

Montclair Organized Neighborhoods

- ◆ *If a major earthquake took place on the Hayward Fault, could 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.

Dear Montclair Area Neighbor:

The MSIC would like to see your Montclair area neighborhood become organized, in order 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 their immediate area
- Cleaning up and beautifying the neighborhood
- Socializing and building a stronger sense of community

There are currently over 70 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.

There are many resources available to help once you are organized. 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.

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>

You are encouraged to send an email to mon@montclairsic.org or call **510.759.1131** for more information and for assistance in starting to organize your neighborhood. The MSIC also holds quarterly MON Leaders meetings to share tips and successes. If you are already organized, please send us your contact info so that we may add you to our list.