

NEIGHBORS UNITED



Faircrest Heights' Neighborhood Organization Since 1981 10th District, Los Angeles April 2014 Issue No. 4

**Please join us at our next Neighbors United meeting,
Monday, April 14, 2014 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

Hello Neighbors,

My family and I thank you, my neighbors and community members, for your tremendous outpouring of support when my mother passed away. One of the first things I loved about our neighborhood was the strong sense of community and the warm welcome I received on my first day in my home. My love has continued to grow throughout the years.

I extend my condolences to other families whose loved ones have passed away.

Although I could not attend our meeting last month, I heard that we had a very large number of neighbors who came out to hear about mansionization and paid dues. I welcome you and thank you for your interest in maintaining the quality of life in our community.

We want to hear your ideas and concerns. At our next meeting we will have an update on mansionization, but will also open the floor to hear your input and concerns about the Faircrest Heights community. More importantly, we invite you to take an active role in making Faircrest Heights the No. 1 neighborhood in the nation.

The new Faircrest Heights website--<http://faircrestheights.weebly.com/> is up and running. Check it out! Our thanks to Justin Tsai, one of our newer neighbors, who volunteered to revamp and maintain our Neighbors United website. He did a great job.

We'll see you on Monday, April 14



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Agenda

- Mansionization Update
- What's on Your Mind?
- Neighborhood Council Election
- 10th District Update
- LAPD Update

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.

PICO Neighborhood Council Election Results

Congratulations to Yvonne Smith of Point View Street who was elected to the Neighbors United Association seat on the PICO Neighborhood Council replacing Mary Ann Yurkonis. Our thanks to Mary Ann who represented us for eight years. Among her greatest achievements was helping to defeat the proposed 77-unit apartment complex that was proposed for the 1400 block of Hi Point Street. Thanks to all of our neighbors who went to the election site to cast a vote for Yvonne.

Other PICO NC Board members are Nickey Reed of Point View Street – At-Large Representative and secretary; and Sue Beidleman – Senior Representative and Land Use Chair. Mary Ann will serve as an alternate, along with Richard Lindstrom serve as alternates. We will need an additional alternate to attend meetings when the regular board member cannot attend. Please let us know at neighborsunited2@aol.com or <http://faircrestheights.weebly.com> if you would like to serve as an alternate representative.



Mansionization

As discussed at our last meeting, many of our neighbors are greatly concerned that the character of our historic neighborhood is being fundamentally and irrevocably changed - and our quality of life diminished - as a result of the trend known as mansionization. ‘Mansionization’ generally refers to demolishing smaller, more historic single family homes and replacing them with new out-of-scale ‘big-box’ homes that dwarf surrounding dwellings and change the character and scale of established neighborhoods.

In response to public concern, the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance was enacted in 2008 to stop widespread mansionization of established single family Los Angeles neighborhoods. Despite this ordinance, mansionization has continued – largely due to loopholes, bonuses, and exemptions written into the ordinance.

Other neighborhoods have undertaken ‘anti-mansionization’ efforts such as:

1. petitioning to amend the (city-wide) Baseline Mansionization Ordinance to eliminate the often-abused bonuses and exemptions, and to make the internal review and enforcement processes of the Department of Building Safety transparent to the public
2. requesting a Residential Floor Area (RFA) overlay district in the R1 areas, reasonably tailoring citywide size and height regulations (for single-family homes) to the particular needs of a community

Neighbors wish to preserve the unique character of our area and to protect our quality of life by engaging residents and city leadership around these issues. While we have no objections to construction, expansion, or remodeling, we believe that new and remodeled homes should have *reasonable* size limits in proportion to the existing houses and lot sizes in our area.

Last month, a small group of Faircrest Heights residents gathered approximately 235 signatures on a hard copy petition, which was sent to Council President Wesson in late March along with a letter asking him to help us address mansionization through both of the means above. We also initiated a change.org petition that is linked on the News and Events section of the Faircrest Heights website at <http://faircrestheights.weebly.com>. Should you have questions or wish to sign either or both of the petitions, please email stopmansionization@yahoo.com.

We have confirmed a preliminary meeting with four of Councilmember Wesson’s deputies on Monday afternoon, April 14, and hope to be able to provide a positive status report at the Neighbors United meeting that evening. We look forward to seeing you there!

Are You Ready?

April is Earthquake Awareness Month. With the recent series of earthquakes nearby, we should be checking our readiness supplies and plans. We've included an emergency contact list to keep handy in the event of an earthquake or other disaster or emergency. For more information and important links to the emergency agencies go to <http://www.readyla.org/>

Contact List

When an urgent situation arises, you may need to contact someone regarding an urgent situation at your residence or business. In your time of need, use this list to contact Utilities and City Services. Call 911 when there is a life or death situation that requires immediate response of emergency services such as the Police, Fire or the Paramedics. For Non-Emergency City-Hall Services, please call 311.

FIRST RESPONDERS

Emergency 911

Non-Emergency Police 1-877- 275-5273

Non-Emergency Fire Paramedics 1-800-688-8000

Non-Emergency Terrorist Threats 1-877-284-7328

TTY Service 1- 213-847-0652

UTILITY COMPANIES

DWP (Department of Water & Power) 1-800-342-5397

Southern CA Gas Company 1-800-427-2200

Los Angeles Animal Services 1-888-452-7381

Los Angeles Emergency Management Department 1-213-978-2222

Park-Related Emergencies 1-323-913-7390

Refuse Collection 1-800-773-2489

Sewer / Storm Drain Problems 1-800-773-2489

Storm Damage / Mud Slide Reports 1-888-524-2845

Street Lights 1-800-996-2489

Traffic Signals 1-213-580-1177

Trees Down / Debris Removal and Related Problems 1-800-996-2489

MULTILINGUAL

American Red Cross 1-800-220-4095

DWP (Department of Water & Power) 1-800-342-5397

Department of Aging - Multilingual 1-213-473-1602

KOREAN

Southern CA Gas Company 1-800-427-0471

VIETNAMESE

Southern CA Gas Company 1-800-427-0478

CITY SERVICES

American Red Cross of Greater Los Angeles 1-213-739-5200

Building Inspection 1-888-524-2845

Cal Trans (Road Closures) 1-800-427-7623

City Services Within the City 311

Department of Aging 1-800-510-2020

Department of Disability 1-213-485-6334

Having Questions About Your DWP Bills?

LOS ANGELES — In an ongoing effort to resolve customer billing problems, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) will open four of its customer service centers on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through May 17, excluding April 19 of Easter weekend. When visiting the service centers, customers can expect full customer service assistance from staff that are able to take payments, process service order requests, answer billing questions, and resolve billing issues.

Locations of the customer service centers are:

Crenshaw CSC

4030 Crenshaw Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90008

Van Nuys CSC

6550 Van Nuys Boulevard
Van Nuys, CA 91401

Watts CSC
1686 E. 103rd Street
Los Angeles, CA 90002

West Los Angeles CSC
1394 S. Sepulveda Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90025

In response to the significant operational problems encountered with the replacement of its 40-year old customer billing system, LADWP apologized in an open letter to its customers and launched a new billing information webpage to allow customers to track the progress being made. The Department then launched “Bill Resolution Saturdays” on weekends through May 17, excluding April 19 of Easter weekend.

Customers who have questions about their bill are encouraged to visit any LADWP customer service center on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., or on any of the “Bill Resolution Saturdays.” Customers can also contact LADWP online at www.ladwp.com/ContactUs or call 1-800-DIAL-DWP (1-800-342-5397) and use the self-service or personal call back option, which eliminates the need for customers to wait on hold by having a customer service representative call them back

Hearts and Flowers

We extend our condolences to the following families:

Laura Anderson of Hayworth Avenue, whose mother Gloria Blancett, passed away
Mr. Jerry Wagner of Stearns Drive, whose mother, Corrine Waggoner recently passed away;
Hilda Horton a 51 year resident of Hayworth Avenue passed away.

Congratulations to:

Laura Anderson who recently received the Realtor of the Year Award for 2013 at Keller Williams, Larchmont.
Proud Parents - **Brian and Rosalia Hajek** Hayworth Ave who welcomed the birth of a baby boy. **Gertrude Gottlieb**, a resident for 61 years of the 1700 Block of Hayworth Ave, who will be relocating to northern California. We will miss her presence in our neighborhood.

Get Well/Thinking of You: Marilyn Horne and George Murray, both of whom were in accidents recently; and Thelma and Clif Hilliard who are recovering at home; and Martha Basu, who is now walking and driving after hip surgery.

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.**

**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,