

Hollywoodland

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HOLLYWOODLAND HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION

MARCH 2017



President's Message

As a neighborhood we must stay united. We will always have our differences whether it is the color of the house next door, the party-houses that keep us awake at night or if that magic place behind the gate on Beachwood is a public entrance to the park or not. We are all in it together and every one is entitled to their opinion.

I do think it is important, however, to put the facts of the Beachwood gate case in focus. In 2015 the Sunset Ranch sued the City of Los Angeles over an easement that was given to the business by the Sherman Company, developers of Hollywoodland, in the 1940s. It was for the ingress and egress to their stables, a member of the community since 1923. This was part of the negotiated deal when the Sherman Company generously donated 400 acres of undeveloped Hollywoodland to the City's Griffith Park. They wanted to protect the long-standing business.

Fast-forward sixty years and former Councilman Tom LaBonge chose to ignore that protection. In 2002, with no oversight and no EIR, he bulldozed a parking lot and a trailhead right off the ranch's easement after a home was constructed on an ad hoc dirt path across private property that lead to the stable's bridle path. By 2014 things were out of hand with hundreds of hikers crossing in daily. So the City built the existing gate to try and mollify the neighbors and the Ranch, which had begun to lose business badly. With grand fanfare and a whole lot of PR, LaBonge announced the opening of what he dubbed "The Hollywood Sign Trail" in 2015, creating a new use and heralding in greater demand for this unauthorized opening to Griffith Park. A private traffic management group hired by the ranch estimated that the lowest count of people coming through that gate was 15,000 per month. The Sunset Ranch was on the ropes with the gates and hikers blocking customers and filed its suit against the City.

On February 2, 2017 the Honorable Elizabeth R. Feffer handed down a tentative victory to the Sunset Ranch. Although she did not believe that the original easement was encroached upon, she was very concerned about the high safety risk that the City was imposing on visitors by allowing them to wander in masse up the narrow, ninety-four year old Beachwood Drive.

She was also greatly concerned about the unreasonable interference the trailhead imposed on the stable's business. She asked that the City and the Sunset Ranch sit down together and come up with an agreement, which they did. On March 13 the judge announced the details of the agreement between the two parties. The City of Los Angeles would turn over the gate at the end of Beachwood to the Sunset Ranch, but maintain rights for utility, law enforcement and fire fighting purposes and the Hollyridge Trailhead would be moved to the closest appropriate location. Judge Feffer went so far as to order the City to announce the relocation on all of its electronic signs in Beachwood Canyon.

The residents of Beachwood Drive have every right to be relieved having taken the brunt of tourism in our community. Neighbors who used that trailhead also have a right to be dismayed at its loss. However the effects of opening up the neighborhood to the world are now clearly visible - primarily in an increase in crime, graffiti, noise, trash and a breaking down of the infrastructure that is truly holding Hollywoodland together. This community was not built to withstand the masses that have been foisted upon it by the City and social media.

Spring Break 2017

There has been no respite in pedestrian and vehicular traffic this winter. Even the rain did not lessen the theme park atmosphere that is now our neighborhood. The bad news is that Spring Break is here with a prediction of even more Hollywood Sign seekers. The Beachwood gate will be closed and the folks who would have used the Hollyridge trail will most likely wander up Linforth and Ledgewood Drives. Senior LAPD Lead Officer Manny Sanchez sent a request to the council district to have extra enforcement in place on March 18 for one month. Sadly, it appears that CD4 is only going to give us two weeks of help starting on April 1. Hopefully, that will include Easter weekend when many residents will be praying for quiet, but will spend the day watching Uber and Lyft riders loiter on their property. Officer Sanchez has requested the extra enforcement to be placed at the following locations: The illegal Vista, Five Points intersection, the intersection of Deronda and Rockcliff, the top of Deronda, and Mulholland and Ledgewood. At this time we have not been told what exactly the enforcement will consist of, but Officer Sanchez has requested a mounted platoon and motorcross cycles to patrol between Canyon Lake Dr. and the Vista, which would be very helpful. It would be great if Joe Salaices at Recreation and Parks could add a couple of mounted Park Rangers on the Mt. Lee Road.



Theodore Payne Foundation's Native Plant Garden Tour April 1 & 2, 2017

Dear HHA Neighbors,

We are your neighbors at 3100 and at 3163 N. Beachwood Drive. On **Sunday, April 2**, our gardens will be featured on the Theodore Payne Foundation's Native Plant Garden Tour, an outreach event of the Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native Plants.

A few years ago we began adding California native plants to our garden. Like many people who garden with California natives, we wanted to accomplish the following:

- Use less water on our landscape and combat drought;
- Reduce or completely eliminate herbicides, pesticides, or chemical fertilizers and protect groundwater;
- Establish a habitat for wildlife (birds, hummingbirds, butterflies, etc.); and
- Create a beautiful landscape that is low-maintenance and uniquely Californian in character.

As part of this tour, on **Sunday, April 2, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**, our gardens will be open to visitors.

If you are interested in seeing our gardens and other examples of native gardens on the Theodore Payne Native Plant Garden Tour, you can purchase tickets for this event by visiting www.nativeplantgardentour.org or calling (818) 768-1802. Tickets are \$30 (with pair and group discounts available) for 32 gardens open on Saturday and Sunday, April 1&2. The tour is self-guided and there are many wonderful gardens of all sizes and styles throughout Los Angeles County.

The Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers & Native Plants, a 501(c)(3) organization established in 1960, re-wilds Southern California by bringing native plants back into our cities, creating habitat that supports local ecosystems, and helping people embrace our shared natural heritage. Learn more at Theodorepayne.org.

We hope that those of you that are interested in learning more about the beauty and benefits of gardening with California native plants are able to enjoy the Tour this spring. **If you have specific questions about the Tour, please reach out to Garden Tour Coordinator Margaret Oakley Otto by emailing her at gardentour@theodorepayne.org.**

Sincerely,

Brent & Halina, 3100 N. Beachwood Drive
Andrew & Michael, 3163 N. Beachwood Drive

2017 HHA Board

At our Hollywoodland annual January meeting we elected the 2017 board and at our subsequent February board meeting our officers and committees. They are:

- Jeanne Clark, Treasurer
- Jack Conrad, Safety
- Laura Davis, Safety, Welcome
- Sara Kate Levy, Communications, Membership
- Robert Louis, Beautification
- Diane Murphy, Public Relations
- James Mykytenko, Safety, Public Works, Public Policy
- Christine O'Brien, Membership, Archives/History, DRB
- Clarissa Troop, Secretary, Communications
- Tara Stephenson-Fong, President
- Cheryl Veitri, Vice President
- Alexa Williams, Communications, History/Archive, Environment

Our issues reflect our purposes and objectives to Hollywoodland and the city: to be advocates for our property, the preservation of its values and overall safety for our neighborhood.

In Memoriam

Since our last newsletter Hollywoodland has lost some of its best. Neighbors who contributed to a better community, whether donating their time and expertise to the Board, building the tract one concrete block at a time or letting the neighbor kids swim in their pool. Our condolences to family and friends - they will be sorely missed.

**Betsy Brackett Bryce Knoll Ted Leutzinger
Joel Schiller Kay Stern**

For full obituaries, please visit our website: hollywoodland.org



HHA: info@hollywoodland.com

Councilmember: - david.ryu@lacity.org

Chief of Staff: - sarah.dusseault@lacity.org

Senior field deputy: - catherine.landiers@lacity.org

LAPD Lead Officer Sanchez: 36190@lapd.lacity.org

Superintendent of Rec & Parks Operations: joe.salaices@lacity.org