



The Woodlands GRAPEVINE

JULY 2018

VERDUGO WOODLANDS 2018 WINE SOCIAL

Neighbors from all over the Woodlands gathered once again to chat, reconnect and enjoy tasting a variety of delicious wines and appetizers in a gorgeous setting and on a perfect afternoon. Thank you to our gracious hosts Cindy Dugger and Byron Taylor.



Photographs By
Glenn DeLange

◆
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



**FOR MEMBERSHIP
INFORMATION, CONTACT**

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❧ *Editor's Message* ❧

Hello fellow Woodlanders. It was a pleasure meeting and greeting so many of you at our 4th annual Wine Social. Thank you to Byron and Cindy for allowing us to hold our event in their lovely backyard and for carrying on the tradition begun by Mirna Stanley, our dear former president.

Summer is upon us, drought conditions still exist and thus continue to impact our lives. With this in mind, you will find in this issue several articles drawing your attention to the care and preservation of our native trees. Have you seen how many are sick or dying or have already died? Maybe you're tired of hearing about trees, trees, trees, but they *are* the reason for the name Woodlands. If we want our neighborhood to retain its unique character, don't you agree we need to exercise vigilance to ensure their care and longevity? Learn more in this newsletter.

As you know, your homeowners board continues to be mindful of various neighborhood issues as they arise. If there is a matter that concerns you, a project that you question, or if you simply want to acknowledge a success please don't hesitate to share your observations at vwwhoa@gmail.com or touch bases at neighborhood events. Communities working together produce amazing results. An example of this is the recent outcome of the plans for changes to Verdugo Park. Neighbors voiced both objections and suggestions at every meeting beginning a year ago June. Our City Council listened and understood the issues beyond

what the three separate design plans indicated. Find out more about the details of this outcome in the article in this newsletter.

And looking ahead, mark your calendars because our next opportunity to connect as Woodlanders is on August 7 at National Night Out. See you all then!

Loretta DeLange, Board Member

Upcoming Events:



- National Night Out: August 7th 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- Annual Meeting: October 13th 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Your Verdugo Woodlands West HOA will be celebrating National Night Out 2018



Tuesday, August 7, 6 pm - 8 pm
Catalina Verdugo Adobe, 2211 Bonita Drive

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police / community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places in which to live. It enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community.

Activities:

- ❖ Meet our local police and fire department and you may get a chance to explore a police car, motorcycle and fire truck.
- ❖ Enjoy a meal from a well-known food truck “Slanging Corea” (tacos, rice bowls, burgers, vegetable dumplings, etc.).
- ❖ Indulge in dessert: Shaved Ice, ice cream, ice cream sandwiches and lots of toppings.
- ❖ Say hello to “The Balloon Lady” and she’ll grant your every wish.
- ❖ Step up to our information table where you and your family will be provided with lots of helpful information about our city.
- ❖ Visit the historical Catalina Verdugo Adobe. Ann Denis will be available to answer any of your questions.
- ❖ Buy a beautiful Verdugo Woodlands HOA mug for only \$8.00.
- ❖ Join your neighborhood Home Owners Association and receive an HOA mug free! Cost for the year is 30.00. Such a deal!

Did you know? Millions of neighbors take part in National Night Out across thousands of communities from all fifty states, U.S. territories and military bases worldwide on the first Tuesday in August.

EVERYONE WELCOME!



Protected Sycamores in Verdugo Park are Dying

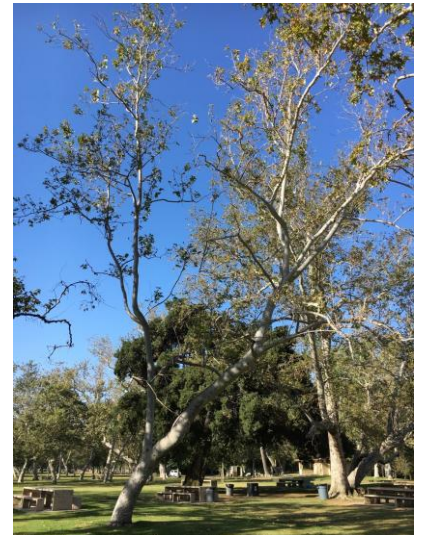
Among the reasons community members did not support proposed changes to the North end of Verdugo Park were concerns about the health of our beautiful mature sycamores. We were right to be worried.

A few months ago sycamores were sprayed for an invasive beetle by an outside contractor, West Coast Arborists. The contractor *stapled warning notices to the trees* in violation of Glendale's indigenous tree ordinance and of common sense. We complained and asked that in future, work designed to protect trees, should not harm them.

In late May three sycamores in the park were cut down; another was taken down on June 12. We contacted the Department of Parks and Community Services to inquire and to report the poor condition of several other sycamores and the vast brown turf and dirt patches which indicate there may be irrigation problems.

The Department of Parks and Community Services informed us that the removed trees had "severe decay" and the Department is "working with our tree contractor to conduct a re-assessment of the trees at Verdugo Park" and that they would be running tests for irrigation.

New amenities can be nice; no amenity can replace those mature trees. It is discouraging, after all the public discussion about Verdugo Park and money spent on plans for unpopular changes, that serious problems with the condition of the trees were never raised. We have lost protected indigenous trees all over the Woodlands due to drought stress and poor care. We will be working on this issue in future months.



INDIGENOUS TREE CARE

As many Verdugo Woodlanders know, our neighborhood is home to a variety of indigenous trees, which are protected from over pruning or removal by Glendale's Indigenous Tree Ordinance. However, we are allowed to routinely prune away dead or dying branches without a permit. Below are examples of *unacceptable* indigenous tree care practices from the [myglendalecitynews](http://myglendalecitynews.com) website. Go to the website for more detailed descriptions and how to obtain a permit if you need to go beyond "routine pruning."



"Hat racking" – severely pruning a tree



"Lion's tailing" – removing all the interior branches



"Topping" – severely trimming of large branches to stubs

DON'T FORGET TO WATER!

Besides maintaining the outward appearance of trees we must also nourish them. Due to drought conditions many residents have cut down on watering lawns and shrubs, however, trees still need water. Experts say water less frequently than you would your lawn, but slowly and more deeply.

WHICH TREES ARE INDIGENOUS TREES?

Oaks: Coast Live, Mesa, Scrub and Valley
California Sycamore
California Bay

Dear Verdugo Woodlands West Homeowners

So as the saying goes, April showers bring May flowers and, much to our delight, new vegetation growth around our beautiful scenic mountains. As people enjoy the beauty of nature, and the hilltops become green and lush, with the beauty comes incredible danger to our homes located in brush fire zones. The new vegetation that grows during the summer has the potential to dry and provide late summer, early fall fuel for devastating brush fires. Spring and early summer are the perfect times to be proactive in developing a vegetation management plan in High Fire Danger Areas.

I have been a Glendale Firefighter for over 11 years, and every year we are noticing that in California, fire season is a year round possibility. Just this past year, DURING CHRISTMAS, DURING WINTER, California had the largest wildland fire in history, the Thomas Fire, burning 273,400 acres in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties

While November is typically the beginning of the rainy season in California, the first measurable rain fell on January 8, 2018, which was more than a month into the devastating fire. When it finally rained, the natural vegetation was already burned and flash floods and mudflows destroyed countless homes in Montecito and surrounding areas. By January 10, at least 21 people had been killed and over 100 homes were destroyed. After it was all said and done, 1,063 homes were destroyed, one firefighter and 21 civilians died due to the Thomas Fire and subsequent mudflows.

In order to protect our Woodlands community, here are a few ways to minimize the risk of a destructive fire:

- ✓ Keep roofs clear of dead and dry leaves
- ✓ Maintain at least 5 feet of branch clearance from roof
- ✓ Remove highly flammable plants around your house:
 - Juniper
 - Cypress
 - Rosemary
- ✓ Remove all dead vegetation at least 30 feet from your house including:
 - Leafs, grass, shrubs, and trees

Following these simple steps can help protect your home and your lives as well as the lives of firefighters who protect and serve our community. Please visit GlendaleFire.org and scroll to Fire Prevention to find more information about Glendale's Vegetation Management Program (VMP) and never hesitate to contact your Fire Prevention Bureau if you have any concerns about your home.

Respectfully,

Ara Hoonanian
Glendale Fire Captain



Update on Vegetation Management

Many neighbors questioned the new fee they were recently assessed to ensure the clearing of certain vegetation around their homes. In May the Glendale Fire Department began implementing more comprehensive routine inspections of hazardous vegetation in high fire areas. Using a new cloud-based software, automation of planning, scheduling, inspection and notification is expected to be more effective. This new \$15.00 fee will be collected annually to offset some of the cost of administration and inspections for the Vegetation Management Program.



Starting a Neighborhood Watch Group



As you can see in the Crime Statistics, we're so fortunate to live in an area with a very low crime rate, but even one victim of a crime is one too many. Sergeant Magtoto, the head of the Glendale Crime Impact Team, highly recommends Neighborhood Watch groups.

The groups promote crime prevention by encouraging the community to work together with the police department to maintain the safety of the neighborhood and just keeping an eye out for each other goes a long way toward that end. Education in how to prevent criminal activity is also important, providing the tools needed to protect residents and their homes from becoming victims of crimes.

Disaster preparedness is another focus of Neighborhood Watch groups. Learning how to prepare for natural disasters give residents a feeling of confidence and can make a big difference in how the neighborhood recovers in the event of a disaster.

Community relations are also improved by joining a group. It is a great way to get to know your neighbors. The common concerns of residents who share a willingness to work for a better and safer neighborhood provide a good reason to get together for discussion.

Watch groups function in various ways such as neighbors sharing email addresses and phone numbers, selecting coordinators or block captains, and having police officers attend meetings to provide both information and crime prevention techniques.

If anyone is interested in starting a Neighborhood Watch group on your block, the Glendale Police Department will be glad to assist. Please call the Area Command Unit at 818-548-4016.

City Council Rejects Most Proposed Changes to Verdugo Park

On May 15, City Council considered three staff proposals for development of the North end of Verdugo Park. Around 15 people spoke at the meeting, including several members of the VWWHOA. All were opposed to the scale of the proposed changes. Fortunately, four Council members, Vrej Agajanian, Paula Devine, Vartan Gharpetian, and Ara Najarian, were responsive to the community's concerns. Council Members Agajanian and Najarian did not see the need for any changes, and Najarian spoke on behalf of our late lamented stream. In the end a majority of Council voted to approve a 1500 – 1800 square foot restroom and community room building and a small ADA-van accessible parking lot along with upgraded and additional picnic tables. The road will stay in place, but the walking path, exercise stations, large new vehicle turnarounds, and large parking lot have been eliminated.

The Shane's Inspiration playground was rejected after Council Member Gharpetian alerted his colleagues that although the play area is about 10,000 square feet, the entire footprint is over 30,000 square feet. Council asked Staff to come up with a design for a much smaller but still ADA-accessible playground. We are grateful to the Council members who listened to the community.

To our surprise, only a week later staff sought Council approval for \$250,000 for the schematic design and preparation of construction documents for Verdugo Park. VWWHOA believed that a clearer plan for the park needed to be in place before so much money was spent. We reached out to Council Members Gharpetian and Najarian and are grateful for their intervention. The item was pulled from the agenda to await further information.

You can be certain that the VWWHOA will keep a watchful eye on these developments, in particular any increases to hardscape or danger to trees.

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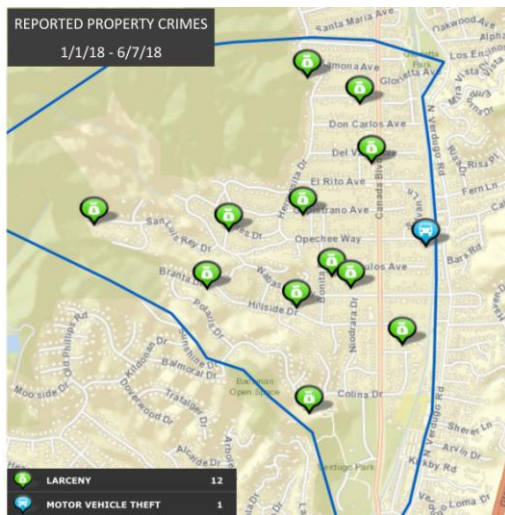
P.O. Box 343 • Verdugo City, California 91046

Homeowners Association



Verdugo Woodlands West

REPORTED PROPERTY CRIMES - 1/1/18 - 6/7/18



Report #	Incident Type	Location	Report Date	Notes
180000456	GRAND THEFT	1400-BLK HILLSIDE DR	1/9/2018 17:51	PACKAGE THEFT
180000812	RECOVERED VEHICLE	1700-BLK OPECHEE WAY	1/16/2018 11:50	RECOVERED STOLEN VEHICLE
180001467	PETTY THEFT	1500-BLK HILLSIDE DR	1/27/2018 9:56	THEFT FROM UNLOCKED VEHICLE
180001471	PETTY THEFT	1400-BLK ANDENES DR	1/27/2018 12:19	THEFT FROM UNLOCKED VEHICLE
180001473	PETTY THEFT	1500-BLK SUNSHINE DR	1/27/2018 11:47	THEFT FROM UNLOCKED VEHICLE
180001479	PETTY THEFT	1100-BLK SAN LUIS REY DR	1/27/2018 14:11	THEFT FROM UNLOCKED VEHICLE
180003532	PETTY THEFT	1600-BLK CAMULOS AV	3/3/2018 13:32	THEFT FROM UNLOCKED VEHICLE
180005099	PETTY THEFT	1600-BLK WABASSO WY	4/2/2018 12:01	CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFT
180005401	PETTY THEFT	2800-BLK HERMOSITA DR	4/7/2018 11:07	CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFT
180005444	GRAND THEFT	2300-BLK BONITA DR	4/8/2018 12:18	THEFT FROM UNLOCKED VEHICLE
180006211	GRAND THEFT	1600-BLK GLORIETTA AV	4/22/2018 8:20	CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFT
180008221	PETTY THEFT	2500-BLK CANADA BLVD	5/30/2018 17:37	THEFT FROM BUSINESS
180008542	GRAND THEFT	1700-BLK HIAWATHA DR	6/6/2018 11:13	GRAND THEFT FROM RESIDENCE

