SOUTH BRENTWOOD NEWS March 2012

 Newsletter of the South Brentwood Residents Association (SBRA)

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| **SBRA ANNUAL MEETING March 22, 2012 at 7:00 P.M.****6:00 P.M. Refreshments and Displays**ASSEMBLYMEMBER MIKE FEUER, COUNTY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKYAND SR. LEAD OFFICER PHILLIP ENBODY TO SPEAKThe **South Brentwood Residents Association (SBRA)** Annual Meeting will be held **Thurs. March 22,2012**in the Auditorium of the Tenth Church of Christ, Scientist, 1133 So. Bundy. **At 6:00 P. M. we will have refreshments and displays including:** Green Hollow Square, Bergamot Transit Village Center, 405 Construction Project, Calif. Veterans Home, The Giving Spirit, Coral Tree totes & T-shirts, SOS Survival Products, CERT Training info, BookEnds Book Drive, & San Vicente Parking Study Update.**At 7:00 P. M**. County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky will speak, followed by State Assemblymember Mike Feuer and Sr. Lead Officer Phillip Enbody. We will also be thanking the LAFD Battalion Chief and firefighters who so brilliantly fought the November 2011 Gorham fire and the generous residents and businesses who offered their time, money and/or services to help the families who lost their homes in the fire. A door prize of a Two Person Emergency Kit will be raffled at the end of the meeting. *Everyone is invited to attend!* |

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**President’s Message:**

This year has been a terrifying yet reassuring one for many of our residents. With the November 10, 2011 Gorham fire, we learned that we can all be victims. We also learned that we can all be participants in and witnesses to the goodness and generosity of our community. At our March 22nd Annual Meeting, we will thank LAFD Battalion Chief Jim Gaffney and our Station 19 firefighters who were the first responders to the fire. According to Chief Gaffney, they saved us from what might have been the loss of an entire block! Instead, as one of the fire residents said, “l couldn't believe that my apartment didn't burn to a crisp. The firefighters performed a miracle!"

The amazing outpouring of offers of support from our community was so heartwarming! Fire donations included hotels (Angeleno, Best Western Plus Royal Palace Inn and Suites, Brentwood Inn and the Luxe Hotel) offering free or greatly reduced housing and mattresses at hotel cost; reductions on furniture (Ashley’s Furniture); discounts at Bed Bath & Beyond; discounted dry cleaning from Fazio’s; gift cards for the children; maternity clothes; baby items; Thanksgiving dinner and generous cash gifts totaling over $3200.

You offered to help the families with their move, you offered your homes…you reached out to these families in their time of need…and they will forever be grateful!

Did you know that our organization represents over 7000 households?! That includes single family homes, apartments and condos…and does not include every *person*…just every *household!* We will send postcards announcing our Annual Meeting to many more residents than we ever have in the past … and we hope that many who receive the card will attend our meeting and become members of SBRA.

We look forward to seeing you at our Annual Meeting March 22nd!

Marylin Krell

President, SBRA

Did you know? 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!

# MEET OUR SBRA SLATE Of OFFICERS FOR 2012! The membership will vote on the proposed 2012 Officers and Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting:

**PRESIDENT: MARYLIN KRELL**

Beginning her fourth 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 ten years. She serves as SBRA Representative 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 including 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 for many years 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, Brentwood.90049, and the Brentwood-Westwood Symphony.

**1st VICE PRESIDENT:** **PAM TAYLOR** Returning for another year as SBRA First Vice President, Pam chairs the SBRA Audit, Bylaws, Metro, and Veterans Affairs Committees. Pam sits on the LA Metro Community Advisory Committee, which is our link to updates on the Sepulveda Pass transit project. She 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 two years, chairs the Annual General Meeting and the Hospitality Committees, and has been a member of the SBRA Board of Directors for the past 12 years. She previously served as SBRA alternate to the Brentwood Community Council. Elyse is a very successful real estate agent with Coldwell Banker in Brentwood and is a member of West LA’s Chamber of Commerce.

**SECRETARY: DEBBIE SIMMONS**

Debbie currently serves as Clerk at the Christian Science Church in Brentwood (where SBRA meetings have recently been held). A Brentwood resident since 1997, Debbie has served on the board of her condominium association for several years and is currently its President. In 2010 Debbie completed the Los Angeles Marathon and loved that the route went along San Vicente Blvd. She has completed several half marathons as well.

**TREASURER:** **ROZ GAMBLE**

In 2011 Roz served as SBRA Treasurer,  Secretary and Multifamily Chair as well as the BCC Multi Family Residential Representative and Secretary.  Roz works for a consumer financing company in Westwood where she is the VP of Corporate Operations.  A Brentwood resident for 24 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 2012:**

Elyse Arbour, Len Blum, Lauren Cole, Nita Cosat, Roz Gamble, Susan Hirsch, Ray Keller, Marylin Krell, Jackie Raymond, Debbie Simmons, Pam Taylor & Jason Zivich.

**ADVISORY BOARD:**

Laurel Davidson, Sara Melzer, Mark Sleeper & Margery Zweizig Atkinson

**SBRA SUPPORT:**

Data Base Manager: Ric Levis-Fitzgerald

Legal Counsel: Gordon Treharne

**BRING CHILDREN’S BOOKS TO SBRA’S ANNUAL MEETING**

 During the month of May, the Brentwood community will be working together to redistribute our home libraries of children’s books directly into the hands of students in Los Angeles schools.

 Led by BookEnds, a Los Angeles nonprofit organization, Brentwood schools, youth organizations, homeowners associations, retailers and civic groups will be organizing book drives and drop off centers to encourage our community to give new life to their home libraries of children’s books. **Please help out by bringing your gently used and new children’s books to our March 22 Annual Meeting!** Then come join other Brentwood families on May 20th at TJ's gas station at Montana and San Vicente to help sort, box and distribute the books.

 Annually 20,000 children throughout Los Angeles volunteer for BookEnds to organize book drives in their schools to recycle their children’s books directly into the hands of students in schools and youth organizations. BookEnds is built upon the belief that all kids need books to learn to read and all kids need to have the opportunity to learn to help.

 More than 2.3 million books have been donated through BookEnds to help build a more literate community. But many children living in Los Angeles still lack sufficient books in their schools to develop their reading skills. California ranks 49th in the nation in books per student in its elementary schools libraries and last in public library access. But according to BookEnds president Robin Keefe, “we can change that. Just as we have learned to recycle our bottles and cans, so we can learn to recycle our books.”

 If you would like more information or would like to join their planning team, please contact Robin Keefe at rkeefe@bookends.org or visit [www.bookends.org](http://www.bookends.org).

**SAN VICENTE BLVD PARKING STUDY**

At our Annual Meeting, Mott Smith, of Civic Enterprise Development, will present an update on the parking study he has recently completed at the request of City Councilman Bill Rosendahl.

 Potential Recommendation #1:

Lengthen some meter times on San Vicente – important for those dining and shopping. Process is by a petition block by block through the Department of Transportation (DOT).

 Potential Recommendation #2:

Work with owners of parking resources to make them available for employee parking at a reduced rate.

**VETERANS AFFAIRS HOMELESS PROGRAM** By Pam Taylor

 Did you know…that the VA’s Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (GLA) is one of the largest integrated healthcare organizations in our nation’s VA system, with 945 operating and authorized beds, over 4,400 employees, and an annual operating budget of $750 million?

 GLA’s **Community Care Program**, which is dedicated to the support of Veterans who are homeless, is the largest in the nation. There are approximately 8,600 Veterans who are homeless in GLA’s service area on any given night. In fiscal year 2011, GLA dedicated over $38 million in resources for staffing, equipment, and contracts to provide transitional housing. GLA has nearly 300 dedicated Community Care Program staff, including social workers, nurses, psychologists, medical doctors, addiction therapists, and vocational rehab specialists.

 GLA’s *Women’s Outreach* team members interact with women Veterans living on the streets every day, and work to bring them into housing and GLA Women’s Health programs

 GLA’s *Jail Outreach* team members interface with Veterans while they are incarcerated. They build rapport and work to coordinate the transition into appropriate housing upon release.

 GLA is committed to end homelessness among Veterans by 2015.

**405 UPDATE** by Pam Taylor

 Work on the much-anticipated [“flyover” ramps](http://zev.lacounty.gov/405-report/a-really-long-goodbye-to-wilshire-ramps) at Wilshire Boulevard, originally scheduled to start last year and then postponed until March, has been delayed until May. The existing ramps will be demolished and new ones will be constructed to add capacity and improve traffic flow and safety

 **The eight ramps to and from Wilshire and the 405 will be closed in pairs for periods of time ranging from 14-90 days**depending on location and complexity of work. You can find a full description of the ramps and duration of closures at  [www.metro.net/405](http://www.metro.net/405). All demolition will take place at night, from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. This will require closing Sepulveda between Wilshire and Montana, and westbound Wilshire from Veteran to Federal.

**TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT:**

 Metro, Caltrans, LADOT and LAPD/LAFD are coordinating a traffic management plan for the ramp-closure phase of the 405 project. There will be changeable message and static signage within a two-mile perimeter of the project work areas, and for the first two weeks of the ramps closures, there will be traffic control officers at major intersections and at detour routes within a one-mile perimeter.

**BERGAMOT TRANSIT VILLAGE CENTER (PAPERMATE SITE)** by Lauren Cole

 The City of Santa Monica is currently reviewing the DEIR (Draft Environmental Impact Report) for a proposed development at Olympic Blvd. and 26th Street, just east of the Water Garden and across the street from Bergamot Station. The proposed project would add another 500,000 square feet of office space to this already congested area, as well as approximately 270,000 square feet of residential and retail space.

 This is only one of 6 projects already in the works for that area. The six projects combined would add a total of nearly 1.2 million square feet of additional office space in that area, and *over 13,600 new car trips per day* into the area. And the DEIR doesn’t even take into account future development on the Los Angeles side, on vacant sites at Bundy and Olympic and at Barrington and Wilshire.

 *SBRA opposes certification of the DEIR until the cities of Santa Monica and Los Angeles prepare a regional plan that takes into account all of the current and future projects proposed for this area.* Clearly our current infrastructure cannot support so much additional office space development given that we are already gridlocked during the morning and afternoon rush hours. The City of Santa Monica should not approve its projects piecemeal--- a full regional plan is needed, and if all projects cannot be accommodated, they should be downsized to a level that can be supported.

 If you would like to send in your own comments on the DEIR for Bergamot Transit Village, please submit them to the SM Planning Department (Jing.yeo@smgov.net), the Santa Monica City Council (council@smgov.net), and to Santa Monica Mayor Richard Bloom (Richard.bloom@smgov.net). Comments are due by March 12, 2012.

 **Note:** *A representative for the project will be at our Annual Meeting March 22nd between 6:00-7:00 with information about the project FYI.*

**WEBSITE UPDATE** by Susan Hirsch

 Visit our new and improved website where you will find valuable information and resources of interest to you as a South Brentwood resident.

 And…we now have a *Blog*! Simply click on *Blog* at the top of the page, then select an article. If you wish to post something, go to *leave a reply* at the end of each article and your post will be forwarded to our webmaster.

**LA CITY SIGN ORDINANCE** by Sara Melzer

 A city-wide sign ordinance is now in its third major draft in the past couple of years. Its goal is to restrict where commercial signs or billboards can be placed in the city and to limit the kinds of signs that can be placed. Many community members have protested that the ordinance could, in some instances, *increase* billboard blight rather than alleviate it.

 Dennis Hathaway, president of the Coalition to Ban Billboard Blight, says he hopes to educate the public about the threat posed by digital billboards and “supergraphic” signs that wrap around buildings and “to pressure the city to get serious about protecting its neighborhoods from this form of blight. Those who do not want garish, brilliantly-lighted commercial messages glaring in their faces everywhere they go must have a voice in city hall, to counter the voices of the industry lobbyists who have long had the ears of our city officials,” says Hathaway.

Some major issues of concern are as follows:

 1) Grandfathering: The latest draft of the ordinance continues to “grandfather” 16 applications for sign districts that haven’t been approved by the City Planning Commission, but that have been applied for. *SBRA opposes Grandfathering.*  2) Parks and Public Facilities:

The ordinance now explicitly prohibits off-site advertising in parks and public facilities. However, it allows for exceptions if a property is within a new or existing sign district.  Small and future parks would not be protected from advertising if they were established in sign districts. *SBRA wants to keep commercial advertising out of parks and public facilities, without any loopholes or exceptions.*

 3) Zoos and Gardens: There seems to be support for allowing parks that fall within sign districts to have off-site (i.e., commercial) signage. *SBRA wants only on-site, or business, signs in Comprehensive Sign programs.*

 It is not known when the next hearing will be. It could be scheduled as part of the regular Planningand Land Use Management Committee(PLUM) process on very short notice, so people concerned should look for PLUM agendas and/or follow Ban Billboard Blight's blog posts, which will announce the next hearing date. For further information, go to: <http://banbillboardblight.org/>

**BRENTWOOD GREEN ADDS BEAUTIFUL MURAL** by Jackie Raymond

Brentwood Green at Brentwood Science Magnet School is the new home of a mural of California Landscapes created in memory of Brentwood philanthropist Barbara Goldenberg. The mural is sponsored by Barbara’s estate and Brentwood Green. “Colorful California,” which shows the four climates of California, is being painted by talented muralist David Legaspi on the four walls of the center bungalow.

This is in addition to the wonderful playground at Brentwood Science Magnet School that is open to everyone when the students aren't in school.

 Brentwood Green has a grassy field, jogging track, recreational equipment, handball courts, and basketball hoops. There are 15 beautiful learning gardens for your strolling pleasure and these attractions are yours to enjoy after school, holidays and weekends.

 Brentwood Green is a 501 © (3) nonprofit and donations are tax deductible. Send checks to Brentwood Green, 149 South Barrington Ave. #194, L.A., CA 90049.

**REAL ESTATE UPDATE** by Elyse Arbour Recapping 2011 in South Brentwood there were 17 sales of single family homes. Seven homes sold with multiple offers! The average price for a single family home was $1,478,000; average days on market was 30; average price per square foot of living space was $675.

 In 2011 there were 158 condominiums sold with an average price of $735,000; average days on market was 85; average price per square foot of living space was $431.

 With the economy growing again and the pent up demand of buyers, an increase in the number of home sales this year seems likely and home prices should start to stabilize. It is a great time to be a buyer in South Brentwood as interest rates currently are at historic levels making affordability far better than it has been in years. It could take a few more years for the housing market to shift into normal, but hope remains that 2012 will be a better year for real estate.

# 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 go to: [www.southbrentwood.org](http://www.southbrentwood.org/)

To join or renew, send with 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 below, and please *print clearly*.