



P.O. Box 5235 Hacienda Heights, CA 91745

Newsletter

Hacienda Heights Improvement Association

Working to build a better community

July, 2015

Editor: Joan Licari

President's Corner

I hope that this summer continues to be an enjoyable and productive time of the year for you and your families.

The HHIA Board continues to discuss various topics in public forum at the monthly board meetings including but not limited to a proposed wireless communications facility sites, illegal maternity housing, Puente Hills trailheads access, the continued oversight of the Puente Hills landfill with the conversion to the Puente Hills County Regional Park which is currently in the master planning phase, and the Quemetco battery cycling facility.

The HHIA Board continues to work with the County's Department of Public Works for the landscaping beautification and improvement along the walls on Hacienda Blvd. between Halliburton Rd. and the Pomona (60) Freeway, tentatively scheduled to start construction during late 2015.

We participated in the Jim Davis Beautification Day and the Fourth of July Parade and festivities. I am very proud of the all the items, issues, concerns and activities the HHIA Board Members have dedicated countless hours to prepare for, work on, resolve and accomplish this year. (President's message: Cont. on page 2)

Become a Board Member

Get Involved—We need you!

If you are interested in really getting active in bettering Hacienda Heights, become a Board member. We currently have one opening due to resignation and are accepting nominations. There will also be four Board positions open next year due to several members "terming-out" after three terms (a total of 6 years).

Eligibility for the position requires residency in Hacienda Heights and membership in HHIA for at least 6 months immediately preceding election. Please let President Brent Palmer or any Board member know if you are interested. Contacts are listed on the website for all the Board. New names and faces are always welcome because new ideas keep the organization relevant and dynamic.

Current issues affecting Hacienda Heights residents

Several projects are being considered by the HHIA that will potentially affect residents of Hacienda Heights. HHIA is your representative to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through liaison with Supervisor Don Knabe who represents our area—the 4th County District.

The now closed Puente Hills Landfill will ultimately be converted into **the new Puente Hills Regional Park**. The landfill is undergoing closure activities and master planning for the park is in progress. The park is being designed as for hiking, biking, equestrian and picnicking activities. There are expected to be 4 public meetings over the next several months regarding park design and facilities. HHIA will notify residents via website of the schedule when available.

We are still attempting to find a solution to reopen the currently **closed trailheads at Orange Grove and Los Robles** that give access to the Sanitation District land that for many years had be available to local trails. Closures continue to generate local concerns about crowds concentrating at the Seventh Avenue trailhead. Many Hacienda Heights residents and others who frequently used the closed entrances for casual walks are unhappy about loss of these easier access trails.

This Fall, you will begin to see the fruits of months of planning in the **beautification of Hacienda Blvd between Halliburton and the Pomona Freeway**. Trellises will be constructed along the fence-lines, and vines will add greenery and uniformity to the boulevard. Construction is tentatively scheduled to start in late 2015 and is expected to take 2 months to construct. The current target is to have construction start by Oct 2015.

County public works is also working on the **Gale and Hacienda Blvd intersection widening project**. The draft EIR is scheduled for public review in late 2015.

(Continued on page 2. Concerns)

Come to a meeting!!!!

Find out what is going on in the Heights: Aug. 17th, Sept. 21st, Oct. 19th. Nov. 16th, Dec. 21st at the Hacienda-La Puente School District Office at 7 p.m.

RESIDENTS: IT'S TIME TO RENEW MEMBERSHIP

SEE PAGE 4 FOR RENEWAL FORM!!!



(Concerns from page 1.)

The **Quemetco lead battery recycling plant has filed for a 10 year extension of its permit** to operate. This facility has a history of lead and arsenic pollution into the surrounding area. The Board is watching the permit process carefully. (Story below.)

Verizon is requesting zoning approval of a new palm-shaped wireless 50 ft. high cell tower behind the old Ralph's Market, adjacent to and on the west side of the Hacienda Animal Hospital. The zoning district limits structure height to a maximum of 35' above grade. The proposed wireless facility would be 15' higher than allowed in the zoning district. A recommendation for approval of the project by the Hacienda Heights Improvement Association would be necessary as a step in the Conditional Use Permit process. Streets south of the project include Windrush, Woodcreek Circle, and Cold Plains Drive. **Public meetings will be held to discuss this project. Dates will be posted on our website.**

Quemetco Inc. Battery Recycler Seeks 10 year permit extension

Lead and arsenic pollution a concern

HHIA is monitoring a request by Quemetco Inc. to the California State Dept. of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to continue storage, treatment and disposal of hazardous wastes. The facility, a lead battery recycling plant, is located on 7th St. in the City of Industry on the border with Hacienda Heights. It processes used or unwanted batteries to recover lead and treat or recycle the acid and plastic wastes. HHIA has over many years been concerned about lead, arsenic, and other pollutants impacting surrounding residential areas with water or airborne toxic materials. With the recent closure of the Exide recycling plant in Vernon, Quemetco is poised to become the primary recycling site for all batteries west of the Rockies. It recently increased through-put by 25%.

Representatives from DTSC, the South Coast Air Quality Management District and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board presented information on the permitting process at a public forum held on July 7th. They reported that soil and water testing of areas up to a mile from the plant are planned later in 2015 and a Draft Environmental report will be prepared for public review.

In the past, lead and arsenic have been found in areas surrounding the plant. Both elements can cause serious health problems. This is particularly true for children.

Check our website for meeting reports, what is going on in the Heights, and public meetings coming up that may concern you. <https://hhia.wordpress.com/>

HHIA Budget and Finance

Maury Edwards, Treasurer

HHIA operates on an annual budget of less than \$5000. Income comes from three sources, 40% from membership dues and contributions, 40% from a grant of L.A. County Supervisor Don Knabe's office and 20% from fund raising activities. Major expenses include 30% for insurance, 30% for newsletter and mailings; 20% for storage of records and materials and the balance for outreach and other expenses. HHIA is an all-volunteer organization and is dependent on its membership for support. **Urge your neighbors to join and attend the informative monthly meeting.**

(Presidents message from page 1.)

I want to thank Supervisor Don Knabe, www.knabe.com, for his support of Hacienda Heights as our representative on the Board of Supervisors. He supports our community and organization, both financially and with actions. We thank Angie Valenzuela, Adriana Rodriguez and Lauren Yokomizo who comprise the Supervisor's field office staff serving Hacienda Heights and serve as liaisons to the Supervisor.

We also thank James Yang, Department of Public Works. His hard work and attendance at our meetings works with us for the benefit of the community. Last but not least, safety and law enforcement community liaisons CHP Officer Al Perez, Town Sheriff Brian Sanford and Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority Rangers Kenn Hughes and Francine Godoy. Collectively, they work to enhance and keep our community and environs safe.

Sincerely,
Brent R. Palmer, President
Hacienda Heights Improvement Association

Do you have a local problem?

1. **Come to a meeting of HHIA. We will try to suggest a solution.**
2. **Contact the County. Call 211 for Los Angeles County services.**
3. **Look in your copy of Hacienda Heights Connections sent to you for a place to call. This is your guide to all things in the community.**

HHIA Logo Shirts

There are available a limited number of HHIA logo polo shirts in most men's and women's sizes. You may have seen some Board members wearing them; they are black with green HHIA embroidered logo. Show your support and wear the shirts to community activities. Price is \$20. Contact Maury Edwards (626) 336-5903

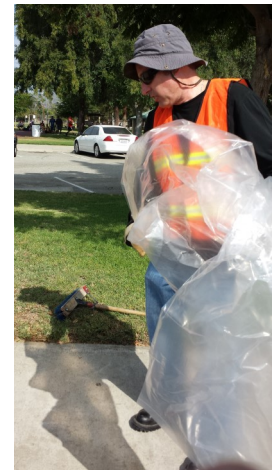
Happenings in the Heights



July 4th Parade



Jim Davis Beautification Day cleanup of Stimson and Hacienda Boulevard.



Beautification Day and July 4th—fun and community spirit

HHIA took part in the Jim Davis Beautification Day on June 29th, a clean-up of the July 4th parade route and sections of Hacienda Blvd. The day was a success! About 151 people cleaned Stimson and Hacienda Blvd. HHIA members supporting the effort were Jess and Hanny Zamora, Lucy Pedregon, Jim and Joan Synder, Jeffry Lin, John Eckman and Mike Williams.

A special thanks goes to the Mormon Church for the use of their facility, the Parks and Recreation Dept of Los Angeles County (Robert Luna led the effort) and the Kiwanis for their support in providing Insurance and permit for the event.

On July 4th, HHIA entered a red suburban truck while Mike Williams and Maury Edwards carried the banner down the parade route.



Parks and Recreation classes at the Community Center

Maury Edwards, Parks and Recreation Chairman

L. A. County Parks and Recreation is offering a course in ceramic sculpturing and design at the Hacienda Heights Community Center. These courses, taught by award winning artist Janet Panosso, provide a unique opportunity to learn ceramic techniques from an excellent artist and teacher. Students will receive individualized instruction in design, building and glazing ceramic art. With over 120 different colors and glazes available, designs can be unique and personal created from photographs, magazines, or other media. An evening class is offered on Tuesday at 6:30 pm or afternoon class on Thursday at 3:30 pm. Class fees are nominal and include kiln firings, materials are extra.

Other classes offered at the Community Center include Stained Glass Art, Computer Skills, Various Dances, Music and many more. For more information come by the Center and see what's going on. It is located at 1234 Valencia Ave. Hacienda Heights.



It's membership renewal time!

H.H.I.A. MEMBERSHIP FORM

Date of payment _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Street _____ Hacienda Heights, CA 91745

Phone _____

If you would like to receive announcements of meetings, activities, please provide an e-mail address. E-mail address: _____

(Your e-mail address will not be made public to any other organization or person.)

Annual Residents Dues \$20 _____ Life membership Dues \$150 _____

Newsletter Administration Donation \$10 _____

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____ Renewal _____ New Member _____

Please tear off this portion, place in an envelope and mail.

Mail check to: HHIA P.O. Box 5235 Hacienda Heights, CA 91745

H.H.I.A. is an IRS 501 (c)(4) non-profit Civic Organization. Membership and/or Donations are not tax deductible. They may be a business expense; consult a qualified tax advisor for more information

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