



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.

Spring-Summer 2020

## Silver Linings: Why I'm Grateful

by Woodland Neighbors



*A shout out to our neighbors Chris and David for leaving beautiful bouquets of flowers at our doorsteps at the beginning of the Stay at Home quarantine orders. Dana Poag*



*Don't forget to stretch!*

Photos by **Andrea Meier** (top left)  
**Richard Shaw** (bottom left)  
**Susan Lapham** (coyote captured by  
her motion sensitive trail camera)



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## From the Editor

**“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...”**

No doubt this COVID-19 pandemic, compounded with protests around the country surrounding the death of George Floyd, is indeed the worst of times. As we shelter in our homes, venturing out masked and socially distanced, only connecting with friends or work on Zoom, worrying about loss of jobs, income, or just wondering how long our toilet paper supply will last, do we dare take a moment to ask, “Could there be a silver lining, a bright spot somewhere in this strange new reality?”

Well, it turns out that after the initial shock of this bizarre “normal,” people are discovering both new and old ways to survive and even thrive. I think it has awakened in many of us fresh sources of compassion, creativity and inspiration; evidence that we humans respond to the instincts of our better selves. Nowhere is that more apparent than in our own woodland community. We asked members to share their thoughts and photos about this. You will find them on the cover and scattered throughout this newsletter. I’m sure we can relate to their sentiments and recognize that this dark time will end one day and hope is on the horizon.

**Loretta DeLange**

Board Secretary

## 2020 Election Results

### GLENDALE CITY COUNCIL

Below are the results of Glendale City Council elections from March 3, 2020. County officials certified election results on March 27. Top two vote getters will serve a four-year term and the candidate receiving the third greatest votes will serve a two-year term filling the seat vacated by **Zareh Sinanyan** in 2019.

	(City-wide)
Paul Devine (incumbent)	21,692
Ardy Kassakhian	17,772
Dan Brotman	17,664
Vartan Gharpetian (incumbent)	11,422
Susan Wolfson	10,919
Greg Astorian	7,120
Leonard Manoukian	4,603
William Keshishyan	3,437

The outcomes are similar for our Verdugo Woodlands area which is represented by precincts 2550029A and 2550036A.

*I am grateful for all of the children’s art work displayed on house windows. It brightens up my day and gives me hope.*

**Annet Arakelian**



## Candidate Forum and the New Council

*On March 3 Glendale voters reelected Councilmember **Paula Devine** and sent two new members, **Ardy Kassakhian** and **Dan Brotman**, to the dais to join colleagues **Ara Najarian** and **Vrej Agajanian**. What did the newly elected Council members say at our forum?*

On January 23, which only *feels* like a hundred years ago, our HOA co-hosted a City Council Candidate Forum with the Dads’ Club. More than eighty people attended to hear former Glendale Mayor **Frank Quintero** ask all *eight* candidates about their position on issues of importance to Glendale neighborhoods. Questions came from members as well as the HOA Board.

All three winners expressed opposition to poorly written state mandates that force Glendale and other local governments to change their current ADU laws and don’t sufficiently protect older, historic neighborhoods. (The Verdugo Woodlands West HOA Board played an outsized role in crafting Glendale’s first ADU ordinance, which became a model for other cities). They support stricter application of design guidelines to help preserve neighborhood character. Brotman said that the design review process “is broken;” he identified a need to appoint qualified people to commissions and boards, as did Kassakhian, who also advocated for a citywide historic resources survey so that we have a better sense of the character we want to protect. Devine spoke to her record of supporting several neighborhood appeals of out-sized and incompatible projects.

All successful candidates enjoyed endorsements from the Sierra Club and are advocates for a greener Glendale. Devine observed that Glendale is hiring its first Sustainability Officer. Kassakhian proposed a citizens environmental commission to keep Glendale focused on climate and the environment. Brotman noted that he spearheaded opposition to expanding the all-fossil-fuel Grayson Power Plant and succeeded in getting the City to rethink that plan while saving taxpayers \$175,000. Although it would get people out of their cars, Brotman and Kassakhian dismissed the proposed streetcar along Brand Blvd. as too expensive and urged consideration of more cost-effective measures, including improving the Beeline. All three candidates support the long overdue comprehensive traffic study.

The final four questions of the evening were yes or no, hands up or hands down, without comment. Brotman, Devine, and Kassakhian voted “yes” to

- requiring staff report to Council on the costs/benefits of the Americana;
- supporting a ban on two stroke gas-powered leaf blowers in Glendale;
- asking staff to come to Council with a proposal to limit construction of ADUs in hillside areas at high fire risk and with narrow streets, as permitted under State law;
- requiring that development projects in the Downtown Specific Plan (DSP) area, which currently go straight to Council for approval, must first go to the Design Review Board and Planning Commission.

Indeed, they are already making good on the last promise. A few weeks ago Brotman moved, with Kassakhian seconding, that staff return to Council with a proposal for sending DSP projects to the appropriate commissions and boards before they come to Council for final approval.

We express deep gratitude to our new and reelected Council Members for serving during this particularly difficult time and look forward to seeing what they can do for Glendale.



Photo by **Richard Shaw**

*Almost 43 years in a 95-year-old house, full of memories. I am most appreciative of the flora and fauna of the woodlands and all that passed through my life. Amazing beauty. I hope to experience much more. I hope that everyone living in “91208” takes care of this special place.*

**Richard Shaw**



*Grateful for neighbors helping with birthday celebrations.*

Marianne Nelson

*Early on in our isolation, my neighbor, Karin Jonke, emailed me and offered assistance. I am quite elderly and my relatives, oldest and dearest friends, son, closest co-workers, and others have died. I seriously appreciated this unexpected offer. THANK YOU, KARIN!*

Joan Bullock



Photo by Andrea Meier



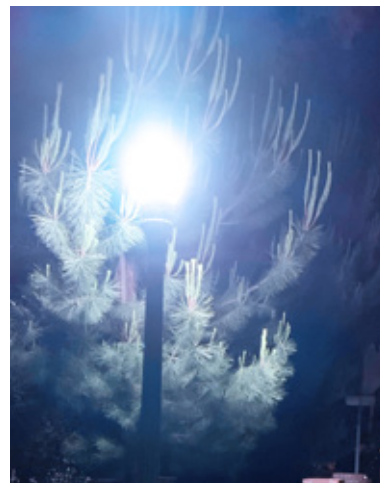
## Wine Tasting Cancelled

Sadly, in light of the social distancing guidelines currently in effect, we feel we must cancel this year's Wine Tasting event. Hopefully, next year conditions will be different and we can once again connect personally and socially.

## Objections to Lights in Verdugo Woodlands West Street Lamps

The HOA Board has been in touch with staff at Glendale Water and Power about replacement bulbs that have been installed within some of our neighborhood street lamps, both the historic post top lights and the newer cobra-head luminaries. Residents have complained about the too-bright blue bulbs, which our eyes read as white, rather than the softer yellow that we are used to. The American Medical Association recommends against such bright blue lights, which can interfere with sleep and are potentially dangerous for drivers and pedestrians. They can also impact the nocturnal wildlife that is so plentiful in the Woodlands.

GWP staff have suspended installation of the new bulbs and are seeking a softer bulb with a lower color temperature. We will follow up with them to ensure an attractive and safe nighttime environment.



Left: too-bright blue bulb.  
Right: softer yellow bulb.



## Welcome New Members!

Welcome to the following new and returning Woodlanders, representing Bonita, Calafia, Fernbrook, Andenes and Opechee:

- Miryam and Lou Finkelberg family
- Donna Fitzpatrick
- Eileen Pohl and John Madden
- Victoria Shabanian
- Jeffrey Vollmer
- Amy Higgins and Matthew Watts

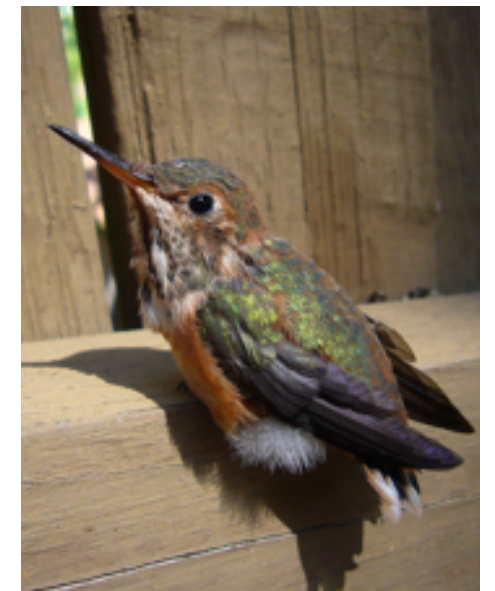
*I'm super grateful for my fun, caring, generous, interesting and kind neighbors! They are simply the best. XOXO*  
Tanya Wolfe



Photos by Andrea Meier (above)  
Tanya Wolfe (top right)  
Richard Shaw (bottom right)

*The past few months, we've met more neighbors, had more friendly interactions than ever before. It's been a joy to see parents riding bikes, walking and playing ball with their children — and to hear the wonderful shouts of happiness. We've never enjoyed walking in our neighborhood more and are more thankful than ever to call the Verdugo Woodlands our home! I also want to thank the Glendale fire department for finding items at Ralphs that I was unsuccessful in ordering on-line. GFD is the BEST!*

Wendy and Clarke Lethin







Here is a “corona chain of gratitude” put together by the family at 2011 Niodrara. They invite passersby to add to it and provide clean paper strips and pens for that purpose. Then they take the inscribed strips and add them as loops to the chain. I’ve watched the chain grow over the last week or so as I pass this house on my daily (masked) walk, and it always gives my spirits a lift.  
Tanya Wolfe



## Summer Color

Those of you who regularly walk down Bonita Drive have undoubtedly noticed the abundance of colorful flowers in front of the home owned by our relatively new neighbor, **Donna Fitzpatrick**. After living in the Rossmoyne area for over 45 years, where she and her husband raised their two daughters, Donna purchased her Verdugo Woodlands home in February of 2019. She immediately started working on the garden we all get to enjoy today.

We asked Donna if she had any tips for us who are “plant challenged.” It was obvious this was her favorite subject and she enthusiastically shared that her favorite annual at this time of year is the Supertunia which comes in an unending variety of colors. She also recommended planting two of her favorite perennials, the Shasta Daisy and Hydrangeas. She advised that her secret to having consistent healthy blooms is that she uses Proven Winners water soluble fertilizer, applying it every third watering. She orders this online from Amazon since the local nurseries don’t carry it. Her favorite local nursery is Armstrong’s in La Crescenta. She also shared the fact that when she has a plant or combination of plants that performed exceptionally well, she takes a picture and saves it to her Garden board on Pinterest so she can be reminded the following year.

We hope this encourages you to get out there and plant some flowers! Donna generously offered to give additional tips to anyone who wants to stop by and chat (six feet apart and masked of course).



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## Verdugo Woodlands West Homeowners Association

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On May 25, Memorial Day, Americans across the country remembered the brave men and women who gave their lives for our country. Each year the Verdugo Woodlands West HOA, in commemoration of this day, sends a wreath to the Glendale Memorial Day Ceremony held outside of City Hall beside the city's war memorial. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the city hosted a virtual ceremony. We thought you would appreciate a look at the wreath the HOA sent this year.

Board members:  
Rick Stern, Loretta DeLange  
and Annet Arakelian