

SOUTH BRENTWOOD NEWS

February 2010

Newsletter of the South Brentwood Residents Association* (SBRA)

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www.southbrentwood.org

*Formerly South Brentwood Homeowners Association (SBHA)

ASSEMBLYMAN MIKE FEUER, SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSY,
COUNCILMEMBER BILL ROSENDAHL AND SR. LEAD OFFICER ENBODY TO SPEAK
AT SBRA ANNUAL MEETING ON FEBRUARY 25, 2010.

The South Brentwood Residents Association (SBRA) Annual Meeting will take place Thursday, February 25, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Tenth Church of Christ, Scientist 1133 So. Bundy.

Featured speakers include State Assembly Member Mike Feuer, County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Councilmember Bill Rosendahl, and Sr. Lead Officer Phillip Enbody.

The agenda will also include the election of SBRA Officers and Board of Directors and a vote on revised Bylaws. Everyone is invited to attend!

President's Message:

2009 was a busy, productive year for SBRA!

We changed our name from SBHA to SBRA to reflect our representation of both homeowners and renters; we clarified our goal of including all multifamily residents in Brentwood in our organization; and we created new payment options for condos and apartments.

We have a new email address: info@southbrentwood.com.

We provided the following programs to our community:

- **“Planning for the Future of Wilshire Blvd” A presentation by Michelle Sorkin and Susan Robinson, Los Angeles City Planning Department.**
- SBRA organized a **Walk on Wilshire** prior to this meeting to evaluate what exists there now and make suggestions to the Planning Dept as to what we want to see for the boulevard in the future.
- **Jodi Litvack, Project Manager, Westside Long Range Subway Extension presented “Future of Mass Transit Status Update.”**
- **Public Safety Meeting** Included four fantastic speakers:
 - Senior Lead Officer Phillip Enbody encouraged us to have Block Captains. At a minimum, be sure you have contact information for people who live next to you, across and behind you in case of emergency.
 - Dennis Hinman, Retired Senior Lead Officer, member of BCC and SBRA, spoke about Alertcommunity.com which is a website for reporting unusual activity in your neighborhood.
 - Mike Stajura, PhD candidate at UCLA, gave an excellent Power Point Presentation about earthquake preparedness.
 - Officer Gregory Randal, the only wildlife officer in the entire city of Los Angeles, spoke about the problem of coyotes in urban areas.

In October, Jackie Raymond, Barbara Goldenberg and I met with LAUSD School board member Steve Zimmer to discuss allowing South Brentwood children to attend Brentwood Science Magnet school “by right” because they live in the neighborhood. See the report below.

My goal continues to be to increase our membership. Our board has had SBRA tables at Ralphs Market, the Brentwood Art Show and Farmers Market. We hope that we will have a great audience at our Annual Meeting to hear our fabulous speakers.

Finally, thank you to the Tenth Church of Christ, Scientist for offering us their beautiful auditorium for our community meetings.

Marylin

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.
Public safety and quality of life issues are major concerns.

MEET OUR SBRA SLATE of OFFICERS FOR 2010!

PRESIDENT: MARYLIN KRELL

Beginning her second year as President of SBRA, Marylin is also Vice Chair of the San Vicente Scenic Corridor Design Review Board, of which she has been a member for the past eight years. She serves as SBRA alternate to the Brentwood Community Council (BCC) and is a member of the BCC Land Use Committee. Marylin also sings with a group called Lifted Voices which performs standards from the Great American Songbook to senior residences on the Westside.

PAST PRESIDENT: JACKIE RAYMOND

Jackie became president of South Brentwood Homeowners Association in 1994 and remained so for 8 hard working, very enjoyable years. As president, she was spokesperson to the media during the O.J. Issue and was guest reporter for the Brentwood News, later becoming editor. She also worked with and joined other 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, Brentwood.90049, and board of the Brentwood-Westwood Symphony.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT: PAM TAYLOR

Pam is a member of the SBRA Audit Committee and represents SBRA at Veterans Affairs meetings. Pam is on the advisory board for the Center for Humane and Ethical Treatment, an organization dedicated to educating the community on end-of-life decision making. Pam also volunteers for the Los Angeles Conservancy, dedicated to architectural preservation.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT: ELYSE

ARBOUR Elyse has been a member of the SBRA Board of Directors for the past 10 years. She is Membership Committee Chair, responsible for attracting new members into SBRA's organization. She is past Alternate for the Brentwood Community Council representing South Brentwood and past Board member of Brentwood Green. Elyse, a member of West LA's Chamber of Commerce, is a successful real estate agent with Coldwell Banker.

SECRETARY: ANDREA EPSTEIN

Andrea served as the primary contact for residents, businesses and community organizations in Brentwood to Councilman Bill Rosendahl for two and a half years and became familiar with the needs and concerns of the community. Andrea currently works for the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks. She now sits on the BCC as the Member At Large and has been a member of the SBRA Board of Directors for the past two years.

TREASURER: ROZ GAMBLE Roz currently serves as the BCC Multi Family Residential Representative and was recently elected as BCC Secretary. She works for an education financing company in Westwood where she is the VP of Corporate Operations. A Brentwood resident for 22 years, Roz has served on the board of her condominium association for many years and has been its president since 2004.

BOARD of DIRECTORS FOR 2010:

The membership will vote on the proposed 2010 Officers and Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting:

Elyse Arbour, Lauren Cole, Nita Cosat, Andrea Epstein, Roz Gamble, Dennis Hinman, Marylin Krell, Jerry Lubin, Jackie Raymond, Pam Taylor, & Margery Zweizig Atkinson.

ADVISORY BOARD:

Lynne Babbitt, Laurel Davidson, Casey Forgy, Joan Hackett, Vera Hackett, Nancy Jaffe, Ray Keller, Marie Lewis, and Andy Raymond.

SBRA COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Land Use - Jackie Raymond; Public Safety- Dennis Hinman; Environmental Issues - Margery Zweizig Atkinson; Traffic - Lauren Cole; Bylaws - Pam Taylor; Membership - Elyse Arbour.

SBRA SUPPORT:

Data Base Manager – Ric Levis-Fitzgerald
Webmaster - Ron Grant
Legal Counsel: Gordon Treharne

SBRA'S REPRESENTATION ON BCC

Jackie Raymond serves as the SBRA Representative on the Brentwood Community Council. Marylin Krell is the Alternate. The BCC meets regularly on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room of the Brentwood Kaufman Library. All are welcome.

REVISED BY-LAWS – Members are asked to review the revised By-laws recommended by the Board, posted on www.southbrentwood.org. A vote will be taken at the Annual Meeting.

THANK YOU!

A special thank you to immediate past president Bette Harris who is resigning from SBRA after serving seven years as president and the last year as my invaluable mentor and support. Bette has other hills to climb and we all wish her well. She will be missed!

PUBLIC SAFETY

Burglary/Theft from Motor Vehicles – Still the most prevalent crime in our community. Lock your car doors, and do not leave anything in view that might tempt a passer-by.

If you see anything that you feel is suspicious, but not an emergency, go to www.alertcommunity.com. It allows citizens to document suspicious activity quickly, easily, and anonymously. This web site contributes to the safety of our community and to the prevention of crime. The database is accessed only by the LAPD.

BUNDY VILLAGE

By Sara Melzer and Lauren Cole

Brentwood may get a new neighbor. A massive one. “Bundy Village and Medical Park” is a new mega-project proposed for an 11.5 acre site at the northwest corner of Bundy and Olympic, surrounding the Martin Cadillac dealer. As proposed, the project would be over 1 million square feet of space in 6 buildings that are between 6 and 12 stories high. This space would be used for medical offices, retail shops, restaurants, 3,395 parking spaces, 385 condominiums, and a Whole Foods type market. And it would generate a staggering 21,000 ADDITIONAL CAR TRIPS PER DAY through this already gridlocked intersection.

Many homeowners groups in Brentwood and the surrounding areas have already voted to oppose this project at its current size, including the BHA, Brentwood Community Council, South Brentwood Resident’s Association, and Brentwood Glen, as have groups in West LA, Santa Monica, Pacific Palisades, Westwood, and Mar Vista. Hundreds of residents have sent in emails to the LA Department of City Planning and Councilman Rosendahl asking them to downsize this huge project to a size at which traffic can be mitigated.

How does this project benefit the community? The developer claims that we have a shortage of medical facilities in our area and also point to the developer’s pledge to build 62 “moderate income” senior units and 146 “market rate” senior units --- combined these are less than 3 percent of the total square footage of Bundy Village.

The developer’s own traffic study has determined that 22 intersections in Los Angeles and 9 more in Santa Monica will be so significantly impacted if the project is built that they cannot possibly be fixed. Never in the history of Los Angeles has a project been approved that would permanently leave 22 separate intersections “significantly impacted” and not able to be fixed. But with the current City budget crisis this project could be approved. The developer has proposed adding some left and right turn lanes in West LA, and widening ramps to the I-10 freeway at Bundy, but acknowledges that these efforts won’t resolve all the severe traffic issues.

In addition to impacting the quality of life for Westside residents, this project would make our area less safe since the response time of police, firefighters and paramedics will be significantly reduced. The huge increase in traffic and the number of idling cars will significantly affect air quality throughout the area.

On Feb. 10, several residents of Brentwood and surrounding communities met with Councilman Rosendahl to express their opposition to this project in its current form. Compelled by their arguments, the councilman then softened his support. On Feb. 11, the Los Angeles Planning Commission met to hear the developer’s request to re-zone the area to permit his project to go forward. In a surprise decision, the Planning Commission put the brakes on the project by unanimously voting for a 30 day continuance to allow more time for further analysis and proposed solutions.

While the Brentwood residents have achieved a small victory, there is still much work to do. It is still important to send letters to Councilman Rosendahl (213) 473-7011 and to Mayor Villaraigosa (213) 978-0600 to let them know that this project is too big and needs to dramatically reduce its overall impacts.

Please go to www.stopbundyvillage.com for further information.

SOUTH BRENTWOOD CHILDREN CAN NOW ATTEND BRENTWOOD SCIENCE MAGNET SCHOOL!

Jackie Raymond, Marylin Krell and Barbara Goldenberg met with LAUSD School board member Steve Zimmer In October 2009, to discuss allowing South Brentwood children to attend Brentwood Science Magnet school “by right” because they live in the neighborhood.

The following is a result of our meeting:

From Steve Zimmer:

As we discussed, there will be short term and long term ideas to address the issue. Informally, plans are in motion to make changes to the LAUSD website so that neighborhood families will see the BSM School when they type in their address. The preliminary plan is: all local children go into kindergarten by right. They then have priority to get into a first grade class at BSMS. If an older child wants to enroll, they may do so if a seat is available. (A current student cannot be displaced) Further plans are being discussed.

WHAT DOES SBRA DO?

SBRA serves as an advocate for the interests of South Brentwood regarding public safety and quality of life issues. In addition to working through the BCC, SBRA leaders attend and testify at hearings, write letters supporting our community’s position, and maintain close contact with elected officials to ensure that our voice is heard and our needs are met.

SBRA MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC

On the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend, May 30, 2010 at 12:00 noon, you are invited to join the SBRA board of directors for our first annual Memorial Day Picnic!

Bring your picnic lunch and blankets and meet us on the grassy field on the playground at Brentwood Green at Brentwood Science Magnet School, our school/community park.

We are extending an invitation to all who wish to join us. Please let us know if you will be attending, so that the YMCA will know how many people they will need to help us that day by calling 310/281-8566.

ANNUAL BRENTWOOD SCIENCE COMMUNITY FAIR

The annual Brentwood Science Community Fair is scheduled for Sunday, June 6, 2010 from 11 am – 4 pm. at Brentwood Science Magnet Elementary School, located at 740 Gretna Green Way. There will be food, games, exhibits, stage show, silent auction and more! Our amazing volunteer team of parents, teachers, alumni and community supporters work hand-in-hand to create a day treasured by all. The Fair is open to the public!

If you would like to be involved in planning or supporting this exciting event, please email FriendsofBSME@gmail.com or leave a message at BSM Elementary at (310) 826-5631. All volunteers and supporters are welcome.

The Fair is made possible by the collaboration of Parents, BSME School Administration and Teachers, Brentwood Green, Compensatory Education Advisory Committee (CEAC), English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC), Friends of BSME, School Site Council, School Leadership Council, BSME Alumni Group, STAR Enrichment, YMCA and various businesses, merchants and other supporters. All net proceeds benefit BSM Elementary.

34th ANNUAL BRENTWOOD RUN

The 34th annual Brentwood Run will be held on Sunday, May 30th, 2010. Proceeds of this community event will go to support the Westside Family YMCA and the LAPD Westside Police explorers. The run will start at Darlington Ave., with runners and walkers traveling west to Avondale Ave. and then returning to the finish line at Darlington Ave. We will be closing San Vicente Blvd. between these streets from 7 am to 11 am to allow safe passage for the runners and walkers. Residents and Businesses on both the north and south side of San Vicente will have access through 26th street on the west and Bringham Ave. on the east. Parking for the run will be at the VA. Participants will receive a run t-shirt and entry into our fitness expo. We hope the entire community will be involved as walkers, runners or just to cheer us on. For more info contact Walt Walston, Race Director at 310-828-4123 or email at w2promo@aol.com.

BRENTWOOD GREEN - DID YOU KNOW?

After school hours, the Brentwood Science Magnet School campus becomes a park open to the public! Enjoy the recreational equipment, handball wall, basketball hoops, and jogging track after school and on weekends. Please note, no pets, bicycles, roller skates, or scooters allowed.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:

Emergency: 911
Non-Emergency LAPD Dispatch: 877-275-5273 (877-ASK-LAPD)
Sr. Lead Officer Enbody: 310-444-0744
LAPD Community Relations: 310-444-0732
City Information (One Call to City Services): 311
County Information: 211
www.alertcommunity.com

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

SBRA operates solely through the efforts of generous volunteers. Membership dues go toward expenses such as printing, postage, private mail box, voicemail service, 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+

For information, contact us at:

310/281-8566 or info@southbrentwood.com

Or go to: www.southbrentwood.org

To join or renew, please complete the form below and send with your check (made payable to SBRA) to: SBRA, 149 So. Barrington Ave., Box 194, Los Angeles, CA 90049. If you wish to receive e-mail notices of meetings and important announcements, please include your e-mail address below.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

E-Mail (Please print clearly): _____

I'll help with:

Newsletter _____

Public Safety _____

Membership _____

Website _____

I will be the Contact for my Multi-Family Bldg. _____