

BRENTWOOD HILLS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

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Neighborhood News

September 2002

MRCA Benefit Assessment District Passes With Overwhelming Support of Community

On August 14 the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority announced that results of the recent mail-in ballot allowed the creation of two new Benefit Assessment Districts. The districts will be created primarily for the purpose of acquiring new land, although a small portion of the generated revenue will be used for brush clearance.

District one residents, east of the 405 freeway, supported the measure with 77.3% voting yes. Support in district two, the area west of the 405 including Brentwood and the Palisades, was 68.1%. Brentwood had the highest level of support of all four acquisition areas in district two, with 78.4% voting for the measure. The \$40 assessments to homeowner within the districts will begin starting in 2003. We will report additional developments as they occur.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the process by voting or attending meetings. The new benefit assessment district should be a great benefit to our entire community, both with the acquisition and protection of additional parcels, and with brush clearance on existing parcels.

If you are interested in more information, you can see maps, voter breakdowns, and other information on the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy website, which is at: <http://www.ceres.ca.gov/smmc/>.

Sullivan Canyon Property Saved By Spielberg/Capshaw Donation

The second item of great news for our community this edition is the final disposition of LAUSD's Old Ranch Road property. Earlier this year, LAUSD settled the ongoing litigation by agreeing to sell the property to the Sullivan Canyon Preservation Association for \$12 million. This was a narrower victory than had been hoped for, because the SCPA realized that it was highly unlikely that they would be able to raise the entire amount, and the shortfall would have most likely been raised by selling substantial pieces of the property to developers.

Fortunately, due to the generosity of Steven Spielberg and his wife Kate Capshaw, none of the land will have to be sold. The Spielberg family has donated the entire \$12 million necessary to acquire the property, which will continue to be operated by the Sullivan Canyon Riders Club, and all of the property will continue to be designated as Open Space. This is a tremendous victory for supporters of open space in Sullivan Canyon.

Thanks are due to the Sullivan Canyon Preservation Association, the Sullivan Canyon Riders Club, and of course, to the Spielbergs for their tremendous generosity. Thanks are also due to the many people who made their wishes known to the city and would-be developers, because without that support the settlement might not have been able to be reached.

BHHA Annual Meeting

When: Sunday, September 22nd

3:30 — 5pm

Where: Pesquera Drive cul-de-sac

Join us on the afternoon of Sunday, September 22nd for our annual homeowners association meeting. This is a great opportunity to meet neighbors who share your local concerns and ask questions of our informative guest speakers. Our agenda is not set as this newsletter goes to press, but guest speakers in the past have included Los Angeles District 11 Councilmember Cindy Miscikowski, members of the Los Angeles Police and Fire Departments, representatives of Edison Security (now ADT), and others.

Entertainment will be provided for children, and refreshments will be served. We will also be holding a free members-only raffle – the only raffle requirement is your attendance, so please come. If you have any questions about the meeting, please contact us.

As in the past, parents are asked to have children leave bikes and scooters at home.

Director Elections Update

Each year, five of our director seats are up for election. When we have more candidates than available positions we hold balloted elections. Since we have only five candidates this year, the directors will be voted in by acclamation at our annual meeting. The five candidates this year are returning directors Eric Edmunds, John Given, Michael Leslie, and Arnold Levee, and new community member Martine Anderson.

Thank You, Lucky

We would like to acknowledge the important contribution of long-time director Lucky Sawamura, who has decided not to seek another term.

Lucky has been a board member for over 15 years, including two three year terms as treasurer. His records were always impeccable, accurate, beautifully finished, and ready ahead of time. We miss him already.

Lucky and his wife Fumiko were the first to purchase their Banyan Drive home in 1964. Lucky worked and retired as an engineer from the Garret-AirResearch Corporation. Fumiko just recently retired from LAUSD as an elementary school teacher. Their three children are all grown and involved with their professions. Carol is a policewoman, Mark is an optometrist, and Jon is a chiropractor.

Lucky loves to race-walk and is a member of the LA Leggers of Santa Monica where he has finished every marathon. He is a popular Boy Scout Leader and takes his troop on many outings. Now he will have more time with the boys and to enjoy his retirement.

Thank you, Lucky, for your many years of dedicated service to the entire Brentwood Hills community.

Before Columbus Day Celebration

Before Columbus Day celebration will be on Sunday, October 13th from 11 AM to 4 Pm. It is a Gabrielino/Tongva Indian event at University High School which was the exact site that the Spanish Conquistadores found the peaceful native Americans living in their large village. There will be Native American dances, songs, stories, and hands on activities for the children. It will be fun and historic. Come and enjoy the sights, sounds, and food of the Tongva people.

When: Sunday, October 13th
11am — 4pm
Where: 1439 Barrington Avenue,
West L.A.
For Info: 310-472-2415

Dog Clean-up and Safety

At a recent BHHA meeting it was brought to our attention that not all dog walkers in our community are properly cleaning up after their animals. We realize that not all of the offending parties live here, but perhaps residents can lead visitors by our good example. There are clean-up bags located at the Queensferry gate to Sullivan Canyon, and eventually there will be bags at the Westridge Fire Road entrance as well.

If you should happen to witness someone not cleaning up after their animal, by all means politely remind them that the law and good manners dictate that they should. Carrying an extra “doggy” bag with you might be all the incentive necessary to make a good neighbor from a scoff-law.

There is renewed concern about dogs off-leash in our neighborhood, both on hiking trails and in the streets. On all roads and trails except for the Westridge trail, the law requires dogs to be on leash. The Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy only requires dogs to be “under the immediate control” of the owner or dog walker on the Westridge Fire Road, which means the animal must not be harrassing wildlife or hikers and bikers, and come immediately when called. SMMC issues substantial tickets to offenders. Continued abuse of the clean-up or liberal “under control” policies could result in the Conservancy revoking all dog-walking priviledges. It is in all dog-owners best interest to make sure that the few don’t spoil the open access for others.

As far as the rest of the neighborhood, there is growing concern that local residents, especially young children, might be at risk from more aggresive animals loose in the neighborhood. Residents are requested to call animal control to report any unsupervised dogs. Animal control can be reached at (888) 452-7381.

Fire Danger Remains High

Please make sure that your property remains in compliance with all brush clearance requirements. Do not smoke out doors anywhere, and if you see anyone smoking on the street or on a trail, tell them to put it out! One spark could be very costly.

Our Contact Information:

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This edition of *Neighborhood News* was written by John Given, Michael Leslie, and Loretta Ditlow