



# ARCADIA HIGHLANDS

## *Home Owners Association*

### IN THIS ISSUE

*FALL 2017*

- President's Message
- Association Accomplishments
- Architectural Review
- Treasurer's Report
- Annual Meeting and Voting
- Arcadia is Changing How We Vote
- Highland Crime Activity
- Neighborhood Watch
- Home Sales & Listings
- Gardening Reminders & Tips
- Picnic In Wilderness Park
- Parking Regulations in Arcadia
- Living with Bears & Coyotes
- Street Lights in Arcadia
- Repainting Curb Numbers
- City Council Meetings
- Serving You Better
- AAHOA New Website
- Garage Sale Regulations
- Things To Do in Arcadia

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*President*

**JEFF PORTER**

*Vice President*

**CHARLES GREENE**

*Treasurer*

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*Secretary*

**DAVID ARVIZU**

**TIM BURCH**

**LEE KUO**

**ROGER NEMRAVA**

**APRIL VERLATO**

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**SUZANNE LIGON**

*Chairperson*

*Architectural Review Board*

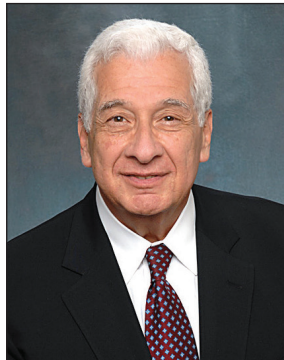
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**KNUT DALE**

*Editor*

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*by Robert G. Stover*



Welcome to our printed newsletter! This is the rebirth of a long line of communications with our members and a way to inform you of our activities. The Association is truly an affiliation of like-minded people interested in maintaining a level of quality in the neighborhood where we live, raise our children and, in some cases, retire.

You, the members, make up the Association and your input is vital to our mission. We welcome your attendance at our Board and annual meetings, your participation in our efforts to work with the City of Arcadia and community groups, and we welcome your talents and time to make us a better and more effective association. Thank you for your involvement and thank you for allowing us to work on your behalf to keep the Highlands the desirable place to live that it always has been.

My fellow Board members, officers and I have already begun planning for 2018. We expect to have another fantastic picnic in late spring and another comprehensive printed newsletter mailed to all residents in the fall. Furthermore, we hope also to continue to grow our paid membership.

Sincerely,

Robert G. Stover

### ASSOCIATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2017

We accomplished many noteworthy goals so far in 2017. As a result of the emails, flyers, and canvassing by volunteers, we have increased our paid membership substantially to become the largest paid membership HOA in the City.

We've also expanded communications with our paid members with distribution in June of a well-received email newsletter.

A new website has been developed with much useful information. Additional content is planned in the time ahead.

We've strengthened cooperation with the City of Arcadia and the City's other four home owners associations.

On July 9th we had a very well attended and successful picnic in Wilderness Park.

Working with the City, we've written a "Welcome Letter" for new arrivals that the City has distributed to realtors, brokers and escrow companies.

We refurbished the popular "Welcome to the Highlands" sign on Santa Anita Avenue near the intersection with Foothill Boulevard.

# ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW, ARB ACTIVITY

*By Suzanne Ligon*

As a reminder, our ARB mission is to preserve the quality and beauty of the neighborhood by requiring home design that is harmonious and compatible. All properties in the Arcadia Highlands, as specified by the City of Arcadia's Resolution 6770, are under the jurisdiction of our HOA.

Our ARB Board has experienced quite a lot of activity both last year and this year. There were many different types of projects, nearly all of them approved. Following is the activity by project for the first seven months of 2017 with the activity in 2016 for the same period in parentheses: new builds 1 (1), window replacements 8 (8), new roofs 6 (5), remodels or additions 6 (11), landscaping 5 (1), new driveways 2 (0), fencing 1 (4), and various others 4 (7).

## TREASURERS REPORT

*By Charles Greene*

Our bank operating account balance on January 1st was \$15,988.07. Dues income added \$4,820, but expenses reduced the operating balance to \$12,635 as of August 15th. The expenses were primarily \$3,150 for refurbishing our "Welcome to the Highlands" sign on Santa Anita Avenue, \$3,794 for our picnic in Wilderness Park on July 9th, and \$1,131 for printing and postage. We still have \$625 in our Emergency Fund Account making our total bank balance about \$13,260 on August 15th. 290 households in the Highlands have paid dues for this year.

## ANNUAL MEETING AND VOTING FOR BOARD MEMBERS

Our annual meeting will take place on Thursday, October 26th, beginning at 7 PM, at the Highland Oaks Elementary School on Virginia Road. The Notice attached to this newsletter has details on the meeting.

The election results for our 2018 Board of Directors will be announced at the meeting. Only dues paying members may vote. If you haven't yet paid your dues for 2017, and wish to vote, please bring your \$40 check, made payable to AHHOA, to the meeting and a ballot will be given to you. Completed ballots must be in the hands of the Ballot Committee by 6:45 PM on the evening of the annual meeting to be counted.

### Arcadia City Council and Department Heads

240 West Huntington Drive, Arcadia, CA 91066  
Phone: (626) 574-5400  
Website: [www.arcadiaCa.gov](http://www.arcadiaCa.gov)

#### **Mayor Peter Amundson**

email: [peter@keeparcadiagreat.com](mailto:peter@keeparcadiagreat.com)

#### **Mayor Pro Tem Sho Tay**

email: [ShoTayforArcadia@gmail.com](mailto:ShoTayforArcadia@gmail.com)

#### **Council Member Tom Beck**

email: [tbeck@ArcadiaCA.gov](mailto:tbeck@ArcadiaCA.gov)

#### **Council Member Roger Chandler**

email: [CityCouncil@ArcadiaCA.gov](mailto:CityCouncil@ArcadiaCA.gov)

#### **Council Member April Verlato**

email: [averlato@ArcadiaCA.gov](mailto:averlato@ArcadiaCA.gov)

City Manager **Dominic Lazzaretto**

Police Chief **Robert Guthrie**

Fire Chief **Michael Lang**

City Clerk **Gene Glasco**

## ARCADIA IS CHANGING THE WAY WE VOTE!

Arcadia is changing from city wide, at-large elections to district based voting in the 2018 election. The California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) of 2001 expanded the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, making it easier for minority groups in California to prove that their votes are being diluted in "at-large" elections, where candidates are elected to represent an entire city or county, as opposed to representing just a designated part of the city or county.

The CVRA requires cities with racially polarized voting to adopt district based elections instead of at-large elections, because it is believed that districts will make it easier for people from minority groups to run and get elected. The City of Arcadia received a letter alleging it had racially polarized voting and threatening to sue the City if districts were not drawn and adopted. Cities which have fought such allegations have lost and spent millions of dollars doing so.

In view of this the City Council voted 3 to 2 on July 21, 2017 to adopt an ordinance for district based elections within 90 days, a date dictated by law. The City has hired a demographer to propose district maps for Arcadia and at a recent City Council meeting with the demographer Council members and some members of the public shared their thoughts on this process. The maps and ordinance will be adopted in October 2017 and implemented in the next election for 2018.

# HIGHLANDS CRIME ACTIVITY



As you're likely aware, residential burglaries have been on the rise throughout our City and in the Highlands. For the first seven months of 2016 there were 12 residential burglaries in the Highlands and 157 throughout Arcadia. For the same period this year there were 26 residential burglaries in the Highlands and 228 in Arcadia. There were 6 auto burglaries in the Highlands in this same period last year and just 4 this year in the Highlands. Arcadia in total experienced 214 auto burglaries last year and 256 this year. There were also a small number of vandalism and mail theft cases, according to the Arcadia Police Department (APD).

Burglars seem to be active currently between 10 AM and 11 PM, targeting especially unlocked cars in the driveway and master bedrooms and master bedroom closets in your home, thinking that's where valuables are likely stored. APD advises home owners to have a monitored house alarm system and that it is used at all times, especially when not at home and at bed time. It's also a good idea to try to make your home look like someone is always there by leaving selected lights on and perhaps also a radio or TV. A "Beware of Dog" sign in the front yard and back yard can also help deter burglars, but a real dog in the backyard or home is much better. Another tip is to ask a family member or close neighbor to keep an eye on your home when you're away for several days or longer. Also, when you are away you can arrange with APD to have volunteer officers monitor your home periodically.

If you are interested in current APD activity and crimes in your neighborhood you can use this link, <https://www.arcadiaca.gov/government/city-departments/police-department/weekly-police-activity>

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Our HOA supports community involvement and crime prevention through the Neighborhood Watch program started in 2014. Our participation is especially important now, given the large increase in residential burglaries we have experienced in the Highlands this year. The program calls upon residents to step forward and assist neighbors and the Arcadia Police Department (APD) building safer, crime-free neighborhoods. Watch areas are coordinated by a block captain who is in regular contact with neighbors. We currently have 13 block captains and need many more volunteers to have complete coverage.

You are encouraged to report any suspicious activity to the **APD at (626) 574-5123**. The Police want to hear from you. If you're interested in volunteering to serve as a Neighborhood Watch block captain, contact **APD's Community Services Officer Mike Vercillo at (626) 821-2648**.

## HOME SALES & LISTINGS

From January 1st to August 1st this year there were 18 home sales, compared to 15 for the same period in 2016. Average sales price was \$1.68 million. For those homes not yet sold this year, the average price was \$4.05 million, but if one excludes one listed at \$22 million, the average reduces to slightly over \$3 million. Average square footage on those sold was 2,825. Average time on the market for those sold was 42 days. It's interesting to note that several of the listed, but not yet sold homes, were on the market for over 100 days.

## GARDENING REMINDERS & TIPS

Due to continuing water conservation requirements, the City has restrictions on watering our lawns and gardens.

**RESIDENTS CAN WATER THROUGH OCTOBER 31st**  
**Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday**

**WINTER (November-April)**  
**Tuesday & Saturday**

**Up to 10 minutes per station**  
**Before 9:00 AM and After 6:00 PM**

Many of our residents have oak trees. These majestic trees are relatively low maintenance and provide a lot of shade and beauty for our homes. Oaks prefer sun and well-drained soil and typically do not require watering during the summer. However, if the winter season is unusually dry, then a supplemental irrigation in the early spring can complement natural rainfall. Water deeply to one or two feet in the outer two-thirds of the root zone and be sure to keep the tree trunk dry. Placing rocks or organic mulch under the tree can conserve moisture and reduce the level of watering needed. Mature oaks do not require pruning except to remove dead, weakened, diseased, or dangerous branches.

If pruning is necessary, trees should be pruned in the dry season, preferably August and September. Drought tolerant plants are compatible to be planted around the oaks outside the root zone. Many California native plants, once established, may require little or no watering.



## PICNIC IN WILDERNESS PARK

The first annual AHHOA picnic in Wilderness Park on Sunday, July 9th, was a huge success. 186 people including many children attended. Everyone enjoyed the food, live music, games for children and a raffle. All five City Council members were there as our guests along with City Clerk Gene Glasco, and Lieutenant Tom Cullen from the Police Department. Additionally, long-time, now retired, Architectural Review Board chair Ralph Bicker joined us.

Your Board is already in the planning stage for next year's event. Look for more information in a future email message.



HOA President Robert Stover, Council Member April Verlato and Mayor Peter Amundson



City Clerk Gene Glasco, Council Member Sho Tay, Council Member April Verlato and Mayor Peter Amundson



**GOOD FOOD • GOOD COMPANY • GOOD MUSIC**



## PAID MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

Our paid membership has grown substantially this year due to the efforts of many of our volunteers and the growing appreciation of the benefits of being a paid member. These include especially the ability to vote for our Board of Directors, better opportunities to influence the community we live in, and receiving more important, timely information. As a reminder, to become a paid member you need to complete our attached Membership Registration (MR) form and provide a check for \$40 to cover the annual dues for calendar year 2018. **The completed form and check should be mailed to AHHOA, P.O. Box 660533, Arcadia, CA 91006.**

## PARKING REGULATIONS IN ARCADIA

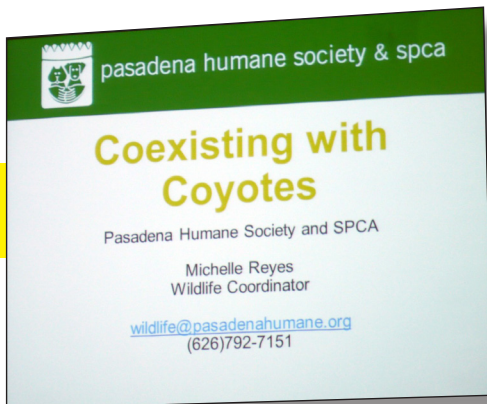
**The Arcadia Municipal Code prohibits parking on public streets between 2:30 AM and 5:30 AM, unless special circumstances arise.** If you have special circumstances and need an exception, such as for a car problem, you can apply for a special permit at the **Cashier's Office at City Hall (240 W. Huntington Drive).**

Storage of vehicles on the roadway is strictly forbidden. Any vehicle parking on the roadway in excess of 72 hours is subject to towing at owner's expense. A permit for parking on a public street for a full calendar year costs \$84, with the fee reduced by \$7 for each month less than that. Temporary permits cost \$5 for one night and ranges up to \$50 for ten nights.

You also risk receiving a citation if you park in a handicap parking spot without a permit, or if you park without permission in a lot intended for employees of a business as indicated by a sign at the entrance. Regulations are enforced by the Arcadia Police Department (APD).

If you have any questions about parking or car towing, you can get answers by contacting Kollin Cieadlo, Sergeant in the **APD Traffic Office at (626) 574-5475.**

## LIVING WITH BEARS AND COYOTES IN OUR COMMUNITY



Black bears and coyotes have lived in the mountains and foothills adjacent to Arcadia and neighboring towns for a very long time. We see them occasionally on our streets and sometimes even in our front yards because they are hungry and thirsty, especially in the summer and fall. Normally these animals, especially coyotes, don't pose a danger to adults, older children, and larger dogs. But they can pose a real danger to unattended small children, smaller dogs and all cats. However, a mother bear with small cubs can be dangerous if she has reason to fear for her cubs' safety.

Some safety tips: Do not leave cats and small dogs outside unattended. Do not leave small children outside unsupervised. Do not leave trash, pet food, water or food waste in accessible areas. Dispose of garbage in secure containers and wait to place your trash cans at the curb until the day of the pick-up, instead of the evening before. Though it's unlikely you will find yourself in this situation, if you are being threatened by a bear or coyote, **call 911 or the Arcadia Police Department at 574-5151.**



Left to Right: Robert Stover, HOA President, Mike Bruckner, Arcadia Assistant City Manager, Humane Society Representatives

## STREET LIGHTS IN ARCADIA



The City of Arcadia has a total of 3,952 street lights. About 64% of the lights are owned and maintained by Southern California Edison (SCE). The remaining 36% are owned and maintained by the City. They are labeled with a yellow metal holder securing a black number about five feet above the ground. Edison owned lights have a long metal tag with a number beginning in "E".

The City collects an annual assessment fee through the Arcadia Citywide Lighting District No. 1 for a portion of the cost to maintain street lights. This assessment does not include the cost of installation and construction of new street lights and or conversions of existing street lights to decorative lights or electrical system conversions.

If a light on your street is flickering or out, please check the label on the light to determine if it is a City or SCE light. To get a light fixed contact the **City's Public Works Service Department at (626) 254-2720 or SCE at (800) 611-1911**. If there is an area or street corner where you live that is unusually dark at night or without any illumination causing you concern, call Public Works to let them know.

## REPAINTING HOUSE NUMBERS ON CURBS

The City's Public Works Service Department has a rotation system for repainting house numbers on the curb as needed in different parts of the City every four years without charge to the home owner. We've been informed that Public Works did this work for us in the Highlands last year, but we've pointed out that, especially on Highland Oaks, there are many house numbers that badly need repainting. This will be reviewed and residents on other streets can contact the Public Works manager in charge, **David Thompson, at (626) 254-2709**, if their house number still badly needs repainting.

## CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE

City Council meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers located at 240 West Huntington Drive, unless otherwise noted. Residents are encouraged to attend these public meetings to find out what's happening in our community.



For the benefit of residents who cannot attend in person, City Council meetings are broadcast live to all residents who subscribe to local cable television service on the Arcadia Community Television Channel (AT&T channel 99, Spectrum digital channel 15-257) with daily replays at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m., and on-demand availability online. Commission meetings are not televised. You may also download the full Agenda Packet through the City web-site:

[www.arcadiaca.gov/how-do-i/view/city-council-meetings](http://www.arcadiaca.gov/how-do-i/view/city-council-meetings)

## HOW CAN WE SERVE OUR MEMBERS BETTER?

If you would like to provide the HOA with comments, suggestions, register a complaint, or even a compliment, please send us a message to AHHOA, **P.O. Box 660533, Arcadia, CA 91006** or by email to [arcadiahighlandshoainc@gmail.com](mailto:arcadiahighlandshoainc@gmail.com)

## INTRODUCING OUR NEW WEBSITE



**[www.arcadiahighlandshoa.org](http://www.arcadiahighlandshoa.org)**

Please take a look at our new website at **[arcadiahighlandshoa.org](http://www.arcadiahighlandshoa.org)**. We think you'll find its information to be useful. In addition to important contacts, we've included some safety tips, Neighborhood Watch information, and a photo gallery of our Association activities. As we publish newsletters we'll post them to the website. We think this is a good way to stay in touch with our members, providing you with important and timely information. We'll be adding more content soon.

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

### **ARCADIA CITY HALL**

626-574-5400

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

626-574-5150

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

626-574-5133

### **METHODIST HOSPITAL**

626-898-8000

### **SCE**

800-611-1911

### **GAS COMPANY**

1-877-238-0092

### **ANIMAL CONTROL**

626-792-7151

### **PUBLIC WORKS SERVICES**

626-254-2720

### **ARCADIA WATER DEPARTMENT**

626-574-5473

### **UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

626-821-6617

### **ARCADIA LIBRARY**

626-821-5567

## YOUR JUNK, SOMEONE ELSE'S TREASURE

We see garage sales almost every weekend. Perhaps you've stopped by one and went on a shopping spree. Have you thought of having your own garage sale? If so, please keep in mind that garage sales are regulated by the City of Arcadia and require permits. Permits are available at the Business License Office at City Hall for \$5 per garage sale. You can have up to two garage sales per year at your residence.

To learn about other important garage sale regulations, visit the Business License Office at City Hall or **[www.arcadiaca.gov/how-do-i/get-more-information-about/garage-sales](http://www.arcadiaca.gov/how-do-i/get-more-information-about/garage-sales)**

## THINGS TO DO IN ARCADIA

There are a great many things to do in and near Arcadia. We recommend:

- **Botanic Gardens at the Arboretum**, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue. 821-3222. Take photos, attend concerts, walk, run, take a yoga class. Have lunch in the cafe!
- **Arcadia Performing Arts Center**, 188 Campus Drive. 821-1781. World class entertainment in a beautiful venue.
- **The Gilb Museum**, 380 W. Huntington Drive. 574-5440. Learn about Arcadia's history. Interesting exhibits and educational programs.
- **Arcadia Public Library**, 20 W. Duarte Road. 821-5567. Top notch library.
- **Huntington Library**, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. 405-2100. World famous museum, gardens and art collection.
- **Santa Anita Racetrack**, 285 W Huntington Drive. 574-7223. Watch the horses run in a spectacular setting.
- **Arcadia's Santa Anita Golf Course**, 405 S. Santa Anita Avenue. 447-7156. Challenging 18 hole public course and a driving range.
- **Arcadia Par Three Golf Course**, 620 Live Oak Avenue. 443-9637. Fun 18 hole public course and a driving range.
- **Arcadia's Norman Johnson Aquatic Center**, 405 S. Santa Anita Avenue. 821-4619. Beautiful public swimming pool.
- **Tennis Courts** are plentiful in Arcadia. Call 574-5114 for information.





## ARCADIA HIGHLANDS

*Home Owners Association*

P.O. BOX 660533

ARCADIA, CA 91066

[www.arcadiahighlandshoa.org](http://www.arcadiahighlandshoa.org)



*Arcadia Highlands  
Home Owners Association Moto*

*We are dedicated to offering our  
Members a responsive, communicative and  
supportive Association, that genuinely cares  
about our exceptional neighborhood...  
The Highlands.*



### Arcadia Highlands Home Owners Association

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

All home owners who pay their 2018 dues will be mailed their requested number of decals to be displayed on the front windshield on the driver's side. This decal will identify you and your vehicle(s) as a resident of the Highlands. The Arcadia Police Department reviewed and approved our decal and thought it was excellent identification for our home owners.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ TEL ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY AND STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Decals Requested \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR: 2018 CHK# \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Membership Dues \$40.00

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*ARCADIA HIGHLANDS HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION*

**Mail to: Post Office Box 660533 - Arcadia, CA 91066 - Include check payable to A.H.H.O.A.**