

# NEIGHBORS UNITED



Faircrest Heights' Neighborhood Organization Since 1981 10<sup>th</sup> District, Los Angeles March 2014 Issue No. 3

**Please join us at our next Neighbors United meeting,  
Monday, March 10, 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,

Thanks to all of you who came by LACES for the Pancake Breakfast and Shredding event—"Shred, Shed, Be Fed." It was a great success.

The L. A. Marathon is this coming Sunday, March 9. Although the runners will be far north of our community, we encourage you to check the marathon website so you can avoid traffic closures. The website for all information LA Marathon can be found at [www.lamarathon.com](http://www.lamarathon.com).

Remember to "spring forward" on Sunday, March 9. Daylight Savings time begins at 2 a.m. It is also a good time to change the batteries in smoke detectors for fire safety.

Last month our guest speaker, Leigh Jerrard of Greywater Corps had a last minute scheduling conflict and could not be with us. He has promised to be with us next Monday. We hope you will come out to learn about grey water. What is grey water? It is recycling bath and laundry water for landscape irrigation. More on this on page 2. In light of our current drought conditions, this could be an alternative to weekly watering.

We also invite you to come out to hear about a topic of great concern to many communities city-wide—mansionization. For more information, see page 2.

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.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

We'll see you on Monday, March 10.

### In this Issue

- President's Corner
- What is Mansionization?
- PICO Neighborhood Council Election
- Planning Department Forums on City Mobility Plan
- Getting LA Back 2 Work

### Agenda

- Grey Water Corps – Leigh Jerrard
- Mansionization
- Neighborhood Council Election/Update
- 10<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> Street)  
Senior Lead Officer Charles Thomas  
213-793-0786 (South of 18<sup>th</sup> Street)  
Anonymous Tip Line  
877-529-3855  
(877-LAW-FULL)

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



### What is Mansionization?

Many of our neighbors are greatly concerned about property development in our area. 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. A recent *LA Times* article found that city-approved teardowns were 29 percent higher in 2013 than in 2012, a general indicator that mansionization is on the rise.

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

- 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
- 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

Background information on other communities’ anti-mansionization efforts can be found online at [www.beverlygrove.org](http://www.beverlygrove.org) and [la.curbed.com/tags/mansionization](http://la.curbed.com/tags/mansionization).

Neighbors wish to preserve the unique character of our area and to protect our quality of life by engaging and mobilizing residents around these issues. While we have no general 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.

We would like to see the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance amended (to eliminate loopholes that allow mansionization) and wish to solicit community opinion as to whether we should also request a Residential Floor Area (RFA) Overlay District in our R1 areas.

**Please attend this critical meeting on March 10, to express your opinions!** While we encourage you to walk or carpool, a limited amount of overflow parking is available at Burger King. Perhaps neighbors who park at Burger King will stop in for a soft serve ice cream or a meal either before or after the meeting, to express our thanks for their support.

### PICO Neighborhood Council Election – Sunday, March 30, 2014

Yvonne Smith of Point View Street is a candidate for the Neighbors United Association seat on the PICO Neighborhood Council. Mary Ann Yurkonis’ term is up as our current representative. The election will be held on Sunday, March 30, 2014 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at 5651 West Pico Boulevard. Please come out and vote for Yvonne.

Nickey Reed of Point View Street has been appointed as an At-Large Representative and was recently elected as secretary of the PICO NC Board. Sue Beidleman is the Senior Representative and Land Use Chair. Yvonne Smith and Richard Lindstrom serve as alternates. When Yvonne becomes a full member of the Board, we will need an alternate to attend meetings when the regular board member cannot attend. Please let us know at [neighborsunited2@aol.com](mailto:neighborsunited2@aol.com) or <http://faircrestheights.weebly.com> if you would like to serve as an alternate representative.

## **The Los Angeles Department of City Planning Needs Feedback...**

The Mobility Plan 2035 and Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles drafts are now available for public review through May 13. As part of the outreach process to receive public feedback, the two efforts are teaming up with re:code LA to host seven community workshops throughout the city to hear from Angelenos about the vision for the city's future. This is an opportunity to help to shape the future of L.A. Workshops nearest to our community are:

Wednesday, March 19 – 5 pm to 8 pm  
Metro Headquarters near Patsauras Plaza  
One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles

Saturday, March 22 – 9 am to noon  
Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center  
3916 S. Western Avenue, Los Angeles

Wednesday, April 2 – 6 pm to 9 pm  
Westwood United Methodist Church  
10497 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles

For more information, please visit: <http://la2b.org/> and <http://recode.la/>

See a copy of the complete plan at [http://planning.lacity.org/Cwd/GnlPln/MobiltyElement/Text/MobilityPlan\\_2035.pdf](http://planning.lacity.org/Cwd/GnlPln/MobiltyElement/Text/MobilityPlan_2035.pdf)

## **Getting LA Back 2 Work**

*A Training, Retraining and/or Job Placement Initiative*

City of Los Angeles Economic & Workforce Development Department

The "Getting LA Back 2 Work" program is funded by a National Emergency Grant under the Department of Labor. This grant targets displaced workers from specific public agencies and private companies identified from the Department of Labor. The grant provides qualified displaced workers with up to \$7,500 in training and placement support.

The City of Los Angeles is partnering with 18 WorkSource Centers located throughout the City of Los Angeles. Our goal is to identify 2,000 dislocated workers and get them enrolled, trained and placed in jobs by March 31, 2014.

### **Services include the following:**

- Assessment (basic skills, career, and vocational aptitude)
- Customized training  
(Up to \$10,000 of free training)
- Employment preparation  
(resume and interview skills)
- Job/paid internship placement assistance
- Vocational training
- On-the-job training
- Supportive services (bus tokens, work clothes, tools, child care etc.)

If you were laid off while employed by a designated employer and want to learn more about Getting LA Back 2 Work, please call 3-1-1 or email [cdd.back2work@lacity.org](mailto:cdd.back2work@lacity.org)

**LAPD Says:**

Don't Be a Victim of An Auto -Related Property Crime! **LOCK IT-** A reminder to always lock your vehicle. **HIDE IT-** If you must leave valuables in the vehicle, hide them from plain sight. **KEEP IT-** A positive reminder that personal responsibility can safeguard your valuables from theft.

The Top Items Stolen from Vehicles: GPS Devices, Cell Phones/ Chargers, Money, Stereos/ Radios, Documents, Mail and Check books.

**Show Your Neighborhood Pride—Wear a Neighbors United T-Shirt**



**Neighbors United T-Shirts -- \$10 each:**

**Sizes: \_\_ Medium \_\_ Large \_\_ X-Large \_\_XX-Large**

**Total shirts: \_\_\_\_\_** You can purchase them in the following ways:

**Make checks payable to Neighbors United and bring it to the meeting or mail it to Neighbors United, P. O. Box 35103, L. A., CA 90035. We'll deliver the shirts to you.**

**Hearts and Flowers**

We extend our condolences to Walter and Barbara La Croix , the passing of Walter's father, Walter La Croix, Sr. **Our condolences are also extended to** Rosie Robb whose mother, Mrs. Earnie Wyatt passed away. Both families are long time Faircrest Heights residents.

We are pleased that Martha Basu has returned home after a stay in rehabilitation. She is gaining strength and walking greater distances.

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,**