

Brentwood Hills HOA

Neighborhood News

July 2009

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Important Phone Numbers:

Police/Fire
Emergency: 911

West LA Police
Info:

310-444-0700

Police Senior
Lead Officer:
310-444-0744

Parking
Violations:
213-485-4184

Pothole
Repair: 311 or
800-996-2489

SAVE THE DATE For Our Annual Meeting and Party: September 13

BRENTWOOD HILLS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO OUR ANNUAL MEETING AND PARTY ON SEPTEMBER 13 FROM 3:30 to 6:00 pm.

Every year BHHA holds its annual meeting and party. This year, in a change of scene, we will be holding the event in the **Ponderosa Cul-de Sac.**

This is a great opportunity to meet your neighbors, talk with the local Police and Fire officials responsible for our

neighborhood, meet BHHA's Board of Directors, and express your concerns to our local elected officials.

This year, we have invited City Councilmember Bill Rosendahl, who has appeared at our past meetings. We also have invited State Assemblyman Mike Feuer, who can talk about what's going on in Sacramento.

Please bring your kids! There will be food, drink, and fun for all!

See you there.

BHHA Forms Neighborhood Watch/Emergency Preparedness Program

Two important issues of concern for any member of our community are emergency preparedness and having a safe and crime-free community.

We are blessed with living in one of the safest and most beautiful communities in Los Angeles. To maintain this atmosphere, BHHA is forming a Neighborhood Watch and Emergency Preparedness Program. Both the police and fire departments say these programs are quite effective in enhancing safety, keeping crime down, and assisting the

community in the event of emergency.

Important elements in both of these programs are for neighbors to get to know each other, have a point of contact in their immediate neighborhood, and keep an eye out for each other when people are out of town or in the event of an emergency.

(Cont'd on page 2)

Neighborhood Watch/ Emergency Preparedness Program (continued)

"One of the Most Effective Ways for a Community to Enhance Safety and Emergency Preparedness is to Establish a Block Captain Network to Foster Quick Communication in an Emergency"

To implement these programs, BHHA is setting up a Block Captain Network. This network has several purposes: (1) to provide neighbors a point of contact with whom they can discuss issues and concerns pertaining to their neighborhood; (2) to foster quick communication in the event of an emergency; and (3) to provide a focal point to implement a Neighborhood Watch program on individual streets.

The recent fire July 8 near the Getty provided a sobering reminder that emergencies can arise quickly and without warning, and that it can be critical to have a network in place that can get information out to the community quickly through a phone tree or email blast. Also, for residents who work far away or who are out of town, it would be very helpful

to know whom to contact to check on the neighborhood situation, look after their home, and communicate important information.

Members of the Board of BHHA have volunteered to be Block Captains on their streets, but there are still some unassigned areas. **BHHA will be distributing a letter from your local Block Captain asking for contact information in the event of an emergency, and asking for volunteers to serve as Block Captains in uncovered areas.**

Please fill out these letters and drop them off in the mailbox of your local Block Captain so we can make this program effective. All information will be kept confidential and used only for emergency notification and other BHHA purposes.

Block Captains Needed

BHHA's Block Captain Network will not only be important in our Neighborhood Watch/ Emergency Preparedness Program, but also to facilitate communication between members and the BHHA Board.

Sometimes there may be an issue you want to discuss, but because of the momentum needed to find the number, get on the phone, and call the BHHA, it never gets that far. By having a Block Captain that

lives on your block, he/she becomes an easy conduit to pass on to the BHHA any issue you may have.

BHHA will address any matters members raise at our monthly board meeting and, hopefully, will be able to expedite a resolution. Also, Block Captains can be an asset in an emergency or disaster, both to inform you of an approaching fire and in expediting aid.

If you are willing to participate in this new

program, please contact the BHHA and volunteer to be the point person for a given number of homes. By doing so through BHHA we can avoid duplication, as we already have volunteers for many areas.

Your responsibility would then be to place a flyer at those respective homes identifying yourself as the block captain and collecting contact information for people in your area.

No Smoking in Brentwood Hills!

The recent fire near the Getty on July 8th should be a wake-up call. According to the LAFD, the fire was likely caused by sparks from brush abatement equipment. Please be sure that any brush clearance crews or other contractors on your property are careful and are using the proper equipment.

Also, please be reminded that there is no smoking outside your home, as we live in a fire area. Please do not smoke when you are walking in the neighborhood. It is against the law and you will be cited. It is common to see cigarette butts on the sidewalk, in the gutter, and under bushes.

In addition, if you are doing construction, please remind the contractor to require the workers not to smoke, as it is dangerous and against the law. Construction workers are often seen smoking during their breaks. Please exert your authority as a responsible homeowner over those you employ.

Imagine if a fire started in Mandeville canyon near the Sunset entrance, and headed north. We would be trapped, as that is our only exit. Please report anyone that is endangering our families and neighborhood.

"As the July 8 Fire Near the Getty Demonstrated, We Live in a Dangerous Fire Zone and We Are All Responsible For our Community's Safety."

It's Board Election Time!

Yes, it's 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, as is the case this year, 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 residents 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.

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 2009, be sure to send in your dues

right away! You can now do so by Paypal on our website.

So that we'll be able to hold the Board election and count the ballots at the Annual Meeting, the Board has set a deadline of August 5, 2009 for anyone interested in running for the Board to contact Mike Leslie, who is on the Directors Nominating Committee.

If you are interested in running for the Board, please drop a note in Mike Leslie's mailbox before Aug. 5:

13759 Bayliss Road.

Or, you can email Mike at: mleslie@brentwood-hills.org

Fire Season Brush Clearance

If you would like to write an article for this newsletter, please contact:

Anne Youngblood
2103 Queensferry Road
310 503-4690

E-Mail:
anneyoungblood@mac.com

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.brentwood-hills.org

WHERE TO CLEAR

Requirements apply to any portion of your property that is within 200 feet of any structure, even if the structure is not on your property, including structures across the street.

The area within 100 feet of a structure must be maintained to provide a "Defensible Space" where vegetation is less flammable and not excessive in volume. This "Defensible Space" allows firefighters to work around the structure while protecting it from fire.

The area between 100 feet and

200 feet from structure is the "Fuel Modification Area." Reduction of the volume of plant material lessens the likelihood that radiated heat would ignite the structure. In extreme wind-driven fires, flame lengths can reach well beyond 100 feet.

You are only required to clear on your own property. This includes: within 10 feet of driveways, roads, and alleys; within 10 feet of combustible fences; and within 200 feet of structures.

WHAT TO REMOVE

Dead plant material; foliage within 10 feet of a chimney outlet; prune plants to leave more than 5 feet between the roof and foliage; remove native plants or prune the lower 1/3 of foliage.

Be a good neighbor and trim your trees

Many of us enjoy our view, but forget the potential impact that our trees may have on our neighbors. Some are allowed to grow so tall that they block the view of others. Please take a moment when you are sitting in your yard to consider

whether your trees should be topped. Having your trees slightly shorter and trimmed won't affect you as much as the potential benefit to others. You will be appreciated for your consideration.

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