



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.

Winter 2022

And the Winners Are...

On October 30, 2021 almost one hundred Woodlanders gathered outdoors for the **28th Annual Meeting** at our beloved Catalina Verdugo Adobe. Based on residents' responses and participation, the board judged it to be a wonderfully successful event. The atmosphere was a mixture of relief for a brief release from COVID restrictions and gratitude for the opportunity to finally greet each other in person.

As in previous years, the HOA provided light refreshments of sandwiches and pastries, this time from **Gio's Bakery and Café** in Montrose. Several new events were added this year. They included a



Halloween Mocktail table wherein people enjoyed tasting and learning how to make non-alcoholic Halloween drinks, a Skull Scavenger Hunt, and an Ugly Mug Contest, all of which invited children's participation. And due to exceptional member attendance the traditional 50/50 drawing was especially successful.

During the formal portion of the meeting **Cathy Jurca** recounted the issues and activities of the HOA during the past year.

If you missed the meeting, turn to pages 3 and 5 for a brief summary.

UGLY MUG CONTEST



Vicki Shimaji

SKULL SCAVENGER HUNT



Harper Colvin (right) shown here with **Charlotte Colvin**

50-50 DRAWING



Jack Foote

**FOR MEMBERSHIP
INFORMATION, CONTACT**

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From the Editor

Happy New Year Woodland Neighbors!

Seems like we've been here before, looking at the new year with hope and anticipation, thinking this is the year in which the world escapes living under the shadow of COVID 19 with all its restrictions, sacrifices and losses. Call me the optimist that looks at the glass half full, but I don't think I'm alone at this point looking on the bright side. Though cases are exploding because of the unusually infectious Omicron variant, current belief is that we should be in much better shape in 6 or 8 weeks. A long time you say? Not compared to 2 years! We are all too familiar with the struggles that hospitals, schools, churches, businesses, supply chains, and most of all ordinary families are presently experiencing. But I say let's all take a big breath and focus on this: we have two choices - to face difficulty with optimism or to face difficulty with pessimism. Let's choose optimism!

From First Five LA:

It will not be this way forever.

Recognize that you are doing well

Remind yourself of what is good in your life

Leading experts say:

Be Kind

Stay connected

Practice gratitude

Be a good neighbor

Learn something new

Take care of yourself

Be generous and help people

Remember COVID-19 safety

Build and maintain a healthy immune system

Stay well

Helen Keller said: *"No pessimist ever discovered the secrets of the stars, or sailed to an uncharted land, or opened a new heaven to the human spirit."*

Loretta DeLange, Editor of Winter 2022 issue and Secretary

Welcome New Members

Welcome to the following new and returning Woodlanders, representing Bonita, Camulos, Capistrano, Del Valle, El Rito, Hillside, Niodrara, Opechee, Ramona, San Luis Rey, Santa Barbara, Wabasso

Valerie Anderson and Robert Kallick • Marie and Anthony Bykowski

Ana and Dale Collisson • Yvonne and Mark Crawford • JoAnn DiConti and Maurice McIntosh Kargodorian

Mandi Dillin and Sean Spillane • Ruthann Etz and Jim Cypherd • Shelley and Manuel Gonzalez

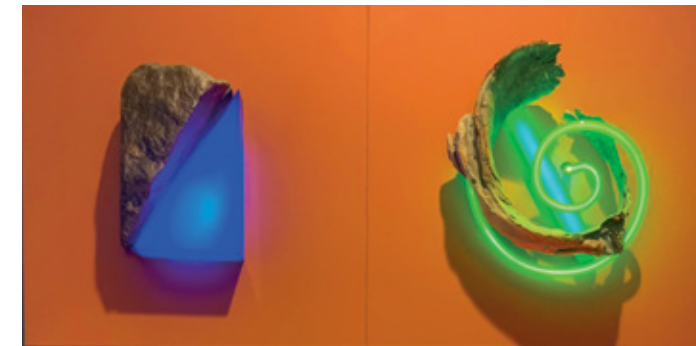
Jay Keiser • Linet Keshishian and Sasan Mirtorabi • Betty and George Keushguerian

Chai and Sandeep Khara • Caroline and Manvel Kondradzhyan • Tayla and Jonah Leon

Patrick Masihi • Sonia Montejano • Lydia Neff • Flora Teng

2021 At a Glance

We are one of two or three most active HOAs in Glendale. Here are some of this year's issues and activities:



MONA

On July 31 members visited the Museum of Neon Art in Glendale and were treated to a free private tour of these amazing signs and other items.

GOATS

Our HOA persuaded the City Council and fire department to bring in goats as an environmentally sustainable and effective way to manage brush in our hillside areas. We also hosted a "Bleat and Greet" with baby goats on hand for pictures and petting. We hope to get them back in 2022 and expand into the hills behind Verdugo Park.



PARKS

Our ongoing work includes monitoring Verdugo Park and the Catalina Adobe. You may remember there were some excessive development proposals recently. We have been able to maintain the north end of Verdugo Park as a passive area; the city dropped plans for the 12,000 square-foot playground, including lots of hardscaping and shade structures. Recent plans are for a meditation maze and garden where the playground is now, which will require no removal of trees.



TREES

We continue to lose Woodlands trees to drought and poor care. The City has a wonderful arborist Katherine Williams. Contact her or the HOA if you have questions about trees. Many people don't know they have an obligation to maintain street trees in the public right of way by their home. Careless work by builders also is a problem; we lost a magnificent street tree on the 1500 block of Opechee that was required to be protected as part of a construction project.

GOOD NEIGHBOR LIGHTING

We also continue to monitor development projects. We encourage projects that are compatible with the neighborhood and that show respect and consideration for neighbors. One recent problem is with lighting. Glendale does not regulate it, and often projects are approved by the Design Review Board without a lighting plan. Our HOA would like to see Glendale implement a Good Neighbor Lighting program that allows for attractive lighting that meets goals of security and safety without blinding neighbors or affecting wildlife.

Continues on page 5.

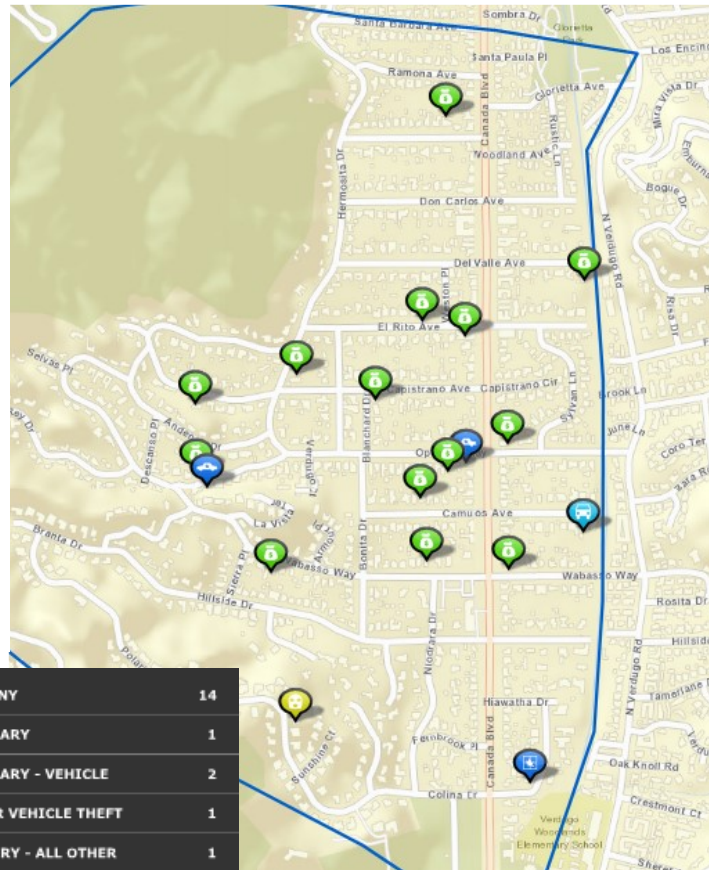
Crime Statistics in the Woodlands

JULY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2021

Though any crime in our area is a source of concern, our city as a whole is one of the safest cities in California. According to AreaVibes (a website that helps people find the best places to live) current comparisons between Glendale, Burbank and Pasadena show total crime for Glendale totaled 1,700 incidents, Burbank totaled 2,585 and Pasadena totaled 2428.

In addition, out of 229 cities in California, Safewise's Safe City report ranks Glendale at number 36, Burbank at 108 and Pasadena at 137.

As of 2021 Glendale's total population was 197,549, Burbank's 100,835 and Pasadena's 141, 275.



210008817	Grand Theft	1600-Blk Opechee Way	7/14/2021	Other
210009518	Recovered Vehicle	1700-Blk Camulos Av	7/29/2021	Recovered Stolen Veh
210010406	Petty Theft	1700-Blk Del Valle Av	8/17/2021	Stolen License Plate
210011587	Robbery	1400-Blk Sunshine Dr	9/13/2021	Robbery
210011538	Grand Theft	1400-Blk Opechee Way	9/11/2021	Catalytic Converter
210012116	Burglary	1800-Blk Colina Dr	9/23/2021	Residential Burglary
210012768	Petty Theft	1600-Blk Glorietta Av	10/8/2021	Scooter
210012812	Petty Theft	2400-Blk Hermosita Dr	10/9/2021	Scooter
210013325	Grand Theft	2300-Blk Blanchard Dr	10/21/2021	Catalytic Converter
210013328	Grand Theft	1400-Blk Capistrano Av	10/21/2021	Catalytic Converter
210013722	Grand Theft	2400-Blk Canada Blvd	10/30/2021	Catalytic Converter
210013867	Petty Theft	1700-Blk Wabasso Wy	11/2/2021	Package Theft
210014237	Petty Theft	2300-Blk Canada Blvd	11/11/2021	From Unlocked Vehicle
210014772	Burglary Of Automobile/Truck	2200-Blk Canada Blvd	11/23/2021	From Motor Vehicle
210014798	Grand Theft	1600-Blk Camulos Av	11/24/2021	From Building
210015498	Grand Theft	1500-Blk Wabasso Wy	12/10/2021	Catalytic Converter
210016006	Petty Theft	1600-Blk Wabasso Wy	12/22/2021	From Unlocked Vehicle
210016057	Grand Theft	1600-Blk El Rito Av	12/23/2021	Catalytic Converter
210016126	Attempt Burglary From Auto	1400-Blk Opechee Way	12/26/2021	From Motor Vehicle

2021 At a Glance

Continues from page 3.

STATE HOUSING LAWS

Our HOA has played a leading role in helping Glendale manage the implementation of state housing laws.

SB1818 - This law allows multi-family housing projects to add up to 50 percent more units than allowed under local building codes if the project includes a small number of affordable units. Developers can apply for a set number of variances from the building code including greater height, additional floor area, reduced setbacks and open space, if these variances are necessary to build the affordable units. Planning staff have basically been handing out variances like candy. In short, our HOA led the effort to get Council to agree to change how the city processes the requests for variances so they are truly warranted.

SB 9. Ugh. As you know there is a new law that effectively allows almost every urban/suburban single-family property to be divided in half, and two units constructed on each new lot. So that means four properties where one single-family

SB 9 is a dog whistle to financiers: Jam California streets with 4 to 6 houses per lot, drum out homeownership.



VERDUGO WOODLANDS HISTORIC DISTRICT

Historic districts are exempt from SB 9, meaning no lot divisions. Owners can still build ADUs, can still add to their residences, and can still make alterations, but they need to comply with city's HDDG (Historic District Design Guidelines). Our HOA organized two virtual community presentations. A video of the presentation is on our website, with info about what a historic district is, what are the obligations of living in one, and how it's created. Board member **Cathy Jurca** led the effort to create the Niodrara Drive Historic District, so that area is already protected. City-wide there are nine districts and one more in the works. We would love to see the Woodlands able to maintain its special character by becoming a historic district.

Please stay involved. Write, speak and attend commission and council meetings, and please consider volunteering with the HOA. It is advantageous to have more people, more minds, more bodies at work to improve the quality of our life and of our City. Email us at VWWHOA@gmail.com.

house used to be. Council has considered what might go into an emergency ordinance to help manage the worst potential impacts from SB 9. We wrote in with very detailed recommendations and got other HOAs to weigh in as well. We are glad to say that Council directed staff to be as strict as possible and to implement the most important of our recommendations:

- limiting the size of new units to 800 square feet
- not allowing ADUs and Junior

- ADUs, which would have meant up to eight units where one single-family house used to be
- requiring off-street parking
- imposing development impact fees for infrastructure, libraries, parks, etc.

It's likely that for a year Glendale can minimize the impact by limiting the size of new units, but the state is going to rewrite the law, as they did with the ADU law, which will result in the destruction of single-family neighborhoods. And hence the last major item is the creation of a Woodlands Historic District.

Is your home historic?



Please search your photo albums and shoe boxes jammed with history! To help in our effort to become a historical district, can you share any pictures or information of historical interest about your home? Did it have a renowned architect, builder or landscape designer, or maybe a famous owner or occupant?

You can email any documented information to wwwhoahistoricdistrict@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Join us today!

Join instantly at vwwhoa.org

Or return this form along with a \$30 check payable to:
VWWHOA, P.O. Box 343, Verdugo City, CA 91046

Email _____ *VWWHOA will not share your information*

Name _____

Address _____

Cell _____ Home Phone _____

Your Priorities _____

As needed, would you be willing to attend occasional City Council or Design Review Board meetings to show support for the position that the Association has taken? Yes No

Comments and/or Suggestions _____

Since 1994, the Verdugo Woodlands West Homeowners Association has preserved the single-family characteristics and aesthetics that make our neighborhood beautiful and unique. Together with your support, our HOA:

- > Represents Verdugo Woodlands West before the City Council, Design Review Board and at various City departments
- > Provides a forum for discussion of civic issues that directly affect us
- > Represents Verdugo Woodlands West at the Glendale Homeowners Coordinating Council
- > Focuses on protecting our trees, hillsides, parks, and air quality, preserving our historic architecture, and maintaining property values
- > Keeps you up to date with regular notifications, newsletters and vwwhoa.org website
- > Hosts Annual Meeting and Brunch, a Summer Wine Tasting and other fun events to deepen your connection to your neighborhood

PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS

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Verdugo Woodlands West Homeowners Association

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Is your home historic?
Please see page 5.

ECO INFO

Verdugo Woodlands West Tree Committee Formed

Residents are joining HOA Board members to form a neighborhood Tree Committee to monitor, advocate, and plan for a healthy urban forest.

Did you know our neighborhood has been called the Verdugo Woodlands for more than a hundred years? Developer Frederick P. Newport named it in honor of the extraordinary landscape of mature trees, including numerous species of native oaks and California sycamores, now protected within the City of Glendale. Our unique landscape has been central to the identity and promotion of our neighborhood ever since.

But many residents have noticed the toll that drought, poor care, and removal have taken on our woodlands. Hundreds of mature trees have been lost, at a time when healthy forests are



more necessary than ever to cool our warming planet. Losing trees is also losing wildlife habitat. The Woodlands is a semi-“wildlands” after all.

As this newsletter goes to press, the City Council is scheduled to vote to set a citywide tree canopy goal of 25 percent. Measure S funds will go to planting and maintaining trees across the City.

Our committee will work to ensure the Woodlands is not forgotten in this plan. We will connect with staff and the community to restore our beautiful treescape and make sure the city takes care of what we have, and residents have the information (and trees!) they need to maintain a healthy and protective urban forest.

If you wish to join this committee, please contact **Cathy Jurca** at cathjurca@gmail.com.