ARCADIA HIGHLANDS

OWNERS ASSOCIATION HOME

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DEAN OBST SUNNY PADIVAL

Chairpersons Architectural Review Board

KNUT DALE Editor

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Robert G. Stover



Welcome to the Fall 2018 AHHOA newsletter! I want to thank the members of your Association Board. Their hours of dedication to the Highlands and the quality of life we endeavor to preserve has been the backbone of the spirit of cooperation with the City of Arcadia, developers, contractors and homeowners.

This newsletter will bring information to you about our community on topics that affect us all - home sales and values, residents' safety, crime activity and the great amount of resources the Arcadia Police Department has devoted to create a safe and secure neighborhood, information on the growth of Neighborhood Watch, an update from the ARB on remodeling and development and other useful information.

As I've mentioned in the past, the Association is truly an affiliation of like-minded people interested in maintaining a level of quality of the neighborhood where they live, raise their families and, in some cases, retire. We, the Association, welcome your participation to help make the Highlands an even better place to live. Aside from providing newsletters to our residents, we provide a good opportunity for you to meet many more of your neighbors at our HOA Picnic in Wilderness Park and our annual meeting. With our website (www. arcadiahighlandshoa.org) and our newsletter program, we work on your behalf to provide the information you need in order to be as current as possible on happenings in the Highlands.

You, the members, make up our Association and your input is vital to our mission. We welcome your attendance at our meetings, your participation in our efforts to work with the City and community groups, and we welcome your talents and time to make us a better HOA. The more members we have, the higher our involvement in our community will be and, in turn, the more likely we are to have a voice in decisions made by the City that may affect us. Thanks for your involvement and thank you for allowing us to work on your behalf to keep the Highlands the desirable place it has always been.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, December 6, 2018 | 7:00 pm | Highland Oaks Elementary School Multipurpose Room - 10 Virginia Road, Arcadia, California 91006

The annual meeting is called pursuant to Article V, Section 5 of the Bylaws of the Association.

AGENGA

- 1. Call to Order;
- 2. Annual Report on Finance and Membership;
- 3. Annual Report by Architectural Review Board Chairperson;
- 4. Report by the Tally Committee regarding ballots received and counted;
- 5. Introduce Board for 2019;
- 6. Introduce Neighborhood Watch Team;
- 7. Such other business as may properly come before the meeting;
- 8. Public Comment limited to five (5) minutes per speaker;
- 9. Question & Answer period;
- 10. Adjournment.



Curious to know what all this says? We would be too. The City of Arcadia offers document translation services at no charge to the public. Please contact the City Clerk's Office at (626) 574-5455 for more information.

很想知道这里讲的是什么吗?我们也希望你们了解这些信息。阿凯迪亚市向公众免费提供文件翻译服务。

请致电(626)574-5455,向市书记官办公室了解详情。

WHAT IS THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD?

The Arcadia Highlands Architectural Review Board (ARB) is a group of volunteer residents who are responsible for reviewing all proposed modifications to homes within the Home Owners Association boundaries including new construction, re-models, roofing, window replacement, landscaping (both soft and hard), mechanical installation (AC units, solar panels, pool equipment, etc.) and exterior painting.

The goal of the ARB is to preserve the charm and beauty of the Highlands by maintaining the rigorous standards established by Arcadia City Resolution 6770, specifically to promote harmony and compatibility so that each building and its landscaping exhibit a consistent and cohesive architectural style and be harmonious and compatible with other neighborhood structures in architectural style, scale, visual massing, height, width and length, including exterior color and building materials.

Any proposed changes to the exterior of your home should be pre-approved by the ARB prior to the start of the work. You can contact the Highlands ARB via email at highlandsarb@gmail.com and get a response within three business days.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD ACTIVITY

During the first half of 2018, our Architectural Review Board received a total of eleven submissions for review of major remodels and new construction (Full Review) and thirty-six submissions for short form review (Short Review) for home improvements such as roofing, window replacement, landscaping and mechanical installation, such as A/C units, solar panels, pool equipment, and exterior painting. The ARB held six Full Review hearings, approving four projects. Nearly all Short Review submissions were ultimately approved. Please remember that any proposed changes to the exterior of your home should be approved by the ARB prior to the start of work. You can contact the Highlands ARB via email at highlandsarb@gmail.com.

CURRENT KEY ISSUES FOR ARCADIA

By Mayor Pro Tem April Verlato

The City of Arcadia had its first District Elections last spring and City Council members Roger Chandler, District 5, and Tom Beck, District 2, were reelected. Mayor Sho Tay was uncontested in District 3. The Council voted that he would represent the District by default and cancelled its election. The Highlands HOA is in District 1 and no one from District 1 could vote. District 1 will be up for election in April 2020, at which time only District 1 residents can vote.

There is a lot of mixed use development in Arcadia and the biggest will be at the location of the old Santa Anita Inn at the intersection of Huntington Drive and Colorado Blvd. A new 220 room Le Meridien–Marriott and 90 condos will be replacing it. The condo tower will be the tallest structure in Arcadia at 95 feet.

The current owners of the Santa Anita racetrack are looking to expand and add 850 new stables and relocate the existing manure transfer holding facility. The racetrack currently has 2,000 stables. These changes will mean that the racetrack could increase the number of racing days and conduct horse sales which are now conducted at the Pomona Fair grounds.

A Citizen's Financial Advisory Committee is meeting to review the City's financials and determine the best course of action to deal with the rising cost of city employee retirements and flat revenues. The largest source of revenues for the City is property taxes but they only cover about 20% of costs. We hope to have an action plan by next year.

The median on Santa Anita Avenue continues to be under construction but will soon largely consist of drought tolerant trees and plants, due to a mandate by Governor Brown prohibiting cities from watering grass in public medians. The work includes the planting of thirty Crepe Myrtles and seven Jacarandas. "Stone ribbons" that resemble streams are being installed to catch rain water and return it to the soil.

ARCADIA HIGH SCHOOL RANKS TOP 1% IN THE NATION

Arcadia scored in the top 1 percent out of over 19,000 public high schools in the nation. According to Niche.com's 2019 list for Best Public High Schools, Arcadia High School not only received this national honor but is also in the top 1 percent of best public high schools in the state of California and in the Los Angeles area. Source: https://patch.com/california/arcadia/arcadia-high-school-ranks-top-1-nation

CITIZEN'S FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The newly formed Citizen's Financial Advisory Committee held its first meeting on July 24 to discuss the City's financial future. Over the next several months, the Committee will be reviewing the City's long-range financial forecast and will make recommendations to the City Council on service priorities and/or revenue enhancements to address the City's structural budget deficit. Please visit www.ArcadiaCA. gov/CFAC for more meeting agendas and more information.

HIGHLANDS CRIME ACTIVITY



The efforts of the Arcadia Police Department (APD) and the vigilance of our community are paying off. The number of residential burglaries in the Highlands and throughout Arcadia has leveled off, though they are still too high. Residential burglaries in the Highlands through August 2018 numbered eighteen compared to twenty for the same period in 2017. For the entire city, burglaries declined substantially from 247 last year to 179 this year. Auto burglaries in the Highlands declined from six in 2017 to three this year. For the entire city, auto burglaries declined from 269 to 243. There were two incidents involving vandalism in the Highlands last year and none this year while the city saw a decrease from 91 to 77. Mail and package thefts for the Highlands declined from five to two and for the City they declined from 88 to 74.

Our police officers are busy but never too busy to respond when needed. If you see something, say something. Report any suspicious activity to the APD at (626) 574-5123. We also need to increase our number of Neighborhood Watch block captains to support the efforts of the APD.

> 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

We continue to have an unacceptable level of residential burglaries in the Highlands even though the number has declined somewhat this year. The Arcadia Police Department's Neighborhood Watch program is one of our best crime fighting tools where Arcadia residents can and should get involved under the leadership of our volunteer block captains. The program works because neighbors get to know each other and keep an eye out for suspicious activity.

The Association's objective is to increase our number of block captains and expand neighborhood participation. We currently have 21 captains and our goal is to have 25 by year-end. Members interested in becoming a block captain can contact NW Coordinator. Knut Dale, who can explain the position's duties. Knut's email address is knut.o.dale@gmail.com.

The goal is to have every street covered by one or more block captains who meet and maintain contact with their nearby neighbors. Each captain, joined by Mike Vercillo, Community Services Officer in the APD, meets with the neighbors, obtains needed contact information, explains the program, distributes useful reference information and reviews home safety tips. We have been distributing official-looking name badges for block captains to wear when introducing themselves to their neighbors and when conducting meetings.

As we grow the number of block captains, the City's Public Works Department will install more Neighborhood Watch signs in each captain's neighborhood. These signs have proven to be a successful crime deterrent. All of us are encouraged to call the police department at 626/574-5123 when we see something suspicious in our neighborhood. If it's an emergency situation or one involving an obvious criminal, you should immediately call 911.

DISCOUNTED **HOME SECURITY**

We think residents in the Highlands will be interested in a partnership the City of Arcadia has formed with Ring, Inc., a subsidiary of Amazon.

The partnership provides a \$50 discount from Ring and another \$50 from the City for a variety of cameras and video doorbells that can be operated from your smart phone to alert you to possible burglars.

This program is separate from our Neighborhood Watch program but its objective and benefits are definitely related: to make our homes safer, deter crime and catch criminals.

The City's Police Chief is expected to ask the City Council for an increase in the budget for this partnership, depending upon the level of interest from residents.

If you have questions or interest, please contact Jennifer Brutus at the Arcadia Police Department. She can be reached at 626-574-5136.

Jennifer will email you some forms to complete. She will review these and send you a promotional code to use.



MAKE SAFETY NUMBER ONE! 9 TIPS

All of us agree that home and neighborhood safety are keys to maintaining our quality of life. Below are 9 tips to make us safer:

- 1. Be an active participant in our Neighborhood Watch program to get to know your neighbors and work together to help to deter crime. If you see something suspicious around your home or street, call the Police Department at 626/574-5123.
- 2. When you leave home, make sure your doors and windows are all locked and that your home security system is turned on. If you don't have a home security system, seriously consider having one installed.
- 3. When you're leaving home for an extended period, tell at least one of your closest neighbors and ask them to keep an eye on your property. It's also a good idea to leave one of your cars locked on the driveway. Advise the police department at 626/574-5123 of your absence, requesting that their volunteer officers come by periodically to check your property. Lock your garage doors. Thefts from garages are common.
- 4. When away from home, make your home look lived in, such as leaving some lights or a radio on, stopping delivery of newspapers or magazines and either stopping mail delivery or asking a trusted neighbor to keep it for you until you return.
- 5. Maintain lists of account numbers, serial numbers of valuable items, and important phone numbers. Copy the list and keep it elsewhere in a safe place. Also consider having your most important documents and photographs stored safely in a bank safe deposit box.
- 6. Make sure you have a working fire extinguisher in your home or garage.
- 7. Keep a readily available list of all the important things you will want to take with you in the event of an emergency. Make sure you have at least half a tank of gas at all times in at least one of your cars.
- 8. Have a "survival kit" including basic first aid, a change of clothes, comfortable shoes, a blanket and several bottles of water. Also critical is having a charged smart phone with you at all times.
- 9. Advise the police department at 626/574-5123 if you need to evacuate your home.

WATER REPORT

Given the serious drought we've experienced in recent years, conservation requirements and the critical importance of having adequate water quality for our homes, it's prudent to check into several issues:

Our water in Arcadia comes from two underground sources: the Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin and the Raymond Basin. The Main Basin covers 160 square miles in a large part of the San Gabriel Valley, providing water to 1.8 million people. The Raymond Basin covers 41 square miles and provides water to about 225,000 people, primarily in Pasadena, Arcadia, Alhambra, Sierra Madre and La Canada.

Most of our water comes from these two basins supported by annual precipitation. However, the Main Basin has a contractual agreement with the large Metropolitan Water District in Los Angeles to replenish its water needs as necessary. Water levels for the Main Basin were at a historical high of 295 feet in 1983, a low in 2016 of 172 feet and a current level this year of 178 feet. There's been a substantial reduction of the water in the Main's wells due to the serious drought and a sizable increase in population.

The nine member boards of the two basins work closely with County of Los Angeles officials to manage water quality, water use and conservation regulations. State officials recently imposed significant fines for water users that abused these regulations. With continuing drought and inadequate well water levels, contingency plans include more stringent conservation measures, increased water recycling and partnering with coastal water districts to look at desalinization projects. We should also expect higher water costs.

The Fall-Winter Watering Schedule begins November 1, Tuesdays and Saturdays, 10 minutes per sprinkler station. It is important to refrain from watering your oak trees unless there is an extreme drought. Do not plant flowers or shrubs around or under the trees. Watering these plants will harm the trees.

HIGHLANDS HOME SALES REPORT

By Sandy Radey | Realtor® DRE #00761367 | Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

For the first eight months of this year there were 19 home sales, compared to 27 for the same period in 2017. Average sales price was \$1.75 million this year versus \$1.71 million last year. Price per square foot on these sales averaged \$592 this year versus \$610 last year. Average square footage of homes sold was 2,992 this year versus 2,818 last year. Average time on the market was 81 days this year compared to 50 days last year, a significant difference reflecting some difficulty in selling more expensive homes this year. 26 homes are currently listed for sale. The average asking price is \$3.1 million, but this includes several expensive homes on Whispering Pines Drive and Whispering Pines Summit which are located in Arcadia but are not part of our HOA.

PICNIC IN WILDERNESS PARK

Our Picnic in the Park on September 30 was a big success. 150 members enjoyed a free meal catered by Twohey's, music, games and prizes. Everyone received a raffle ticket and many gift cards were won. The hot fudge sundaes were delicious!

The Arcadia Police Department's K-9 unit joined us and their dogs, Zoli and Kota. They were a big hit, especially with the children. Tom Metzger and Glenn Oyoung from the Arcadia Police Foundation spoke about the Foundation's work in acquiring the dogs and providing total funding for the program.

The picnic is one of the many benefits of being a paid member of our Association. If you missed this one, we are already planning our 2019 picnic and hope you will attend! More photos can be found on our website and Facebook page.













HEALTH WATCH

FLU SHOTS

Flu season is here again and it is important to remember that even healthy people can get the flu and its potentionally serious symptoms. Everyone six months or older should get a flu vaccine, the sooner the better. This is especially important if you are pregnant or have a chronic condition like asthma or diabetes. For those over 65, there is now a Senior Flu Shot which provides extra protection. You can get the flu shot in your doctor's office or at your pharmacy.

NEW SHINGLES VACCINE

There is a new shingles vaccine called Shingrix that provides extra protection from this dreaded disease. The CDC says healthy adults ages 50 and over should get the vaccine. You should get it even if you're not sure if you ever had chickenpox, the CDC says. You'll need two shots, two to six months apart. The second dose is really important to make sure you get long-term protection. There is a waiting list for the shots so call your pharmacy and get on the wait list.

PARAMEDIC MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

The City of Arcadia offers a Paramedic Membership Program. With a modest fee of \$51.00 a year, all members of a household can receive paramedic/ambulance service free of charge. To sign up, call 626-574-5126 or visit www.ArcadiaCA.gov to obtain an application package.

THINGS TO DO IN ARCADIA

Arcadia's *The Connection* newsletter is a great way to find out what's happening in the city. Find a copy of it in the Senior Services section of www.arcadiaca.gov.

What's Special About the Arboretum? The formal name is the Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden. It's located on Baldwin Avenue between Foothill Boulevard and Huntington Drive. Admission for members is free, adult non-members pay \$9 and students with ID and seniors 62 and older pay \$6. For more information call 626/821-3222.

It's a very special place for many reasons. It has a long and interesting history outlined in great detail on its website. The Arboretum was founded in 1948 after purchase of the property jointly by the State of California and the County of Los Angeles. Dozens of movies have been filmed there, including twelve Tarzan films beginning in 1936 and ending in 1955. Its several water features and gardens with plants, flowers and trees from many countries around the world are unique and attractive. It's a nice place to hike, walk, jog, enjoy the outdoors and look at several historical buildings and many birds, especially its many colorful peacocks. Its gift shop and café add to the benefits of visiting.

Additionally, the Arboretum hosts many different events, including concerts at a beautiful setting, nature camps for children, yoga lessons and a club for people interested in gardening called Compulsives. Importantly it's only a 10 minute drive for most of us in the Highlands.

THE GILB MUSEUM - A CITY TREASURE Stop by and visit the City's Gilb Museum of Arcadia Heritage. The temporary exhibits change several times a year. The permanent exhibits feature an overview of local Arcadia history from Native Americans, Spanish Missions, Mexican Rancheros, American settlers, famous Arcadians, and more. The Arcadia Veterans Local History Room features a Memorial Exhibit, an Arcadia Veteran's Registry, the Arcadia's Blue Star Registry, and Operation Hometown Heroes.

In addition to being a small, local history museum, there are programs for all ages throughout the year. For more information about the Gilb Museum or Arcadia Heritage, visit https://www.arcadiaca.gov/government/city-departments/museum

ARCADIA WILDLIFE

Part of Arcadia's beauty comes from our close proximity to the foothills, an area that is abundant with wildlife. In is important to be aware of how to interact with animals, such as bears, coyotes, raccoons, mountain lions, skunks, snakes and peacocks. Wildlife poses little threat to humans as they have a natural fear of people and are not comfortable in unnatural surroundings. However, with a significant water shortage, animals are getting braver about coming into residential neighborhoods.

- · Do not feed wild animals.
- Dispose of garbage in secure containers and do not leave trash, pet food, water or food waste in accessible areas.
- Do not leave small children outside unsupervised.
- Do not leave cats and small dogs outside unattended.
- Do not attempt to touch or pet the animal.
- If you are composting, use securely enclosed compost bins and do not dispose of meat, dairy or egg products in compost.
- · Keep barbeque grills clean and free of drippings.
- If you have fruit trees, pick fruit as soon as it is ripe and remove any fallen fruit from the ground.
- Reduce the use of bird feeders. Clean up seed that has fallen to the ground.
- Clear bushes and weeds close to your home where animals might seek cover. Place obstacles so coyotes can't use them to climb over fences.
- · Spay or neuter your dogs.
- · Consider installing motion-sensitive lighting around the house.
- Wait to place your trash cans at the curb until the day of pick-up. Store garbage cans in a garage or closed shed.
- Frequently wash garbage cans and recycle containers and lids with a strong smelling disinfectant such as ammonia, a bleach solution or a heavy-duty pine-scented cleaner. Eliminate odors by double-bagging smelly garbage.
- Put meat scraps in the freezer until trash day.
- Do not get between a mother and her young.

Animals search for cozy, comfortable shelter and safe places to raise their young. Check around your house for places that may inadvertently invite wildlife squatters. It's easier to block these sites than wait until they have established their home such as crawl spaces, window wells, under the deck, attic and chimney caps.

If you are being threatened by a wild animal, call 911 or the Arcadia Police Department at (626) 574-5151. For information about living with wildlife, visit the California Department of Fish and Game website at https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Keep-Me-Wild



2019 Membership Dues \$40.00

(January 1 to December 31, 2019)

Please complete the following, make check payable to AHHOA and mail to: P.O. BOX 660533 ARCADIA, CA 91066 or go to www.arcadiahighlands.org to sumbit your member application and pay online. Thank you!

NAME	TEL (,)
ADDRESS		
CITY AND STATE		ZIP CODE
EMAIL		
Number of Decals Requested	YEAR: 2019 CHK# Dues do not qualify	_ Annual Membership Dues \$40.00 v as a tax deductble charitable contribution
Signature		φ

Arcadia Highlands Home Owners Association

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 the ability to vote for our Board of Directors, better opportunities to influence the community we live in and receiving important timely information. As a reminder, to become a paid member you need to complete the attached Membership Application and provide a check for \$40 to cover the annual dues for calendar year 2019. All home owners who pay their 2019 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 throught it was excellent identification for our home owners.

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



AHHOA GIVE THANKS TO THE ARCADIA POLICE DEPARTMENT JOINT TASK FORCE

Yate-Ching Yuan and Dana Thompson, neighbors and Robert Stover, President, Arcadia Highlands HOA presenting a "Thank You" fruit basket to Lieutenant Whalen and the shift of officers from the Arcadia Police Department joint task force responsible for locating and arresting four suspected burglars near Highland Oaks Drive and Marilyn Place on Monday, August 6th. Well done, Arcadia Police Department!

ARCADIA POLICE DEPARTMENT Internet Exchange Location

A "Safe Spot" for Internet Sales and Exchanges

Buying and selling items on the Internet has become popular and easy to do with the abundance of mobile apps available. The Arcadia Police Department has designated an Internet Exchange Location with video surveillance in the south west corner of the Police Station parking lot. The camera feed is watched live by the police and recorded. Officers will not mediate or participate in exchanges but will respond if needed for criminal or suspicious activity. Please use this spot during the daytime for safe transactions.



ARCADIA BULKY ITEM PICKUP BY WASTE MANAGEMENT

Take advantage of Arcadia's Bulky Item Pickup to rid your home of undersirable, heavy items. Each year, Waste Management provides four free bulky-item pickups to single family homes and two pickups per unit to multifamily dwellings. The service collects hard-to-handle household items which may include, but are not limited to, the following: couches, furniture, mattresses, rugs, refrigerators, washing machines, electronic waste, computers, TV, printers, etc. and large, bundled branches that do not fit into your green waste cart. Schedule your bulky item pickup by contacting Waste Management at (800) 266-7551.





Home Owners Association
P.O. BOX 660533
ARCADIA, CA 91066
www.arcadiahighlandshoa.org



★★ 2019 DUES REMINDER ★★

If you have not already paid your 2019 dues, please make your \$40 Check payable to AHHOA today to get your Member Decals! (SEE PAGE 7 FOR DETAILS)

HOW TO WATCH CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

You can watch council meetings on TV. AT&T customers can view them on channel 99, Charter customers on channel 15-237 and Time-Warner/Spectrum customers on channel 3. You can also watch the meeting online as it takes place or view it and earlier meetings at a later date. Meetings are held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 pm. Use this link: https://www.arcadiaca.gov/how-do-i/view/city-council-meetings

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

ARCADIA CITY HALL

626-574-5400

POLICE DEPARTMENT

626-574-5150

FIRE DEPARTMENT

626-574-5133

METHODIST HOSPITAL

626-898-8000

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON

800-611-1911

GAS COMPANY

1-877-238-0092

ANIMAL CONTROL

626-792-7151

PUBLIC WORKS SERVICES

626-254-2720

ARCADIA WATER DEPARTMENT

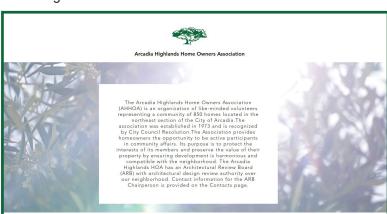
626-574-5473

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

626-821-6617

ARCADIA LIBRARY

626-821-5567



www.arcadiahighlandshoa.org

PayPal*

Please take a look at our new website. We post our newsletters, meetings notices, City and HOA contacts, ARB information, photos and additional material we think you will find interesting. We've also added the ability to pay your 2019 dues using PayPal. PayPal is a respected company that provides an easy and secure way to pay bills. We hope you will consider using PayPal. It's a lot easier than filling out a check, addressing an envelope and attaching a stamp.

