

Brentwood Hills Gazette

Neighborhood Security

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Important Phone Number

Emergency 911

W. LA Police Info	310-444-0700
West LA Detective	310-444-1850
Sr. Lead Officer	310-444-0735
West LA Traffic	310-473-0222
Parking Violations	213-485-4184

We all want Brentwood Hills to be safe and secure for our families. We like to believe the area is a relatively safe one and, compared to most of Los Angeles, it is.

However, in October three men and a woman entered a house through an open garage in the 2100 block of Westridge and held at gunpoint the woman who lives there, her two children and their housekeeper for nearly two hours as they methodically searched the house and robbed them. One of the intruders even took the woman's ATM card and drove down to the bank to withdraw funds from her account while the others waited with their hostages.

There have also been reports in the recent past of follow-home robberies in our neighborhood. The perpetrators will target nicely dressed or older individuals, follow them home, and rob them. While this doesn't happen often, it HAS happened, so please be aware of your surroundings and cars behind you.

Our board recently met in response to these incidents and agreed on the immediate need to make the neighborhood safer. In order to achieve our common goal:

1) Efforts have begun to coordinate with the Mandeville Canyon Association to explore the viability of installing one or more CCTV (closed-circuit TV) cameras at the intersection of Mandeville and Westridge as soon as possible. The board will report back on CCTV progress.

2) It was agreed we must do our best to obtain as high a visibility as possible by our security patrol as a deterrent to future crime. Much is up to individual home owners signing on as Mandeville Canyon no longer has a 16-hour dedicated car from ADT-Bel Air Patrol. We presently have an 8-hour dedicated car from Palisades Patrol, but this can be increased to 16 hours and ultimately to 24 hours with enough sign-ups.

The boards of all three homeowners associations in the canyon unanimously have backed efforts to bring in Palisades Patrol. We urge each of you to consider signing up to further the effort. Contact: Bob Carr 310-454-7741 for details or to sign up just for patrol service.

Palisades Patrol is a local company with a proven rapid response time even without a dedicated car in the canyon. ADT, at times, needs to send all the way to its local base in Torrance to get help on the way. Neither company, unfortunately, will be available to aid individuals who have not contracted for their services.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO MAKE OUR NEIGHBORHOOD SAFER

Keep your garage door closed except when going in or out.

Keep gates and doors closed and locked.

Never answer doors for strangers and certainly never let one in.

Check all windows and doors before going out.

If you have children playing outside, always keep an eye on them.

Adequately light the outside of your house. Place motion lights in appropriate places.

Display your patrol and/or security service company signs.

Call your patrol service if you have any reasonable concern or see anything suspicious.

If you feel that you are being followed home, do not stop. Head to a well lit home where there are neighbors out front or head back down the hill. If you can obtain a description of the suspicious vehicle, call it into the patrol service and police immediately.

Local Groups Ask Governor to Provide Funding for SM Mountains Conservancy

A Letter on behalf of BHHA by Mike Leslie

Re: Include Funding For Open Space and Parks In Any Bond Proposal Put Before Voters

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger,

I have lived in Southern California for over twenty years and am a Board member of the Brentwood Hills Homeowners Association. I am writing on behalf of our organization to urge you to include funding for open space and parks in any bond proposal you place before the voters as part of your infrastructure plan.

You probably know our neighborhood (the homes on Westridge and adjacent streets) if you have walked from the Westridge trailhead up through the mountains toward San Vicente Mountain Park at the old NIKE radar site on dirt Mulholland. In fact, we are neighbors of yours in Brentwood.

We have seen the population of Los Angeles grow dramatically, while its open spaces have dwindled significantly. This is a trend that will continue as our population swells in the decades ahead. Now more than ever, we recognize the importance and urgency of protecting our remaining open space and creating public parkland. The current infrastructure bonds as proposed do not address this issue at all.

While we applaud the concept of improving California's infrastructure, in such a grand scheme it is plainly wrong to make accommodations for programs such as transportation and housing, and not include any funding for—let alone mention of—the increased and dire need for parks and open space in our growing state—especially in urban areas.

As population increases, land prices rise and the availability of open land diminishes. Continued funding for land acquisition is crucial to preserve critical open space properties and to create parkland adjacent to urban areas throughout Southern California. Voters have approved funding for these purposes time and again and want any bond proposal put before them to include parks and open space as a priority.

National organizations such as the American Planning Association have recognized the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy as a visionary model for protecting and creating parkland in densely populated urban areas. The Conservancy's skill and its partnership with local government has leveraged and enhanced its ability to create as much parkland as possible, while maximizing State dollars.

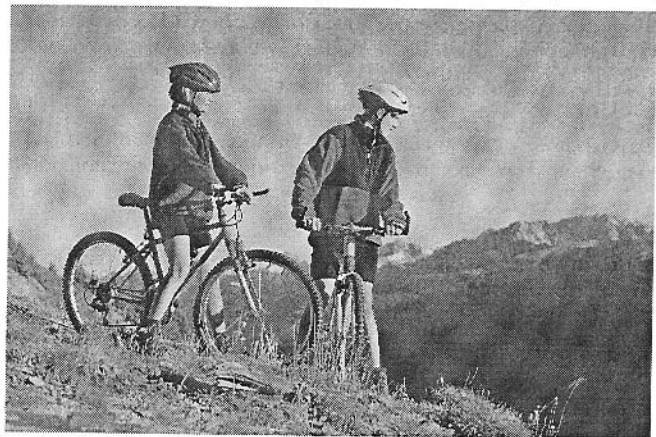
Many critical land acquisitions both large and small will be lost if the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and other State Conservancies are not included in any bond funding measure put before the voters.

Southern California needs any infrastructure plan to include acquisition of open space and parkland. We urge you as a proponent of public health, a friend of the environment and a champion of the Southern California quality of life to include funding for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and other State Conservancies in any infrastructure proposal that you approve.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Leslie
For the BHHA



Help Us Replenish Our Neighborhood Defense Fund!

Over the years, our community – and the beautiful open space and wilderness that surround it – have faced many threats. Rising to the occasion, our community repeatedly has banded together to pool our resources to fight those threats. Many farsighted and generous individuals over the years have made extra donations to BHHA above and beyond their dues to a fund called the “Neighborhood Defense Fund.”

The purpose of this fund was to compile a war-chest that we could draw upon quickly in times of need – not only to make our voices heard on important community issues like open space preservation and fighting development in the surrounding hills – but also to make donations to worthy community causes such as the Kenter School Library, the Brentwood Green community park and gardens at Brentwood Science Magnet School, our local police and fire departments, and numerous other worthwhile groups.

Many of our long-time residents will remember the many important issues on which our community has prevailed, thanks to the hard work of our members and the financial support of the Neighborhood Defense Fund: Stopping the municipal landfill that was slated for upper Sullivan Canyon; preserving the wilderness at the end of Westridge; preserving the right of the public to access trails and fire roads by blocking the Boeckman and Eastport housing developments on the ridge leading up to dirt Mulholland; blocking the proposed highways to the San Fernando Valley through Mandeville Canyon and down Sullivan Ridge; establishing the trailhead at the top of Westridge; and many other worthwhile causes.

The BHHA Board has carefully administered and conserved this fund. However, after 10-15 years of judiciously using the resources given to the Fund by those generous individuals who established it, we need to ask our members once again to replenish the Fund so that we can keep our ability to respond quickly to important issues that arise, and to preserve the clout that our organization has with City and state officials due to their knowledge that we have both the resources, and the hard-working and knowledgeable people, to make our collective voice heard.

Although we have won many major battles in the past, we and our neighbors still face many important issues that threaten our great neighborhood and the beautiful parks and trail systems that surround our community. For example, public access to many key trails that are part of our interconnected trail system either have already been blocked or will be blocked in the immediate future by gates illegally raised on public roads and trails in the name of future housing developments, or in an attempt by certain homeowners to increase their property values by keeping out the public using the trails. This not only greatly restricts our own ability to use some of the nearby trails that are part of the “Big Wild,” but it will increase the pressure and crowding on our own Westridge trailhead, as the number of alternative trails and access points decreases.

We are working with other organizations and homeowners associations to remove the gates that have been illegally installed so far, and to prevent the additional gates that are currently in the works from being erected. In addition, the BHHA Board is very concerned about preventing crime in our neighborhood, and is considering different ways to use our Neighborhood Defense Fund to increase security in our community. But this takes money as well as time.

Please consider making an extra donation in addition to your dues to replenish the Neighborhood Defense Fund. Or, you can send your check directly to

BHHA at:
Brentwood Hills Neighborhood Defense Fund
PO Box 49495
Los Angeles, CA 90049



Stop Before You Light Up!

Many people in the neighborhood are unaware of the fact that smoking is strictly prohibited in our area outside of the confines of your own home due as we are in a high fire danger area. It is important that you inform any workmen of that fact as we have seen on several occasions workers smoking while performing their work. We have also seen homeowners smoking while walking in the neighborhood. This is very serious especially when it is dry and windy. We all need to be extremely conscientious about this issue and stop anyone we see smoking. Remember, we do live in a **FIRE AREA!**

A Publication of the Brentwood Hills Homeowners Association

P.O. Box 49495
Los Angeles, CA 90049
www.brentwood-hills.org

Got News?
Want us to report something specific?
Email us at:
treasurer@brentwood-hills.org

Collars and Tags

From Judy Dunn

I recently found two lovely, large dogs running loose at the entrance to Mandeville Canyon Road and had to drive them home to get a flashlight to aid in reading their tags. This is a reminder to check your pets tags! I came home and looked my own "Annie's" tags and promptly replaced them. As the tags wear against their license or anything else they may have on, the printing can become very difficult to read.

Please make sure your pets tags are clear and easy to read!!!

Keep Dogs On a Leash at All Times

For yours and your pet's safety, please remember that dogs need to be kept on a leash at all times. This includes during walks on the street, or, if your pet tends to be aggressive or run into the street, even when you open your front door or garage door to head to the car. Recently a smaller dog, not on a leash, dashed out of his garage and went after a much larger dog who was on a leash (feisty!). Luckily neither of the animals was hurt, but we must keep in mind that animals can sometimes be unpredictable!

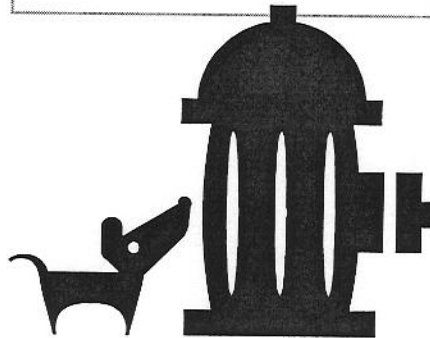
Pet Safety Reminder

Maybe you are new to the neighborhood or just haven't thought about it for a while, but for your pet's safety, it is important to remember that we live on the edge of open, wild land. This means that we still have coyotes or other predatory animals that may gain access to our streets and even into our fenced yards. There have been reports of coyotes jumping over fences to pick up fruit, and worse, sometimes small pets, and then quickly disappear. For the safety of your pets, please do not leave small dogs or cats in your yard unattended—even big animals can be in danger as coyotes often travel together!!!

**Doggie Etiquette
Take THREE!**

Always worth reminding folks is proper etiquette when out with Fido. **PLEASE PICK UP AFTER YOUR POOCH HAS COMPLETED HIS/HER "BUSINESS".**

There have been many complaints about people leaving doggie doo in yards and on sidewalks. The stretch of grass at the corner of Pesquera and La Condesa has recently become, literally, a dumping ground for dogs—with no follow through on the owners part. **BOTH BIG AND SMALL DOGS MAKE A MESS, SO PLEASE BE A CONSIDERATE NEIGHBOR AND PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG!**



**Please Help Us Save Money
By Providing Your Email**

We are asking BHHA members to provide us your e-mail address so we can distribute future newsletters and important community alerts to you quickly and cheaply by e-mail. Many people would like to get more frequent updates on security issues, community alerts and crime prevention, but the cost and time delay inherent in communicating with our members by handouts or mail make that impractical.

Many of our neighbor homeowner associations have systems in place to quickly distribute important community information, crime alerts and newsletters by e-mail. We would like to do so as well, but we need your e-mail address. **Remember, BHHA keeps all such information strictly confidential and never provides any of its members' personal information to any third parties or solicitors.**

Please provide us with your e-mail address when you return your dues envelope. Or, if you have already sent in your dues, please send your e-mail address to our webmaster (who is a neighborhood Dad) at our website: communityupdate@brentwood-hills.org

PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO PAY YOUR 2006 DUES!!
YOU CAN SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER FOR \$40 TO PO BOX 49495
LOS ANGELES, CA 90049