

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Soon all Hollywoodland residents will be receiving the annual membership packet along with a ballot for new and renewing board members for 2019. Hollywoodland is a very special, historic community with much to offer. However, without a commitment to preservation the qualities that attract us to live here will be lost forever. A united force and funds are essential. Your membership contribution can help the HHA protect this unique neighborhood, along with sponsoring special events to bring us all together. Our annual meeting will be held on January 27, 2019, 2:30PM, at the Besant Lodge. Guest speakers are LAPD Senior Lead Officer Brian White and LA Parks Superintendent Joe Salacies.

Your ideas for preserving our homes, our neighborhood and the adjacent parkland are welcomed. We would love to hear from you at info@hollywoodland.org

MEMORIES OF THE SUNSET RANCH

A couple of us from my grammar school, Our Mother of Good Counsel at Vermont and Ambrose, would go riding on Catholic school holidays. We would walk to Sunset Stables and the horses rented for \$1.25 an hour or it might have been \$2.50.

If you had the horse for four hours you could have another four hours for free because they couldn't rent them out again that day. So, we rode all day for five or ten bucks, which was a month's saving in those days. I don't remember a shooting range at Bronson. The years we rode were 1956 through 1958. I still see the guys I rode with then and we still talk about it.

Living a block from Los Feliz and Vermont we spent many hours in the park in those days. Saturdays we would leave home about 8 AM with a packed lunch and be home in time for dinner. This was probably from the second grade on.

To see the Hollywood Sign we would hike to it, never did drive to it.

Those were the days...

Bill Comeau

SPECIFIC PLAN UPDATE

Since August there has only been one project submittal - a room addition with exterior remodeling at 3249 Ledgewood, an existing house.

The Design Review Advisory Board and the Design Guide subcommittee held a public meeting in November to review Guide drafts and to receive public input/suggestions. More meetings will be announced. Please check the HHA website, Planning Department and Facebook page for details. The Hollywoodland Specific Plan has been in place for twenty-six years and the purpose of the subcommittee is to update the plan relative to changes in the urban conditions, as well as clarify the point system.

These are some of the changes that have occurred in our city and Hollywoodland since 1992:

- ◆ retaining wall regulations
- ◆ automated garbage pickup
- ◆ promotion of the Hollywood sign and the adjacent open space
- ◆ parking permits
- ◆ off street parking for visitors viewing the sign and hiking
- ◆ inconsistent height measurements by Building and Safety as well as Planning
- ◆ wildlife corridors identified by the county and state as significant ecological areas (SEA)
- ◆ solar components on structures including ones that relate to electric vehicles
- ◆ utility boxes and how they are read and their placement
- ◆ GPS
- ◆ water recycling
- ◆ energy conservation methods

There have been numerous inquiries about the two structures at 3217 Ledgewood and 3225 Lugano Place. The Lugano project was denied by the DRAB 5-1, however the Planning Department approved the structure. This structure was appealed by a neighbor and that was also denied by the Planning Commission.

The project at 3217 Ledgewood was also denied by the DRAB 4-1, but approved by the Planning Department. If you would like more details about these projects or any other Specific Plan project you can view details on ZIMASLA by inserting the address and clicking on the right icon for *case numbers, director of planning*.

RESIDENTIAL DRUG TREATMENT

There is a drug treatment house on Rodgerton Drive owned by a foreign national and has been leased to the Alta Treatment Center. Neighbors were alerted to its existence due to the unusual activities of smokers standing in the street, excessive trash and sometimes erratic behavior from patients. This prompted some board members to do additional investigation. Our Assemblywoman, Laura Friedman, did not provide any assistance, however one neighbor interfaced with an effective state senator from Orange County, Patrica C. Bates, who shared the following information:

Thank you for writing to convey your support for legislation relating to sober living homes. I appreciate hearing from you and I am writing to give you an update.

The proliferation of group homes for persons who are recovering from alcoholism and drug addiction has created concerns over the impacts on surrounding neighborhoods resulting from overconcentration. This issue has also highlighted the difficulties that state and local governments have faced in establishing requirements and standards. I empathize with your concerns as I too live near a sober living home.

I worked this year with my colleagues in the Legislature to increase awareness of the lack of appropriate oversight of sober living homes and to make progress toward legislative solutions where progress has previously proven elusive. There have been attempts in the California Legislature to address the proliferation both of unregulated sober living homes as well as state-licensed alcoholism or drug abuse or treatment facilities over the course of two decades, but the problems remain unresolved. Unfortunately, over the past few years, the legislation that I authored did not advance through the legislative process, but several other bills were approved that begin to regulate this arena.

This year, I have authored two bills on sober living homes and residential treatment facilities: SB 902 and SB 1290. SB 902 requires background checks for licensed operators of residential treatment facilities. It is imperative that the owners and operators who exercise control or management of individuals seeking care or treatment in these facilities be cleared through state and federal criminal databases. SB 1290 prohibits patient brokering, modeled after Florida's "Patient Brokering Act." Anti-kickback statutes like SB 1290 are designed to prevent insurance fraud and abusive practices resulting from provider decisions that are based on self-interest rather than cost, quality of care or necessity of services. Unfor-

tunately, both of these bills were held in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Two bills that I co-authored were signed by the Governor: SB 992 (Hernandez) and AB 3162 (Friedman). SB 992 requires all alcoholism and drug abuse recovery or treatment facilities to disclose specified information to California Department of Health Care Services and requires residential treatment facilities to develop a plan to address relapses. AB 3162 makes initial licenses for residential treatment facilities provisional for one year, requires services offered by the RTF to be specified on the license and provided within the licensed RTF, and increases civil penalties for the violation of licensing law.

The 2018 bill proposals build on my efforts to bring legislators, local officials and other stakeholders together to address the issues that you and your neighbors have raised. For example, I hosted three public town halls in Laguna Hills, San Clemente and Oceanside in 2016 that were attended by several hundred people, underscoring the need for action at the state level. The feedback that I received at those town halls and other meetings have shaped the legislation that I am working on this year.

The main challenge in enacting change at the state level is that federal law classifies people who are recovering from alcoholism or drug addiction as "disabled," and the federal Fair Housing Act and Americans with Disabilities Act require "reasonable accommodation" for housing. As a result, both the state and local governments have encountered resistance with creating laws and ordinances that provide standards and requirements for sober living homes without violating federal law. Cities that have adopted ordinances imposing restrictions and requirements on sober living homes have faced lengthy and expensive litigation, and the legal landscape remains murky.

I am hopeful that the concerted focus that this issue is now receiving, aided by the meetings we have had in the 36th Senate District over the past three years, will induce meaningful progress at the federal level, as we await guidance from federal authorities for local governments that are interested in adopting ordinances to address the proliferation of sober living homes.

I will continue to do what I can to responsibly address the sober living home issue and protect public safety in our communities.

Sincerely,

PATRICIA C. BATES
Senator, 36th District

IN PLAIN SITE

"That's an historic camellia", my neighbor told me recently. Really? As I surveyed it's leaning branches over the driveway; it was old. A slow grower too. I moved to Hollywoodland three years ago and the shrub, with delicate pink blooms, had grown an inch at best. If that was any indication of its age, then it could be up to 40-50 years old. "You have a gift plant from Mrs. C.", my neighbor continued. Long-time Beachwood resident, Mrs. C. was a member of the Southern California Camellia Society and this plant was possibly a rare variety from a past society show. Intrigued. What else could I discover about this?

Apparently, there are a number of 'gifted' plants in the Hollywoodland neighborhood. These old-timers are sprinkled in yards up and down the canyon, balancing the colors and textures of what we see when walking around. Some are hidden in walled gardens viewed from the granite steps. Others peek out seasonally and then are often overlooked until someone pays a compliment to remind us how this neighborhood's landscape was created by visionaries of the 1920's.

Learning about the history of the camellia gave me new appreciation for something my gardener wanted to prune hard so I could get my car in the garage. I told him I have a small car and it slips under the arching branches. No problem. For now, the invasive vines will be removed to lighten the load on the aging main trunk and only the dead woody stems will be snipped.



How many plants did I have that could be considered historic? Perhaps others would be like to know more about plants they have inherited. If there is interest to help photograph and catalog these treasures, please inquire with the HHA. Link to Southern California Camellia Society: <http://www.socalcamellias.org>

Jannine McDonald



CITY'S IDEA OF CRAFTSMANSHIP

For many years the HHA maintained the historic stairs nestled in the neighborhood. Local stonemasons were hired to repair and restore both the stairs and retaining walls. But with the increased liability brought on by the onslaught of exercise seekers and tourists in the past decade, control of the stairs was given to the City. Maintenance, too. Which is why the recent slapdash repairs have brought tears to our eyes. Historic infrastructure seems to be simply a nuisance to the City of Los Angeles.

IN MEMORIUM

BARBARA SNOWBERGER, Westshire Drive
Barbara was born in Wabash, Indiana and came to California upon graduating from high school. She was a successful entrepreneur here in Los Angeles. She and her partner of twenty-six years, Howard Metcalf, loved, loved, loved their brood of Siamese cats with the LA Lakers coming in a close second.

ROBERT TERUYA, Beachwood Market
Robert was the greengrocer for the market and many early rising neighbors can recall that Robert was at work before they even thought of getting up. Robert knew his customers and greeted them with kindness. He would always take the time to go into the back of the store to find what they needed. We send our condolences to Robert's family and his long-time Beachwood Market co-workers.

OH MY GAAAARD-ANT INVASION

At first I thought maybe we lacked cleanliness, then I worried about termites, since some ants have a symbiotic relationship with termites, then I started asking neighbors if they also were being invaded, and many were. Our invasion extends to more than half the rooms in our house: the kitchen, one bathroom, 2 bedrooms and the pantry.

Argentine ants came like a lot of other non-indigenous insects, by hitching a ride on boats. They infiltrated the US and Europe about a hundred years ago, and they made some behavioral changes that have helped them proliferate. In their indigenous environments they warred with other colonies, but here, they've learned cooperate instead. The other thing that separates Argentine ants from other ants is that they have distinct, multiple colonies and several queens in each colony. If you have multiple queens and cooperating colonies, you up your chances for survival and you can usurp the territory of other kinds of ants. So the good news is that Argentine ants don't conspire with termites; the bad news is that they are very hard to get rid of.

Argentine ants have a bite that is like a little pinch and leaves no welts...uncomfortable and nothing compared to the bite of a fire ant. Nevertheless, if they happen to like your bed, they can keep you awake by biting and crawling on you and they are busy 24/7. They are mostly looking for water, but will exploit any available food and will swarm around any kind of food left out, or accidentally dropped. They seem to like honey more than sugar—me too.

So how do you get rid of them? One friend (in Silverlake) told me she had an exterminator come, spray and afterward, no Argentinian ants. From what I've read, spray extermination works, though only for a short time. A neighbor, who was similarly plagued, used boric acid and seems to have been successful, but it takes time and diligence. On average, it takes a month to six weeks for the boric acid formula to reach all the colonies and kill all the queens, but it works, and it does not kill other animals. And here's an odd observation: Argentine ants will not walk on paper towels, though I don't know why. I thought about flooring and wallpapering the entire house with paper towels on sleepless, creepy crawling, bite-pinch nights. These kinds of invasions can drive a person bonkers.

Yvonne Westbrook, MFT

DRB

The Design Review Board is changing its 2019 meeting schedule to the first and third Wednesday of each month pending projects.

OUR WISH FOR 2019

That our local elected representatives were as thoughtful as Congressman Will Hurd of the Texas 23rd Congressional District.

"It's not rocket science. Look—show up, talk to people, represent them, right? It starts with the philosophy that my bosses are the 800,000 people that I represent, not anybody else."

Wall Street Journal

LOUNGE ACT



Hollywoodland Homeowners Association Board

Tara Stephenson-Fong *President*, Alexa Williams *Vice-President*, Jeanne Clark *Treasurer*, Sarah Kate Levy *Secretary*

Laura Davis, Nancy Girtten, Alexandra Kerr, Robert Louis,
Jannine MacDonald, James Mykytenko, Diane Murphy,
Cheryl Veltri