

NEIGHBORS UNITED



Faircrest Heights' Neighborhood Organization Since 1981 10th District, Los Angeles May 2014 Issue No. 5

**Please join us at our next Neighbors United meeting,
Monday, May 12, 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,

Once more I extend my heartfelt thanks to my neighbors and friends who surrounded me and my family with love and condolences. Just weeks after the passing of my mother, my father passed away in Florida. We will miss them both but are at peace. Thank you again.

At our next meeting, Mike Harriel, Public Affairs Manager for Southern California Gas Company, will join us to discuss the many programs and services that are available to us from the Gas Company.

Breaking news: We were just informed that Lee Homes has sold the property at Sawyer and Fairfax (The Sawyer Project). We're told that the new owner is a major developer of single family homes. We do not have details of the new owner's plans. However, we expect to meet with the company at some time in the future.

Thanks to all of you who shared your ideas and concerns at our last meeting. With your help, we will put your ideas to work. More importantly, we invite you to take an active role in making Faircrest Heights the No. 1 neighborhood in the nation.

Check out the new Faircrest Heights 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.

We'll see you on Monday, May 12.

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Agenda

- Mansionization Update
- Mike Harriel, So Calif Gas – Program Information
- Sawyer Homes Update
- 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.

The Mayor's Mobile Help Desk: Where the City Comes to You!

On Thursday May 22nd, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Mayor Eric Garcetti's office will be conducting City business at the La Cienega Farmers' Market to provide our community with an opportunity to speak directly with the Mayor's office about concerns they may have. The goal of the Mayor's office is to expedite these concerns in a fast track manner with positive results.

The Mobile Help Desk is part of the Mayor's efforts to make City Hall more accessible to Angelenos. Representatives from the Mayor's Office will be available to receive suggestions and concerns while providing excellent customer service. The Mobile Help Desk will visit locations across Los Angeles twice a month in each Council District. For additional information contact: Yvonne Farrow, Event Lead MMHD, 213.978.2360

Please take advantage of this opportunity to be heard! Thursday, May 22, 2014, Mayor Eric Garcetti's Office at the La Cienega Farmers' Market, 1801 S La Cienega Blvd Los Angeles, CA 90035.

Los Angeles Times Article on Mansionization



In case you missed it, the Los Angeles Times published an article on Mansionization last Sunday, May 4, 2014. The article, by Staff Writer Emily Alpert Reyes, highlighted concerns expressed by residents in our community.

"...In the Mid-City neighborhood of Faircrest Heights, homeowners are going door to door with petitions against "super-sized homes." Kathleen Clark and Beth Marlis point to a neighboring Pickford Street house, now undergoing a renovation that roughly doubles its size, which they say blocks their sunset views. The two trucked in grown trees to try to preserve the privacy of their yard. "They said, 'It's going to be green, it's going to make your house worth more ... it's going to make your neighborhood better,'" Marlis said. "Far from it."

Under the basic provisions of the anti-mansionization ordinance, the Pickford Street home would be limited to a residential floor area of 1,450 square feet. Owner Jerome Hunter said he was able to increase the approved area to 1,885 square feet by incorporating green construction techniques and technologies, including LED lights and an efficient air conditioner.

"It's not like I'm building a mansion," Hunter said. If the rules were any tighter, "It wouldn't be worth living here. I'd rent it out. And you think the property values would be better if there was a renter?" he said. "I'm increasing the value of their property. I don't understand the problem."

It's become a real bear to deal with, from the design point of view.- Daniel Bibawi , architect

Mansionization critics contend that under stricter rules, builders could still craft larger homes without blocking light and boxing in neighbors. "None of us are opposed to expansion and development — when it's respectful of the neighborhood," said Traci Considine, part of the Neighbors United group in Faircrest Heights...."

You can read the entire article on our website or on the L.A. Times website.

Also, there was a discussion on the radio program, "AIRTALK" on 89.3 KPCC, Southern California Public Radio. You can use the link below to listen to the discussion.

<http://www.scpr.org/programs/airtalk/2014/05/06/37293/should-los-angeles-curb-mansionization-with-tight/>

Thanks Traci, Beth, Kathleen and Bea who participated in the interviews, shared our concerns and agreed to be photographed.

We Asked: You Shared

At our last meeting we had an open discussion of the things you would like to see and do in the neighborhood to make it better.

Many of you have been asking for a while about a block party. Our last block party was in August 2011, celebrating our 30th anniversary. For more than 20 years we had an annual block party. We'd close the 1900 block of Stearns Drive, bring in tables, chairs, umbrellas, and a stage. Our talented neighbors came out to entertain: professional musicians, amateur talent, and fun-loving party-goers. It was fun! There was lots of food, games and prizes.

What happened? Why did we stop? We lost so many of our planners and helpers. However, the good news is we have so many new and long-term neighbors who may be willing to "get this party started" again. If you would like to chair, coordinate, help us to organize a 2015 block party, please let us know by emailing us at neighborunited2@aol.com or by notifying us on the Faircrest Heights website. You can access it at <http://faircrestheights.weebly.com/> or at neighborsunited.net.



Other ideas were: a Community Clean-up, fruit harvesting from our yards to give to a local food bank, and organizing welcome committees to greet our new neighbors. We can organize the business community along La Cienega to get new and revamped storefronts to make the boulevard more attractive. We can work to attract more desirable businesses.

There is plenty to do in our community to keep it on the "Best in LA" lists. We need your help!

Looking for Summer Activities for the Kids?

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

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

Van Nuys CSC
6550 Van Nuys Boulevard
Van Nuys, CA 91401

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, lost her father just weeks after losing her mother, and Faye Barber lost brother

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,