



HACIENDA HEIGHTS IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.
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PUBLIC RELATIONS

By Adriana Quinones
February/March 2021

Our community continues to deal with challenges related to the COVID 19 pandemic. However, things are looking better due to people getting vaccinated and people following safety protocols. We need to continue using face masks, hand sanitizer and social distance. Soon we will be able to have HHIA meetings in person. Until then, technology makes it possible to have virtual meetings.

Below is a list of the past activities in our community during the month of February and March. Also, information beneficial to our community:

- On Feb 06, 2021 **HLPUSD** Trustee Area 1 and 3 Board Members, Stephanie Serrano and Christine Salazar held monthly town hall meetings with the communities of Hacienda Heights, La Puente and Valinda. They encourage all residents, parents, staff and students to provide them with suggestions, concerns etc. This is an opportunity to voice your concerns. You can send them an email at: SSerrano@hlpusd.k12.ca.us And ChristineS@hlpusd.k12.ca.us
- February 18, 2021 - **The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)** hosted the a virtual quarterly public forum. The purpose of the meeting is to inform the community about DTSC's programs and activities and provide you an opportunity to share your questions and perspectives with DTSC's leadership. Many residents expressed that our communities are disappointed as to how the Quemetco issues have been handled. For more information visit <https://dtsc.ca.gov/publicforums/> You can also find information on the Clean Air Coalition page:
- <http://www.cleanaircoalition.org/index.html> **The next quarterly meeting will be held on **May 19, 2021** at 5:30-7:30pm. Register in advance: https://dtsc-ca.gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cQOp8VHARvO42xfnS9R0Tq
- March 25, 2021—Supervisor Hahn hosted virtual community meeting to discuss the recent incidents regarding Anti-Asian Crime resident from of Hacienda Heights, Rowland Heights, and Diamond Bar participated.

- On March 27, 2021 **Macy's Puente Hills** associates organized a donation drive up event for Alice's House. Used /new clothing, hygiene items etc. were donated by the community. It was successful, there were 3 vans full of items donated. There are plans for drive up events benefiting our local women's shelter on Stimson and others.
- **Clean Air Coalition** is asking for community support for CA Senate Bill 575. The bill will fix the evaluation system (VSP) used by the Dept. of Toxic Substances Control in California. This bill not only affects Quemetco which is our local issue but evaluation of the over 70 hazardous sites throughout California. The organization continues to discuss the possible contamination by Quemetco. It affects Hacienda Heights, La Puente, North Whittier, Avocado Heights. They ask that our communities contact DTSC, AQMD, Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, State of California Assembly and State of California State Senate and ensure they protect our communities from business that contaminate our communities. For more information, visit the following page:
<http://www.cleanaircoalition.org/index.html>
- Next public meeting will be held on April 28, 2021 at 7:00 pm - For Zoom invitation send an email to: _rebecca@cleanaircoalition.org
- On February 25, 2021, the **Civilian Oversight Commission** for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department had meeting. Topic: Enhancing Accountability: Improving the Law Enforcement Officer Discipline Process. The virtual meeting brought together community partners, elected officials, law enforcement professionals & members of the public to discuss law enforcement misconduct, discipline & the potential for accountability reform.. For detailed information, please visit the following website:
<https://coc.lacounty.gov/>
- **Pet Licensing Amnesty Program**- Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control (DACC) is waiving late fees for renewed or new licenses purchased between April 15th and June 30th, 2021. In addition to the late fee waiver, DACC is happy to offer a free microchip for all non-microchipped pets licensed during this time. Pet owners can access their pets' licensing records on the DACC website at <https://animalcare.lacounty.gov/>, or call (562) 345-0400, or email licensing@animalcare.lacounty.gov.
- **FEMA COVID-19 Funeral Assistance**-If you've have lost someone to COVID-19, FEMA may be able to help with funeral expenses starting in April 2021. For more information about FEMA's funeral assistance program, visit:
<https://www.fema.gov/.../economic/funeral-assistance...> How to Apply: COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Line Number Applications begin on April 12, 2021 844-684-6333 | TTY: 800-462-7585 Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Central Time

- **CA COVID-19 Rent Relief Program**-- If you have experienced a financial hardship due to COVID-19, have past due rent or utilities, and have a household income that is not more than 80% of the area median income, you may be eligible to receive help to pay past due or future rent and utilities from the State of California. Property owners and renters can verify eligibility immediately by visiting [HousingIsKey.com](https://housing.ca.gov), or by calling 833-430-2122 <https://housing.ca.gov> Property owners and renters can verify eligibility immediately by visiting [HousingIsKey.com](https://housingiskey.com), or by calling 833-430-2122.
- **Energy Assistance Programs** -IHSS Customers-you can get help to pay for the cost of operating your electrically-powered medical equipment, for more information: <https://dpss.lacounty.gov/.../ihss/resources-links.html>
- **Tutoring Program**--CalWORK customers if your kids need extra support, the CalWORKs Tutoring Program can help, Visit: <https://bit.ly/DPSSGAIN> for more information. Also: <https://dpss.lacounty.gov/en/jobs/gain.html>
- **Help for students**--College students who are eligible for “work study” or have a \$0 expected family contribution may now be eligible to receive CalFresh benefits. Learn more at www.getcalfresh.org/students or call 1-866-613-3777. Also: https://www.getcalfresh.org/students?utm_content...
- **Los Angeles County Mortgage Relief Program** to Offer \$20,000 Grants to Property Owners Affected by COVID-19 Pandemic. Starting Monday, April 12, property owners can apply for the Mortgage Relief Program by calling (888) 895-2647 or visiting nhslacounty.org/mortgagereliefprogram. Also: <https://nhslacounty.org/mortgagereliefprogram/...> To find more ways how LA County can help property owners, visit DCBA’s foreclosure prevention website at dcba.lacounty.gov/foreclosure-prevention & <https://dcba.lacounty.gov/foreclosure-prevention/...>
- **Homeless outreach**--Union Station Homeless Services, provides Housing Navigation services to Hacienda Heights and surrounding areas. This includes outreach to individuals who are literally homeless, engaging them and building relationships, identifying barriers to housing and developing personalized plans to overcome each of these barriers. Their work is supported by partnerships with agencies like the Dept of Mental Health, Dept of Health Services, local employment agencies, non-profit legal aid organizations, etc. **If there is an individual in your neighborhood in need of services you can submit an outreach request through LAHSA's outreach portal: LA-HOP <https://www.lahsa.org/portal/apps/la-hop/> **We recommend using this portal to submit outreach requests to help us better track and respond to the needs of specific areas. In addition to our their outreach teams they work closely with LAHSA's outreach teams, their own Multi-Disciplinary outreach team, and the Department of Mental Health outreach team.

- Many residents requested information on how to report pothole repairs, graffiti removal and illegal dumping. You can download “**The Works**” for iPhone or Android and submit a report. See <https://dpw.lacounty.gov/theworks/>
- **Valley Vista Annual Clean Up**—many residents asked when Hacienda Heights was scheduled for annual clean up. I spoke with Angie from Valley Vista and James Yang from Dept of Public Works and they are working on having the event late 2021. Once a date is agreed, they will sent out notices and promote on social media.
- **Social Media Community Concerns**-The most common concerns continue to be: Fireworks at different times during the day and night. They are not common fireworks; they are much more powerful. The community would like law enforcement to start enforcing the laws by writing citations. Another concern is the continues homeless encampments throughout Hacienda Heights but most commonly close to the Motel 6 site. Lastly, car racing specially on Stimson Avenue, normally late at night.
- I need assistance from the community in identifying contacts for local organizations, churches and clubs. I want to contact them and invite them to join HHIA and also promote their events and have them promote HHIA.