

SOUTH BRENTWOOD NEWS

March 2011

Newsletter of the South Brentwood Residents Association* (SBRA)

149 South Barrington Ave. Box 194, Los Angeles, CA 90049

310/281-8566

www.southbrentwood.org

info@southbrentwood.com

*Formerly South Brentwood Homeowners Association (SBHA)

SBRA ANNUAL MEETING March 24, 2011 at 7:00 P.M.

ASSEMBLYMEMBER MIKE FEUER, COUNCILMEMBER BILL ROSENDAHL

AND SR. LEAD OFFICER ENBODY TO SPEAK

The **South Brentwood Residents Association (SBRA)** Annual Meeting will be held **Thursday, March 24, 2011, at 7:00 p.m.** in the Auditorium of the Tenth Church of Christ, Scientist, 1133 So. Bundy. Featured speakers include State Assemblymember Mike Feuer, City Councilmember Bill Rosendahl, and Sr. Lead Officer Phillip Enbody. The agenda will also include the election of SBRA Officers and Board of Directors. Everyone is invited to attend!

President's Message:

Last year was another productive year for SBRA. Lauren Cole, our Traffic & Transportation chair, continues her diligence in reviewing major proposed projects such as Bundy Village, the Wilshire bus lanes and the subway project. With invaluable input from Lauren, SBRA has taken positions regarding these important projects which affect our community.

Of all our accomplishments last year, I am most proud of our newly launched website at www.southbrentwood.org. You will learn much about South Brentwood including info about our board members, past documents such as agendas and minutes from previous meetings, a photo gallery (please send us your photos of South Brentwood events that we can add!) as well as info about our schools, real estate, Brentwood Green, and Farmers Market. We have a wonderful History section which features a video by Ron Grant, a past South Brentwood director who talks about the beginnings of our organization. If you want to receive emails about important issues in South Brentwood, please visit our website and go to: Contact Us.

Many thanks to the website committee and web designer Julian Forniss who worked with us to create our wonderful new site! Thanks also to Ron Grant for his many years of managing and supporting our website.

We continue to have the same goal every year: we wish to reach out to the many condo and apartment residents in South Brentwood and throughout all of Brentwood (no other Homeowners organization in Brentwood welcomes multifamily residents into their organization!) But how do we reach them? We have created a new fee structure which allows condos or apartments to join for one low fee and e-mails can be sent to one person who will forward to the residents...or we can add the e-mails to our master list. If you have any good ideas about how to reach multifamily residents, please contact us!

I hear from so many residents whom I have never met! Please introduce yourself to me at our Annual Meeting March 24th!

Marylin Krell
President, SBRA

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 2011! The membership will vote on the proposed 2011 Officers and Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting:

PRESIDENT: MARYLIN KRELL

Beginning her third 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 nine 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 at 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.

1st VICE PRESIDENT: PAM TAYLOR

Returning for another year as SBRA First Vice President, Pam chairs the SBRA Audit, Bylaws and Veterans Affairs Committees. 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.

2nd VICE PRESIDENT: ELYSE ARBOUR

Elyse has held the position of Second Vice President for one year, chairs the Hospitality Committee, and has been a member of the SBRA Board of Directors for the past 11 years. Additionally, Elyse previously served as SBRA alternate to the Brentwood Community Council. A member of West LA’s Chamber of Commerce, Elyse is a successful real estate agent with Coldwell Banker.

SEC/TREASURER: ROZ GAMBLE Roz currently serves as SBRA Treasurer and Acting Secretary and is SBRA Multifamily Chair. She also serves as the BCC Multi Family Residential Representative and Secretary. Roz works for an education financing company in Westwood where she is the VP of Corporate Operations. A Brentwood resident for 23 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 2011:

Elyse Arbour, Len Blum, Lauren Cole, Nita Cosat, Roz Gamble, Sue Hirsch, Marylin Krell, , Jackie Raymond, Debbie Simmons & Pam Taylor.

ADVISORY BOARD:

Lynne Babbitt, Laurel Davidson, Nancy Jaffe, Ray Keller, Jerry Lubin, Sara Melzer, Isaac Mizraki & Margery Zweizig Atkinson

SBRA COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Land Use: Jackie Raymond; Environmental Issues: Margery Zweizig Atkinson; Traffic: Lauren Cole; Bylaws, Audit, & Veterans Admin: Pam Taylor

SBRA SUPPORT:

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

SBRA’S REPRESENTATION ON BCC

Jackie Raymond is the SBRA Representative on the Brentwood Community Council; Marylin Krell is the Alternate. The BCC meets regularly on the first Tuesday of each month in the Community Room of the Brentwood Kaufman Library. The public is welcome!

DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS

By Pam Taylor

The Department of Veterans Affairs/Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System holds quarterly “stakeholder” meetings in which the community is invited to hear about construction updates and clinical programs at the VA. If you are interested in attending one of these meetings, please contact us through the SBRA web site.

The most recent meeting was held on January 20, which coincided with the release of the Veterans Programs Enhancement Act-driven Draft Master Plan for the campus. The bulk of the meeting was spent going over the draft plan. (A complete copy of the 39-page document is available at: http://www.losangeles.va.gov/documents/WLA_VA_Draft_Master_Plan.pdf). It summarizes the work of previous planning studies to address future development of the land while supporting patient-centered care, research, and education. There are certain legislative restrictions to be considered as well, such as a prohibition against commercial development or disposal of the land. Finally, historic preservation and environmental concerns are added to the mix. The plan calls for the construction of an inpatient tower, a nursing home, a research facility, homeless therapeutic housing, and possibly a columbarium on the north side of the campus. The document also reaffirms the VA’s contract with the Veterans Park Conservancy, a nonprofit organization, for building a Veterans Memorial Park at Wilshire and San Vicente.

STATE VETERANS HOME IS SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

By Pam Taylor

The beautiful Veterans Home of California–West Los Angeles is hoping to recruit volunteers to be of service to the veterans residing in the new facility on the VA campus. Recreational activities, community outings, companionship, and other volunteer opportunities are available. CalVet’s mission is to promote and deliver the benefits provided by the grateful State of California to its deserving veterans and their families – with a vision for California’s veterans to live the highest quality of life with dignity and honor.

For information Contact Brittney Thomas, Coordinator of Volunteer Services at 424/832-8384.

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 TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

February, 2011 By Lauren Cole

SBRA has been tracking some important transportation projects impacting South Brentwood. Here is an update on some key projects:

BUNDY VILLAGE

This massive development proposed for the area near Bundy and Olympic is currently on hold. Your calls and emails to Councilmen Rosendahl and Koretz definitely made a difference. The developer is currently in bankruptcy, and potential lenders are aware of the strong community opposition to the project’s current size, which is much too big for the gridlocked area. The developer has stated that he is not giving up on Bundy Village, and says he plans to come up with a revised project plan. Despite repeated requests, he has consistently refused to meet with community members to discuss his revised plans. Stay tuned for further updates.

WILSHIRE BUS RAPID TRANSIT

This proposal to take out two lanes of traffic to establish dedicated bus lanes on Wilshire Blvd. during morning and evening peak hours is currently under review by the County and the City Council. Brentwood residents may recall that trial bus lanes were instituted in 2006 and the impact on traffic on streets like Sunset, San Vicente, Montana, and Wilshire was so severe that the trials had to be terminated early. While encouraging people to take mass transit is a worthy goal, to date Metro has not provided an analysis that compares the benefits for

current and potential bus riders to the potentially severe time delays for drivers, many of whom do not have the option to switch to the Wilshire bus. Councilman Rosendahl introduced a motion which was passed by the City Council directing Metro to study a contiguous bus lane that starts at La Cienega and ends at Park View near MacArthur Park, which is currently the easternmost point of the proposed route. The cities of Beverly Hills and Santa Monica are not participating in the bus lane project, and large sections of Westwood have been eliminated from the route. Given that the section from Centinela to the 405 would not even be connected to the rest of this fragmented project, it is likely that removing this section may not have any material impact on bus speeds for the overall project, or at least not enough to justify the extremely negative impact on traffic that may result. SBRA supports Councilman Rosendahl’s efforts to ask Metro to provide the data so that local residents and commuters can make an informed decision about whether or not bus lanes in our area make sense.

If you are concerned about this project, please contact Councilman Rosendahl’s office at councilman.rosendahl@lacity.org and let him know. As was the case in Bundy Village, your calls and emails make a difference.

WILSHIRE SUBWAY

A final environmental impact report (EIR) for the subway is being prepared and should be released by this summer. The EIR’s study area is from Western Avenue (currently the easternmost stop on the subway) to 4th Street in Santa Monica, and would include a stop at Bundy and Wilshire. Current funding for the project only covers as far as the VA Hospital, so getting further west including to Bundy will require additional funding in the future. Mayor Villaraigosa is lobbying Congress to get “30/10 funding”, which would reduce the current timeline of having a stop at the VA in 30 years to 10 years. SBRA supports the subway, and is voicing its opinion on issues such as requests that parking be provided near the stations so that subway users won’t have to drive around residential areas looking for parking. Whether or not the VA stop will have accessible parking is still under discussion, and clearly failing to provide parking will make it difficult for Brentwood residents to access the station, which is likely to be near the VA Hospital south of Wilshire. See “Westside Subway Extension” at www.metro.net for more information on the subway or to submit a comment.

BRENTWOOD GREEN - DID YOU KNOW?

After school hours and on school vacation days, 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.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Recently we had reports of solicitors going house to house asking for cash for children's books. We should have a way to contact our neighbors when we see or hear about something that is suspicious or a potential danger (such as coyotes)! If you are interested in starting a Neighborhood Watch program/become a block captain, please contact SBRA.

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.

GOODBYE TO OFFICER DENNIS HINMAN

By Bette Harris

Brentwood will soon bid farewell to long-time residents, Dennis and Peggy Hinman, who have purchased a home in Silverlake. The news was met with disappointment as the Hinmans are well known and genuinely loved in the community, having raised their family here in South Brentwood.

Dennis is a native of Los Angeles and graduated from Hollywood High School. He joined the Marine Corps in 1968, spent a year in Vietnam, and attended San Diego State University, graduating with a degree in Recreation Administration. After a stint as Director of the Boys Club of Escondido, Dennis signed on "to protect and serve" with the Los Angeles Police Department in 1975-- a career that eventually spanned thirty-one years.

In the early morning hours of January, 1992, Dennis and his partner responded to a robbery in progress at a Northridge restaurant. Two armed robbers took a hostage during the confrontation. Dennis was shot on his hip, and the bullet went into the police radio in his back pocket. Bleeding and in severe pain, he kept his cool and shouted to the nonexistent backup, "Stay back! I'll talk to them!") The hostage was released and the gunmen surrendered. Dennis's signature traits -- quick thinking and fast talking served him well. For his heroism, Dennis was awarded the Medal of Valor, LAPD's highest honor.

Later, Dennis spent eight years as Brentwood's Senior Lead Officer. In that role, he became well acquainted with just about everyone -- from Brentwood's movers and shakers to the homeless encamped in alleys. He was very effective. Folks were drawn to him because of his likeable manner and quick wit.

After he retired in 2006, Dennis assumed a variety of leadership positions in the community including President of the Rotary Club, Representative on the Brentwood Community Council, a Director of the

South Brentwood Residents Association, and a member of the Knights of Columbus at St. Martin of Tours Parish. Dennis enjoys taking long walks through South Brentwood, keeping an eye on things while schmoozing with neighbors. We will all miss his cheerful greeting.

The Hinmans promise to return to Brentwood for church functions and special events. We're counting on it!

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 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+

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, and *print clearly*.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

E-Mail (Please print clearly): _____

I'll help with:

Land Use _____ Public Safety _____

Membership _____ Website _____

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