

HOLLYWOOD HEIGHTS VIEW FLYER

Issue No 2, April 2000



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND ELECTION COMING UP JUNE 20.

It's been a busy year for Hollywood. TrizecHahn has broken ground for its immense project surrounding the Chinese Theater. The subway station at Hollywood and Vine opened, and the Hollywood/Highland Station opens in June. Hollywood Cityhood has become a matter for serious consideration. Neighborhood Councils are being formed by citizens and businesses under the new City Charter, to serve as advisories to City Council. This deceptively simple statement cloaks a new, highly amorphous concept which we cannot afford to ignore if we wish to have a say in city legislation affecting each of us. (See accompanying information sheet.)

Meanwhile, sixty new projects are being planned or are under construction in the vicinity.

And if this isn't enough, traffic is already increasing exponentially.

One thing is certain: Life as we have known it, for good and for bad, is changing forever. New businesses, restaurants and clubs are opening everywhere. Many new people have moved into Hollywood Heights, often with children.

Happily, many of our new residents are joining HHA and coming forward to serve on the Board, because they understand the delicate balance that exists between our charming old hillside dwellings and streets, and the massive development taking place on the flatlands.

If ever there was a time to get involved with Hollywood Heights, it is now. Join your neighbors. Run for HHA Board of Directors. Vote. Learn about the issues. Watch for further notices about the meeting in upcoming flyers.

ONE SMALL STEP FOR D.O.T. ONE GIANT LEAP FOR HHA

Has anyone noticed? Could anyone help but notice, how morning cut-through traffic, streaming up Camrose to Sycamore and Hillcrest and down to Franklin, has slowed to a trickle? How lovely is the sound of silence, rather than the constant swoosh of commuters careening through our hills? How grateful are we as we tentatively embark upon our morning drives and errands, not to be dodging SUV's from the valley as they hurtle up and down our narrow streets. Those heedless, speeding vehicles whose reckless drivers are lured up Camrose by the beckoning "Right Turn" lane, or who heard about the "shortcut" in L.A. Magazine and spread the word.

We must thank Department of Transportation for finally taking action. But much thanks also goes to Mary Presby of our District Council Office, for her unstinting help in promoting our cause to D.O.T. And thanks also to the intrepid HHA Board Members who traipsed our hills for weeks, day and night, gathering the required petition signatures.

A few people in the area, or their employees, have been inconvenienced by the "No Right Turn" sign. But with nearly 700 cars pouring up Camrose during the three hours in question, there was virtually no other remedy to the cut-through traffic.

Of complaints with regard to the new restriction, Council Office reports that the over-whelming majority is made by commuters from other parts of the city.

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Please be warned, however, that L.A.P.D. has been issuing tickets for infractions on a regular basis.

PINEHURST PARK GETTING MUCH NEEDED FACELIFT.

There's a handsome new wrought-iron fence enclosing Pinehurst Park, a new sprinkler system, and more improvements to come. All are part of the Pinehurst Park Plan, financed by a fund to be used exclusively for the Park's benefit, under the watchful guardianship of the Pinehurst Park Committee.

Located at Bonita Terrace, between Hillcrest Road and Orchid Avenue, the park has a long, and sometimes contentious history. Saved from becoming a leg of Franklin Avenue, wrested from the hands of would-be developers, the double lot which makes up the park was finally donated to our community by the City, on the condition that the neighborhood would be totally responsible for its upkeep. Easier said than done. The much used and loved patch of green languished for many years in a state of semi-repair, due to lack of funding, occasionally becoming, despite the vigilant efforts of its neighbors, a magnet for the drug dealing and vagrancy that plagues other nearby areas.

But now, with an infusion of neighborhood improvement cash from Hollywood Boulevard Developers, and huge neighborhood volunteerism, Pinehurst Park is finally fulfilling its potential as a cared-for green space for the community, which the Oaks School also uses for some of their outdoor activities. Dog owners who want to exercise their pets, will find a fenced-off section, for such activities.

(View continued on other side)

STOP SIGN AT ROCKLEDGE ROAD AND CAMROSE UNDER CONSIDERATION.

TRAFFIC COMMITTEE ASKS FOR YOUR INPUT.

In a further effort to slow cut-through traffic on Camrose, Department of Transportation has proposed the installation of another stop sign on Camrose Drive at Rockledge Road. (Rockledge lies between Woodland Way and Hightower.

The obvious plus to the neighborhood, would be to slow down and inconvenience the cut-through drivers who race through our streets.

On the minus side, we who live here and use these streets daily would also be slowed down. Secondly, one parking space would be lost at the corner of Rockledge Road, to accommodate sign visibility regulations.

Concerned residents may contact JoMarie Ward, Chairman of HHA Traffic Committee, at 323/874-8513.

INADEQUATE PARKING COMES WITH TRIZECHAHN TERRITORY.

"IT'S GOING TO BE TIGHT WITH 3000 SPACES," SAYS GENERAL MANAGER, RUSS JOINER.

In a self-congratulatory speech before the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce recently, Joyner announced that once the Project is completed, the on-site parking garage may not provide enough spaces for the demand. But, the General Manager claimed, TrizecHahn is looking into buying property north of the project to compensate for lack of Project Parking.

Adequate Project parking was one of the issues HHA fought long and hard to assure. But, like so many other protections to the neighborhood, this one too, was swept aside by City Council's headlong rush to construction.

Where will the cars go if they can't enter the Project to park for big events, and during street-clogging Holiday traffic? They will attempt to circle the Project, leading to major gridlock, or stream up into the Heights, looking for places to park. (cont.)

The Project has been hampered by a rainy winter --- between February 1 and March 22, the contractors only completed 10 full working days, according to Joyner --- but the General Manager said he believes Hollywood & Highland is still on schedule for a Fall 2001 grand opening. The hotel will probably open a few months later in December, 2001.

COYOTE DANGER PEAKS IN EARLY SUMMER.

DON'T FEED COYOTES.

Do you know that:

It is illegal to feed predatory wild animals.

- Coyotes are at their most aggressive during early summer when they are raising new litters.
 - Coyote litters are self-regulating. If more food and water become available, such as that provided through the misguided kindness of humans, coyote litter size will increase.
 - Coyotes can scale fences up to six feet high.
- DO'S AND DON'TS:
- Keep your cat or small dog indoors at night and whenever a coyote is known to be in the area.
 - Accompany your small dog out at night and stay in well-lit areas.
 - Keep all garbage lids securely fastened.
 - Pick all ripe backyard fruit. Don't leave rotten fruit on the ground.
 - Don't leave pet food outside, especially at night.
 - Remove water bowls and drain standing water (such as bird baths).

CARYN SPENCER, TIRELESS NEIGHBORHOOD ADVOCATE, LEAVES HOLLYWOOD.

Caryn managed the Holiday Inn for many years, while a resident/manager of apartments in Hollywood Heights. But it was when she was hired to manage the apartments at the Northeast corner of Orchid and Franklin, that she really began to make her presence felt. The apartments had been home to hardcore drug dealers, users and prostitutes. 18 evictions

brought death threats to Caryn, but she never gave up until the building was cleaned up.

She spent hours, nearly every day, in Pinehurst Park, watering grass, trimming hedges; whatever needed doing. At least once a week, she would cross the street to the Magic Castle parking lot exit, to remove abandoned shopping carts, furniture, auto parts, debris and dog waste.

It was her advocacy for the neighborhood with regard to TrizecHahn, however, that was her toughest challenge and greatest achievement. She lobbied for each and every neighborhood permit protection, attended every meeting with the developers, showed up and spoke at every hearing before City Council. She wrote letters and faxed messages for the entire neighborhood, to the Mayor and every involved branch of government. And she fought each breach of the agreements and permit conditions, right down to the wire, often spending her own money to file appeals with the city.

It would not be an exaggeration to say that the halls of TrizecHahn shuddered when she walked through the door. Her determination and enthusiasm inspired all around her to get involved and to not give up.

Her departure to Austin, Texas, is a tremendous loss to her friends and neighbors. We are all the poorer without her.

General Membership Meeting and Election:
Tuesday, June 20, 2000
7:00 P.M. Coffee and Dessert
7:30 P.M. Election
8:00 P.M. Meeting
Yamashiro Skyview Room

Look for Candidate Registration Form, Membership Form, Agenda, and Candidate Statements in Upcoming Flyers.

Contributors to View Flyer:
Fredrica Cooper Editor
JoMarie Ward Vice President
Victoria Stewart Pinehurst Park