

SOUTH BRENTWOOD NEWS **April 2014**
Newsletter of the South Brentwood Residents Association (SBRA)
149 South Barrington Ave. # 194, Los Angeles, CA 90049
310/281-8566 www.southbrentwood.org



If you live in a single family home in South Brentwood...



If you live in a condo *anywhere* in Brentwood...



If you live in an apartment *anywhere* in Brentwood...

SBRA ANNUAL MEETING April 17, 2014
Tenth Church of Christ, Scientist, 1133 So. Bundy Dr.
Everyone is invited to attend!

6:30-7:00 P.M. Refreshments

7:00 -8:30 P. M.

- Crime & Safety Update: L.A.P.D. Sr. Lead Officer Maria Gray
- **Special Guest Speakers:**
C.D. 11 City Councilmember Mike Bonin
DWP General Manager Marcie Edwards

President's Message:

One of the most important functions of the SBRA is to assist our neighbors with development issues near their homes. We are usually called in by the Council office and find ourselves serving as the link between neighbors, developers, and the city. We often discover that the residents didn't know we existed until we began working with them. We are again sending out postcards to all residents in South Brentwood and hope that they will learn that we exist, join SBRA, and attend our Annual Meeting.

This year we are privileged to have three generous sponsors whose contributions make it possible for us to notify everyone in our neighborhood by postcard about our Annual Meeting. Thank you to Elyse Arbour, Rodeo Realty Brentwood, California Pizza Kitchen, Brentwood and Whole Foods, Brentwood. See page 4 of our Newsletter for information about their businesses, and be sure to thank them at their tables at the Annual Meeting.

I hope you will attend our Annual Meeting April 17th and ask questions of our City Councilmember and the new General Manager of the LADWP. We look forward to a terrific, informative evening.

Marylin Krell
President, SBRA

Did you know that SBRA serves all residents in South Brentwood: homeowners and renters alike? Our boundaries are: Montana Ave. on the north, San Vicente Blvd. on the north and east, Wilshire Blvd. on the south, and the Santa Monica boundary on the west. We also represent all residents who live in condos or apartments *anywhere* in Brentwood.

KENTER CREEK by David Paige and James Ward,
Kenter Creek Oversight Committee

Kenter Creek is part of the greater watershed system of the Santa Monica Mountains and is designated a perennial Blue Line Stream on topographic maps. As with several other Westside creeks and streams, it originates in the hills north of Sunset Blvd. It flows underground through the Brentwood Country Club, and then re-emerges south of Montana Ave. where it flows between Wellesley Ave. and So. Centinela and So. Carmelina Avenues. Between Montana Ave. and Wilshire Blvd., the creek is fed by underground springs and flows throughout the year. In this section, the creek flows through the backyards of approximately 75 homes and is not generally noticeable at street level. However, the creek and the lush green belt that borders it can be easily traced in aerial photos - a quiet oasis of mostly native vegetation amidst the concrete and asphalt of the surrounding city.

To contain and control flooding, engineers have restructured the course of feeder waters to the creek, diverting storm surges to protect downstream property. While this re-engineering has provided stability and predictability to the banks of Kenter, the lack of natural flow variations has hampered the ability of the creek to maintain its natural riparian ecosystem.

The other major threat to the viability of Kenter Creek has been the negligent actions of the residents. Dumping, landscaping and structural intrusions have been commonplace. For example, one former resident deposited a non-native crayfish species into the creek, which virtually eliminated the large native Pacific Tree Frog population.

Today development pressures require our immediate action. Ill-informed and, occasionally, cravenly irresponsible developers and homeowners have taken advantage of an absence of enforcement by regulatory agencies. They have stripped the creek of native vegetation, dammed the flow and even ran construction equipment through the fragile environment.

We have organized the neighborhood to be proactive keepers of this legacy waterway. We are meeting with officials – elected and appointed – to enforce the existing regulations. We are examining those regulations to advocate for change where needed. *Moreover, we are studying ways to best preserve and restore Kenter Creek to a viable ecosystem for generations to come.*

Where our concern might be parochial with Kenter Creek, this situation repeats itself for all South Brentwood residents. What adds to the beauty and allure – if not the value – of our neighborhood is the unique environment that is so often taken for granted. But once it is gone, it will never return.

For further information, please contact Ellie Pelcyger 310-826-1500, Joelellie@roadrunner.com.

Respect and Appreciation for a Neighborhood
Treasure: **The LA NATIONAL CEMETERY**
By Pam Taylor

Over the years, SBRA has brought you news and information vital to our understanding of what goes on at the VA, our neighbor to the east, such as construction proposals, threatened misuse of the grounds, and groundbreaking programs started on the campus. We should also take a moment to remind ourselves of the sacred beauty of the Los Angeles National Cemetery, located across from what is now the VA Greater Los Angeles Health Care System.

The cemetery was established on Santa Monica ranch lands donated by Senator John P. Jones and Arcadia B. de Baker. It has steadily grown in size since its late 19th century origins. Some of the built features are unusual, including an administration building-chapel (1939-40) built by the Works Progress Administration in a distinctive Spanish Revival style of stucco and tile.

There are 14 Medal of Honor recipients buried here, including Private Charles W. Rundle, who served during the Civil War in Vicksburg, Mississippi, and Sergeant George H. Eldridge, a soldier in the 6th U.S. Calvary, fighting in the “Indian Campaigns” in Wichita River, Texas.

“Bonus” was a war dog and is buried with his handler, Ensign Charles E. Temple and another beloved war dog named “Blackout” was buried with his handler Marine Sergeant George L. Oshier.

Next time you drive by the Los Angeles National Cemetery, please give a tip of the hat to the women and men (and canines!) who have so faithfully served our country.

405 SEPULVEDA PASS IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT By Pam Taylor

Can it really be almost three years since “Carmageddon”? We survived that, and more, including Carmageddon II and Jamzilla. We can report, though, that most of the major freeway widening work is done, the new Sunset and Mulholland bridges have been completed, and Skirball Bridge is just about finished, along with work on the Wilshire and Sunset ramps. The major project left to complete is the northbound HOV lane between West LA and the Valley. No specific date for completion has been named other than the previously stated mid-2014 window. Deep breaths everybody, we’re almost there! And when they finally finish, we’ll have continuous carpool lanes from Orange County to North LA County. Closures occur, of course, from time to time, so check the official Metro web site for updates: www.metro.net/projects/I405.

MAILBOX THEFT

Mailbox theft has been reported at Wellesley and Gorham. Congressman Waxman’s office is now involved, as mailbox theft is a federal crime. We will keep you updated with this issue as well as many others affecting South Brentwood with our emails. If you aren’t on our list, you can sign up on our website.

TRANSPORTATION REPORT by Lauren Cole
SBRA continues to follow major transportation issues impacting South Brentwood. Issues that we've been working on include:

- Stop signs at Bundy/Mayfield- While some residents like the stop signs, the results of our survey were that the overwhelming majority of South Brentwood residents disapproved of the stop signs as a means of discouraging drivers from speeding on Bundy. Councilman Bonin's office is working with LADOT to install a traffic circle at that intersection to calm traffic, which would replace the stop signs. We can get an update from the Councilman at the Annual Meeting.

- Hines Project in Santa Monica- This 5 building project proposed for the northeast corner of Olympic and 26th street in Santa Monica across the street from the Water Garden would include 375,000 square feet of office space. This could easily bring in over 7,000 new commuters every day, many of whom will cut through Brentwood to try to get to and from work every day. SBRA opposed the office space component of this project. This project was approved by the Santa Monica City Council, but Santa Monica residents have gathered enough signatures to add a referendum to the November ballot stopping the project. We continue to monitor the issue and hope that the square footage of the office component can be substantially reduced.

SOUTH BRENTWOOD REAL ESTATE UPDATE

by Elyse Arbour, Rodeo Realty Brentwood

www.ElyseArbour.com

2013 was a whirlwind year for Westside real estate. Prices rose swiftly through the first half of the year, as investors and families rushed to buy houses, convinced the bottom of the market had passed and interest rates were rising. A shortage of homes for sale led to bidding wars and rapid price appreciation. The market then cooled through the summer and fall as higher prices and mortgage rates lessened demand. So far in 2014 we are experiencing a more normal market. Recapping 2013 in South Brentwood, there were 17 sales of single-family homes with an average price of \$2,140,000 and 236 condominiums that sold with an average price of \$743,000.

MEET OUR SBRA SLATE OF OFFICERS

The membership will vote on the proposed 2014 Board of Directors and Officers at the Annual Meeting:

PRESIDENT: MARYLIN KRELL

Beginning her sixth year as President of SBRA, Marylin serves as SBRA Representative to the Brentwood Community Council and is also Vice Chair of the San Vicente Scenic Corridor Design Review Board, of which she has been a member for the past twelve years. Marylin sings with a group called *Lifted Voices* which performs standards from the Great American Songbook at senior residences on the Westside, including OPICA, an Alzheimer's day care center, and the California Veterans Home, where the group also rehearses.

PAST PRESIDENT: JACKIE RAYMOND

Jackie became president of South Brentwood Homeowners Association in 1994 and remained so for "8 hard working, very enjoyable years." Jackie has been very involved with the following Brentwood organizations: Brentwood Community Federation, Brentwood Green at Brentwood Science Magnet School, Brentwood Community Council, Brentwood Chamber of Commerce, West Wilshire Community Design Overlay Committee to revise the Community Plan, Committee to revise the L.A. City Plan, Brentwood.90049, and the Brentwood-Westwood Symphony.

1st VICE PRESIDENT: ELYSE ARBOUR

Elyse has held the position of Second Vice President for three years, chairs the Annual General Meeting and the Hospitality Committees, and is an SBRA alternate to the Brentwood Community Council. She has been a member of the SBRA Board of Directors for the past 13 years. Elyse is a real estate agent with Rodeo Realty in Brentwood and is a member of West LA's Chamber of Commerce. Elyse has again generously agreed to be one of our SBRA Sponsors this year. Please read about her business in our Newsletter on page 4.

2nd VICE PRESIDENT: LEN BLUM

Len has served for 5 years as an SBRA board member and Land Use Committee member. Since 2009, Len has been a BCC Member - at- Large rep and alternate as well as a member of the BCC Land Use Committee. Originally from Connecticut, Len is an experienced real estate lawyer with expertise in condominium development and ownership. He is a licensed real estate broker in both Connecticut and California. His interests include government, politics, baseball and the Dodgers and his 8 grandchildren.

SECRETARY: PAM TAYLOR

Active on the SBRA board since 1994, Pam has served as SBRA Vice President and also as Secretary. She has chaired various committees for the Board, including the SBRA Audit, Bylaws, Metro, and Veterans Affairs Committees. Pam is a member of the Los Angeles Conservancy, which is dedicated to architectural preservation, and supports Beagle Freedom Project, an organization that rescues beagles used in research laboratories.

TREASURER: ANDY RAYMOND

Andy Raymond has been affiliated with SBRA since his wife Jackie was president in 1994. He has worked closely with Jackie on Brentwood Green and the BCC. Andy grew up in Chicago, received his bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College, and moved from New England to Los Angeles in 1979. A resident of South Brentwood for 32 years, Andy and Jackie have four children and two grandchildren.

BOARD of DIRECTORS:

Elyse Arbour, Len Blum, Lauren Cole, Susan Hirsch, Ray Keller, Marilyn Krell, Andy Raymond, Jackie Raymond, & Pam Taylor

ADVISORY BOARD:

Tsilah Burman, Laurel Davidson, Dave Holtzman, Todd Nathanson, David Nik, Dan Sinaiko, Chris Ng, Debbie Simmons & Mark Sleeper

SBRA SUPPORT:

Legal Counsel: Gordon Treharne

MEET OUR SPONSORS!

California Pizza Kitchen (CPK) Brentwood

<http://www.cpk.com/locations/brentwood-gardens>

CPK, located at 11677 San Vicente Blvd. in the Brentwood Gardens Building, offers more than just delicious pizza. At CPK, it is always about innovative recipes brought to life with fresh high quality ingredients. In addition to their delicious hearth-baked pizzas, their menu includes small plates, appetizers and soups, salads, pasta, tacos, sandwiches and desserts. Their *New Adventures* meals are all under 655 calories. They also serve gluten-free meals. If you take out, curbside service is available. CPK will deliver to your office Monday-Friday until 2:00 P.M. They can provide lunch boxes and cater corporate lunches, family get-togethers and parties.

CEO G.J. Hart says, "We are committed to giving back to the communities we serve. Promoting positive change has inspired CPK from the beginning. It is our hope that we can promote acts of kindness and inspire others to pay it forward by continuing to do good in the communities they live in, always striving to make it a little better."

Check out their website to place your order or to learn more about them. They are open from 11:30 every day until 10:00 P.M.; Friday & Saturday until 10:30 P.M.

Elyse Arbour Rodeo Realty, Brentwood

www. ElyseArbour.com 310-873-4188

Elyse Arbour has been successfully representing buyers and sellers of residential real estate on the Westside since 1997. She specializes in Brentwood, Santa Monica, Westwood, West LA, Pacific Palisades, and the surrounding communities. Elyse is extremely professional, hardworking and ethical. She is personable, enthusiastic and very committed to providing outstanding service, attention to detail and unparalleled personal attention to make the process of buying or selling a home an event that exceeds your expectations. Elyse is a consistent Top Producer and has been awarded the Founder's Circle and the President's Elite designations. She has achieved the honor of being in the nation's top 1% of agents internationally. She looks forward to assisting you with all of your real estate needs.

Whole Foods Market Brentwood is proud to be your local, Certified Organic grocer.

Many grocers talk about **local**, but at Whole Foods Market, they actually define it – a product can be called local only if it is grown, raised or produced within a 7 hour drive from their stores. By buying local, you are supporting the community and you are reducing your food miles (the distance your food travels from farm to table.) Local food helps you to eat seasonally and at the peak of freshness.

Many grocers talk about **organic**. Whole Foods Market is proud to be a Certified Organic grocer which requires annual recertification. This means their produce is held to the highest standards and the strictest regulations.

Many grocers talk about **value**. Whole Foods Market believes that value means providing the best ingredients to you and your family with the highest standards of quality, expertise and customer service.

Many grocers talk about **quality**. Whole Foods' quality standards are the highest in the industry. Their third party ratings on their Fair Trade, Non-GMO, Meat and Seafood products mean you can shop with complete confidence.

Stop by soon!

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP
SBRA operates solely through the efforts of our volunteers. Membership dues go toward expenses such as website, printing, postage, P.O. Box, voicemail, meeting expenses, etc.

Annual dues:
Individual or Single Family Home: \$35 (\$20 for Seniors over 65)
Condos or Apartments: 15 units or less: \$50; 16 units or more: \$75
Sponsor: \$50-99; **Benefactor:** \$100+

To join or renew your membership, send your check (made payable to SBRA) to:
SBRA
149 So. Barrington Ave. #194,
Los Angeles, CA 90049-3310.

If you wish to receive e-mail notices of meetings and important announcements, please include your e-mail address... and please *print clearly!*
You can now pay through Pay Pal!
Go to <http://southbrentwood.org/membership/>