

HOLLYWOOD HEIGHTS VIEW

VOL. IV ISSUE NO. 3

JUNE 1985

WELCOME TO THE 13TH DISTRICT COUNCILMAN MIKE WOO!

After a hard-fought, sometimes salty and always exciting campaign, challenger Mike Woo has won the 13th District Council seat in his second run-off against Peggy Stevenson. Woo received 16,417 votes (58%), Stevenson 12,052 (42%).

The 33-year-old city planner, a resident of Silverlake, is the first Asian on the 15-member City Council. He now represents and works for a large and varied district which includes Hollywood, Hollywood Hills, Laurel Canyon, Los Feliz, Silverlake, Echo Park and Griffith Park.

Woo, a former aide to Senator David Roberti (D-Hollywood), made promises to the Hollywood Heights Association members and their guests when he and Stevenson -- who was seeking a fourth term -- appeared at a forum sponsored by the HHA.

All of us who live or work in Hollywood and who believe it should be preserved because of its special place in Los Angeles history as the birthplace of the movie industry, expect our new Councilman to keep those promises.

Woo said he wants to work closely with such organizations as the HHA. He said he will concentrate on the continuing problems of traffic congestion, over-development and crime. He will try to preserve our landmarks. He will restore to Hollywood Boulevard the lustre and pride it once possessed.

Most important, he promised he would listen to us. We hold him to that promise.



Successful candidate Mike Woo, speaking at the HHA general membership meeting in May

We welcome him. We wish him luck. And we offer him all of the help he needs to make this district the best in the entire city.

To Peggy Stevenson we also wish luck in what she calls her "third new career." With our farewell good wishes we also send her our thanks for such good works as saving the Highland-Camrose bungalows, for passing the recent moratorium on development in our area and reconstructing the crumbling wall that endangered Glencoe Way traffic.

-- by Theo Wilson

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Nineteen eighty-five has been a year of tremendous activity for the Hollywood Heights Association. The neighborhood meeting with the staff and the Public Advisory Committee (PAC) of Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) started us off. At that meeting we opposed the CRA's recommendations of very high building densities. Our recommendation, based on not compounding current traffic congestion, was for medium high density. Subsequent to this meeting the City's Planning Department has taken our position.

As the year progressed our Board of Directors supported current law which requires the City to conform to zoning requirements with neighborhood community plans. The essential impact of this ordinance will prevent the City from issuing permits to developers seeking to violate community plans.

Councilwoman Peggy Stevenson supported the efforts of a group of residents at the Highland-Camrose Bungalow Village who were in jeopardy of seeing their homes demolished by a developer who proposed erecting a 220-unit, six story edifice of low income housing. This posed a threat to the entire Hollywood Heights community as our already perilous traffic problem would have become a complete disaster. The HHA community, led by Ron Max, successfully fought for and won historical landmark designation for the Bungalow Village, delaying any demolition permits for a year and a half. An end-of-the-summer fund raising bonanza will hopefully defray the legal cost incurred by this victorious challenge.

The City Council has furthered the efforts of our community by establishing a moratorium and control on development in the Highland-Cahuenga corridor.

Perceiving the need to have candidates for the 13th councilmanic district meet and confer with our neighbors, the HHA Board planned and organized the recent forum between



Annie Kelly

Cont. on pg. 4

HHA POLITICAL FORUM A SMASH SUCCESS

There was standing room only at the Hollywood Heights Association general meeting last May 14, when Peggy Stevenson and Mike Woo debated at the only public forum sponsored by a neighborhood group during the heated runoff campaign for the 13th District Council seat.

The two contenders described their goals and answered questions from the HHA Board and from the audience packed into the Skyview room at the Yama-shiro, provided by HHA Board member Tom Glover.

The LA Times ran a story of the meeting by reporter Stephen Braun across the top of the Westside Section's Page 1. The Daily News' political writer, John Marelius, wrote a story which was headlined: "Fireworks Spark Candidates' Clash." Reporter John Schwada of the Herald Examiner served as moderator.

The forum ran out of time before it ran out of questions from the audience about the problems, challenges and hopes we all share in Hollywood. Crime, traffic, over-development and preservation were discussed. President Elliot Johnson and VP Melinda Henderson conducted the meeting and were responsible for most of the preparation and planning that made it an SRO smash success.

-- by Theo Wilson



Candidates' forum, HHA general meeting, with Mike Woo, Peggy Stevenson, and HHA President Elliot Johnson at the speaker's table.



PLEASE TAKE NOTE

The Hollywood Heights Association is non-political. Individual members who campaigned for or endorsed candidates in the recent City Council race did not represent either the HHA Board or the general membership, but were making a personal statement.



SHAFER TO OXFORD FOR LAW COURSE

HHA Board member Bob Shafer has been accepted for a three week course at Oxford and will study "law and society" at the famed British university.

Shafer is a volunteer legal assistant for the ACLU. He applied for the program, offered through UC Berkeley extension division, and was one of 125 accepted.

"There will be individual tutoring," Shafer told VIEW. "I will live in Worcester College at Oxford. The directors of the Berkeley program conducted an orientation meeting for us at UCLA, and described the seminars. These will include studies on drug laws and the decriminalization of victimless crimes."

Shafer is going to tour through Spain and Portugal before returning to Hollywood.

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President's Message Cont.

Councilwoman Peggy Stevenson and Councilman-Elect Mike Woo. The forum was a success as many of us met and talked to the candidate.

The HHA Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Ron Max and Elisabeth Plumb have recently joined the Board. The door is open for other concerned residents who care to become involved.

Board members of the HHA recently met with Supervisor Ed Edelman regarding traffic congestion caused by the Hollywood Bowl. Management for the Bowl has promised to increase the number of Eagle Scouts during Bowl performances. An HHA decal on your driver's side window will insure a speedy entry past these guards. They are available by sending one dollar to Don Wakefield at 2152 Rockledge Road.

I am anxious to hear from anyone interested in neighborhood concerns. The community mailbox at Camrose and La Presa is always available.

Have a good summer.

-- by Elliot Johnson

NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME

(This is the first of a two-part series written by Alice Kawan with information compiled by Grayce Baldwin. The second part, in the next VIEW, will explain crime prevention methods helpful to all members of the HHA.)

Because we all share the concern of crime in our neighborhood the following report will enlighten us as to the current situation in the Hollywood Heights. Through the diligence of former HHA President Grayce Baldwin we have been able to compile statistics relating to our area, from Westec and the police department.

Westec Client Calls

December:

2 auto thefts

January:

1 residential theft

February:

4 auto burglary or property within auto

1 disturb peace, trespass - arrest

1 hit and run

March:

1 auto theft - turned suspects over to LAPD - arrest

1 robbery/battery - turned suspects over to LAPD - arrests

April:

1 burglary/assault

1 auto burglary - turned suspects over to LAPD - arrest

1 prowling auto - suspect arrested

From Randall S. Davis, Patrol Manager of Westec: "Of the 14 crimes committed against our

customers no clients were injured. Property was successfully taken in four of the incidents. Four arrests were made in three of the incidents. In addition, Westec officers made arrests and/or field interviews that may lead to an arrest in two situations not involving customers but having an impact on crime in your community. We are quite proud of the deterrent effect that the officers have had. It is also important that when crime did occur we have frequently either made arrests or scared the suspect away."

Hollywood Division, LAPD

February:

11 residential burglaries

1 robbery

5 auto thefts

17 burglary/theft-vehicle

March:

4 residential burglaries

2 robberies

8 auto thefts

16 burglary/theft-vehicle

April:

(1st to 22nd)

3 residential burglaries

2 robberies

7 auto thefts

9 burglary/theft- vehicle

Westec has assigned a supervisor, Senior Officer Virgil Hammond, to our area full time. He is responsible for maintaining our patrol services as well as forming a liaison with community leaders.

At Grayce Baldwin's request, Westec has shared with us crime prevention methods helpful to residents in our area. (More of them will be printed in the next VIEW.)

Cont. on pg. 6

WANTED: Hollywood Heights rental.
BY: Responsible Artist who has lived in the 'Heights 5yrs.
WHAT: Private or non-smoking share situation.
WHEN: A.S.A.P.
\$: Up to \$300-\$350/month.
WHY?: Current living quarters demolished. 'Sleeping on the couch. *!+*!?!#*!
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Neighborhood Crime Cont.

No matter what the crime, if property is the only thing being threatened, it is never advisable to place your safety in jeopardy. If you witness a property crime, call Westec and/or the police, and continue to observe suspect(s) from a safe vantage point. Be a good witness and write down license plates, descriptions, etc., and give this information to the authorities when they arrive. DO NOT intervene personally when no one's safety is in danger.

Auto burglary is a major problem in the Hollywood Hills area. Residents should park their cars in well-lit areas away from concealing walls or shrubbery. Always lock your car, even if you will be away only a few minutes.

-- by Alice Kawan



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THIS IS COMMUNITY SPIRIT AT ITS BEST!

About 30 Hollywood Heights residents attended a reception last June 2 at the home of HHA member Nita Thomas, who organized the party to give the community a chance to meet and chat with then challenger Mike Woo two days before the election for the 13th District Council seat.

Drinks and snacks were served in Nita's front garden, where for two hours Woo answered questions and discussed Hollywood's problems and his plans for Hollywood's future.

The reception gave residents an opportunity to talk to Woo "person to person about our problems and our hopes here in

Hollywood," Nita said. HHA member Jim Bachman helped with the reception and with the distribution of the invitations.

The most poignant contribution to the reception for the candidate was a \$100 donation to defray the costs of the party, given by Bill McGrath "in memory of Jack MacFarland."

Jack was a founder of the HHA, served as a director on its first board, and was one of the most beloved and hardest working members of our community. His death last year left an empty place at the HHA that no one else has filled.

HOLLYWOOD CHIPS IN TO HELP HOMELESS

We have seen them on the streets of Hollywood for years --the homeless and hungry, the runaways, the mentally ill. Now, as their numbers increase, residents of our city have joined together to help these unfortunate people.

On a recent evening, more than 200 members of Hollywood churches and civic groups including the Hollywood Heights Association gathered for a benefit dinner at the First United Methodist Church, the first of several planned events in the new program titled "Chip-In and Help Hollywood."

"It was wonderful to see the Hollywood community coming together to take care of itself," said Brian Moore who helped organize the "Chip-In" benefit.

Brian, new president of the Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, said he and others had become increasingly anguished about the plight of those who live a subhuman existence on the streets of Hollywood. "They sleep in vacant lots, on our stairways, in dumpsters, under buildings," said Brian. "There are mentally ill among them. There are whole families living in old cars and trying to stay together."

The largest group of homeless he said, are the young, "runaways, throwaways and family exiles of all sort who all too easily fall victim to a system they are too young to understand."

Until now, Brian said, little has been done to help them except by the Salvation Army on Hollywood Boulevard. Thus many felt the time was right for formation of "Chip-In," a broad-based community group including twelve Hollywood Protestant and Catholic churches, two Jewish temples and social service organizations which have already launched feeding programs at the Salvation Army.



The kickoff dinner, said Brian, was a huge success, drawing participants from all parts of the community.

"We raised \$5,500 and received donations of three portable show-ers and a washer-dryer," he said.

The dinner attracted many dignitaries. Hollywood's newly-elected Councilman Mike Woo made his first official appearance there and offered his support for the homeless program. Senator David Roberti sent a representative, and Hollywood's new Los Angeles Police Department Captain Laurence Fedders was on hand.

Chip-In's future agenda includes a mental health counseling program sponsored by Hollywood Mental Health which would place counselors at the Salvation Army. And the ultimate goal is a modest shelter for the homeless.

"It's not just food and shelter we're interested in," said Brian. "We want to reclaim as many of these people as possible for the work force."

-- by Linda Deutsch

GOOD NEIGHBORS

When the City told the Merlin Hotel it couldn't serve meals to the public because the hotel is zoned R-5 (residential use), the Merlin called on Herb Berlin and Brian Moore to help.

The Merlin needed a variance in order to open its restaurant to the public. Herb and Brian felt the dining room was an asset to both Hollywood Heights and Whitley Heights, a convenient spot to stroll to for a snack or a meal.

At the hearing on May 28, both Herb and Brian spoke in favor of the restaurant, as well as for the private function dance area the Merlin requested. The hotel received the variances necessary, and the comment by the head of the five-person hearing committee was significant: "Since the neighbors of the Hotel Merlin are in full

support of this action, we see no reason to deny the variances."

The Merlin has been a friend of the Hollywood Heights Association since it opened its doors.

"FAIRE" POSTPONED

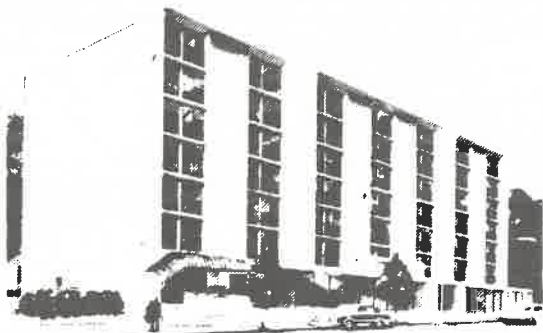
The Old Hollywood Celebration planned for the Highland-Camrose Bungalow Village has been postponed to Sunday, September 29. Elisabeth Plumb, at 851-8080, welcomes any suggestions for the fund-raiser, which is being planned as an old-fashioned, outdoor "faire."

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MORATORIUM ON DEVELOPMENT

Peggy Stevenson's last legacy to the Hollywood Hills and its surrounding neighborhoods is a positive one: a moratorium on all new building that exceeds limitations of the R-1 zone (single family structures).

This moratorium was passed by the LA City Council overwhelmingly on May 24, 1985 because of the unbridled development surrounding our hills and the chaotic traffic situation on Highland and Franklin Avenues.

It will remain in effect for one and a half years. During that protective period our area will be de(re)zoned by the city to bring it into conformity with the amended Hollywood Community Plan. The area includes all properties within the following boundaries: Odin Street

(starting at the Hollywood Bowl), east to Vine, south to Ivar, (continuing south) to Franklin Avenue (north side only), west to Highland and then North (both sides) to the Hollywood Bowl. This new moratorium is literally a breath of fresh air.

It's been a long, hard fight for the moratorium and our victory came as a direct result of another hard fight: the historical landmark designation of the Highland-Camrose Bungalow Village. It proves once again what can happen if we open our mouths and do not allow ourselves to fall victim to the greed that threatens our city and the world, for that matter, today. Bravo to us!

-- by Ron Max

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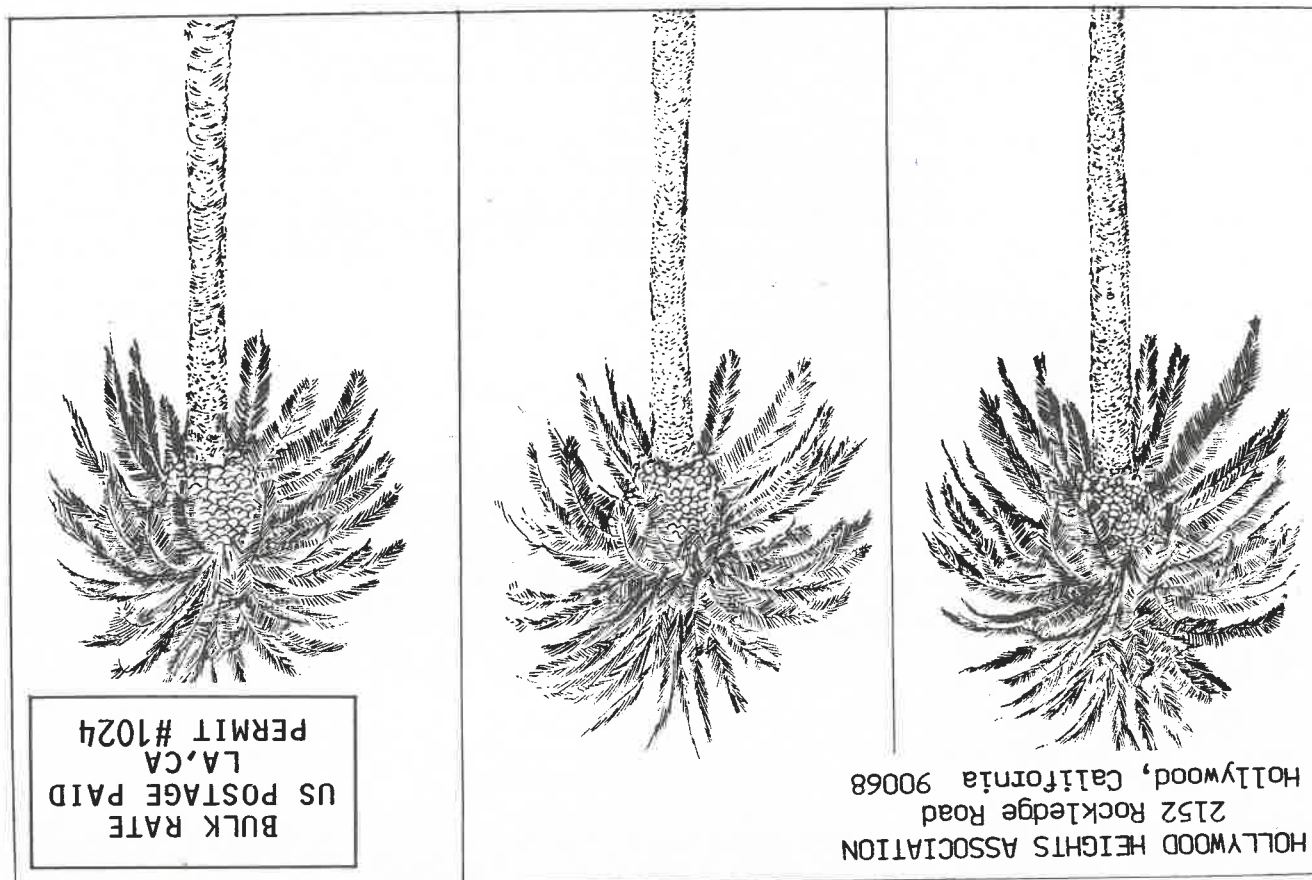
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