



GMIA's Art & Garden Tour

Sunday, April 6 | Noon – 4 p.m.



Four beautiful gardens in the Mt. Helix area will be open to tour on Sunday, April 6. View some original landscaping and get some ideas for your own yard while learning which plants flourish in our region. These are unique, colorful gardens, each reflecting the personality and efforts of the homeowner.

The gardens range from landscaped trails along a river with hidden artifacts, to tract homes with quirky and clever yard art and manicured gardens. Each garden will showcase a local artist to enhance your walking tour of the yards.

This year, you can choose to visit the gardens in your own vehicle, or you can take a complimentary shuttle van and ride

in stress-free comfort. To use the shuttle, park your car in the lot by the fire station at 10105 Vivera Drive. Four shuttles will be operating continuously throughout the afternoon. The shuttle buses were made possible by a grant from County Supervisor Monica Montgomery-Steppe's office.

This event is open to GMIA members only. Please check page 4 of the newsletter to ensure your membership is current. If it has expired, you can send your dues of \$20 per household in the enclosed envelope or online at gmia.net. You can also renew your membership on the day of the event.

Parents can bring their children, but the gardens cannot accommodate strollers. No pets, please. 🌱

We Could Use Your Help!

The Art and Garden Tour on April 6 needs green thumbs – and many hands. Plus, we would love to meet you! Here are some of the volunteer positions:

- Check-in desk – check the roster and place bracelets on visitors
- Garden guide – help visitors as they walk through the gardens
- Shuttle conductor – help people on and off the shuttle
- Traffic assistant – help with parking and pedestrian safety

If you volunteer for the tour, you can see the gardens on a private tour and enjoy a volunteer appreciation reception on Saturday, April 5.

The volunteer shifts are from 11:45 to 2 pm, and from 2 pm to 4:15. Please let us know which one you can do – or maybe both. We also need to know if you need to limit walking or standing, and if you're volunteering with a friend and wish to be at the same garden.

To volunteer or get more information, email us at: GMIAvolunteer@gmail.com

We are interested in your job preference and will try to accommodate it, but please be flexible. We try to please.

Volunteers Needed at Other GMIA Events

GMIA hosts at least four events every year, and we need a variety of volunteers at each one. Whatever your abilities and interests, we likely have a place for you! In addition to the Garden Tour, we host:

SUMMER: For the Annual Dinner, we could use help with the planning committee, decorating, staffing the auction table, taking photos, and more.

FALL: For the Succulent Swap, we need help at check-in, serving coffee and donuts, and organizing succulent cuttings.

Winter: Walk to the Top of Mt. Helix to welcome the new year. Come help us plan the healthiest way to ring in January. We need folks to organize walkers at the bottom of the hill, people to help guide the walkers up hill, and some to serve complimentary coffee and snacks. 🌱



GROSSMONT-MT. HELIX
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Viewpoints is a community newsletter published by the Grossmont – Mt. Helix Improvement Association.

This newsletter reflects the efforts of your entire Board of Directors.

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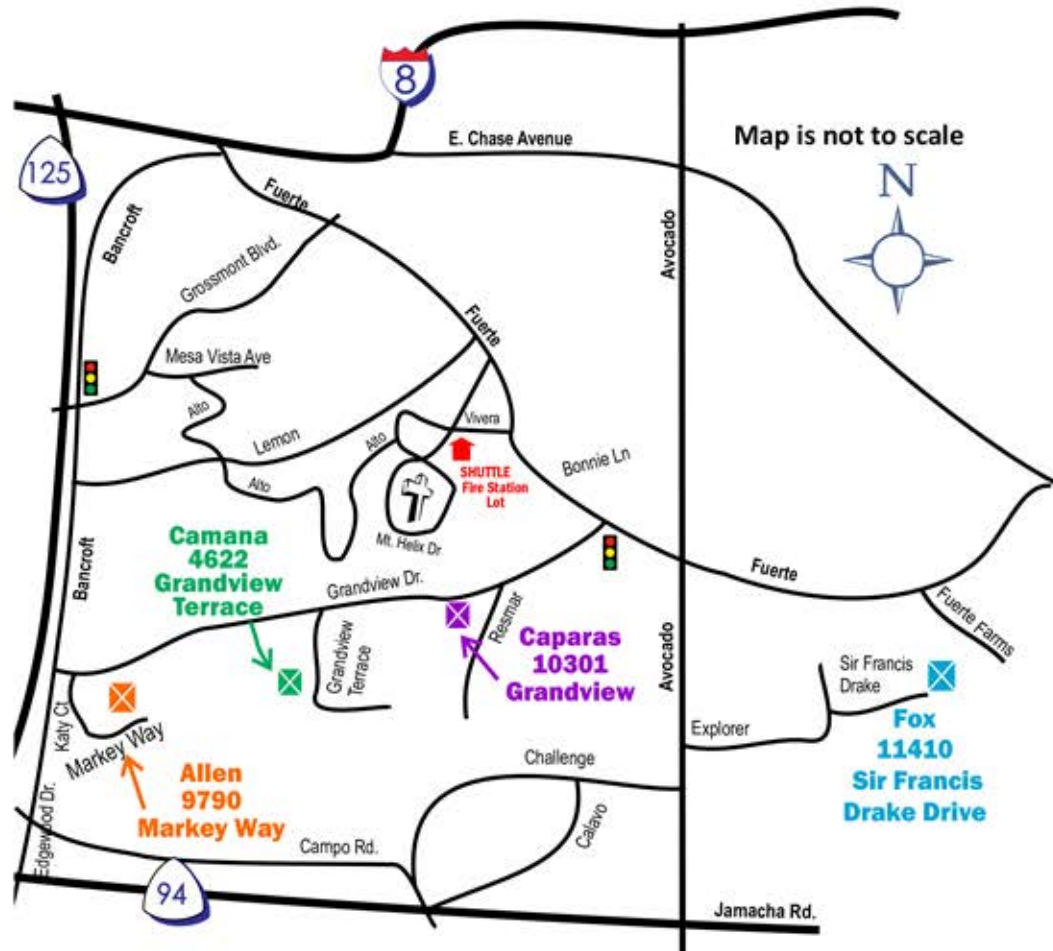
www.gmia.net

Email us at:
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MISSION

GMIA is an 86-year-old nonprofit 501(c)4 public benefit membership organization. Our mission is to preserve and enhance the character and quality of the community and foster pride in the area. We do not employ a paid staff and are served by an all-volunteer board.

GMIA's Art & Garden Tour Map



Garden of Pete & Joan Camana 4622 Grandview Terrace



Once the Camanas purchased their 1965 home fifteen years ago, it took just a year for them to totally remodel it down to the studs and tackle the neglected bare dirt and weed filled front and back yard. A driveway of pavers circles the area, with split granite pavers forming paths through the garden under the shade of the large Lebanese cedar tree. The garden is made up of drought tolerant plants and more and more succulents have been added over the years. This inviting garden was also a winner of the 2015 GMIA Curb Appeal Award and was on the garden tour in 2016. Since then the back lawn has been replaced with SynLawn and more succulents play a major role in the landscape. Three lovely Natchez crape myrtles and other foundation plants frame the view to the Coronado Bridge. Raised beds have been added for herbs and vegetables.

Garden of Forrest & Kathy Allen 9790 Marky Way



The Allen Garden is an entertainer's delight. Over the 28 years Forrest and Kathy have lived in this home, they have designed and built their yard for comfort and enjoyment, creating an oasis for themselves, their family, and friends. In 2014 and 2015, they added a fire pit, pizza oven, BBQ, and pergolas. In 2021, they completed the front yard, replacing the grass with low-water plants. The ½ acre front and back yard include many varieties of trees and plantings, including a New Zealand Tree Fern, succulents and other drought resistant landscape.

The property also has raised beds, fruit trees, including peach, fig, apricot, plum, citrus and avocado trees. The Allens have made great use of all the property, even creating a small vineyard on their slope in 2013 and making their own wine from the grapes.



Garden of John & Carla Fox 11440 Sir Francis Drake Drive



The Fox property consists of 2.1 acres and has been developed over the last 36 years. They started small, adding plants and hardscape over the years. They still have a number of plants, including a Tipuana Tipu, bougainvillea, rose garden, citrus garden, yucca, and cactus. The Foxes gradually added structures and plants over the years, but some major additions were the walled vegetable garden, adjacent potting shed, and fountain, built by an excellent local craftsman and his painter colleague. The tile design on the fountain and the tabletop outside were done by an artist in Calafia.

They added raised beds put in 10 or 12 years ago. About 15 years ago Chris Wortuba, a landscape designer, overhauled the garden design, putting in most of the hillside plants above the driveway and along the sidewalks. She also changed a lot of the plants in the front yard and around the small patio to be more water-wise.

The property also includes wine grapes that were planted about seven years ago by a local East County winery. The Foxes made wine from grapes this year. Fruit trees on the property include apples, mixed stone fruit trees, avocados, pomegranates, and Afghan mulberries. A highlight of the property is the tortoises, at least 15 years old. The Foxes have used animal waste to fertilize their olive trees, from which they cured their own olives for the first time this year.

Garden of Robert & Carole Caparas 10301 Grandview Drive



The garden has been a work of passion for Bob Caparas, who bought the 1.33 acres unkempt property in 1979. He started renovations on the garden then and he and Carole have not stopped. Bob put in paths, bridges and trails along the river that runs through the property, installing each stone by hand. They have carved out a unique oasis, creating landscape art areas, including the fairy garden, the African section, the Yucatan, and many others.

Bob is an art dealer who has traveled the world and brought the art from many regions to his garden. Throughout the property there are thousands of plantings, including succulents.

The river trails are constructed of dirt and stone. There will be volunteers to assist but this portion is recommended for the able bodied. There will be volunteers and walking sticks available to assist.





P. O. Box 2751
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To ensure your membership is current, please look at your mailing label on this newsletter. On it you will find the expiration date of your membership. Family membership is just \$20 (2 years - \$40; 3 years - \$60). You may renew online at our secure website www.gmia.net or mail your payment in the attached envelope to GMIA, P.O. Box 2751, La Mesa, CA 91943-2751.

Note: if the date is June 2025 or later, your dues are paid in full, but you are welcome to renew in advance.

How About a Check-up on your Home Security?

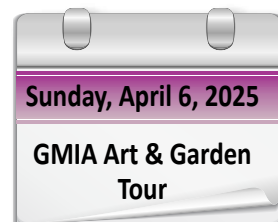
The San Diego Sheriff's Office offers a free security check of your home. Each patrol station has specialists who are certified Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design technicians.

They will walk through your house with you and provide recommendations for enhancing your security. These may include:

- Guidance on installing and/or upgrading locks, alarms, cameras or lighting
- Crime prevention strategies to protect your property
- How to set up a Neighborhood Watch Program
- . . . and these will be customized to your home's layout

To schedule a Residential Security Consultation, please contact your local Sheriff's patrol station. The Rancho San Diego Sheriff's station can be reached at 619-660-7090.

CALENDAR



What is that Helicopter Saying?

As the Sheriff's helicopter flies overhead, you can sometime hear a voice, but often it is hard to understand exactly what the Sheriff's office is saying. Make it easier: Call the Sheriff's office at 858-866-HELO (4356) and receive the message on your phone.