



The Woodlands GRAPEVINE

OCTOBER 2016

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



Second National Night Out...another success!

Woodlanders from all over our area enjoyed our second annual event, even if the Grilled Cheese Truck was late. We sent out for Pizza! The ice cream truck was wildly popular and the balloon artist worked her magic with our Woodland sprites. Our thanks to the volunteer docents of the Days of the Verdugo Heritage Association who so professionally conduct tours of our storied Catalina Verdugo Adobe.

A highlight of the evening was our presentation of a banner with our hand written comments to our Glendale Police Department. Chief Rob Castro and his officers were so grateful for the show of appreciation, especially with the horrific loss of police lives recently. It was really quite touching. We can all be proud knowing the banner was hung at the police department's headquarters.

See you next year in August; hopefully sooner!



President's Message

FOR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION, CONTACT

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Where does the time go? It seems only a couple weeks ago that we were all enjoying National Night Out but here we are, planning our annual meeting for November 5th.

A sincere and heartfelt thank you to our loyal and supportive neighbors who have encouraged and assisted us in our efforts to maintain and preserve the character of the Woodlands throughout our 22 years. To those Woodlanders who have yet to join us...this is a great opportunity to do so. You are the motivation for mailing our October newsletter to all single-family residences located within our Association's boundaries (1,000+). Please visit our website vwwhoa.org to learn more about us. There are a host of reasons to join your homeowners association, including being made aware of what's happening in your neighborhood, close contact with police and fire, participating in civic issues that affect the Woodlands, our annual wine tasting, National Night Out. The list is a long one, but the best part is becoming acquainted with the best neighbors in Glendale. Not nice to brag, but it's true. We're a good bunch!

Lastly I want to thank Dennis Guyer, who is stepping down from his position as Vice President and officer of our Association after umpteen years to take a position as a Board member. He has been an exceptional Master of Ceremonies at our events, a great sounding board and a voice of reason over the years. So we're not saying good bye but I do want to recognize his time and service to our homeowners association for which we are eternally grateful.

I hope you will calendar Saturday, November 5th and meet us at the Adobe. We'll enjoy lunch, meet neighbors and renew friendships (see flyer). If you haven't toured the Adobe yet, here's your chance to do so. Our Glendale Police and Fire will be there and as always, we'll have great door prizes and a 50/50 cash drawing. Keep your fingers crossed for good weather and watch out for one another. It's what good neighbors do.



Mirna Stanley
President

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Representing Andenes, Wabasso Way, Santa Barbara Ave.
Hermosita Dr., Sombra Drive:
Charles & Andrea Meier, Irene Sarian, Ray Hipolito, Patricia Balmot, Michael and Jessica Quinn

Thanks for your support!

Our Mission Statement:

To preserve the low-profile, single-family characteristics and the aesthetics which are unique to the Verdugo Woodlands; and to provide a forum for discussion of civic issues which may directly affect the Verdugo Woodlands



In Memoriam



Roger Harmon, long time resident of the Woodlands, peacefully passed on August 6, 2016. His wife, Margaret, predeceased him. Kelly, their faithful Golden Retriever, is now the new family member of John Sommers and Wendy Weickert.

Gratitude and Kelly.....by Wendy Weicker



Gratitude is defined as the quality of being thankful, a readiness to show appreciation and return kindness. I have thought of that definition many times over the last weeks in relation to our community, as I have seen the appreciation and the kindness on a daily basis. The Woodlands have been our home since 1988, and one of the wonderful aspects of the neighborhood is the relationships we build. Roger Harmon and his dog Kelly are an example of those relationships.

Roger adopted Kelly from the Pasadena Humane Society 11 years ago. From the notes Roger kept, the Humane Society was hesitant to have a man who was 80 years old, adopt a year-old golden retriever. Roger, however, was persuasive, and pointed out how his family was long-lived, he was active, and with a park across the street from his house, assured them the dog would have exercise. We are all glad Roger was so convincing!

Kelly has been quietly in the background for many in the Woodlands. For Roger, Kelly was a faithful companion, through Margaret’s illness and death, and then for Roger as his health began to fail. Roger often said he did not know what he would do without Kelly. Kelly has also been there to welcome all of us as we walked by and from the stories you have shared, he has been a part of people’s lives through milestones including marriage, the birth of children, children growing from toddlers to entering middle school, as well as illnesses and transitions.

When Roger’s health began to fail, I promised if the day came that Kelly needed a home, we would provide it. Sadly, that day did come. Kelly was with Roger when the paramedics came to the house, and when Roger returned from the hospital to be home for his last days, Roger’s family arranged for Kelly to visit him.

In offering a home to Kelly, my hope was to honor my long-standing friendship with Roger. I did not know what a blessing it would be. Kelly and I walk in the neighborhood at least twice a day and so many people have stopped to greet him and to tell me how meaningful he has been to them. I have had a number of cars slow down behind me, the window roll down, and the driver ask, “Is that Kelly?” When I say yes, people have parked their car, and come over to hug and pet him. I have heard time and time again how people would walk by Roger’s to greet Kelly, and how he was always so friendly and happy so see them.

In the first few weeks after Kelly came to live with us, many called our home to find out how he was. Families came to visit him, as he had been so important in their daily lives. Others generously brought us bags and cans of dog food, dog treats and bones, and tennis balls to express how much they cared. People offered to dog-sit, to help with walking or whatever was needed so Kelly was comfortable. Every day I was reminded of the kindness of this neighborhood, and so grateful to see how Roger and Kelly were valued.

Many of you have asked how Kelly is now. We visit the park and walk every day, and you can hear his joyous whimper at seeing and greeting old friends. I know he misses all of those he welcomed when he lived on Bonita! There are still times when he will go to Roger’s front door or the gate and wait, but it is not with the sadness he first had.

As we know from watching him over the years, Kelly is a smart dog. He learned to not cross the street, but lay by the gate in the driveway, and would walk off-leash at times for miles with Roger, or wait for Roger in the convertible when Roger was at church. Within the first 90 seconds at our home, he knew the cupboard where the dog food was and would stand in front of it to remind me. Now, he has many home cooked meals, and when the cutting board comes out to prepare his steamed vegetables, or the Dutch oven for his meat dish, he lays in front of the stove as an immovable force until his meal is ready. When the leftovers go in the fridge, he sits in front of it to say, I know you have something for me in there! He has also learned he can train me in

regard to our walking route. One day after work, I was tired and tried to take a shorter walk. He sat down and looked at me. At first I thought there was something wrong and had visions of calling my husband to pick us up. No, sitting down was his way of saying not today, and he pulled me in a different direction for an additional thirty minutes.

Recently, Kelly and I were walking on Hermosita and I commented to a lady who passed us what a nice evening it was. She said she had lived in the area 10 years ago, and was back for a visit. "I like the color of your dog. There used to be a dog that ran in the park by the Adobe and he lived across the street. It was such a nice dog; I wonder what became of it?" What has happened to Kelly is that he was and is loved by a small caring community, and through him we have been able to see how much we truly have to be grateful for.

BEAR NECESSITIES.....by Joan Bullock



On September 22 I attended a Community Meeting at the Sparr Heights Community Center regarding the presence of a bear in our neighborhood. The meeting was hosted by the Glendale Police Department, and we thank Officer Joe Allen for being present. Several employees from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife conducted the meeting, including wildlife biologist, Rebecca.

Brochures entitled "Keep Me Wild": Feeding Wildlife is Dead Wrong, were provided. Attendees were allowed time to present their questions about bears and experiences with bears and receive feedback from the employees of Fish and Wildlife. The need to keep our environment free of invitations to bears was underscored. For instance, no one should feed pets outside or actually engage in feeding wildlife. The provided brochure suggested removing "cosmetic fragrances and other attractants, including bird feeders and compost piles." Fallen fruit should be picked up quickly.

Garbage cans should be closed and stored in the garage. There was a suggestion that Glendale begin to replace garbage cans with cans provided by Kodiak, which are bear proof. The Kodiak cans are advertised to be compatible with most collection systems. Cans in more vulnerable areas could be replaced first, and homeowners might want to consider purchasing their own can.

Some of the information I found most interesting follows: Fish and Wildlife will not relocate animals, as that has been found to be ineffective. Bears have, for instance, traveled hundreds of miles back to the site of a food source. The wildlife biologist, Rebecca, stated that bears are in our neighborhoods due to an increasing population of bears in the State. The drought is not the cause, as she reported that there are adequate water sources in the mountains. Rebecca further stated that there are approximately 30,000 bears in California today, about five times the number that were here in 1980. The statement that was reiterated and most impressed me was this: in the event of a conflict between humans and wildlife, Fish and Wildlife will NOT intervene. That being the case, individually, we must educate ourselves and make decisions about how we will respond to various situations. We purchase homeowners insurance, install security systems, and stock emergency supplies for the Big One, although we hope not to use these resources. Now there is another reality for which we must prepare ourselves. Fish and Wildlife quoted an extremely low number of encounters between black bears and humans. However, one internet site details names, dates, and locations of many persons killed by black bears over the past years. Another internet site says this: "There is no need to be afraid of bears, but there is great reason to be informed and prepared."

For further information see website www.keepmewild.org or telephone California Department of Fish and Game Sacramento Headquarters at 916-322-8911.





**ANNUAL MEETING &
MEMBERSHIP DRIVE
OF THE VERDUGO
WOODLANDS WEST
HOMEOWNERS
ASSOCIATION**

When: Saturday, November 5, 2016 noon to 2:00 p.m.
Where: Catalina Verdugo Adobe, 2211 Bonita Drive

A delicious hot lunch will be served from noon to 1:30 p.m. at no cost to members whose dues are current. Non-members cost is \$8.00. If you're not a member, this is a great time to join your Homeowners Association!

- Non-members welcome; please join us!
- Visit with Glendale fire fighters and inspect fire truck!
- Visit with Glendale Police officers; the kids will love getting in the back seat of a police vehicle!
- Woodland crafters will have original and creative holiday gifts for your purchase
- Bring your dollar bills for the popular 50/50 drawing
- Great door prizes!
- Face painting for our Woodland sprites!



**VERDUGO WOODLANDS WEST HOMEOWNERS
ASSOCIATION
HOA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**



Please return this form with a \$30.00 check payable to:

Verdugo Woodlands West Homeowners Association, P.O. Box 343, Verdugo City City, CA 91046

Date : _____ Email: _____
Please Print Clearly For Association use only

Name: _____

Address: _____ Glendale, CA 91208

Phone number, Cell, Home _____ Please indicate if phone or cell

Profession: _____

Years in the Woodlands _____ Your Interest _____

Which issue do you think most affects the Woodlands?

Please circle:

Crime Fire Danger Hillside Preservation Historical Preservation

Mansionazation, Home Remodels & Rebuilding On street parking and vehicle storage

Use of Verdugo Park Traffic and Speeding Landscaping and Property Maintenance

Code Enforcement , Specify _____

Other thoughts _____

If provided with New Members packets would you be willing to contact 2 or 3 of your neighbors regarding membership in our Association? Yes No

At times, an issue will come before the City Council or another city department that directly affects the Woodlands. If contacted via e-mail or phone and briefed on the facts, would you be willing to attend such a meeting to show support for the position that the Association has taken? Yes No

Comments and/or Suggestions: _____

Please Join Us for a better Neighborhood!
P.O. Box 343, Verdugo City City, CA 91046
wwwhoa@gmail.com wwwhoa.org

F.Y.I.



Jim Reichgelt, local Realtor, for providing us with updated info re home owners names for our huge October newsletter mailing. We appreciate it!

Andy Scheidegger, for donating cut-to-size paper for comment cards. We'll put them to good use at all our events.

Amy Karbelnig, who volunteered to help out where possible. She walked away with a binder of hand-written Association Meeting Minutes to scan and digitize. Huge help.

All Board and Association Board members who didn't panic at Nat'l Night Out when the food truck operator advised (at 5:00 pm) that he couldn't make it. What would we ever have done without Dominos? Thanks to Dennis and Janet Guyer who staffed the sign-in table for the police banner.

Trees and More Trees for the Next Generation of Woodlanders.....by *Marcia Hanford*

Some VWWHOA members have been working for many months with the goal of preserving the woods in your Woodlands. In order to maintain and increase our lush tree canopy throughout this century, Mirna Stanley, Catherine Jurca, Mary La Croix, and Marcia Hanford have undertaken numerous communications and meetings, including walking the streets!

City arborists Dan Hardgrove and Jeremy Cawn are pleased with our HOA's interest and engagement. We now have a pretty good understanding of how city tree planting decisions are made. Considerations include the amount of space in the public right-of-way, which varies from block to block, and suitable and available species, preferably natives. Other factors include overhead wires, underground pipes, and proximity to driveway aprons.

The City has designated primary and alternate species for each block to be planted in new areas or to replace dead or failing trees. Viewing the list, our Woodlands group had thoughts about other selections that might be more compatible in some areas. The arborists are open to these suggestions.

So what is next? We need to submit requested locations for new or replacement trees, along with suggested species for the City's master plan. Annual planting takes place in the fall, so conceivably some of our wishes could be in the ground in fall 2017.

Want more information? Have ideas? Questions or concerns? Email us at wwwhoa@gmail.com

Let us know your interests and how you would like to become involved.

So Long, Karen!

Board member and dear friend, Karen Ferkich, is leaving our Board as she has sold her beautiful home to downsize and is moving from the Woodlands. Karen has been a faithful, effective Board member and has successfully chaired our annual wine tasting events. I have no idea what we'll do without her, but we wish her joy, health and ask that she not forget the Woodlands. Many, many thanks for everything.



Have an Issue with a Street Sign?

Call Maintenance Services, 548-3950 for signs in disrepair, when shrubs or tree branches affect visibility or if vandalism or graffiti are issues. Should you believe a new sign is needed, call Traffic & Engineering 548-3945.

Pull Tabs for Ronald McDonald House

Some of us have been saving our aluminum tab tops as featured in prior newsletter articles. The good that is done with such little effort is remarkable. These tabs are pure aluminum and donated to Ronald McDonald House in Pasadena and help defray the cost of on-site housing for families of ill children. You too can easily participate. Call Tim Beck: 818-241-7509 for details.



AAA BENEFITS.....by Diane Ferris

Many of you have an AAA card for emergency road service, but you may not know about all the other benefits that come with the card. Here's an easy reference list:

- Free Identity Theft/Credit Protection monitoring with Experian.
- DMV services such as car registration, disability placards, transfer of ownership, etc. can be completed at local AAA branch.
- Discounts on many area attractions, such as Universal Studios and City Walk, Raging Waters, the San Diego Zoo, Magic Mountain and the Getty Museum to name a few.
- Discounts on movie tickets for UA, Edwards and Regal Cinemas.
- Discounts on pet prescriptions.
- Free tour books, guides and maps of almost any city/area in the world.
- Discounts on many hotels/motels.
- Instant battery replacement at your home at the time of the service call.
- Free home repair contractor referrals, pre-screened and certified by AAA to be licensed and insured.
- Free car buying service, pre-negotiated prices for new vehicles with AAA recommended car dealers.
- Referrals to AAA approved body/service shops.
- Information on gas station prices/locations in any given area.
- Referrals to AAA approved dealers for used cars, with Car Fax report included.
- Free membership in Hertz Gold Service plan.
- Discounts on many restaurants and retailers that AAA has a partnership with such as El Torito, Mimi's Café, Papa John's Pizza, Ann Taylor, Camarillo Outlets, Lens Crafters, UPS, 1-800-Flowers and many more.
- Access to a full service travel agency.
- Refresher driving courses for seniors.

AAA has also developed an app for smart phones that provides direct access for emergency road service and allows you to track the AAA driver's location along with his estimated time of arrival. The application also has all the discounted retail/restaurant locations uploaded, so that just walking into a store prompts a coupon to pop up. You can also access the location of gas stations and gas prices wherever you drive.

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Homeowners Association



Verdugo Woodlands West

RIDDLE FOR SENIORS



Here's the situation:

You are on a horse, galloping at a constant speed.

On your right, there is a sharp drop-off. On your left is an elephant traveling at the same speed you are.

Directly in front of you is a galloping kangaroo; your horse is unable to overtake it.

Behind is a lion running at the same speed as you and the kangaroo.

What must you do to get out of this highly dangerous situation?

(Answer Below)

Get off the merry-go-round and go home. You've had enough excitement for one day!

Courtesy of Herb Long
