

NEIGHBORS UNITED



Faircrest Heights' Neighborhood Organization Since 1981 10th District, Los Angeles December 2016 Issue No. 12

Please join us at our next Neighbors United meeting,

Monday, December 12, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

at the Claude Pepper Senior Center, 1762 S. La Cienega Boulevard.

Faircrest Heights: One of the Hottest Neighborhoods In America In 2013—BusinessInsider.com



President's Corner By Laura Anderson

Greetings Neighbors,

We're at the end of another successful year and I want to thank each of you for your continuing support. Thanks to each officer and block captain. Thanks to our neighbors for working hard to maintain a positive quality of life in our community.

Monday night is our final gathering for 2016. We will clear the agenda for all except our election of officers for 2017.

In recent years it has become more and more difficult to get people to serve as officers. However it is important to have "willing workers" to keep the organization running smoothly.

Please be ready to volunteer to hold an office or to be a block captain. We need your help to maintain a great quality of life in the beautiful Faircrest Heights community.

For several years, Neighbors United has collected food for our local and regional food banks. Thanks to all who brought canned goods to our last meeting. Your food gifts were donated to Holy Spirit Church on Pico and Dunsmuir. The Holy Spirit Give and Share Food Pantry's mission is to help alleviate hunger in our surrounding community by providing temporary assistance of non-perishable food to all in need. Food is distributed the last Saturday of every month from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm in the Holy Spirit Parish Hall.

Thank you again for your continuous support. Wishing you and your Family Happy Holidays!

We'll see you on Monday, December 12 at 7 p.m.



Happy Hanukkah



Merry Christmas



Happy Kwanzaa

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Agenda

Annual Holiday Celebration
Meeting neighbors,
sharing favorite foods,
sharing our traditions.
Bring the family!

LAPD Numbers

- Emergency 911
- Non-emergency 311 or 877-275-5273 (877-ASK-LAPD)
- Wilshire Station 213-473-0476
- Senior Lead Officer Adam Green 213-793-0647 (North of 18th Street)
- Senior Lead Officer Charles Thomas 213-793-0786 (South of 18th Street)
- Anonymous Tip Line 877-529-3855 (877-LAW-FULL)

Call 911 immediately if you see persons breaking into homes or loitering around neighbors' homes.

It's Election Time Again

As we stated in the November newsletter, it's time for our annual election of officers. We thank all current officers and block captains for their service over the last year. Some of our officers and block captains have served this community since the beginning of the Neighbors United organization more than 30 years ago. We also thank the newer neighbors who have taken an active role.

We are hoping that you will consider volunteering to for a position. Key positions include: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Parliamentarian, and Sergeant-At-Arms. We will receive nominations from the floor—that includes self-nominations—VOLUNTEERS. We are especially in need of a recording secretary and a treasurer. Please think about it and say you'll help.

We also rely on Block Captains to keep us informed of issues on specific blocks and to distribute newsletters or other information as needed. We need your help.

Neighbors United was formed in 1981 and we have had a very good track record of community involvement. If you are new to Faircrest Heights, this will be a great opportunity to get to know your neighbors and to help us to maintain the quality of life in the community. If you have been here for a while, this will be a great opportunity to do the same and to make a difference.

Our Annual Neighbors United Holiday Party



Join us for our annual holiday party on Monday, December 12 at 7 p.m. at the Claude Pepper Senior Center. Our party chairperson, Fern Paillet asks that we bring chicken (any kind), side dishes, salads and desserts. It's a great time to share your favorite holiday dish or dessert. We have the drinks and paper goods.

We'll take a few minutes for our election of officers and then, it's party time. Do you dance or sing? Show us. Got a great holiday story? Tell us. Bring the family and let's have a great time. We'll end the year on a high note getting to know our new neighbors and renewing acquaintances with long-time friends.

Christmas is Sunday, December 25 and New Years day is the following Sunday. Many of our neighbors celebrate other holidays.

Hanukkah will begin on the evening of Saturday December 24 and end on the evening of Sunday January 1. Hanukkah commemorates the victory of the ancient Israelites over the Syrian Greek army, and the subsequent miracle of restoring the menorah in the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. The miracle of Hanukkah is that only one vial of oil was found with just enough oil for one day, and yet it lasted for eight full days.

We extend our heartfelt best wishes to our friends and neighbors as you celebrate. We hope you will join us to share stories of this beautiful holiday.

Kwanzaa is a week-long holiday honoring African culture and traditions. It falls between December 26 and January 1 each year. Maulana Karenga, an African-American professor, proposed this observance and it was first celebrated 50 years ago. It is not a religious holiday and is not intended to replace Christmas. It is largely a private celebration observed by individuals, families and local communities.

LAPD Has an Important Holiday Message for The Community!

As Holiday Season 2016 gets into full swing, here are some tips to help you have a safe and joyous holiday season.

LAPD asks you to secure your vehicles and do not leave anything of value inside. There has been an increase of burglary from motor vehicles inside apartment parking garages. Don't allow people to enter apartment parking garages behind you and lock your vehicles. Also,

- Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. If you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member.
- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
- Stay alert to your surroundings.
- Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. At this time of year, "con-artists" may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.

Holiday Time is Here: Time for Gift Giving and GIFT TAKING



This lady was in our neighborhood today stealing packages: 12/6/16 at about 3:25pm.

We've heard a great deal lately about "Porch Pirates" stealing packages from porches after deliveries are made. One of our neighbors shared a photo of a thief in our neighborhood.

The news media and police agencies have made several suggestions for us to protect ourselves from these unscrupulous bandits. Also many businesses have developed products that they say will help.

Some suggestions if you can't be home to personally receive a delivery are:

- Check with your employer to see if they would be willing to let you have your package delivered at work;
- Check with neighbors who may come home to leave packages at a location where someone can actually accept them;
- UPS offers a free service called UPS My Choice, which alerts users about deliveries. It also expanded its Access Point network, which delivers packages to be dropped at thousands of local businesses.
- FedEx recently introduced an app that lets people customize home delivery.

Also as alert neighbors, if we get to know our neighbors, we can retrieve packages left openly on porches and give them to our neighbors when they get home. That's part of "Neighborhood Watch".

Annual Food Drive for the LA Food Bank



A few weeks ago NU President Laura Anderson kicked off her annual food drive that supports the LA Food Bank and our community. This year the talented students of Project 18 Forty Dance helped her walk the neighborhood and deliver paper bags for the food drive collection. Laura says, "I'm so thankful for the help and glad to hear they had fun as well! We ended the day with a fun Pizza Party."

Thanks for the generosity of neighbors in Faircrest Heights the food drive has been a huge success each year. So far Laura has collected 25 bags from Faircrest Heights and Reynier Village. There is still time to join in. If you have not delivered your donation already, you

may bring your donations to the Neighbors United Christmas party.. You may also contact her directly at 323-646-6569 to pick up your donation.

Hearts and Flowers

Happy 90th Birthday to Mrs. Willie McLurkin!

To our neighbors who are unable to join us regularly, we send you Holiday Greetings.

Please keep in touch with neighbors who are ill, hospitalized, confined to their homes or bereaved. Give them a call or a visit to brighten their day. **Remember to notify your block captain or Virginia Thomas, our Hearts and Flowers chair, at 323-935-7104 or stefflute1@aol.com**

2017 Dues are Due

Our 2017 membership dues of \$15 are due and payable now. (Neighbors who are 80+ years old are exempt from dues; however, to receive the newsletter, you must complete a membership form and note that you are 80+. Your age will not be made public.) If you just paid dues in November or December, they are applied for 2017.

Your dues cover the cost of renting our meeting place, printing newsletters, postage, and other miscellaneous expenses. Newsletters are available to all of our neighbors who have paid dues. The names of neighbors whose dues are paid will appear on our membership roster, which is developed for the sole benefit of our community.

The membership roster is provided only to paid members and is not to be shared with anyone outside of Neighbors United. In addition, only paid members on your specific block will receive a roster of your block. Officers and block captains have a complete roster. The roster is particularly useful for emergency contacts. Please use the membership form below to provide your information. Enclose your check for \$15 and mail it to Neighbors United at our P. O. Box or bring it to our next meeting.



Holiday Toy Drive

PLEASE HELP A CHILD IN NEED THIS CHRISTMAS

**DROP OFF A NEW, UNWRAPPED TOY TO
WILSHIRE COMMUNITY POLICE STATION**
4861 WEST VENICE BLVD, LA CA 90016
The front Desk

DECEMBER 1-15, 2016

Toys will be distributed to children in the Wilshire Area
For information contact *Wilshire Community Relations Office*
23-473-0200

Please give your dues to your block captain, bring them to a meeting or mail them to:

Neighbors United P.O.Box 35103 Los Angeles, CA 90035

Neighbors United Membership Form
The membership drive is happening now! Support Faircrest Heights.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____ Yearly Dues: \$15.00

Please fill this out and give it with your check payable to Neighbors United to your block captain,

Visit our website: <http://faircrestheights.weebly.com>. You can also access the website from www.neighborsunited.net. Be sure to submit articles, pictures and communications of interest to the Faircrest Heights community.