



Established 1989

Barber Tract Neighborhood Association

**OUR MISSION:**

**To band together to identify, discuss, and deal effectively  
with neighborhood concerns.**

**Welcome to Our Newest BTNA Board Member**



We are excited to welcome Alex Zemeckis to the BTNA Board. Alex has been living in La Jolla for roughly 15 years. Originally from Santa Barbara, Alex moved to San Diego to attend SDSU where he acquired his undergrad and began his career in addiction treatment & mental health. Alex currently owns & operates a mentoring program for young

adults with substance abuse issues called The Grounds Recovery located in the Mount Soledad area.

Alex plans to take a collaborative approach with the BTNA and takes pride in being a Barber Tract resident. Alex enjoys surfing and lives with his wife, Kat, and dog, Mali. They are strong supporters of Larry's Yappy Hour, the Holiday Party and the 4th of July celebration.

"We are so grateful to live in this amazing community. I hope to serve you all as a member of the BTNA in order to ensure we make & keep our neighborhood as special as possible."

Mike Cole  
President  
858-459-1493

Peter Michetti  
Vice President  
619-987-2387

Jenny Silver  
Secretary  
454-3210

Marie Michetti  
Treasurer  
Membership  
619-987-2387

Julie Fitch  
BT Hostess  
454-0043

Narcisa  
Laranjeira  
BTT Publisher

**Other Board  
Members**

Dorie DeFranco

Lori Greenberg

Tony Harris

Jerri Hunt

David Talcott

Alex Zemeckis

## Making Your Opinion Count

This year has been very challenging in our small corner of a world inflicted with a widespread pandemic. The lockdown orders related to the pandemic forced us to cancel the Barber Tract Neighborhood Association's annual 4th of July celebration. And we won't be able to enjoy our annual winter holiday party this year.

Nevertheless, the BTNA has been addressing several significant concerns for our neighborhood. When our beaches reopened, hordes of unruly young people flooded our beaches. This led to disorderly behavior, piles of uncollected trash, a traffic road rage incident and many illegal fires on our beaches. In order to address these issues, the BTNA has been working with the San Diego Police and Fire Departments and city elected representatives to increase beach and neighborhood patrols and enhance trash collection cycles. These efforts have made a difference, but we need to keep the pressure on. We also continue to work with the city to repair/replace streets in our neighborhood that are in bad condition. And we are keeping the pressure on for completing utilities undergrounding.

Many of us feel that the Barber Tract is a unique paradise and that the BTNA helps shape our neighborhood for the better. Membership in the BTNA gives you a voice relating to the priorities and positions of our organization. We are currently looking at some major issues, such as illegal beach fires and traffic safety, in our beloved neighborhood. We will be calling upon our membership to vote on how to proceed with these issues. For those of you who are not currently members, please consider becoming a member so that your voice may be heard.

Mike Cole

President BTNA

## Beach Fires

This summer, our neighborhood beaches have had numerous legal and illegal beach fires. Our beach does not have City provided fire rings, they were removed in 1995 because the large fires were a threat to homes that are close to the beach. Legal fires are built in personal barbecues and similar portable devices. Illegal fires are those built directly on the sand, these are called ground fires. A legal fire becomes an illegal fire when coals are dumped onto the sand.



All fires must be extinguished with water and ashes/embers must be removed from the beach or placed in a City provided Hot Coal Can (the City budget is not adequate to provide these at our beaches). Walking the beach you will notice the litter of charcoal and partially burnt logs and lumber.

You may also find evidence of improperly extinguished fires that are covered with sand and are sometimes still hot hours later, posing a burn hazard to bare feet. Many homeowners have complained about the smoke from the wood fires and the fire department has come out numerous times to request the fires be extinguished.

BTNA Board Representative, Dorie DeFranco, has made presentations to La Jolla Parks and Beaches and to La Jolla Town Council regarding the smoke and debris pollution and also pointing out the health hazards of the wood fires and smoke. An alternative has been proposed that limits the beach fires to only liquid propane gas fueled grills, stoves and fire pits, which eliminate the smoke pollution and health hazards and still allow beach goers to enjoy a barbecue or fire at the beach. Several other SD City beaches have experienced illegal fires and pollution too, and are supporting a change to liquid propane gas fuel only. This change will take time and requires a City municipal code change.

Both LJ Parks and Beaches and the Town Council would like the opinion of members of the Barber Tract on this suggested alternative. In the next week or two, BTNA members will receive a questionnaire by email. This will allow members to voice their opinion on this proposal. Please confirm that your dues have been paid for 2020 to be included in this survey. These results will determine the BTNA's position to our City government agencies.

Dorie DeFranco

BTNA Board Member and Safety Liaison

## **If You See It, Please Report It**

Our SDPD Beach Team police patrols for the Barber Tract cover a wide area (from The Shores through Pacific Beach). **The number of police patrols in the Barber Tract are calculated by the calls received by the police** to the Non-Emergency Police number at (619)531-2000 and to 911.

Please keep this phone number handy to report problems. Depending on other calls received by the police from Pacific Beach (larger beaches and many bars/restaurants), your call may not get immediate attention depending on its severity and the police proximity, including open container alcohol offenses and illegal beach fires. If you see it, please report it!

Dorie DeFranco

BTNA Board Member and Safety Liaison

**October general meeting is cancelled but stay tuned for email requesting a vote on beach fire Issue**

## Barber Tract Traffic Flow and Safety



Monte Vista Gridlock



Cyclist Safety Monte Vista



Sea Lane Backup From LJ  
BLVD thru Olivetas Intersection

Many Barber Tract residents expressed concerns about traffic flow and safety issues in our neighborhood. Traffic increased significantly when our beaches reopened after the CV-19 closures. Monte Vista and adjoining streets became difficult to navigate as large numbers of visitors jostled for beach parking. This increase in traffic contributed to safety issues. Tensions over traffic congestion likely contributed to the violent assault on a package delivery driver in July.

Some of our neighbors have taken the initiative to help get these problems addressed. Ira Parker engaged his Barber Tract neighbors to look at these issues. He distributed 150 flyers inviting neighbors to participate in Zoom meetings to discuss this topic. During these meetings, participants voiced their concerns and suggestions. In addition, Susan Comden graciously hosted a small gathering in her front yard (with masks and social distancing) for neighbors to discuss their concerns and ideas on this topic. Approximately 35 Barber Tract homeowners have attended meetings and/or provided independent input.

There is general agreement among our neighbors that there is a problem with traffic flow and safety on our streets, particularly during warm beach-going days.

One of the key root causes for this problem is sub-standard widths of the majority of Barber Tract streets. The San Diego City standard minimum width for streets is 40 feet for two-way streets with parking on each side (12 feet each traffic direction, 8 feet for parking on each side). Only Marine, Belvedere and Westbourne Streets meet this standard. Monte Vista is 30 feet wide. Dunemere Lane, Sea Lane, Olivetas Ave. and others are 20 feet wide.

Adding to our problem with undersized streets, our beaches have become much more popular over the years. Social media advertising Marine Street as a party beach has contributed to the problem.

A variety of occasionally opposing opinions have been expressed as to which solutions would be best for improving traffic flow and safety. Suggested options include changing some streets to one-way, eliminating parking on one side of Monte Vista, converting Marine Street to two-way with a roundabout at La Jolla Blvd., etc. David Valentine is leading an effort to have the city install speed humps around the intersection of Monte Vista and Sea Lane. David reports ongoing erratic and dangerous driving in this area.

These concerns were reviewed at the September Barber Tract Neighborhood Board meeting. The Board unanimously approved a plan to review these problems with the La Jolla Traffic and Transportation board. Following this step we will ask San Diego Traffic Engineering Department to look at these issues and present viable options. This item has been included on the October 21 La Jolla Traffic and Transportation Board meeting agenda.

Mike Cole

President BTNA

## We Love Our Animals, and We Love Our Beaches

Keeping dogs on leash when in public not only protects other animals and people, but it keeps them safe as well. It is illegal to walk your dog off leash unless you are in a designated off-leash area.

Even if you are confident your dog will stay by your side without a leash, it could still make people and other dogs uncomfortable as well as put your dog in danger. Leash laws are in place to ensure the safety of both dogs and the people who love them. Remember, not everyone is a dog lover.

### The law specifies that:

- Dogs are always required to be restrained.
- Away from home: a dog must be on leash unless he is in a designated off-leash area, such as Dog Beach in Ocean beach or Dusty Rhodes Dog Park.
- At home: a dog must be restrained by a fence or other containment system.

Please be considerate when walking your dog by picking up any waste (San Diego Municipal Code, Sec 44.0304.1). When you leave home, make sure you have enough dog waste bags. There are dog waste bag stations at Windansea and most parks. Bags are provided free by the city.

### Here is a link to (legally) play with your pup off leash:

<https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/parks/dogs/leashfree>

In general, licensed dogs are allowed on beaches after **6 p.m. from April 1 to Oct. 31 or after 4 p.m. from Nov. 1 to March 31**. Licensed dogs are allowed on the beach, and on sidewalks and park areas near the beach, during the night and early morning hours until 9 a.m., but they must be leashed.

Our beaches are fragile and keeping them unspoiled is everybody's job. Doing your part keeps our beaches clean and beautiful, the way we all like them and ensures a pleasant visit again and again.

We love our animals, and we love our beaches. Let's keep both safe for our enjoyment.

The San Diego Humane Society is a great resource for information, articles, programs and much more. For more information, visit [sdhumane.org](http://sdhumane.org)

David Talcott

Dog owner and Investigative Reporter for the BTNA Times

## Volunteer to Become a BTNA Board Member

This is the time of year when we select new board members to fill vacancies on the BTNA Board.

The general responsibility of the board of trustees is to represent the interests of the BTNA membership. This includes conducting programs to preserve and improve the quality of life in the Barber Tract, carry out initiatives for control of vehicular traffic and noise, determine positions on proposals affecting the community and address significant areas of concern of our neighbors.

Term: 2 years

Time Commitment: 4 two-hour board meetings per year. Additional time required for officers and other board members as agreed upon.

We are looking for volunteers who are passionate about our neighborhood, work well with others and are prepared to jump in and help where needed.

In addition to the officer positions, we are always looking to build skills depth with our board members. For example, we need board members who can help manage the BTNA website, publish the Barber Tract Times and liaison with city and La Jolla organizations on matters of importance.

Trustees will be selected by the end of October. Once the new board members are installed, we will have an election of new officers, including President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.

If you are interested in serving on the board of trustees, please send a short bio and a summary your interests to [BarberTractNA@gmail.com](mailto:BarberTractNA@gmail.com).

Please consider joining the BTNA board to help make our neighborhood a safer, better-maintained and more enjoyable place to live.

Mike Cole  
President BTNA

## 2020 Barber Tract Neighborhood Holiday Celebrations Update

For decades Julie Fitch and her family have graciously hosted the Barber Tract holiday celebration. Their beautifully decorated home, the fire in the fireplace, children sliding down the fireman's pole and the visit from Santa and Mrs. Clause have helped our neighborhood usher in the holiday season. Unfortunately, because of Covid 19, the holiday celebration won't be taking place this year.

The Fourth of July was also effected by the coronavirus this year. The Barber Tract neighborhood association was unable to sponsor the beloved event. However, thanks to Max Elliott, with social distancing protocols in place, lemonade was served and a tradition enjoyed by many since the 70's continued.



Because the BTNA isn't sponsoring either event this year, we will be making a donation to the United States Marine Corps Toys for Tots on behalf of our neighborhood. If anyone is so inclined, additional unwrapped toy donations can be made at any fire department. Financial donations can be made at [WWW.TOYSFORTOTS.COM](http://WWW.TOYSFORTOTS.COM). Additionally, since we have donated the remaining food from the holiday celebration to our local fire department for years, the BTNA will be delivering a hot holiday meal to our local first responders on Nautilus street.

We wish all of our Barber Tract neighbors a safe, wonderful holiday season.

Peter and Marie Michetti

BTNA Board Members

**Barber Tract Neighborhood Association (BTNA)**



**Join your community of Barber Tract neighbors by making a \$35 membership contribution for 2020**

**Why should you join? How will your membership contribution be used?**

The BTNA provides a way to continuously improve our community through volunteer work and advocacy with city agencies to address our areas of concern. It also fosters neighborhood friendships through community gatherings with a Fourth of July celebration and a festive Holiday Party in December. An informative Barber Tract Times newsletter and website are published to provide information of interest

***Your membership contribution helps to make the Barber Tract a safer, better-maintained and more enjoyable place to live.***

\*\*\*\*\*

**BTNA Membership for January 1 through December 31 2020**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

B.T. Property Address \_\_\_\_\_

B.T. Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Is there a different mailing address that we should use?

\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is my/our \$35 membership contribution. (Make check payable to BTNA or pay with Zelle)

\_\_\_\_ I am/we are willing to volunteer for association activities

\_\_\_\_ Fourth of July Celebration

\_\_\_\_ Beach Cleanup

\_\_\_\_ Holiday Party

\_\_\_\_ Helping to deliver the Barber Tract Times or to be a Cub Reporter

\_\_\_\_ Other – Please identify: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I am/we are non-resident member(s) that own BT property & wish to receive the BT Times by email

Please identify any areas of concern you would like to see addressed for the Barber Tract in 2020:

\_\_\_\_\_

(Cont. on reverse)

**Please pay through Zelle to [BTNAmembership@gmail.com](mailto:BTNAmembership@gmail.com) or drop off or mail this membership form with a check for \$35 payable to the BTNA Treasurer:**

**Marie Michetti, 451 Marine St, La Jolla, CA 92037**

For any questions regarding the BTNA, contact [BarbertractNA@gmail.com](mailto:BarbertractNA@gmail.com)

**Thank you for supporting our wonderful Barber Tract Neighborhood!**