

BRENTWOOD HILLS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

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www.brentwood-hills.org

Brentwood Hills Homeowners Association Newsletter — Fall 2012

FIRE IN RUSTIC AND SULLIVAN CANYONS



Fire near Brentwood Hills, September 15, 2012

Photo credit: Jerry Adomian

On September 15, 2012, at 12:30, a day with record-setting temperatures in much of southern California (near 100° in Brentwood Hills), a major fire broke out near Brentwood Hills on the western side of the ridge between Rustic Canyon on the west and Sullivan Canyon on the east. The fire appears to have started near Sullivan Fire Road, a well-known hiking and biking road that also provide vehicle access to Camp Josepho, further up Rustic Canyon. The flames quickly swept up and over the top of the ridge, at times displaying 30-40 flames as the fire consumed chaparral and large trees along the ridge. Areas to the north of the fire were littered with ash and debris from the seven acre fire, generating fear of spot-fires being started further up Sullivan Canyon.



Fortunately for our community, due to the record heat and the previous day's much larger fire in the Sepulveda Pass, both Los Angeles City and County Fire Crews had many resources available nearby, which were quickly brought to bear on what was dubbed the Rustic Canyon Fire. At the height of the effort, more than 200 firefighters and at least six water-dropping aircraft fought the blaze, including multiple city and county helicopters, one of those the

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BOARD OF DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

Yes, it is that time of year again – the annual election of the Board of Directors of BHHA.

Your 15 Directors each serve for three year terms. The terms rotate, so each year the terms of 5 of the Directors expire.

Often, the Directors choose to run again. Incumbent Directors who are up for re-election this year are: Loretta Ditlow, Judy Handler, George Maranon, Kurt Benjamin and Anne Youngblood. If there are no other BHHA members who are interested in serving as Board members, these incumbent Directors will be re-elected by acclamation at the Annual Meeting.

However, we do encourage all members to run for the Board if they are interested. If there are others interested in running for these Board seats, we will hold an election at the Annual Meeting. If you are interested in running, please contact our President, Mike Leslie, at president@brentwood-hills.org.

Only members who have paid their dues for this fiscal year are eligible to be Board members or to vote, so **if you haven't renewed your membership for 2012, be sure to send in your dues right away!** You can now do so by *Paypal* on our website, or by using the convenient self-addressed envelope included with this Newsletter. **Thanks!**



RUSTIC/SULLIVAN CANYON FIRE – continued from page 1

Erickson Skycrane, and two “Super Scooper” fixed-wing airplanes. The Skycrane and Super Scoopers are on lease to LA County Fire for the fall fire season. During the fire, LAFD resources were staged on Queensferry Rd. to protect homes, but by late afternoon it was clear those resources would not be needed as the fire was in mop-up stages. There was a brief flare up on Sunday, quickly extinguished by hand crews and one water drop.

Participants of BHHA's community update e-mail list were provided with numerous updates throughout the afternoon and into the next day. BHHA board member John Given, who maintains the e-mail list said BHHA has never had so many additions to the list in one afternoon, as community members scrambled to get the latest updates on the fire, as literally reported from our own back yards. (If you'd like to join the list, please send an e-mail with the subject “join” to communityupdate@brentwood-hills.org.)

Our community was very lucky that this was only a topography-driven fire, not a wind-driven one, and also that the resources needed to establish and maintain control of the fire were so quickly available. The fire is a great reminder early in our fire season of how important it is for all of our community members to follow the brush clearance guidelines to create defensible space around our homes, and to strictly observe the City's no-smoking/no-open-fires statutes, applicable in our high hazard fire district. Please remind your guests and workers to observe these rules.

As this newsletter goes to press, the cause of the fire is still under investigation by LAFD.

So-Cal Gas to Make Pipeline Repairs in Sullivan Canyon

Southern California Gas recently contacted our association to let us know that they need to do additional maintenance work on the pipeline in Sullivan Canyon. The work is scheduled to begin October 6 and will continue into January 2013. During the work certain areas of the canyon will be temporarily restricted, but staff will guide the public around these areas, and the canyon is not scheduled to be closed to entry as it was the last time the pipeline was repaired. If you have questions about the work, please contact So Cal Gas Public Affairs Manager, Krista L. Phipps, at (323)578-2650 or kphipp@semprautilities.com.



Your 2012 Membership in BHHA

BHHA keeps our community informed through email, newsletters, our website, and our annual block party. We also undertake initiatives to help preserve our community's quality of life. Here are some specific recent accomplishments and activities:

- ◆ Contracted with Palisades Patrol to patrol Brentwood Hills common areas (if you need to report something, call (310) 454-7741);
- ◆ Represented the neighborhood on legislative issues, such as the redistricting that would have split Mandeville Canyon into separate congressional districts;
- ◆ Ensured SoCalGas sufficiently restored Sullivan Canyon after their Pipeline work, and monitoring their additional work this fall;
- ◆ Protected local parklands, such as protecting the Backbone Trail from being turned into a dirt road;
- ◆ Worked with the LAFD to ensure that grading of the area's fire roads and trails, and tree trimming work in Mandeville Canyon, was effective but not excessive;
- ◆ Collaborated/participated in Save Our Mountains, Inc. (SOMI) which ensures our natural areas are protected from commercial encroachments;
- ◆ Some board members received Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training, in order to act as points of contact if there is a regional emergency;
- ◆ Contributed to the holiday lighting of the bridge on Westridge Road.

BHHA relies on your contributions in order to maintain these programs. Dues are only \$40 per household to help fund these valuable initiatives. Please do your part and send in your membership for 2012. Please mail a check to: BHHA Membership, P.O. Box 49495, Los Angeles, CA 90049. Alternately, you may pay online; instructions can be found at: www.brentwood-hills.org/membership.html.

Thank You for Your Support!