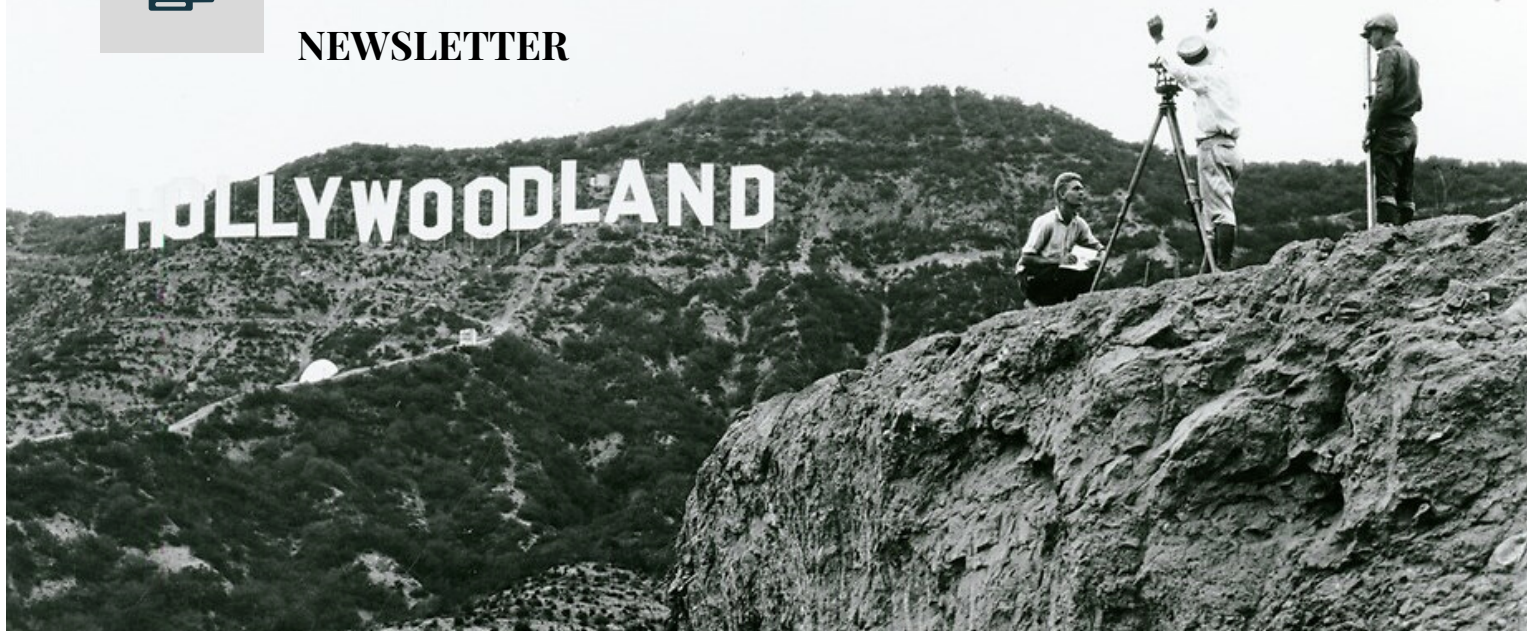




WINTER 2023

HOLLYWOODLAND HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER



PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

The end of 2022 started things off correctly with Mayor Bass and her keen listening skills. Our praise goes to Mayor Bass who acted to rescind former Mayor Garcetti destructive executive directive to light the sign through the Sign Trust/Chamber. Neighbors communicated concerns along with a letter from environmental attorney Doug Carstens. Those efforts were effective, but we expect the attempts to continue to light the sign will continue.

Our 80th celebration of the Hollywoodland Homeowners Association was a success and brought many people. A big thank you to Patti Carroll who allowed use of her office space. We anticipate more events in the neighborhood where we will share information and history about us, our land and the 100 years we have existed.

Huge thank you to the people who shape our community and serve it: our board, neighbors like Hoss Zaragan who attend LAPD meetings, Jim Van Dusen who attends HUNC meetings and of course our volunteer board of directors and new nominees. Others who deserve praise are the Williams Family who decorate the village for the holidays and Patti Carroll who shares her realty space for our events. Both also helped share the holiday spirit with Greg's fabulous marionette puppet show presented to our Hollywoodland Families.

Musician and music professor, Doug Tornquist shared his friends and their talents by bringing brass performers to the canyon they played some wonderful tunes. The sound echoed beautifully through the canyon. Thank you to EPC for fixing our banner hanger, for graphic designer Brian Burchfield's talented 80th banner design and for John Beard's print company's skills in creating the perfect look, scale and size.

Our first centennial venue is scheduled for January 26 where neighbors will share inspirations about their perceptions of Hollywoodland (more details to follow). The Beard/Burchfield team have more lovely visuals in store for us in 2023! Join us in 2023!

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AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

RAP gave architect, Michael Mekeel and myself clearance to enter the Hollywoodland Girl's Camp area in the eastern portion of our tract. As many of you know, this area had a large gravel pit farther east known as the bat caves. Most of us were unaware of a smaller quarry where our Hollywoodland granite was mined. After some map digging and review of written pieces by Ray Long we figured out where it was. The mining, transporting and building of our granite appointments was quite a process. We hope to tell that story too by piecing what we have learned from letters, business documents and images. Identifying the granite quarry is a big history mystery that we were delighted to find. We hope the city will resourcefully use this find to properly restore the granite walls and stairs.

Wildlife Ordinance

The City Planning's Wildlife Ordinance passed after several years of public hearings and study. The area affected by the wildlife pilot study stopped at Laurel Canyon, so currently we are not under the regulations.

We Hollywoodlanders support the concept, however understand the ineffective enforcement and false protective measures it provides. The ordinance would demand regulations for the private property owners, but public city departments who hold land in our tract would be exempt. None of these city land holding agencies (DWP, LAPD, LAFD, Public Works, General Services, RAP) are required to comply. This opt out would certainly dilute any attempts of effectiveness.

As an alternative, we would like the city to adopt our tract's open space as a SEA much the same as the county has. In Hollywoodland we are surrounded by three sides of open space covering about 80% of our perimeter. Currently the county has identified the space as a Significant Ecological Area, but the city refuses to apply that designation which would require real teeth in regulations that all city agencies would be encumbered with.

HHA Position on Hollywood Sign

Safety and environmental issues are Hollywoodlanders primary concerns. HHA has consistently taken the position of non-promotion and no lighting of the sign because public safety and environmental issues can not be mitigated.

Every time the sign is promoted, illuminated or misused the sensitive, residential area and the tract's adjacent, surrounding open space is negatively impacted, maximizing high fire issues and creating environmental risks to numerous endangered, documented animal habitats. The county of Los Angeles recognizes Hollywoodland's adjacent openspace as a SEA (significant ecological area). Hollywoodland Tract 6450 is in a VSHFHZ (very severe high fire hazard zone) with substandard streets widths, generally no sidewalks. The main communication tower for the city of Los Angeles rests within the tract. The tower is an important entity for keeping the entire city and county emergency communication system functioning.

Most recently the sign has been illuminated under the disguise of filming circumventing proper process and allowing the Mayor and the Chamber to do as they please with little regard for the environment and safety.

Have comments or thoughts you'd like to share? Join our monthly board meeting - second Tuesday every month. For access, please be a current member of HHA and email us at hha@hollywoodland.org

Historic Architect John DeLario Shaping Hollywoodland

We have developed a John DeLario house/building survey that we are asking owners to fill out. If you live in a DeLario designed structure and did not receive the survey please send us an email requesting it: HHA@hollywoodland.org We plan to offer an interesting lecture by one of our dedicated historic architects during 2023 celebration.

Passings

In 2022 we lost some great things and great people. P22, Jean Clyde Mason, Sara Greenberg, Keith McCallister, Greg Osborne. As neighbors and friends they have shaped and inspired us in some ways and we are grateful.

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AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

WHY I AM THRILLED WITH CHEREMOYA ELEMENTARY! by Faye Wachs



I grew up in the canyons of Los Angeles just a little west of here, attending the local school down that street, and some of my most treasured relationships began in elementary school. When it came time to send my own child to school, I was thrilled with the idea of a school down the street. My son has an IEP, so after a few years in a specialized program, he was ready for elementary school in second grade. But I wanted to do my due diligence, visiting private schools, checking out the local charter schools, going into the lottery for magnet schools nearby, it was like a part time job. We ended up at Cheremoya Elementary, the “school down the street.” It’s a campus full of committed caring people enacting change and finding ways to ensure everyone’s voice is valued, considered, and, nurtured.

What are some of the things we appreciate about Cheremoya? First, my kid will live in an incredibly diverse world. Working with people with different strengths, challenges, and needs, will be essential to being a compassionate global citizen. Being in a school environment in which events around the world are discussed and appreciated as the lived realities of classmates and their families, adds incredibly depth to understanding. Second, the faculty and staff are phenomenal engaged educators. My kid has a unique personal style, he likes to wear ties with t shirts and shorts, regardless of weather. His former second grade teacher (he’s in fourth now) dressed as him for Halloween and my kid was thrilled! Recently the special education teacher, Dr. Harrison sent my son home with a gift. My kid has been struggling to find more challenging books he is interested. She gave him Neil Gaiman’s Graveyard Book. She knows my son, and she genuinely cares about engaging him in education. Finally, it’s a wonderful community to be part of right now.

Whether volunteering to chaperone field trips, or manning a booth at the annual “Halloween Boo Blast,” the wonderful caring parents, teachers, aids, and students I am privileged enough to spend my time always result in my family leaving energized, and hopeful, even when actually exhausted! When my child began at Cheremoya, he struggled academically and socially, but with the support of his teachers, aids, and classmates he comes home from school happy. He’s excited to do his homework, and he recently told me, his goal is to not miss any more days all school year, because he wants to be there. He rushes out the door every morning, wanting to arrive early to play with his friends, and greet the staff. And he adores his teachers and the principal. My kid is happy, has wonderful friends, is well cared for, and excited about making academic progress, I couldn’t ask for more.

If you are considering sending your child to Cheremoya and have questions, you can reach me through HHA@hollywoodland.org

If you don’t have school age children, but would like to contribute consider donating or volunteering through the Cheremoya Foundation: <https://www.cheremoyafoundation.org>

ATTENTION NEW RESIDENTS!

If you are a homeowner and have recently moved into Hollywoodland and have not heard from the HHA please contact us. We have a special way to welcome new residents, and we don't want to miss anyone.

We have our sources as to who has moved in, but sometimes a few people fall through the cracks. We don't want you to be one of those.

Email us at HHA@hollywoodland.org, and we will respond.

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AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

BEACHWOOD MARKET HAS BOOKS BY HOLLYWOODLAND AUTHORS

We are lucky to have Alex Papalexis, Beachwood Market owner/manager, not only providing us with an excellent variety of groceries, fresh produce, a popular deli, and a butcher shop, but also a magazine and book stand with works by Hollywoodland authors. Alex is seen proudly displaying some of the books that are available: (left to right) “This Is Your Brain on Music: The Science of a Human Obsession,” by Daniel J. Levitan; “Shaky Town: A Novel,” by Lou Mathews; “Almost Famous: Journey to the Summer of Love,” by Alan Lee Brackett; and “Music Smarts,” by Mr. Bonzai. Photo by David Goggin.



PRIMARY WAVE TO OPEN WEST COAST OFFICES IN HOLLYWOODLAND

46 years ago two modernist architects, Kurt Meyer and Carl Maston, built the contemporary two-story office building across from the Beachwood café that I've often heard called the Architects' Building. They tucked in an adjacent townhouse that became Kurt's home, and I joined him there in 1992. Last month our family sold the entire building to the music publishing company Primary Wave to use for their west coast offices, and I think it's going to be a great fit for everyone.

As for me, I'm returning to my home town of Pasadena to be closer to my family.

Even though I'll miss seeing you walking the streets with your dogs or at the café or market, I'll be back to visit. Besides, there's no better mechanic than Harry at the Mobile Station at Franklin and Argyle, and no one can cut hair like Penny in the Hollywoodland building.

I'll be seeing you around.

POLE DANCE by Soren Kirk

My internet kept failing, so I repeatedly called ATT for help in Winter 2022. Finally, I got a man who discovered that I was hooked up to the wrong pole 250' away on Westshire. He told me the pole where I belonged was ready to fall over. Both he and I reported it to DWP.

A month later, there was a knock on my front door to get access to my back yard so they could inspect the poles back there. These men were sub-contracted by DWP to inspect the whole neighborhood. My poles were fine, but I mentioned the rotten one across the way. They agreed it was very bad, and they had already called it in. I asked them to escalate it, but they said they placed it at the highest level of alert. They warned it would probably require a helicopter which would need to be permitted by The City.

I alerted the Westshire occupants directly under the rotten pole, and they, too, alerted DWP. Then nothing for three months. I learned that the absentee owner had reported it a year prior, but to no avail.

We joined forces to pen some powerful emails to DWP and CD4. We were relentless. To our delight, the council office was responsive and the case became a priority.

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Then came planning. The sub-contractors of EPC determined that six poles would need replacement. They leafleted about 50 houses to announce the upcoming project. These residents were told they would lose power on the day work was done. They knocked on 14 doors on Westshire, Pelham, and Hollyridge telling them they would need evacuate.

The date was set for Wednesday, September 28th. They posted NO PARKING signs. Monday and Tuesday would be for tree and brush removal by DWP. By strange coincidence, on Sunday the 26th, half the canyon lost power for hours. It had nothing whatsoever to do with the problem being addressed. It was something perhaps as wild as a bird flying into the transformer on one of the target poles. But there ensued a couple of hours of Monday confusion about who would lose power and who would be evacuated. But the crew's pre-planning proved precise. Wednesday morning work began 2 minutes ahead of schedule.

The dramatic coordination of the pilot and the linemen is documented on YouTube in a piece called "Pole Dancing in Hollywood 2022." Lineman work requires such concentrated precision that the foreman calls each man early morning of job day to discover if they slept poorly or had any unexpected stress the night before. If things are amiss, they are not allowed to work. Joking around with the planning crew one day I said, "Hey, it's not that I am some feminist, but where are the women in your crew?" One EPC man said, "Well, I have four daughters and I tell them they can be whatever they want to be—except linemen."

Two hours before they predicted work would be complete, poles were were lanted in their hole, the high-voltage transformer was working, feeder lines got hooked in, and our lights were back on! Thursday and Friday was clean up and removal of the rotten poles. The EPC guys even helped the HHA hoist the 100th Anniversary banner on the East Gate at the Village.

The week long job took a crew of almost 100—counting some "supervisors" from DWP. Had it not been for everything coming together as it did, our neighborhood could have suffered from a tragic fire. We now have six spectacular new poles and a great respect for linemen.

IN MEMORIUM



SARA FLINT GREENBERG

Sara lived in Beachwood Canyon for the past eleven years. She worked as a speech pathologist in the Los Angeles school system for forty years. She was a member of the Band of Singers led by Maesa Pullman at The Birdhouse, an avid reader with endless curiosity, a multilingual activist, and a longtime hiker into the canyons and up the mountains with her large group of friends.

The star registered to her name is close to the lower right star of the Big Dipper if you'd like to look up ad say hello. You can also find her walking in the hills.

Sara is survived by her wife, Nina Rita, and her sons Aaron and Jacob Greenberg.

KEITH MCALLISTER

I'm sad to report we have lost another neighbor recently, Keith McAllister, a resident of Beachwood Canyon for over 50 years. Keith was a native Californian, a USC graduate (whose late partner was a UCLA graduate) and a member of the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. He liked to tell the story of being an Extra in "The Caine Mutiny" movie which was being filmed on his ship. Working in the garment industry, he made frequent trips to New York City to meet with clients. A big theater-goer, he would tell us about seeing Judy Garland and Angela Lansbury on Broadway, among others. At the Coconut Grove in LA, he saw Ella Fitzgerald, Lena Horne, and Judy Garland yet again.

Keith loved walking the hills with his beloved dogs (he had quite a few over the years) and met many friends along the way. He would often invite these friends to his house for dinner as he was a gourmet cook. He was an avid traveler, and had an encyclopedic knowledge of films. If you had a question about a certain film, Keith would have the answer...and he would also tell you the year, the studio, the full cast and any controversies that might have surrounded the production.

He will be deeply missed by his sister, his domestic partner, his friends and neighbors.

THE LEGACY OF P22 by George Abbott Clark

For many of us who lived among his haunts, the passing of P22 (Puma 22) is bittersweet.

Our personal videos, and sightings, made it exciting to be around him. Even unseen, it was always a thrill to know a wild mountain lion was around. And the nighttime photo of him striding majestically below the Hollywood Sign made him an icon to the world.

The fact he made it from the Santa Monica mountains, past Malibu, across the 405, through Bel-Air, across busy Beverly Glen, Laurel Canyon, and the 101 without getting killed by a vehicle into Griffith Park is by itself rare. But there have been a few lions who've done it before.

In 1997ish, when my wife, Jeanne, and I first bought our house below the Hollywood Sign she went on a walk with our German Shepherd, "Odin." I was working at home when she ran back excitedly telling me she heard a mountain lion growl at her, and especially Odin. I scoffed at her.

Since I was a boy, I've been in the wildwoods canoeing 600 miles across the Allagash Wilderness. As a teen, I paddled tributaries of the Amazon. As a young man, I canoed over 1,500 miles across the Arctic before the advent of GPS or satellite phones. I know nature and wildlife. Besides being a filmmaker, I'm even an evolutionary biologist with a PhD.

No way did Jeanne and Odin encounter a mountain lion in the Hollywood Hills! The next day a news article appeared that allowed Jeanne to scoff back at me. The article detailed that, about 300 yards away from our house, a mule deer had been killed by a mountain lion. And the big cat was coming back to feed on it at nighttime.

A few more sightings of the lion were made, then none. What I loved about my new Hollywood Hills community was that there was no outcry to catch the dangerous lion. The vibe was not "not in my backyard," so much as "Please, let there be a mountain lion in my backyard!"

Decades later, word spread of P22. Too many years had passed since the last Puma sighting, and I knew this had to be a new lion. And technology now allowed the animal to be radio collared and tracked.

Christine O'Brien, my wife, and others, asked me to start a game trail camera program to start monitoring wildlife in people's backyards in the Hollywood Hills adjacent to Griffith Park. Biologists, including Miguel Ordeñana in charge of P22, came to teach us what to do. The biologists even spotted two active game trails in my own backyard. I helped others set up their cameras, knew where to place my camera, and started filming 24/7.

What soon happened next blew my mind. At night, animals came calling that I never knew existed in my own backyard. Yes, we knew we had deer, coyotes, and even bobcats during the day. But they were much more active at night - and I also filmed P22, raccoons, skunks, and possums that I had never ever seen in the day.

Jim Krantz, the photographer, is my neighbor. He needed to photograph a fox for some project and asked me if we also had foxes. Of course, I scoffed at him. Jim found a stuffed fox and photographed it on a near hillside as if it were real.

Weeks later I'm checking my backyard game trail camera footage. Raccoons, skunks, coyotes, a deer - then a silver fox trots through the frame, stops, practically gives me the finger, takes a poop, and exits stage right.

Four years later, although rare, they've kept coming but only at night - sometimes two at a time. If not for P22, I never would have seen one as he inspired the game trail cameras.

The fact P22 survived for nearly a decade among us is historic. As many may know, depending on habitat and food, Pumas range up to about 200 square miles. Yet, P22 lived in just 6.5 that makes up Griffith Park and is surrounded by millions of people.



THE LEGACY OF P22

Despite this, P22 he never hurt a person, or pet, until he was old, apparently injured, and needed easier prey. He lived to the ripe old age of 12, when most wild Puma die by 10.

More than anything, P22 shows us how wildlife can exist in the Hollywood Hills if we give animals and nature a chance. Unfortunately, Griffith Park and the Hollywood Hills are under ever increasing threat.

These include the skyrocketing numbers of tourists, hikers, climate change and increasing drought, fire danger, and proposed noisy mechanical tourist trams.

More recently lighting the Hollywood Sign is being proposed. That would attract people at night just when wildlife is more active and needs a respite, and protection, from people. It would also increase fire danger from more cigarette smokers too.

Lighting the sign would also add to light pollution that's already been proven to harm and kill wildlife that need darkness - including deer, Puma, racoons, skunks, foxes, possums, and even migrating birds.

As we celebrate P22, let's use his legacy to remember the need to protect Griffith Park, the Hollywood Hills, their habitats, and our remarkable Los Angeles wildlife.

FUN RESOURCES FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN

Recently the HHA has hosted events for children and their parents, and you may have seen some of the village areas filled with families. In October we had a Halloween party with trick or treat stations, contests and a craft station. We want to thank the board members and parents who helped out, particularly Faye Wachs who co-chaired the event and organized the mask decorating activity.

In December a very special holiday marionette show was presented by long time resident and puppeteer extraordinaire, Greg Williams.

It's such a unique and beautiful gift to our neighborhood, and we want to thank Greg for sharing his talents. It was wonderful to see the children having fun while their parents interacted with other parents.

The HHA organized these events through the HHA parent/child networking group. It's a growing group of families with children of all ages. We have parents of newborns--there is a baby boom currently happening--through parents of teenagers--young children need babysitters.

It's a loosely organized, primarily on line group to serve families in any capacity they would like. It's a place to share recommendations about schools, doctors, car pooling, child care, etc., or organize events. But most importantly it's a tool for Hollywoodland families to get to know one another.

Living in the hills can be very isolating. Children do not play in the streets, and there is no one school that everyone attends. That potential childhood best friend could be living a few houses or blocks away, and they may not know about each other much less have an opportunity to meet. Parents can also be isolated, and it's wonderful to be able to share experiences with other parents. The HHA is working to develop and support a strong community of families in Hollywoodland and make it an even better place to raise a family.

If you have questions or would like to join our group, please contact HHA@hollywoodland.org,

BYLAW CHANGE

At the annual meeting of the HHA, members will be voting on a change in our bylaws concerning term limits for our board of directors. For many years there were no term limits for those wishing to serve. These positions are voluntary and are dependent on our residents that are willing to donate their time and talents for the benefit of others.

In 2007 a change was made to our bylaws that limited a board member to serving three consecutive terms. We have found this change to have many more negative impacts than positive, and the board is strongly recommending that term limits again be removed. We hope that residents will support this motion and pass this amendment.





HOLLYWOODLAND 100TH ANNIVERSARY

WE NEED YOUR HELP

It's finally here. The HHA is leading the celebration of Hollywoodland's historic 100th birthday. This year will be filled with events, exhibits, contests and fun gatherings. We need your help. We welcome your ideas and participation. If you would like to be involved in the planning or execution of these special activities, please contact us at **HHA@hollywoodland.org**. Remember we're all just volunteers too.

Get involved with Hollywoodland Homeowners Association.

Email us at hha@hollywoodland.org

We could use your help.

- Membership chairperson
- HHA Trust Documentation

HOLLYWOODLAND HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION BOARD 2022

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Vice President - Sarajane Schwartz

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