

NEIGHBORS UNITED



Faircrest Heights' Neighborhood Organization Since 1981 10th District, Los Angeles January 2016 Issue No. 1

Please join us at our next Neighbors United meeting,

Monday, January 11 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

Happy New Year!

I hope you enjoyed a beautiful and peaceful holiday season.

As we begin the new year, I'd like to welcome all new neighbors who have moved to Faircrest Heights in the past year. You've chosen a great community and we are proud to call it our own. We invite you to attend our upcoming Neighbors United meeting to meet folks like you who are new as well as long-term neighbors. It will be an opportunity to hear about issues that affect us all and a chance for you to share your ideas for a successful year.

We'd also like to encourage neighbors who have lived here for a while but have not come to a meeting lately to come and get involved. We need your help to maintain the great quality of life in Faircrest Heights.

Several months ago we invited a real estate developer to come and discuss a proposal to build a small lot subdivision of 16 single-family homes on Hi Point Street. Since then the project has undergone a number of modifications. We have invited Arron Belliston to discuss the revised project drawings for 1563 and 1565 Hi Point Street.

In lieu of our annual election, we have asked last year's officers to remain in office for 2016 with the exception of Mary Ann Yurkonis who is replacing Marguerite Strain as first vice president. They are:-

President -	Laura Anderson	Parliamentarian -	Fern Paillet
1 st VP -	Mary Ann Yurkonis	Sergeant-At-Arms	Yvonne Smith
2 nd VP -	Anne Davenport	Newsletter Editor -	Sue Beidleman
Treasurer -	Shan Wickramsingle		
Recording Secretary	Richard Lindstrom	Hearts & Flowers Chair -	Virginia Thomas
Corresponding Secretary -	Sue Beidleman		

We'll see you on Monday, January 11 at 7 p.m.

In this Issue

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- Message from LAPD Auto Detectives
- Excerpt from LA Times Article on Storm Drains
- Hearing on Small Lot Subdivision Ordinance
- Claude Pepper Senior Club's Valentine's Day Celebration
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Agenda

- Arron Belliston discussing 16 Unit Small Lot Subdivision at 1563/1565 Hi Point
- LAPD Update
- 10th District Update
- PICO Neighborhood Council Update – Yvonne Smith

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.



Hi Friend,

2015 was a big year. We laughed together, cried together and worked together to make our city better. Just in time for the New Year, check out this short video we made to celebrate all that Los Angeles has accomplished over the last 12 months.

<https://www.facebook.com/garcetti/videos/vb.12476614805/10153840924599806/?type=2&theater>

Can't wait to see how we'll outdo ourselves in 2016!

As always, I'd love to get your feedback on how we are doing on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and on my [website](#).

Happy New Year!

Eric Garcetti, Mayor

Message from LAPD Wilshire Auto Detectives - Officer Robert Davenport



Auto Detectives want to advise community members of a sudden increase and pattern of stolen Chevy Silverado and GMC Sierra pickup trucks in the area. Take measures to help prevent these crimes from occurring by using a club (anti-theft), an alarm and try to park in a garage or secured drive way-lot. Please contact LAPD Wilshire Auto Detectives if you have any questions (213) 473-0556

An Excerpt from a Los Angeles Times Article about Our Storm Drains – Submitted By Dana Pehrson

“...So far this rainy season, sanitation crews have cleaned all 40,000 of the city's catch basins and removed debris from the screens that frequently cover the openings. Still, those catch basins could be blocked again the next time a torrential rain sopping wet seat cushions, construction debris and other items into the gutters.

In recent weeks, Hagekhalil has been promoting the sanitation bureau's 24-hour hotline, (800) 773-2489, as a way for the public to report illegal dumping and jammed-up catch basins. Because of El Niño, the hotline's hours were expanded, he said. "We are looking at areas that are susceptible to flooding, and we are dependent on people calling us and letting us know," he said....” So if you see blocked drain screens, call the hotline or take a moment to remove the debris.

On a side note, during the last El Nino, the Faircrest Heights community experienced considerable flooding—we had “river-front” property. Some neighbors had water seeping into their homes, flooding floor furnaces and crawl spaces under homes, and in a few cases, flooding cars. Residents were required to have flood insurance. However, during the early 2000s the Holly Hills Drain was installed under Crescent Heights Boulevard, from our community and heading north through Beverly Hills and West Hollywood. The flood insurance requirement was released. We should still take precautions to protect our property from potential flooding.

SMALL LOT SUBDIVISION: Public Hearing re: Proposed Amendments to the SLS Ordinance

Submitted by Traci Considine (Land Use Chair, PICO Neighborhood Council)

Many of you are familiar with one of the development trends in our area: SMALL LOT SUBDIVISION. This generally refers to the conversion of properties into subdivisions of a new housing typology that looks and functions like row townhomes, but each unit is built independently on individual "small lots." (*The original lots may have had single family homes, but are located in multi-family-zones, generally R2 or R3. To see some examples, see the 1400 block of Hi Point Street.*)

The city's Small Lot Ordinance was adopted in 2005. Responding to feedback from the public (primarily related to SLS' impact on neighborhood scale and character), the city will hold public hearings on proposed amendments to the SLS Ordinance, which would require greater front and rear yard setbacks, create a division of land process for "adaptive reuse" small lot projects, and add an incidental administrative clearance process and establish design standards for SLS projects.

City Planning has provided some background materials online:

Small Lot FAQ: <http://planning.lacity.org/ordinances/docs/smalllot/faq.pdf>

Small Lot Draft Ordinance (with proposed changes marked):

<http://planning.lacity.org/ordinances/docs/smalllot/Draft.pdf>

Before considering whether to make the proposed changes, City Planning and City Council will hear a variety of opinions and perspectives (both for and against changes, no doubt) that will guide their decision-making. If you are interested in this issue, get informed and make your opinions known!

1) ATTEND AN INFO SESSION / HEARING, JANUARY 20 or 26

Hearing notices are posted at <http://planning.lacity.org/ordinances/docs/smalllot/HR.pdf>. The closest hearing will be on Wednesday, January 20 at the Felicia Mahood Multipurpose Center, 11338 Santa Monica Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90025 (open house 5:30-7:00pm, public comments 7:00pm)

2) EMAIL YOUR COMMENTS TO CITY PLANNING STAFF BY FEBRUARY 26

Subject Line: CPC-2015-4499-CA: Proposed Amendments to the Small Lot Ordinance

To: jane.choi@lacity.org

Cc: your respective council office deputy (elizabeth.carlin@lacity.org for Wesson/CD10,

jasmine.shamolian@lacity.org for Koretz/CD5) so that your councilmember will know how constituents feel. If you'd like to make your opinions known to PICO NC, copy LandUsePICONC@yahoo.com.

3) ATTEND UPCOMING PICO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS

As we have seen a dramatic increase in the number of Small Lot Subdivisions proposed in our area, and as SLS has been an issue of interest to our residents, we want to hear your thoughts on the proposed amendments in order to represent and advocate on behalf of PICO NC stakeholders. The next PICO NC Land Use Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday evening, January 28. Please see www.piconc.com for agendas, three days before each meeting.

Claude Pepper Senior Club's Valentine's Day Celebration



The Claude Pepper Senior Club is having a Valentine's Day celebration on Friday, February 12, 2016 at the Claude Pepper Senior Center. There will be live entertainment, dancing, refreshments, drawings, door prizes and fun for all. Tickets are \$20 in advance and can be purchased in the CPSC office. Tickets are \$25 at the door.

Here's a Reminder from LAPD

Community + Police = Crime Reduction

Crime prevention cannot be achieved by the Police alone; we must work hand-in-hand with the public, our residents, and businesses. Tell your family, friends, and neighbors to join us.

Block Captains are Needed As Follows:

Fairfax Avenue: 1500, 1600(West) and 1800 blocks

Guthrie Street: 5900 block

While we can send newsletters electronically to some neighbors, everyone does not have email and not everyone shares their email addresses. Therefore, we still deliver hard copies to make certain that our neighbors are informed about Faircrest Heights issues. We hope others will kindly step up and help.

What does a block captain do? They distribute monthly newsletters to neighbors on their block and inform the NU board of issues of interest or concern on the block. If you are willing to help us, please email us at neighborsunited2@aol.com or post it on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/neighborsunited1981. Also we invite you to get involved to help with committees and projects that we undertake during the year.

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.

Hearts and Flowers

Get well wishes to Melvin Mimms and Marilyn Horne. Also thinking of our members who have been unable to join us for meetings due to health issues.

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**

2016 Dues are Due

Our 2016 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 2016.

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 the Neighbors United post office box. Thank you.

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,	