

HOLLYWOODLAND

Hollywoodland Homeowners Association October 2017

CELEBRATE HOLLYWOODLAND!

THE LAND, OUR HOMES, OUR NEIGHBORS AND THE RELATIONSHIPS WE HAVE BUILT PRESERVING ITS SPIRIT 75 YEARS OF THE HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION & 25 YEARS OF THE SPECIFIC PLAN.

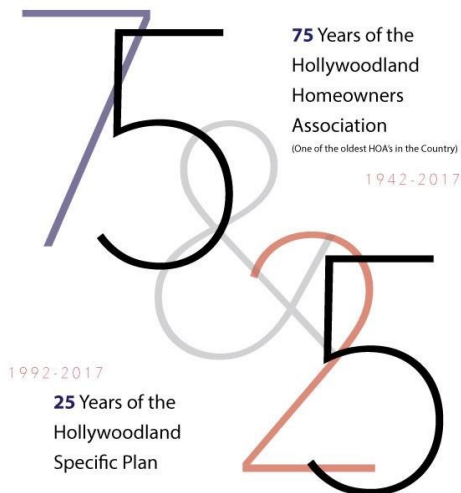
"To be ignorant of what occurred before you were born is to remain as a child. For what is the worth of human life unless it is woven into the life of our ancestors by the records of history?" Marcus Tullius Cicero

This is why we celebrate who we are as a neighborhood and what we want to see as a neighborhood. Our HOA has been our protector, lead agency on preservation and new construction, advocate and facilitator to government, and social conduit for hillside living. Won't you join us to learn more about why and how our HOA began and developed over 75 years and how the Specific Plan has shaped new development in the past twenty-five years?

The reception will be in the Hollywoodland Village Green and all residents are welcomed. We will share historical photographs and documents, as well as celebrate Hollywoodland's spirit and history. We will also be honoring one of our outstanding architects who has contributed so much to romanticizing the spirit of our community.

Celebration Reception, Sunday, October 15, 3:30-5:00
Hollywoodland Village Green

COME & CELEBRATE



Come & Celebrate 75 years of the Hollywoodland Homeowners Association & 25 years of the Hollywoodland Specific Plan. Meet your neighbors, learn the history of the neighborhood, see historical photos and documents on display. In the Hollywoodland Village Plaza, **Sunday October 15th 3:30pm - 5:00pm**
Sponsored by the HHA

NEW SIGNS AROUND HOLLYWOODLAND

Perhaps you have noticed some new signs around Hollywoodland. CD4 office has been working to erect clearer signage in the neighborhood to help residents and visitors alike. While CD4 advised the HHA that signs would be coming, no details were shared on what they would say or where they would be placed despite requests for information. There was no environmental review, public comment or hearings regarding the signs. Additional signs will be coming in the near future that will inform visitors how to access the Observatory DASH bus as well.

Summary of the new signs:

Beachwood/Franklin and Beachwood near Westshire:

- ◆ *No vehicle access to the Hollywood Sign*

Ledgewood at Beachwood:

- ◆ *No vehicle access to the Hollywood Sign*
- ◆ *Road Closed 1 Mile Ahead*
- ◆ *Mile Ahead*
- ◆ *Local Traffic Only*

Ledgewood at Deronda:

- ◆ *Road Closed .5 Miles Ahead*
- ◆ *Local Traffic Only*

Deronda at Rockcliff:

- ◆ *Dead End,*
- ◆ *No Turn Around*
- ◆ *Road Closed 600 Feet Ahead*
- ◆ *Local Traffic Only*

Ledgewood and Mulholland Highway:

- ◆ *Dead End*



BOLLARDS & RED CURBS ADDED AT HOLLYWOOD SIGN ILLEGAL VISTA

The viewing Vista on Mulholland Hwy and Canyon Lake Drive got some much needed traffic bollards and additional red no parking curbs in an attempt to help with the traffic situation with tourists trying to get their selfies with the Hollywood Sign as the backdrop. As with the directional signs, the council office did not reach out to the HHA or nearby residents for input. Hopefully, in the near future efforts will also help keep the tourists from stopping in the middle of the street to snap their photos. For now, the bollards are a needed band-aid for a much larger problem at this out-of-control site.

HOLLYWOODLAND SPECIFIC PLAN UPDATES, APPEALS AND NEWS

The Hollywoodland DRB has met four times since May reviewing the following submissions:

05/25/2017 3314 Lugano Place, proposed new home
07/06/2017 3314 Lugano Place, proposed new home
08/03/2017 6155 Rodgerton, proposed new home
6010 Lechner, a basement
10/05/2017 3225 Ledgewood, proposed new house
6041 Rodgerton, proposed new house

When there are project submittals, meetings are scheduled for the first and third Thursdays of each month.

City contact : Nuri Choi 213-978-1177, nuri.cho@lacity.org.

Other issues relating to the Hollywoodland Specific Plan are two appeals, 3101 Belden and 6068 Mulholland Hwy.

3101 Belden Drive is a proposed house that was denied by the DRB, approved by City Planning and appealed by adjacent neighbors. Reasons for rejecting the project include the out of character attributes of:

- a tall, overly massed unarticulated stacking garage to accommodate the 4 car requirement,
- disregard for the sensitive, but difficult vertical site,
- overly massive structure and retaining walls
- a style detrimental to the intent and purposes of the plan.

At the July hearing the planning commission ignored the DRB and neighborhood concerns and approved the project anyway. We are quite curious how the developer will accommodate all the construction materials etc., on this very narrow, winding road. Please note all commissioners are appointees of the mayor and reflect his intent on development without acknowledging character and regard for the citizens who call Hollywoodland "our neighborhood".

The extreme structure at 6068 Mulholland is a continuing saga. It was denied by the DRB in spring of 2014, appealed in November of 2016, heard by the ZA in January of 2017 and then a decision was rendered in favor of the applicant in May 2017. This project was also denied by your neighbors serving on the DRB, but once again approved by Planning. The plan and the actual construction is now underway imposing on Hollywoodland's character and the purposes of our Specific Plan. The project is adjacent to our magnificent historic retaining walls and is over height by 13' 8 3/8". The over height area offers a balcony to view the Hollywood sign for the out of country owners who are building the structure. The city has allowed materials, port-a-potties and equipment to be stored on the public street. Despite numerous complaints, the rules are not applying. Ryu has also reversed his 2016 commitment to support the appeal. We will have one last time to uphold and try to preserve our plan. Write and join us on October 10, 2017, 4:30 PM 200 N. Spring room 532. If you want to support

our appeal please send your viewpoints to: etta.armstrong@lacity.org using the following in the heading: 6068 West Mulholland Highway DIR-2016-4837-BSA-1A. You can also email us at info@hollywoodland.org to obtain additional information.

HOLLYWOODLAND WELCOMES THE NEW BEACHWOOD CLEANERS & LAUNDRY

You may have noticed a change of ownership sign hanging in the Village -- indeed, we have a new dry-cleaner in residence at the Beachwood Cleaners & Laundry.

Daniel Miranda, Beachwood Cleaners & Laundry's proprietor, comes to Hollywoodland after fifteen years working at the Holly Hills Cleaners near Gelsons. He came to know our neighborhood running wash-and-fold deliveries over that time, so when the spot in the Village opened up, he saw it, and he jumped on the opportunity to open his own business there.

Beachwood Cleaners & Laundry offers dry-cleaning, wash-and-fold, rug cleaning, shoe repair, and leather-cleaning services. Because of neighborhood noise and infrastructure restrictions, dry-cleaning is sent out to a plant Daniel shares with a partner; but all water-based service happens on site. For instance, Daniel says, even though many clients believe their comforters and duvets need to be dry-cleaned, he generally advises those items be washed on site. "Down absorbs too much dry-cleaning solvent," he says. "You don't want all that solvent on something you sleep with. Something you sleep with, you need to wash."

Luckily for us, Daniel has found the community welcoming, and calls his clientele "charming." "Greg (Williams) was so great and helpful," he said, describing his landlord's efforts to help him establish the new business. "And Alex at the market, and Jennifer from the flower shop, are so nice, too. I just really like the vibe here."

Perhaps the most exciting development for our neighborhood, Daniel offers monthly billing, as well as weekly pick-up and delivery. I know many of us are loyal to other drycleaners around town, but Daniel's location, excellent service, and winning personality were enough to win me over.

Welcome, Daniel Miranda! And great luck to your Beachwood Cleaners & Laundry

Editor's Note: On behalf of our members, the HHA would like to thank Sook Bong Cruz, the previous owner of the cleaners, for her thirty years of service to the neighborhood. Sook still lives in Hollywoodland and we wish her well in retirement.

JOHN DELARIO CLUB

The John Delario Club's first meeting is Sunday October 8. If you did not receive an invitation and own or live in a Delario structure please contact Chris at Hollywoodlandgiftedpark@gmail.com



RECENT HOLLYWOODLAND HOME SALES

Address	Asking Price	Sale Price
2821 Westshire	\$1,100,000	\$1,100,000
2752 Belden	\$1,349,000	\$1,335,000
2821 Belden	\$1,395,000	\$1,392,325
6090 Rodgerton	\$1,495,000	\$1,410,000
3116 N. Beachwood	\$1,499,000	\$1,480,000
3001 N. Beachwood	\$1,949,000	\$1,689,000
3000 Durand	\$1,795,000	\$1,725,000
3370 Ledgewood	\$1,899,000	\$1,824,000
6347 Rodgerton	\$2,195,000	\$1,970,000
6491 Rodgerton	\$2,285,000	\$2,175,000

Information provided by:
Robert Louis, Broker
BRE Lic. # 01222983
robertlouis18@gmail.com

CONTRADICTION? YOU TELL US

In an email of August 3, 2017, Shannon Prior, Field Deputy for Council District 4 told the HHA, "We are also asking Uber and Lyft to refrain from picking up and dropping off on Deronda". Then on September 20 DOT erected these signs at the intersection of Deronda and Rockcliff designating an Uber/Lyft drop-off / pickup zone for hikers and tourists. This effectively designates a commercial transit stop in an R1 neighborhood with sub-standard streets. This is a residential district and these signs effectively change the zoning here. Why would this be a good thing for property values and our quality of life?



PASSINGS

Richard Larsen, Deronda Dr.

Civil rights attorney E. Richard Larsen, who worked for the ACLU and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund during his thirty-five year legal career, died in his home in July.

Robert Garcia, a former attorney for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and now the founding director of The City Project in Los Angeles said Larsen was one of the most talented attorneys he had ever worked alongside.

Larsen argued four civil rights cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, advocating for employment discrimination protections for minority workers. He also authored four books.

He is survived by his sister, Jane, and two nephews.

Martha "Pegi" Steen Williams, Ledgewood Dr.

After graduating nursing school, Pegi came to Los Angeles from her native Quebec, Canada with her best friend to pursue their careers in nursing. She would later become Head Nurse in Children's Pediatrics at Kaiser Hospital.

In September of 1964 she married Harry Williams, co-owner and butcher of the Beachwood Market in Hollywoodland. They were married for 53 three years, all of them spent on Ledgewood Dr. Upon retiring Pegi spent years doing volunteer work, her favorites being the L.A. Zoo and Hospice, caring for the elderly.

She died in her home in August and is survived by her husband, Harry, son James Hutton and grandson, Sean Hutton.

HOLLYWOODLAND ORAL HISTORY

Excerpts from an interview with Marcella Meharg and Yvonne Westbrook conducted by Laura Davis, September 22-23, 2017

Marcella and her daughter, Yvonne, have been Hollywoodland residents since 1971. Yvonne is a licensed Marriage & Family Therapist. Marcella is a former social worker, who also worked as a personal assistant to Laura Huxley for 25 years.

INTERVIEWER: Marcella, can you tell me how you and Laura Huxley met?

MARCELLA: I was a social worker and a colleague at work was assigned a study on her being a legal guardian for her [late] friend's granddaughter. Virginia Pfeiffer [an ex-sister-in-law of Ernest Hemingway] had been one of the first single-parent adoptions in the U.S. – it was covered by Look Magazine – and after she died, Laura sort of watched over these two children, who were then adults. The boy had a drug habit, which unfortunately led to incarceration and eventually death from an overdose, and the girl had a drinking problem and had this child whom Laura

often took care of and eventually became legal guardian of and raised. So, after this study was done, my friend went back to graduate school and she knew I wanted to retire early and asked was I interested in a job and I was. Laura was an author in her own right and she had a foundation. I worked for her for twenty five years and we remained good friends until her death.

INTERVIEWER: Did Laura ever speak of her marriage to you?

MARCELLA: Yes, all the time. It was really happy. I think he adored her. [His first wife] Maria was Italian like Laura, and they became casual friends. Laura was opportunistic in respects. She saw a chance at something, she went for it. I give her credit for that. And when Maria died, she wasted no time in becoming closer to Aldous, so he married her. She was 44 and had never been married, and he was 62, but it turned out to be a good marriage. She was a loving companion, they had fun together, so it was a good marriage although it was very short-lived, maybe seven years.

INTERVIEWER: When did the Huxleys move up to Mulholland?

MARCELLA: It was after the fire and Ginny (referring to Virginia Pfeiffer) eventually bought that house and the three of them lived up there, so it would've been in 1962, '63, something like that. I know that Aldous died up there so it would've been rather fast. They were in the house on Mulholland with the two kids that Ginny adopted and it was a busy time. "The Doors of Perception" had come out, and there was a lot of drug use – LSD, marijuana – going on up there.

INTERVIEWER: So there were five people living up there? (Marcella affirms.) And they had previously been neighbors?

MARCELLA: They were neighbors. They had houses next to each other [on Deronda.] And Ginny and Laura's relationship remained the same during the marriage.

INTERVIEWER: So their relationship was not a secret?

MARCELLA: Oh, no. There was a book that came out when Laura was still alive and her agent called her up and it was on the front page of the book section. I forget the man who wrote it. He had done a lot of correspondence with Laura. He was an English writer and a follower of Huxley's and a biographer. (Interviewer's note: Nicholas Murray's book was called "Aldous Huxley.") And it implied kind of a voyeuristic side of Huxley. I think Maria, his first wife, was also bisexual.

INTERVIEWER: Who were some of the other interesting neighborhood people? Didn't someone well-known own your home?

YVONNE: [Screenwriter] Felix Adler. He did "The Three Stooges" and "The Little Rascals."

MARCELLA: The Conants (referring to the former residents of 2810 N Beachwood) built our house for a sea captain. Mr. Conant, who was head of McDonnell Douglas during the war, was a yachtsman and Mrs. Conant had two brothers who were architects. One was Pierpont Davis. Pierpont did our house.

INTERVIEWER: So, Pierpont Davis built the big house across the street for his sister, Mrs. Conant, and your house as a guest-house?

MARCELLA: She had our house built because they were friends with a sea captain who never lived there.

YVONNE: Felix Adler was the first owner of our house and my grandmother was the second.

MARCELLA: Anyway, Felix Adler lived there and he did Laurel and Hardy comedies and the Stooges and the Little Rascals, and he was very famous. He lived alone and when my mother bought the house [in 1961], I would come and help her clean out the house and there were pictures of him with Charlie Chaplin! And the sad thing is there were letters to studios begging for work. I said to my mother, 'Keep all this stuff. It's important.' And she never kept it.

INTERVIEWER: He just left behind all of his photographs and correspondence?

YVONNE: When he died, he didn't have family, so it went to probate.

MARCELLA: You know Silberman who used to live here (at interviewer's home), you know who his friend was? (Interviewer does not.)

YVONNE: Angelyne. They were both part of the Theosophical Society.

INTERVIEWER: I only met Frank Silberman once or twice, and I remember him as a silent and very elderly man sitting in a wheelchair in the dining room. It's hard to imagine him with Angelyne.

YVONNE: Angelyne would drive Mr. Silberman home after church and they would pull in front of our house, in front of my window so that Irene Silberman couldn't see the car, and talk for hours outside my bedroom window. I overheard many a marital fight, but I never saw anything that made me think that Mr. Silberman and Angelyne's relationship was anything other than platonic.

INTERVIEWER: How has the neighborhood changed in the years you've been here?

YVONNE: Well, I can say that it's changed from when we first moved here. There was kind of a boom here in the eighties

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and all of the real estate went up. The neighborhood changed after that. All of the old eccentric people, what I think of as the more flamboyantly eccentric people, were traded in for people who were more conventional. The people here used to be a lot less conventional.

MARCELLA: My mother partially grew up in Hollywood. She went to Hollywood High. And when she would come up to visit me when she was living in Palos Verdes, she would be shocked. Because when she was growing up in the twenties or maybe before that, she said Hollywood was like Beverly Hills. It was beautiful. There were beautiful cars. People were dressed beautifully. She was shocked.

INTERVIEWER: *Certainly when I moved here in 1987, I did everything possible to avoid downtown Hollywood. It was depressing and seedy.*

MARCELLA: It's worse now. It's like Times Square now.

INTERVIEWER: *People complain about the Disneyfication of*

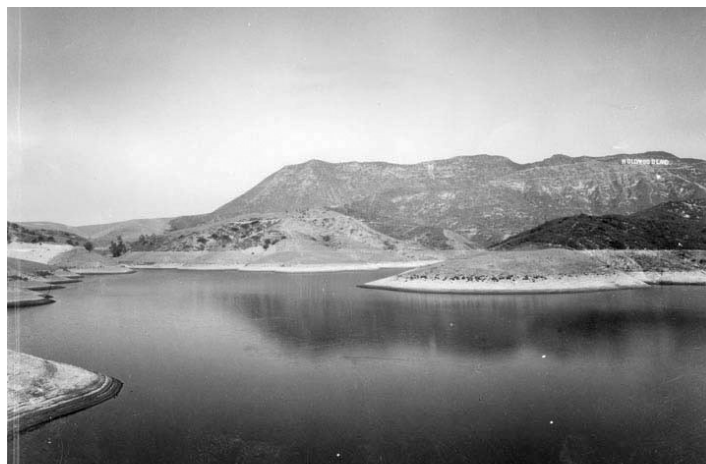
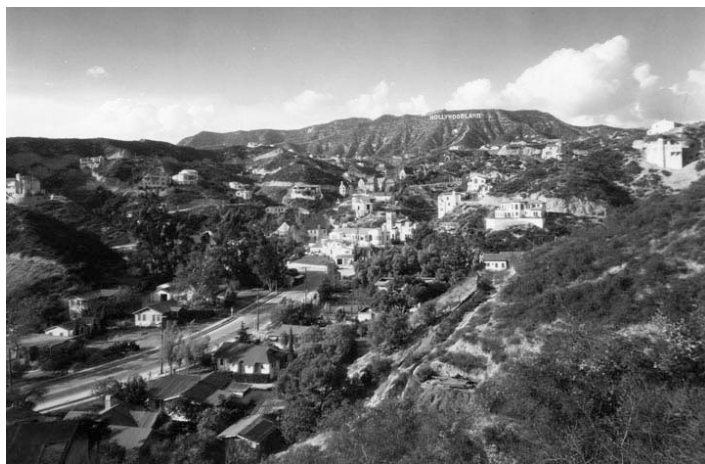
Times Square and Hollywood, but I can't say I really miss the old porno-peep show esthetic. (Laughter.)

YVONNE: I kinda do because there was something more real-feeling about it. So, even though I recognize that, yes, what we have going is better and better for home values and all those things, I kinda miss the seedy old Hollywood. It didn't have any pretensions. I remember, too, as a kid, that there was a class difference between people who lived above the gates and people who lived below the gates.

INTERVIEWER: *I think there's still a division. It still exists.*

YVONNE: It does. It's an awful carry-over. I remember being aware of that, but we never had money. We landed here because my grandmother owned the house!

Interviewer's note: If you know any longtime residents who might be interested in contributing to an oral history of Hollywoodland, please email info@hollywoodland.org



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Senior Field Deputy: shannon.prior@lacity.org

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