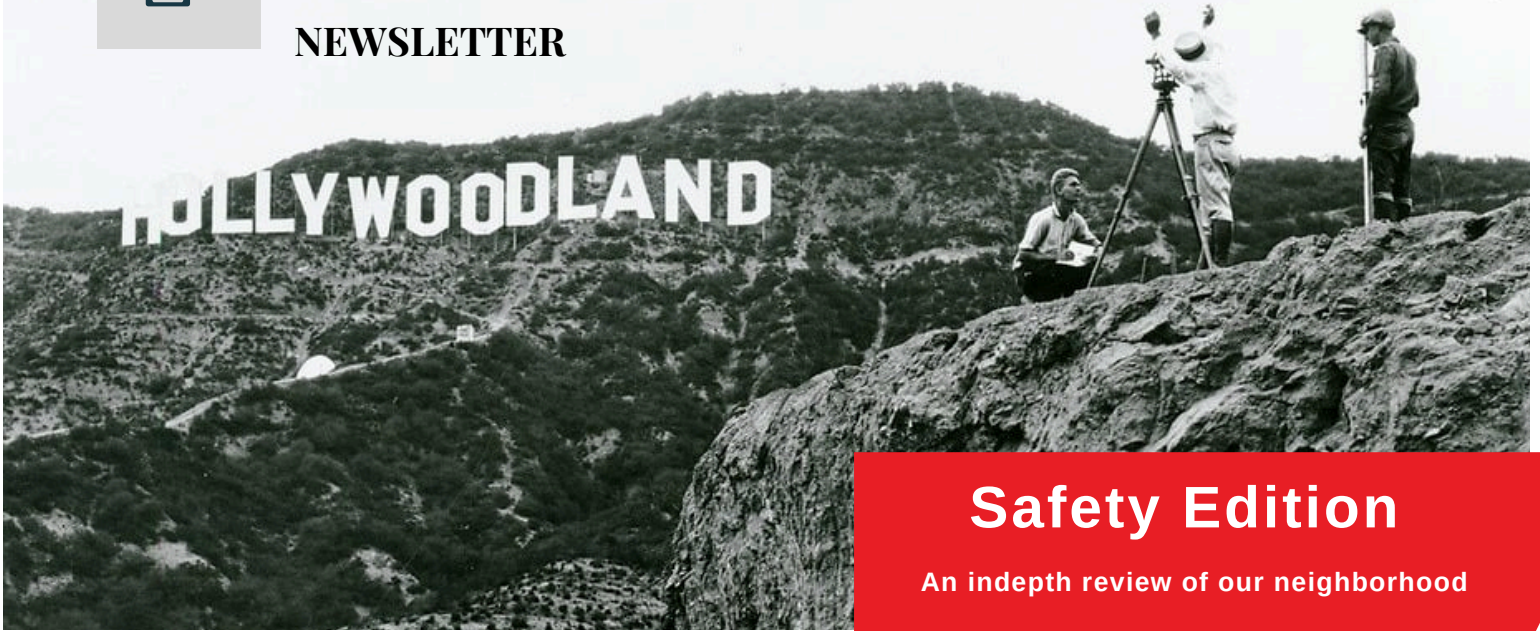




SUMMER 2024

# HOLLYWOODLAND HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

## NEWSLETTER



### Safety Edition

An indepth review of our neighborhood

## PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT, SARAJANE SCHWARTZ

Dear Hollywoodland residents,

As an almost 50-year resident of Hollywoodland, and a past and current president of the Hollywoodland Homeowners Association, I want to first thank past president, Chris Obrien, for the remarkable job she did last year in not only heading up the board on numerous issues, but for chairing, researching, organizing, and implementing last year's extensive 100 year anniversary celebration of Hollywoodland. There were numerous events, gatherings and exhibits. It simply could not have happened without her leadership. Chris was assisted by many residents--some long time--, board members, and talented enthusiasts, whose names are too numerous to mention here. But please know how appreciative this entire community is of Chris' and her helpers' extraordinary efforts in presenting the history of Hollywoodland, a unique, beautiful, charming, neighborhood, whose residents reflect many of those same qualities.

The main duties of the HHA are to preserve and protect Hollywoodland, an historic and extremely vulnerable hillside residential neighborhood, and to build a welcoming strong community. The HHA represents the strongest collective voice as we deal with various City and State agencies and entities to improve public safety, home values and quality of life. We are also part of other groups, like the Hillside Federation which works to amplify our voice. The HHA built and maintains the Hollywoodland Village Green and works on beautification throughout Hollywoodland, such as the recent lighting projects of the historic gates at the main entrance of Hollywoodland. We have also been monitoring and following our varied wildlife that is an important and fragile feature of our being part of a SEA, a significant ecological area. Development in Hollywoodland must go before the Design Review Board, a part of the Hollywood Specific Plan created by the HHA.

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HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION est.1942



[HHA@Hollywoodland.org](mailto:HHA@Hollywoodland.org)



[www.Hollywoodland.org](http://www.Hollywoodland.org)



[facebook.com/groups/HollywoodlandHomeownersAssociation](https://facebook.com/groups/HollywoodlandHomeownersAssociation)

# AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

As we move through this year, as in more recent times, much of our energies, unfortunately, are spent dealing with public safety and fire issues exacerbated by the enormous and ever-increasing tourism associated with the Hollywood Sign. Conditions are literally unsustainable, and we hope decisions will finally be made by the City to protect our neighborhood. We are also looking into making Hollywoodland a Firewise Community with more details to come.

One of our newest project involves our first ever communication committee. We have, of course, a newsletter, a Facebook page, a website, and email blasts, but because of the special talents of some of our current board members, we're engaging in overhauling all of our infrastructure. Since this involves a direct line to all of our residents, we hope you will be excited by the differences you will be seeing and experiencing.

As always, we're planning social events throughout the year. They are so important in making connections and building community. We'll be announcing more details, and we're really hoping to do an event with the Sunset Stables. We had wanted to do one during our 100th celebration, but we ran out of time. If you have ideas, please let us know. We also have a very active family group, the Parent/Child Networking Group which promotes friendships through our emails and children's events.

.These are just some of our activities. The board of the HHA consists of all volunteers, and many of us donate thousands of hours. It's a lot of work for just a dozen people. We cannot, do not, and should not do it alone. We are constantly reaching out to our residents to gain your support and involvement in Hollywoodland issues and projects. We want your feedback, participation, and talents, but at the very least we need your membership by your paying nominal annual dues. It's an incredible bargain for all that you get, and there are enormous community benefits when a neighborhood has a strong homeowners association.

Looking forward to our working together to achieve greater things.

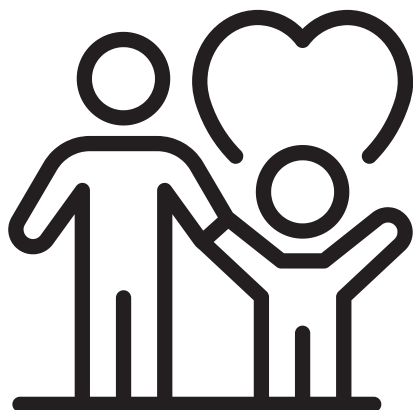
Looking forward to making more friendships as we create a stronger community.

Sarajane

### 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](mailto:hha@hollywoodland.org)

## JOIN THE HHA PARENT/CHILD NETWORKING GROUP!



- Do you have a child--toddler through teen--and live in Hollywoodland?
- Would you like to meet other parents and children in the neighborhood?
- Do you need a babysitter or is your teen looking to babysit?
- Would you like to find a carpool partner that lives nearby?
- Would you like to share resources and recommendations on products, stores, schools, people etc?
- Would you like to attend, help, or participate in HHA children's events?
- Do you want to help build a community of families and friendships?

Then contact the HHA ([info@hollywoodland.org](mailto:info@hollywoodland.org)), and we'll put you on our list. We primarily communicate through emails. We'd love to include every child in Hollywoodland.



## A PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT FROM THE HHA SAFETY COMMITTEE

As Hollywoodland sits in a Very High Fire Severity Zone beneath the Hollywood Sign, a major tourist magnet, much of the energy of the HHA is spent on safety issues because unfortunately we have a lot of problems and public safety is our most important consideration. We wish our City officials agreed that safety comes first, but they don't. So the HHA is in a constant battle as, unfortunately, the only organized group representing the interests of the majority of the 500 homes in Hollywoodland.

A basic assessment is that the number of visitors, now over a million a year according to recently installed counters, keeps increasing. That is the main constant. The count includes people and vehicles. We worry about both. People start fires. There are exceptions, like the recent car fire at the end of Deronda, and we are so grateful to our residents who extinguished it before it could spread and the LAFD could arrive. But we also worry about the enormous number of vehicles that congest our streets and will make any successful evacuation impossible. Recently, the number of fire fatalities in cars as people try to leave a fire area has skyrocketed -- Paradise fire, 90, Lahaina fire, 100. Add hundreds of tourist vehicles in our substandard narrow streets where every parked car prevents two-way traffic and you have a disaster. Add the emergency vehicles that must use these same problematic streets to access the fire and the probability that one confused stopped tourist vehicle will block all of the cars behind them, and we will have a catastrophe. For years we have asked the City to set a capacity at the tourist magnets and a capacity for the streets that carry them back and forth. Fire capacities are set everywhere there is public use. So far, the City has refused.

The HHA commissioned an independent fire report in 2023 that was given to Councilwoman Raman. It says conditions are dangerous, that a disaster is not a matter of if, but when, and offers strongly worded solutions that should be implemented. At the very least the government cannot plead ignorance to the current dangerous conditions and it carries enormous liability when that catastrophe will occur. The City is negligent in not only ignoring this report, but in doubling down on tourism here.

## CD4'S PRIMARY INITIATIVE

About a year ago CD4 established the Hollywood Sign and Western Griffith Park Action Plan Working Group. The HHA, along with other groups, residential, park related and Sign related, is a member. Almost the entire focus has been on how to turn Hollywoodland and Lake Hollywood Park into the primary tourist magnet for the Hollywood Sign. Much time has been spent studying previously discarded solutions that were found to be illegal, too expensive, dangerous, impractical, violate court orders etc. The HHA has been opposing all of this for obvious reasons. Some of the proposals include:

- Reopening the illegal public entrance at the end of Beachwood
- Extending the route of the DASH bus through Hollywoodland to the end at Beachwood, which would be an illegal violation of weight limits
- Setting up free shuttle buses from Hollywood Blvd to Lake Hollywood Park
- Illegally piece-mealing in changes to Lake Hollywood pocket Park in order to avoid a necessary EIR. Such changes include:
  - parking meters
  - pedestrian walkway
  - bus turnaround
  - bathrooms, ranger station, tourist center

Some proposals the HHA has supported are:

- The vehicle counters that have been installed. (We want some to be placed in Hollywoodland which they have not done.)
- Replacing the deteriorating fencing along the park with permanent fencing (We want it to be even longer than it presently is)
- Parking Permit district for Lake Hollywood Estates (For this to happen LHE is becoming part of the Hollywoodland PPD's)
- Putting "no pedestrians" signs on Mulholland to replace the ones that have disappeared
- Limiting vendor activity
- Placing a visitors center on the eastern side of Griffith Park
- The ability to close down all of Hollywoodland using Hollywood Bowl Procedures

We also want the City to examine the legal public entrance to the park in Bronson Canyon that already has infrastructure for tourists and buses, and for it to be a major tourist magnet.

Their location is not as fire vulnerable, and they also have a straight standard street with sidewalks. So far, this group has not done that.

## **CURRENT CONDITIONS**

### **ENFORCEMENT**

The enforcement that CD4 supplies has been dramatically reduced. They are only offering 26 days a year. It may be increased to 37. These are all holiday related, and involve more resources including LAPD, which is extremely important on days of intensified traffic. But we're only left with catch as catch can for all the rest of the year. Think of all of the regular weekends, spring vacation, winter vacation, the whole summer. We are unprotected. The recent tourist car that caught fire got up to the end of Deronda on a summer weekend. That would not have happened in the past. We would have had supervision. In fact, the numbers in the past on a holiday, that would have triggered more supervision or even closure of the entire neighborhood are now met and even surpassed almost everyday. One of the reasons LAPD and the rangers are so important is because they can enforce numerous laws. DOT does the vast majority of supervision, and they can only cite for parking. They cannot enforce moving violations, weight limits, smoking, trespassing, public urination, defecation etc.

### **A NEW MAGNET**

Innsdale, which we believe is a paper street removed from public use and not a trail, is now in constant use, including by tours, and probably has hundreds of pedestrians a day. It's an extremely fire sensitive area along with being a nature preserve.

We want the "no trespassing" signs posted at both ends to be honored and for the area to be fenced off, cutting off access. Many of the Innsdale walkers continue on to divided Mulholland and fill the street. They continue to dirt Mulholland and then walk the unfinished street to the end of Deronda and then up Mt Lee Road. On this route, many of them leave the "street", and trespass into the hills. Of course there is absolutely no supervision.

### **VENDORS**

We at times have had as many as 26 vendors by the view site and Lake Hollywood Park. There are park rules against this (in this area there should only be one or two at the most), but the City does not want to enforce the rules.

There is hostility between groups that supply these vendors, which are actually not mom and pop businesses but part of feuding cartels.

The types of activities like charging for photos is also against the rules of Griffith Park. The vendors are now inside a "hiking trail" which is also against the rules. The City also has recently removed almost all restrictions for vending. These vendors do not have access to sanitation facilities for themselves, not do they have access to running water for hand washing, so the abuse of public health laws related to food handling maybe the only thing that might be enforced.

### **TOURS**

As you all can witness, the number of tours in Hollywoodland has dramatically increased. We have had an uptick in very large buses and in the number of smaller vans that make dozens of daily visits. All of this is illegal. The smaller vans are only legal if they hold under ten people. They then drop off visitors to fill the narrow, blind curved streets. In addition, we have had an uptick in massive pedestrian tours including school groups. One group in particular has visited here several times with large groups of young people. They park their illegal overweight, oversized buses south of the village. Then two groups of fifty each, a total of 100 kids, walk through the neighborhood in our narrow blind curved streets to get closer to the sign. There have been other school groups by the park. This is extremely dangerous. We are pushing the City to post "no tour vehicles signs" in Hollywoodland because they violate our existing weight limits. The City has posted these signs in other neighborhoods. We have sent the City masses of documentation which we believe should meet any criteria. We still await a response, and hope they will post these signs in the future.

### **HOMELESS**

There has been an uptick in homeless living in Hollywoodland. In a VHFSZ this is extraordinarily dangerous because of fire danger.

Because of City policies it is very challenging to get City assistance. Each is an individual case, though, and there can be certain circumstances that would qualify for City help in getting this person to find a safer place to be.



## SOME GOOD NEWS

Here are some recent positive developments:

### LOS ANGELES FIRE COUNCIL

The HHA has been attending monthly public meetings of the Los Angeles Fire Council in conjunction with MySafe:LA. The council is also available to meet with individual neighborhoods and work with residents one on one to harden their homes and their neighborhood in general. The goal is to create a Firewise Community, and with their help, we can work to achieve this in Hollywoodland. This has many benefits. Besides the obvious goal of reducing fire danger and damage, these efforts can be very beneficial in conjunction with insurance coverage and costs.

In addition, members of the council have reached out to the HHA to participate in a special meeting that will cover many of the unique public safety issues caused by visitors to the Hollywood Sign. We believe this is a result of our voicing our many concerns paired with their true passion for public safety. They are extremely interested in our input. This is the only outreach of its kind we have ever experienced from a City related entity. We believe this meeting will happen sometime in August.

### INCREASED ENFORCEMENT OF OVERWEIGHT VEHICLES

In the past any enforcement of our weight limits had to include a special scale unit of the LAPD, to weigh vehicles. There is only one of these specialized units in the entire City of Los Angeles, so these limits were never enforced. The City will now accept a photo of the illegal vehicle along with a photo of the license plate and details of the place and time. Residents who see these violators can take photos and send them on to the HHA with the necessary information. We will then pass these documents on to the City who will send citations to the owners. This new policy should make a big difference in discouraging these overweight and illegal campers, buses and vans.

### PATROL SERVICE

For many years Hollywoodland had its own full-time patrol, through the HHA. When the patrolman passed away, the service ended. It may be time to have it again. There would be differences, though. This patrol would probably consist of a contract with an already existing company, would be part time, and would not replace individual patrol services that residents already have, acting as a supplemental service. The HHA is at the beginning of looking into this and we will have updates.

## FORMATION OF AN ALLIANCE

The HHA is now forming an alliance with nearby homeowner associations that are also impacted by Hollywood Sign safety issues

Although there may be differences in our history and infrastructure, we are united in our belief that public safety is the most important issue, that Hollywood Sign tourism is dangerous and inappropriate in our hillside residential VHSZ, and therefore it should be ended. We have never done this before, because we did have different views. The current situation has brought us together to share information, experiences, and resources. In the future we might be sharing legal actions, if necessary. We believe this development can lay a strong foundation for fighting tourism in our neighborhood.

This has been a long article, but there's been much to cover. It can be very frustrating to be fighting Frankenstein issues. You think they're dead, that you've killed them, and then they keep coming to life several years later. We hope you can see all of our hard work, if not always immediately successful. The HHA, of course, wants your input and participation in these areas of work. Some of the proposals mentioned here are dependent on it. If you would like to help or have ideas, please contact the HHA at [hha@hollywoodland.org](mailto:hha@hollywoodland.org).

Thank you for your support.

Sarajane Schwartz  
Safety Chair



### SUPPORTING CONTINUED FUNDING FOR THE WILDLIFE PILOT PROGRAM

Hollywoodland tract 6450 represents 190 acres of residential property and 440 plus acres of open space given to the city's Griffith Park in 1944. We fully support the wildlife program put in place to protect endangered, rare on threatened species, most of all as a hillside residential area within a VSFHZ (Very Severe Fire Hazard Zone) and are working to ensure ongoing funding for this pilot program started by City Planning in 2019.

For further information contact Christine O'Brien.

## MEET THE HHA BOARD

**President:** Sarajane Schwartz, **Vice Presidents:** Jeff Swofford, Michael Paolini, **Treasurer:** John Dotto, **Secretary:** Linda Doe. **At large:** Michele Botts, Justin Burnett, Sabine Jaccaud, Rebecca Rittenhouse, Doug Tornquist, James Williams.

These board members have been elected by HHA members and work as volunteers.

We have specialised projects and always welcome additional volunteers on these working groups: COMMUNICATIONS; EVENTS; MEMBERSHIP; PLANNING AND USE; PARENT AND CHILD TBD; PRESERVATION AND BEAUTIFICATION; SAFETY. Please contact [hha@hollywoodland.org](mailto:hha@hollywoodland.org) if you would like to get involved or want to know more.

### A RE-ZONING PROPOSAL WE NEED TO ACT ON

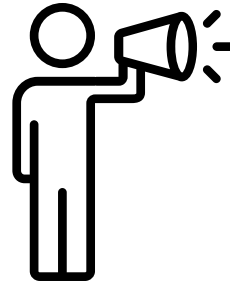
in 2021 the California legislature approved bills that encouraged an increase of density while removing zoning codes and allowing multiple housing apartments in traditional R-1 zoning such as Hollywoodland's to be built. Los Angeles planning's City-wide Housing Incentive Program (CHIP) is an example of those proposed changes. Much of the supported CHIP work has been done under the umbrella of a United Neighbors, a volunteer group representing more than 70 neighborhoods throughout the city.

The HHA Board has emailed members about this potential rezoning of single-family zones into areas open for development of multi-occupancy dwellings. If this goes through, it would directly impact our neighborhood. Hollywoodland was conceived as a hill-side area for single family homes. Apart from this historic principle, the area has already significantly densified since these early days and we want to oppose the concept that we can solve the housing crisis in our city by further developing areas like ours.

As we know, Hollywoodland, a bottleneck thrust into Griffith Park, sits in a very high fire severity zone, with extremely limited ingress and egress, 100-year-old substandard infrastructure with narrow winding, blind curved, dead-end streets that just barely handle the needs of the present residents. (Every parked car prevents two-way traffic.) Increased density would be an extraordinary threat to public safety as opposed to just a change to the quality of life.

Thank you to all who have sent in their views **and** comments to [housingelement@lacity.org](mailto:housingelement@lacity.org) and/or contacted Mayor Karen Bass and CD4 Councilmember Nythia Raman.

More information is available here: <https://shorturl.at/Q543T>



### ATTENTION NEW RESIDENTS!

Welcome to Hollywoodland! If you are a new resident in Hollywoodland or if you know of someone new to the area, please contact the HHA. We have a special way to welcome new neighbors, and we don't want to leave anyone one out.

If we have missed you, please let us know by contacting [hha@hollywoodland.org](mailto:hha@hollywoodland.org).

## THE HOLLYWOODLAND TRACT PHONE

### EVER WONDERED ABOUT THE BELLS IN THE HOLLYWOODLAND REALTY?

“My long time friend Jean Clyde was a friend of Ray Long who also grew up in the canyon. She asked him about the phone originally in the Hollywoodland Realty pictured here. This is what he shared. These phones were common before the advent of the long distance system. You bought a wall phone actually you had to have at least two. You hung it on the wall and you ran a pair of wires from your phone to whoever you might want to call on a repetitive basis. You also had to have dry cell batteries that always died at the worst possible moment.

In this instance the phones were owned by the Sherman Land Company. Ring 1 which was one turn of the magneto sent an electric charge through the wire to all phones. Everyone on the system could hear the ringing in this instance for “Ring One”, the garage and Doc (being the mechanical wizard who kept that god awful collection of machines running). I might add that everyone on the system would have picked up and listened to your conversation so THERE WERE NO SECRETS! Now if you wanted to call #5, you had to turn that little crank on the right hand side of your phone five times to get distinct rings. God help you if you're the last man on a 20 phone system with 20 rings! A party line was NEVER a party! Now you may be wondering where these phones were located. Ring one was on the southeast corner of Hollyridge and Beachwood. It was all bare land except for grading by the contractor.

The contractor had what amounted to a five-car garage. I might add that it was painted a hideous green. Ring three I can't answer. Ring four is today the riding stables (Sunset Ranch) at the top of Beachwood. Ring five was Albert Kothe who resided in the green shack across from the garage. That was on the westside of Beachwood below Hollyridge. I think the building was demolished and redeveloped. Albert was responsible for the electric lights on the Hollywoodland sign and also the Hollywoodland Bus. Albert's greatest claim to fame was diving the venerable station wagon off cliff at the summit of Mount Lee. That institution was a convenience provided by the tract for residents to get between and from the Pacific Electric bus in the village and their hillside homes.

It was a 1929 Model A Woodie! I remember seeing the residual from the demise of the Model A. That accident happened near the site where the little girl jumped on the “H” on the Hollywoodland sign.”



### JOIN THE HOLLYWOODLAND HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

The HHA has long-standing goals:

- We work to preserve home values and we protect our neighborhood's character and unique history
- We focus on safety and security
- We advocate on behalf of our members to the City and State on relevant property issues
- We coordinate with other associations and organizations
- We connect neighbors
- We organize community social events and we maintain the Village Green at the hub of our neighborhood.

Your annual membership fee contributes to the cost of supporting the HHA's role delivering the community's priorities. The HHA Board members volunteer their time but we do incur costs to run our organization, including insurances, events, research and the maintenance of our historic archives.

With the challenges posed by aging infrastructure and increased tourist traffic, the HHA remains steadfast in its mission to safeguard our unique way of life.

Thank you for being a member of our community!

Please visit: <https://hollywoodland.org/membership/>

## **DO YOU WANT TO HELP THE HHA RID HOLLYWOODLAND OF LARGE TOURIST VEHICLES?**

### **INTRODUCING A NEW LAPD PROCEDURE**

Buses, large filled vans (10 people or more), oversized campers etc are all ILLEGAL in Hollywoodland because they are over the 6000 lb weight limit. You've seen the signs, even if visitors choose to ignore them. More importantly these vehicles are dangerous, because they congest our narrow, substandard, blind curved roads, and dump passengers into streets with no sidewalks. These passengers are also unsupervised and many of them smoke. In the past, LAPD needed to be present to cite these individuals and companies. They are now starting a NEW PROCEDURE.

If you see one of these vehicles, take a photo of the vehicle and a photo of the license plate, email it to the HHA at [hha@hollywoodland.org](mailto:hha@hollywoodland.org), and we will send it on to the LAPD. Please include the location and time of your photos. LAPD will then be sending citations to these violators. Members of the board are also taking these photos. By supporting the HHA in these efforts, we can work together to make a difference. We hope the word will spread that Hollywoodland is not the place to ignore the law.