

HACIENDA HEIGHTS IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

“ANNUAL MEETING” OVERVIEW

PUBLIC SAFETY & HEALTH

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Public Safety & Health: In this topic, I have reported on issues that affect Hacienda Heights and the residents personally. These are issues from water shortage, flu's to annoying bug infestations. My topics are selected from press releases or media announcements and from the Los Angeles County Public Health & Safety website. At times, I will pick up newsletter from neighboring communities such as Chino and El Monte for further research on how some issues are addressed to compare. The following are issues that affected Hacienda Heights or you, the resident.

- (1) We began the year with Governor Brown declaring California in a “State of Emergency” due to the drought – lack of water. Campaigning began for public awareness to conserve water. The state hired more fire fighters due to dry conditions creating wild fires.**
- (2) Even though California was in a drought, the Asian Tiger Mosquito managed to populate and became a threat in Hacienda Heights. It was transferred from tire casing that were imported for recapping. Like other mosquitos, it breeds in water and carries a disease which affects the central nervous system. There is prevention & control. (Vector Control District)**
- (3) For your safety, I presented the subject of “Street Lights” which can be installed by requesting a petition from the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works. Call 1 800 300-4865 and speak to Mrs. Zahra Karimy from Traffic & Lighting Division.**
- (4) Lighting cannot protect you from phone scams & imposters that were targeting the residents, especially the elderly. Threats and the asking of money orders were demanded by the caller representing the Sheriff's Department. One must remember, never disclose any info and remember the Sheriff's Dept. never collects money. Call the Sheriffs at 6/330-3322.**
- (5) The quality of our air is affected by a recycling facility, QUEMETCO INC., which is located at 720 So. 7th Avenue in the City of Industry. It separates car battery parts to smelt and recycle. The process emits fine lead dust particles carried by the wind. Breathing contaminated air causes cancer.**

- (6) As the summer began, we hope you use water wisely. While our plants sit in pots with rims, buckets fill, pools/pond may be neglected only to invite mosquitos that carry Chikungunya disease as found in New York. The Vector Control District is addressing this issue along the east coast. Prevention is empty all potted rims, buckets, control stagnant water to prevent mosquito breeding.
- (7) Toward the end of summer, the west coast, - Hacienda Heights did address the West Nile Virus carried by dead black birds and transferred by mosquitos. The disease has flu like symptions and can be deadly which leads to encephalitis (inflammation to the brain). Once again, water breeds mosquitos.
- (8) With the hot weather, we enjoy our citrus trees, so does the Asian Citrus Psyllid. It is a small aphid like insect which infest on the back of the leaf to breed and lay their egg. The Psyllid spreads bacterial disease called "Huanglongbing". It affects the growth and fruit to literally kills the tree in 2 years according to the Agricultural Department.
- (9) We need our Citrus trees for Vitamin C in preventing the flu. Flu prevention also includes early immunizations. Many Pharmacies, Health Clinics and Health Care Providers offer low cost or free immunizations. The Hsi Lai Temple also offers frees flu immunization service to our community!
- (10)Just when we think all is addressed, we are threatened by Ebola! Ebola is a rare disease stemming from West Africa. It can spread by body fluids according to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. Fortunately, the United States has managed control & prevention by screening all travelers into the U.S.

Hopefully, 2015 will become a better year if we all conserve water, avoid mosquitos, and have immunizations to maintain a healthy lifestyle. I invite you to Mondays meeting held at the school district conference room (7:00 P.M.) for further HHIA Board information. We are here to serve you! Thank you.