

# NEIGHBORS UNITED



Faircrest Heights' Neighborhood Organization Since 1981 10<sup>th</sup> District, Los Angeles November 2014 Issue No. 11

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

We're back! Our next meeting is this coming Monday, November 10. While most holidays are celebrated on Mondays, Veteran's Day is always celebrated on November 11—Tuesday this year.

Our guest speaker will be Kimberly Rodgers of Childhelp Foster Family and Adoption Programs of California. In addition we will hold our annual NU election. It's not too late to volunteer to hold an office for the following year. Just let us know on our website or at neighborsunited2@aol.com.

**We will be collecting canned foods and non-perishable foods for our Gratitude Food Drive. All goods will be donated to SOVA Community Food and Resource Program. SOVA provides free groceries and an array of supportive services to over 12,000 individuals of all ages, ethnicities and religions each month.**

Flu Season is Coming- get free flu vaccination soon!

I'd like to thank all of you who brought your children to the Crescent Heights Elementary School's annual Harvest Festival on Saturday, October 25. I had fun and everyone there seemed to have a great time. Thanks for your support.

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

We'll see you on Monday, November 10 at 7 p.m.

***Happy Veteran's Day -- Happy Thanksgiving!***

### *In this Issue*

- President's Corner
- Mansionization – ICO Approved
- Annual Holiday Party
- NU Election Planning
- White House Fellows Program
- Road Closures on Crenshaw Boulevard
- Staples, La Cienega is Closing

### *Agenda*

- Kimberly Rodgers of Childhelp Foster Family and Adoption Programs
- NU Election Plans
- Planning for Annual Holiday Party
- PICO Neighborhood Council 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.

## **Mansionion - Temporary Moratorium Approved**

The Los Angeles City Council unanimously voted Tuesday to draft an Interim Control Order (ICO) to temporarily curb the demolition of single-family homes in more than a dozen neighborhoods where residents have protested about “mansionization” – homes being torn down and replaced with much larger homes that seemed to be too large for their lots. The ICO would take effect in 60 days and would not affect projects that are currently under construction.

The neighborhoods targeted for the temporary restrictions on home demolitions include Sunset Square, Carthay Square, Holmby-Westwood, Oxford Square, the El Sereno-Berkshire Craftsman District, South Hollywood, La Brea Hancock, North Beverly Grove, The Oaks, Valley Village, Faircrest Heights, Old Granada Hills, Larchmont Village and Miracle Mile.

According to an article in the *Los Angeles Times* Planning officials say imposing those restrictions will swiftly halt the problem in mansionization hot spots such as Miracle Mile, Valley Village and North Beverly Grove while the city works on tightening citywide rules against mansionization, a process expected to take a year-and-a-half.

City officials are still determining the exact restrictions for the targeted neighborhoods, which will come back before city lawmakers for final approval before being imposed.

The restrictions could vary from neighborhood to neighborhood, ranging from an outright ban on home demolitions to limiting the size of new homes that replace teardowns, according to planning officials. The temporary rules could last for as long as two years.



Development in Faircrest Heights

Neighborhood activists opposed to mansionization said Tuesday that they welcome the restrictions in targeted neighborhoods, but they complain that officials are taking too long to change the citywide ordinance, leaving other areas vulnerable to out-of-scale development.

"It's great that they're going to protect those 14 neighborhoods," said Dick Platkin, a former city planner who has pushed to tighten the rules. "But that's not going to deal with the question of mansionization in the rest of the city."

"There's no technical reason it should take so long," Platkin added.

Los Angeles lawmakers voted six years ago to limit the size of new and renovated homes based on lot size, but critics such as Platkin say the rules are ineffective because of “bonuses” that allow builders 20% or 30% more space than otherwise allowed.

Councilman Paul Koretz has pushed to eliminate those bonuses -- and the rest of the City Council voted with him Tuesday to begin that process -- but the planning department says it needs an estimated 18 months to amend the citywide rules because it must check

The Los Angeles chapter of the Building Industry Assn. has previously warned in a letter to lawmakers that such restrictions could throw hundreds of pending home sales into "a tailspin of uncertainty," potentially spurring lawsuits from buyers who didn't get adequate warning that they couldn't tear down or significantly expand the properties they purchased.

See the full article: <http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-mansionization-demolition-20141104-story.html>

## **Annual Holiday Party**

Joan Anderson has agreed to chair the Holiday Party committee and she's looking for help. At Monday's meeting we will have Sign Ups for the Holiday Pot Luck and let us know you'll be bringing your favorite dishes or desserts. This is a great time to bring your family and fellowship with neighbors. If you have a talent, we'd love to see or hear you perform. We can also share stories of our holiday traditions so we can learn about our diverse cultures. We look forward to seeing you there.

## **It's Election Time Again**

As we stated in the October newsletter, its 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.

Just email us at [neighborsunited2@aol.com](mailto:neighborsunited2@aol.com) or send a note via the website at <http://faircrestheights.weebly.com> and let us know which office you'd like to fill. We will vote at our December meeting just before our annual holiday party.

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.

Please let us know of you interest by Saturday, November 29, 2014 so we can include your name on the candidate's slate in our December newsletter.

## ***White House Fellows Program***

Fifty years ago, President Lyndon B. Johnson established the President's Commission on White House Fellowships. Over the course of nine presidential administrations - four Democrat and five Republican - the nonpartisan White House Fellows program has become the nation's premier fellowship for public service and leadership.

The program's mission is to expose Fellows to first-hand, high-level experience in the Federal government. The program consists of a full-time work placement in the offices of Cabinet Secretaries, senior White House staff, and other high-ranking Administration officials. During a year in Washington, DC, Fellows also participate in a robust education program designed to provide a behind-the-scenes look into the inner workings of the Federal government. It is an extraordinary year that yields a lifetime of rewards. For more information, go to: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/fellows/application>

***The deadline to apply is January 15, 2015.***

## **Crenshaw Boulevard Closures**

Due to excavation work activities and the decking of Crenshaw Boulevard in support of the construction of the Exposition underground station, a portion of Crenshaw Boulevard between Exposition Blvd and Rodeo Place will be fully closed 24 hours a day over multiple consecutive days this November and December.

**Dates of Closure:** November 7 (9:00pm) – November 24 (6:00am) and December 1 (6:00am) – December 14 (6:00am)

**Location:** Crenshaw Boulevard between Exposition Boulevard and Rodeo Place

Crenshaw Boulevard **WILL** reopen during the week of Thanksgiving, November 24-30.

Please plan ahead if you are traveling in this area, as it is a major thoroughfare to West Angeles Church of God in Christ and the Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza, as well as many other establishments along the corridor. Detour routes have been approved by the City of Los Angeles. Traffic control measures and signage will be implemented throughout the closure.

**Staples La Cienega is Closing**

For neighbors who use the Staples Store on La Cienega, we have sad news. The store is closing next month. The store at La Cienega and Beverly have been closed for some time. The nearest Staples locations are at 5407 Wilshire Boulevard and at the Crenshaw/Baldwin Hills Mall, 3650 West Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. In all, Staples is closing 140 stores in North America due to increased competition from stores like WalMart and online retailers like Amazon.com.

There is an Office Depot at 9527 W Pico Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90035 near Beverly Drive, and an Office Max at 8985 Venice Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90034. Office Depot and Office Max merged last year.

**Hearts and Flowers**

Get well wishes for Pamela Terry of Crescent Heights Boulevard who has been in the hospital. We extend our condolences to Shannon Smith, whose father passed away.

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**

**Welcome New Neighbors**

We welcome our new neighbors and invite you to come and get involved. We want your ideas, your skills and resources to help us to maintain a great quality of life in our community.

Please use the membership form below to provide your information. Enclose your check for \$15 and mail it to Neighbors United, P. O. Box 35103, Los Angeles, CA 90035, bring it to a meeting, or give it to your block captain. By including your email address, we may be able to email future newsletters. If you pay dues in November or December, they are applied for following year. Your dues cover the cost of renting our meeting place, printing newsletters, postage, and other miscellaneous expenses.

**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,**