Hollywoodland

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HOLLYWOODLAND HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION DECEMBER 2016

President's Message

How about that rain? The trees, chaparral and gardens rejoiced in a welcome bath. Let us all hope that this is the beginning of a wet winter. At least a whole lot more wet than it has been in the past few years. However, do not become complacent with fire watchfulness. Our parkland and hillsides are still tinder dry and the winds can be ferocious. If you use a wood-burning fireplace in the cooler weather, check and make sure that you chimney's spark arrester is in good shape. In the hills the few remaining native Toyon bushes (California Holly, Christmasberry) are in full bloom. Search them out – they are worthy of some adoration.

It did appear that there was less hiker/tourist traffic over the Thanksgiving weekend, which we are grateful for, but there was enough to cause some indigestion. While CD4 is trying to help, they are not getting the message that it does little to stem the tide of chaos in the neighborhood. The private security guard assigned to the "vista point" seemed simply overwhelmed and it was its usual disorganized mess. The viewpoint on Deronda received traffic enforcement crumbs and the parking at the gate became a free-for-all. And the top of Beachwood, as always, took the brunt of the mass of pilgrims giving thanks for the unfettered access through an historic residential neighborhood. It looks like Santa might pass us by this year on any real relief from the City over the Holidays. Their idea of offering support to manage the thousands who will pour into our little hamlet over the Holidays and during Rosebowl week could be as disappointing as the Thanksgiving holiday. As always, HHA will work with CD4 to try to improve coverage so please let us know what is and isn't working. Your voice is important. Contact us at info@hollywoodland.org.

Activist Haines Runs for District 13

Doug Haines, a Hollywood resident and fierce fighter against the over-development and absurd height limits of current planning practices is running to un-seat Mitch O'Farrell in District 13. That district is significantly intertwined with District 4, as it encompasses the majority of Hollywood proper. To get a warrior for residents and R1 neighborhoods would only be a great thing.

Message From Council District 4

Thank you to the Hollywoodland Homeowners Association for the opportunity to be featured in your newsletter. Councilman Ryu looks forward to being featured in future newsletters and appreciates all your continued feedback and your passion and activism on behalf of your community. Your Board is working very hard to make your neighborhood a better place, and we appreciate your partnership.

Council District staff is in constant communication with your Board and residents and on your behalf with City Departments on many different issues, including traffic, parking, planning & development, building & safety, infrastructure, filming, special events, animal welfare, party houses, utility companies, and much more.

We are also working on your behalf in City Hall, whether it's working on planning reform like updates to the Baseline Hillside Ordinance, regulating tour bus with headphones, tougher penalties for party houses, or just this week, introducing a ban on exotic animals for amusement and entertainments. Reports of lion and elephant sightings at a notorious party house in a nearby neighborhood led our office to introduce this new legislation, which would make this illegal and no longer waste city resources on permitting for this purpose.

I did want to address an inaccuracy from last month's newsletter, I believe there was some miscommunication. I actually did speak multiple times with different members of the HHA Board as well as LAPD and the City Attorney regarding the incidents of the 18-wheelers misdirected due to GPS. I did offer to write a letter to the GPS companies on behalf of CD4, but I told it wasn't necessary at that point by a Board Member in those conversations. Thank you to the wonderful Jack Conrad for all his work on this issue. CD4 is happy to send a letter in the future, should it be necessary.

As we approach the holiday season, CD 4 will continue to hire additional security staff for extra patrol, similar to this Thanksgiving, to provide enhanced enforcement as we have over every holiday period since taking office. We continue to work on medium- and longer-term solutions for establishing hiking and viewing alternatives away from residential neighborhoods, including a location at the Ford Theatre, opportunities in the Hollywood Entertainment District, and improving traffic flow and opportunities within Griffith Park. While HHA may be supporting the appeal of the Griffith Park Circulation Plan, CD4 believes this to be an important piece both to improve the current situation and in moving forward on future decisions area-wide.

Thank you again for the opportunity to communicate with the Hollywoodland residents, and please don't hesitate to reach out.

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HHA Board Members Needed

We're looking for a few good men and women to serve on our HHA board. Elections are just around the corner in January, and this is the time of year we reach out to our community to bring in some new voices. Do you want to help us fight the transformation of our quiet residential neighborhood into a worldwide tourist destination? Would you like to participate in our efforts for Hollywoodland historic preservation? Do you enjoy putting together community social events? Would you like to head a children's committee for our youngest residents? Or is there some other issue or activity you would like to pursue or some special talent you would like to share for the benefit of our neighborhood? We are all volunteers and dependent on the kindness of other volunteers. Our board meetings are the second Tuesday of every month. If you would like to throw your hat in the ring by December 12, or you have questions in regards to serving on the board please contact us at info@Hollywoodland.com. We'll be announcing our candidates in just a few weeks.

Earthquake Preparedness

Those of us residing in Hollywoodland in January of 1992 received a winter jolt when the Northridge earthquake hit. The HHA safety committee thought it would be a good time to remind our residents to have a disaster kit and to think about what to do when one strikes. Here is an excellent website for building a kit https://www.ready.gov/kit. But just to get you thinking about getting prepared we'll start here with a few important tips.

- Put together a kit for your car. This is LA and there is a very good chance that you will not be home when disaster strikes. Hopefully a car kit will motivate you for full house emergency supplies.
- After an earthquake strikes, smell for natural gas leaks. Your nose is the best instrument for this job. If you find a leak, turn your gas off. If you do not, leave the gas on. In 1992 The Gas Company was overwhelmed by requests for service and it took a very long time to get residences back up and running.
- Make sure you have enough clean water, the most important emergency supply of all.
- If you park your car in a garage, practice manually opening the garage door. They are heavier than you think. Remember to always have half a tank of gas in your vehicle at all times. It will be a long while before commercial pumps return to service.
- And most importantly, if everything is okay in your household hang a white piece of cloth on your front door as a signal for emergency responders and then check on your neighbors.

Southern California has had very little seismic activity in the past decade, but do not become complacent. A large earthquake is just waiting to happen. It could be quite awhile before any government entities will be able to reach us. We will need to depend on our preparation to survive.

LAPD Camera Quiz

A couple of years ago the City installed a security camera just inside the gate at the beginning of the Mt. Lee service road. The HHA and neighbors were impressed that the City was taking seriously the onslaught of hiker/tourists/scofflaws that overwhelm the top of Deronda Dr. and the DWP Tyrolean tank easement. However, a well-regarded and sympathetic bureaucrat just informed us that, yes, the camera images go to LAPD, but it was installed to:

A. Insure the safety of residents, hikers and tourists
B. Watch for vandals, smokers and taggers
C. Protect the employees with access to the gate
D. Assure the gate is clear of illegal parkers for emergency vehicles

Nope. None of the above. That camera was put there by the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce to protect their beloved cash cow service mark – the Hollywood Sign. It does explain why the "Smokey the Bear" sign that sits right under the camera is one of the most graffitied in the state of California. Do dollars now trump public safety?

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Hollywoodland Homeowner's Association Board
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