERG 916-972-9237**

**February 7, 14, 28**

**March 7, 14, 21, 28**

**April 4, 11, 18**

**May 2, 9, 16, 23**

**June 6, 13**

**Note: No classes are scheduled for February 21, April 20 or May 30.  
Classes end for the summer on June 13 and resume again after Labor Day.  
Contact Nicki Shearer @927-2610 if you have questions.**

### **More on Merit Connect**

Merit Connect is the new community website for Nepenthe. From this website you can easily access important resident, board and other community information including:

- Viewing the calendar of community events
- Downloading board minutes and other important documents
- Verifying the accuracy of your records
- Sending an email to your community manager
- Checking your account balance.

You access Merit Connect by logging in to: [http://www.meritconncec.com/Nepenthe Association](http://www.meritconncec.com/NepentheAssociation). You should have received a 10 digit access code by mail. If you cannot find it, you can call the office and we will assist you.

# At Your Service

Nepenthe Manager: Judi Graham, Merit Property Management – 929-8380 or  
jgraham@meritpm.com  
(You can bypass the recorded message by clicking the # sign on your phone's keypad.)

Assistants to the Manager:

Weekdays 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM: Sue Frazee, Merit Property Management –  
929-8380 or nepenthe@meritpm.com;  
Weekends – 10:00 PM—2:00 PM. Debbie Tiscareno, Merit Property  
Management – 929-8380 or nepenthe@meritpm.com

Nepenthe Maintenance: Roger Work, Merit Property Management – 929-8380

Merit Regional Office: 608-3068

Merit HOA Emergency Hotline: (888) 596-4984 - Toll free 24 hours

Merit Billing: 1-800-428-5588 press extension 5 at any time to bypass the message

Capital Patrol Service: 447-8500

Electrical Outages: Call SMUD's toll free number 1-888-456-SMUD to report.

**Nepenthe Insurance:** John O. Bronson Co.

- General questions – Rob McVicar – 480-4138
- Flood insurance questions - Irene Sabourin - 480-4146
- Property and liability insurance requests – Rocio Leon – 480-4134

## Board Members

The Board meets at 6:30 PM on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month in the Clubhouse,

- Randy Friedman, President
- Bill Newbill, Member-at-Large
- Judy Semerjian, Secretary
- Barbara Stromick, Treasurer
- Liza Tafoya, Vice-President

## Committee Chairs:

- Architectural Review – Dave Digardi  
Meets at 9:30 AM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month in the Clubhouse
- Elections - Yvonne Del Biaggio
- Finance – Marcie Mortensson.  
Meets at 6:45 PM. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month in the Clubhouse
- Grounds – Ivan Gennis-  
Meets at 4:00 PM. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month in the Clubhouse
- Insurance – Bill Newbill
- Nominating – Randal Friedman
- Outreach – Nicki Shearer  
Meets at 5:00 PM on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month in the Clubhouse
- Social – Iris Bettencourt  
Meets at 5:00 on the second Wednesday of the month in the Clubhouse