

Montclair Organized Neighborhoods

- ◆ *When a major earthquake takes place on the local Hayward Fault, can you and your neighbors take care of yourselves without City services?*
- ◆ *If a fire were headed toward your neighborhood, would you know what to do?*
- ◆ *Do you feel outraged (and helpless) when crime hits your street?*

Safe communities begin with well-organized and prepared neighborhoods. The Montclair Safety and Improvement Council (MSIC) is encouraging all Montclair-area residents to create their own organized neighborhoods to address areas of local concern, to prepare for emergencies, and to build stronger communities.

Montclair Area Neighbor:

The MSIC would like to see your Montclair area neighborhood become organized, so that you can make real progress to improve the safety, beauty and overall quality of life within your boundaries, and to overcome the effects of dwindling City resources. Your organized neighborhood can address issues of greatest interest or concern, such as:

- Preparing for natural disasters and emergencies
- Deterring crime
- Improving parking and traffic safety in your immediate area
- Cleaning up and beautifying the neighborhood
- Socializing and building a stronger sense of community

There are currently over 90 Montclair Organized Neighborhoods (called MONs), in various stages of development. A typical organized neighborhood is made up of around 20 to 40 households, usually along a street or adjacent blocks, or inbetween natural boundaries. All it takes to start a MON is a few neighbors to get the ball rolling, coupled with the natural desire of most area residents to want to improve their neighborhood, to be prepared for emergencies, and to feel more connected to their community.

If your neighborhood is not currently organized, the MSIC has several resources to help you get started. Useful information and documents, including a MON Leader's Guide, can be found on the MSIC Web site at: <http://www.montclairsic.org/mon.htm>

There are many resources available to help once you start organizing. For emergency preparedness, MONs work with Oakland's CORE (Citizens of Oakland Respond to Emergencies) program to be trained and to build up supplies in preparation for a disaster, such as a major earthquake or fire. And for crime prevention, MONs can also become Neighborhood Watch organizations, and can work through the MSIC with Oakland city services to address crime and traffic problem areas.

You are encouraged to send an email to mon@montclairsic.org or call 510.457.1674 for more information and for assistance in starting to organize your neighborhood. If you are already organized, please send us your contact info so that we may add you to our list and so that you may be informed of important notices and upcoming activities.