



Verdugo Woodlands West
Homeowners Association

THE WOODLANDS GRAPEVINE

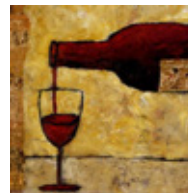
MISSION To preserve the low-profile, single-family character and unique aesthetics of the Verdugo Woodlands; and provide a forum for discussion of civic issues that may affect our neighborhood and its residents.

Fall 2019

Verdugo Woodlands Wine Social 2019

In June we had our annual Wine Social at the home of Cindy Dugger and Byron Taylor on El Rito Avenue, the newest addition to the Glendale Historic Register in our neighborhood. We want to thank them for their hospitality and for opening their home again for this event. We also thank all the residents who supported the event with their camaraderie and neighborly spirit. We met some new neighbors, had a chance to meet and discuss local politics with the three City Council members (Ara Najarian, Vartan Gharpetian and Paula Devine), and sampled great wines, along with a mocktail, as a non-alcoholic beverage. A special shout out to Christine Saucedo and Chas and Andrea Meier for their assistance with the event.

Thank you and look forward to seeing all of you at our 2020 event.



Big Changes to Voting Before the March 2020 Election

Be prepared for significant changes to how LA County residents will cast ballots in 2020. These changes are based on a state law passed in 2016.

Thousands of neighborhood polling places will be eliminated in favor of fewer Vote Centers, each serving as many as 30,000 registrants. Voters will be able to cast ballots in person or drop off mail-in ballots at any Vote Center in the County. People will be eligible to register to vote at a Vote Center as late as Election Day. Vote Centers will be open either three or ten days before Election Day, depending on the number of registrants they serve. There will also be drop boxes where mail-in ballots can be deposited.

One goal of the changes is to encourage voting by mail. For the first time, postage for mail-in ballots

will be paid by the State. However and unfortunately, mail-in ballots will not automatically be sent to every registered voter in LA County. They will go only to voters who request them.

Please be prepared and request your mail-in ballot early, especially if you believe it may be difficult for you to make it to a Vote Center that is not in your immediate neighborhood. For a list of possible Vote Centers in Glendale see vsap.lavote.net/vote-center-placement-project.

Proposed locations include schools, libraries, churches and temples, community centers and banquet halls.

Also, the Verdugo Woodlands West HOA plans to host another candidate forum for City Council in early 2020. More information to follow.

🌿 Editor's Message 🌿

FOR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION, CONTACT

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I hope that you all had a great Summer and a chance for rest, relaxation and rejuvenation. I got a chance to travel to Northern Italy this summer and what a blast I had. And, coming back home, I appreciate the Verdugo Woodlands even more with our majestic trees, wonderful neighbors and fabulous SoCal weather.

In this issue, you'll read about how it all began 25 years ago. The events leading up to the creation of the Verdugo Woodlands West Homeowners Association. You'll read about the sad passing of a legend and leader of the Woodlands. We hope you will be motivated by the community service opportunity, learn about new changes in voting, learn about how to care for the trees in our Woodlands and be just a bit more eco wise. And, there is more, we want to thank all those that made our Annual Wine Social a success. Please see the Dates to Remember section for our next gathering: the Annual Meeting is on October 12!

We are continuing to develop our communication channels with our community. You'll notice the look and feel and the newsletter format have changed with this issue. We want to hear from you about topics of interest for our newsletter and email communication. Please email us at vwwhoa@gmail.com with your suggestions.

Enjoy the Woodlands and continue to make it the wonderful neighborhood that it is.

Warmest regards,

Annet Arakelian

VWWHOA Board Member and Editor of this issue.

Celebrating 25 Years of Our HOA – How It All Began

A great big Texas hello to the wonderful Verdugo Woodlands! I'm responding to a request from the VWW HOA to write a blurb about the genesis of this wonderful Homeowners' Association. My pleasure.

In the beginning...25 years ago! A wealthy individual discovered the bucolic Woodlands and decided it was a perfect place to build his compound. Unfortunately, he discovered the hilltop known as Teddy Bear Hill (now La Vista Terrace off Wabasso) so named by Woodland children who, many years ago, would take their Teddy Bears and their packed lunches to the top of the hill for childhood adventures.

He purchased the land-locked parcel and proposed to create access by constructing huge retaining walls then grading the top of Teddy Bear hill to construct a 25,000 square-foot development consisting of a gigantic home, guest house, pool, etc. Karin Jonke and her mother, Ruth Moore (who as a child climbed Teddy Bear Hill in the 30's) still live

nearby and were shocked that anyone would want to build such an insensitive project.

They decided to fight the proposed development, but how? Simultaneously, long-time Woodlands resident, Ruby Messner, was frustrated with a most inappropriate proposed development on Glorietta. Karin, Ruth and Ruby bumped into each other at the City's Planning Department while inquiring about their options. Keep in mind, there was no Design Review in those days. They concluded that the Woodlands needed to do what other areas in Glendale had done; that is, form a homeowners association. They spoke with everyone they knew and enlisted help from neighbors.

We all met at the Di Paolo home off Hermosita where future Councilman Bob Yousefian donated \$50 to get us going. That was the beginning. The founding members understood the importance of taking this step if the aesthetics of the Woodlands

Continued on Page 3

were to be preserved and it is appropriate to recognize them here.

Officers: Karin Jonke, President continues enjoying her home in the Woodlands, as does Ruth Moore, Treasurer. Michelle Jaross, Vice President, no longer a Woodlander. Secretary, Mirna Stanley, lived and loved my Woodlands home for 45 years before moving to Texas.

Founding Board Members who, with the exception of the last two, remain in the Woodlands: Minerva Astengo, Ossie Di Paolo, Ray and Marcia Haug, Rudy Messner, Jon Summer, Jason Jaross and Curtis Stanley.

Fun times in late 1994. Congratulations and all my best. I'll end with the sign off I used as your HOA

president: Don't forget to look out for one another. It's what good neighbors do.

Affectionately,

Mirna Stanley



P.S. I should have mentioned that the HOA successfully opposed the monstrous development on Teddy Bear Hill, but years later the Planning Commission approved subdividing of that property.

Farewell to A Dear Woodlander

Honoring Doris McKently, long-time Verdugo Woodlands resident and contributor to Verdugo Woodlands' history.



Doris J. McKently, longtime resident of Glendale, California, passed away in her home Sunday, June 30th, surrounded by her loving children and grandchildren. She had recently celebrated her 99th birthday.

Born on June 18, 1920, in Los Angeles to Drs. Ernest and Jane Bashor, Doris grew up in Silverlake, graduating from John Marshall High School and Occidental College. She met her husband, Melvin, during WWII. They married in August, 1944, before he shipped off to Germany with the 82nd Airborne Division. Shortly after his return home, he was recalled to serve in the Korean conflict. While her husband was deployed for the second time, Doris oversaw the construction of their home in Glendale where she would reside for 68 years.

Doris, a teacher, was active in numerous civic organizations: The Glendale Historical Society, the

Alex Theatre, the Doctor's House and the Days of Verdugo Heritage Association. She was a long-time member of PEO, Las Vecinas and was the oldest living member of Silverlake Presbyterian Church.

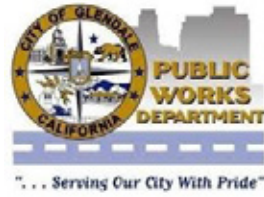
In 1946, Doris' parents bought property in the Verdugo Woodlands. The site included the Jose Maria Verdugo Adobe, part of the historic Rancho San Rafael with the majestic oak tree. In 1847, envoys of Generals Andres Pico and John C. Fremont negotiated the Treaty of Cahuenga under the shade of this large oak. While the tree no longer stands, in its place is a State Historic Landmark plaque. The Bashors named their property "El Roble de la Paz" or "The Oak of Peace" in honor of the role the tree played in bringing an end to the Mexican American War. Doris was instrumental in orchestrating the acquisition of the property by the City of Glendale for public enjoyment when her mother, Jane, passed away in 1988. We are eternally grateful for her contribution.

We will remember her for her grace, generosity and creativity. She was a doer of "good deeds," calling on her peers, especially invalids, daily. She would host "coffee time" regularly for her neighbors with handmade treats and decorations.

Our deepest condolences to her family from the Verdugo Woodlands West Board of Directors and community. May she rest in peace.

MEET YOUR ARBORIST TECHNICIAN

Katherine Williams



We've had the great pleasure of working with our new Arborist Technician. She's energetic, bright and a great resource for our community. Here is the outcome of our chat.

How long have you been working for the City of Glendale and what is your role?

I work for the City's Forestry Division as the Arborist Technician. Our team is responsible for taking care of all city street and park trees, and we work together on all kinds of projects under the direction of the City's Urban Forester. One of my main responsibilities is administering the City's Indigenous Tree Ordinance, so I also get to work with residents, designers and other City departments to help manage and preserve Glendale's protected indigenous trees. I just celebrated my one year anniversary with the City in August.

What part of your job do you enjoy the most?

Urban forestry is rewarding for many reasons, but I especially enjoy the chance to help residents and work with so many different people.

What advice do you have for homeowners living in the Woodlands?

The Woodlands is a special community that clearly value their trees, the neighborhood's natural history, and each other. I am here at the City as your resource, so please don't hesitate to contact me, not only with questions or concerns, but also to share your vision of Glendale's urban forest.

Does the City offer resources for residents interested in planting native trees?

I have a few thoughts for residents who are thinking about landscaping with native trees. First of all, that's fantastic. Taking a big picture view of your property will help you find the right place for the right species, for instance, an oak may do better on a slope with natural drainage, where a sycamore would thrive in a swale or anywhere that water collects. Both of these trees are available for free through the GWP shade tree program. Residents should know that even before new trees reach protected size (6 inches in trunk diameter) there is SO MUCH you can do to

set your tree up for success and minimize future maintenance headaches. For instance, there are great resources online on pruning young trees for good structure, which can help prevent major limb breakage in the future. You can help your tree avoid the root rot pathogens that affect many of our old urban oaks just by creating the right soil conditions. Given a good start, the next generation of native trees in Glendale could be the most resilient and low maintenance yet.

Here are some useful links:

City of Glendale Indigenous Tree Program website: glendaletrees.org

Glendale Water & Power Free Shade Trees website: glendaleca.gov/tree-power-free-shade-trees

For native tree and water-wise gardening ideas, check out the Glendale Water & Power's Water Wise Gardening website: glendalewaterwisegardening.com

I've heard you can't even touch a protected tree without a permit. Is that true?

The Indigenous Tree Ordinance allows for "routine pruning" to be performed without a permit, which means residents can trim small branches that are 2 inches in diameter or less, as long as they follow proper arboricultural standards and don't remove more than a quarter of the canopy. One way to think of it is "proactive pruning" that you can do on a regular basis to stop problems before they start. Pruning out small defects like crossing branches helps manage issues before they become too big for you to handle. Residents are free to call me, email photos, or schedule a free site visit with our department anytime they have questions on tree maintenance strategies and the permitting process.

What are your hobbies when not working for the City?

I enjoy drawing and writing, and I can't seem to stay away from school. I am also working on a Master's degree in my free time. What I am most excited about at the moment is that I am planning my first bike-packing trip for the fall!



ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, October 12, 2019, 9-11 a.m. at the Catalina Verdugo Adobe, 2211 Bonita Drive.

Continental Breakfast, 9-10 a.m., followed by the year in review, current topics of interest to our neighborhood and election of our new Board of Directors.

Invitation open to all current members and prospective members. Please invite your neighbors! No cost for current members. \$8 for guests.



OTHER EVENTS TO COME

Candidate Forum for March 2020 Election – TBD

2020 Wine Tasting – TBD

Neighborhood Watch Meetings – Ongoing

Drug Take-Back Days – October 2019 and April 2020, details to follow



DID YOU KNOW?

At the latest count, Verdugo Woodlands West includes over 1,100 single-family homes, almost 50 multi-family houses, and approximately 15 commercial buildings. The Woodlands has predominately single family, one- and two-story homes set on sizable lots. Since nearly all of Verdugo Woodlands West was developed before the 1970s, the area has a range of historic architectural styles, thousands of beautiful mature trees and very few vacant lots.

Here is a map outlining our boundaries for the Verdugo Woodlands West HOA.





MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please return this form with a \$30.00 check payable to:
 VWWHOA, P.O. Box 343, Verdugo City City, CA 91046
 or
 You can pay your dues through PayPal at wwwwhoa.org
 You will find PayPal under Contact/Join.

Date: _____ Email: _____
Please Print Clearly VWWHOA will not share your information

Name: _____

Address: _____ Glendale, CA 91208

Phone number: Cell _____ Home _____

Profession: _____

Years in the Woodlands: _____ Your Interests: _____

Our Homeowners Association can use volunteers for the following. Can you help with:

Special events _____ Web maintenance _____ Newsletter _____

Other _____
Please specify

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!
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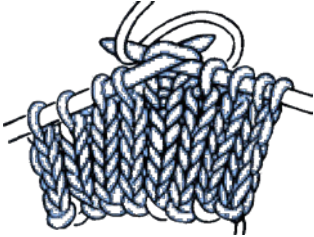
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HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

A Community Service Opportunity

A Verdugo Woodlands resident notified us with information about this community service opportunity through Handmade Especially for You that might be of interest to our community. Here is what the founder Leslye Borden shared with us:



Do you love to knit? Crochet? But have you run out of people who want what you create? That happened to me in 2008. I sold my business and retired, thinking I would make things for my granddaughters, but I made more than they could wear. I had to find more outlets for my creative energy. So I founded Handmade Especially for You, a non-profit that knits and crochets “comfort” scarves for abused women. Since we started, we have made 121,395 scarves and donated them to 70 shelters for abused women throughout California.

While helping abused women restore their lives, we give new meaning and purpose to our own. These women have taken a brave and difficult step to leave an abusive environment. Handmade wants to make an impact on these women, many of whom have never received a personal gift, much less a gift that is handmade.

There are so many ways you can participate in Handmade. We always need more creators. We always need more yarn. And we always need more financial support!

To learn more, please visit: handmadeespecially.org or contact founder, Leslye Borden at handmade.leslye@gmail.com.

ECO INFO. TIPS FOR AN ECO-FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD

Check Before You Burn

The chillier evenings of Fall make it tempting to throw a few logs into our fireplace. Before you light that cozy little fire, however, protect your health and your neighbors' by checking AirAlerts.org.

From roughly November 1 to February 28, smoke from your wood-burning fireplace sticks around because the L.A. basin's inversion layer traps particulates close to the ground, including in our Verdugo Woodlands paradise. It lodges deep in the lungs, causing pulmonary disease, asthma and heart attacks. Long-term exposure has been linked to early death.

The L.A. basin has the worst air in the nation. That's why the Southern California Air Quality Management District issues alerts on certain days prohibiting the burning of wood or manufactured logs, such as those made of wax or paper.

Penalties for first-time violations could be a \$50 fine or mandatory participation in a wood smoke awareness course. Repeat violators are subject to fines of \$150 and then \$500 and could be ordered to replace their wood-burning fireplace with a gas-fueled one.

Additional information is available at AirAlerts.org. For 24-hour recorded information, call 866-966-3293.

