



The Guardian



NORTHWEST GLENDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
LARGEST HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION IN GLENDALE

nwglendaleha.org nwglendale@gmail.com 30th Year, Winter 2021

2021 Annual Meeting

Glendale PD Chief Povilaitis, Housing Activists Speak

By Pam Ellis

For the second year in a row, COVID-19 forced NWGHA to hold its Annual Meeting via ZOOM. Thanks to the expert technological knowledge of Alex Ellis, daughter of one of our founders, the meeting was held without a hitch.

GPD Chief Povilaitis Speaks

First guest speaker was Police Chief Carl Povilaitis, who provided statistics on crime trends as well as tips for prevention. GPD is actively enforcing

(Continued on page 3)

Another Big Shredding Day!

Everyone loves our Shredding Day. It's our most popular event.

This year we had a good showing at the event, held in the Grandview Presbyterian Church parking lot Saturday, November 6. Nearly 60 members and others came by. We had quite a number of renewals and got some new members, too!

One of the pleasures of the event is chatting with neighbors, something that has been lacking since COVID-19.

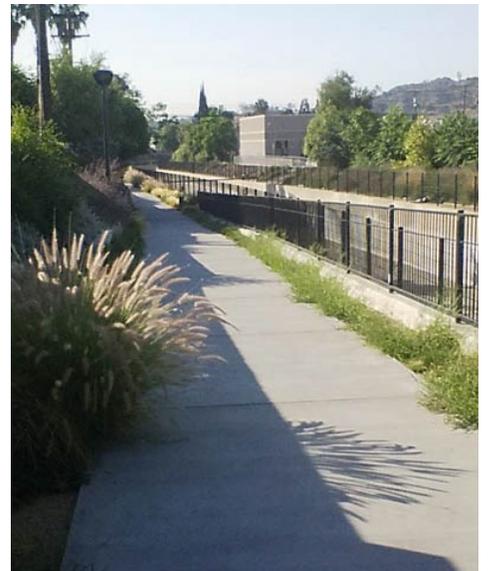
We usually hold our Shredding Day each year on the first Saturday in November.

For the more stalwart among you, there is a photo of your board of directors at the event on page 5.



▲ Members and shredding company representative handle empty boxes. *(Margi Simpkins photo).*

▼ Can the Verdugo Wash become a bikeway? Burbank, with its new Burbank Channel Bikeway shown below, did it. See Story on page 8.



President's Message

City Council Reacts to SB 9; New Historic District in NW

By Peter Fuad, President

A number of important events are impacting NW Glendale. Among them are the statewide fallout of SB 9 being enacted and, more happily, the formation of the South Cumberland Heights Historic District Overlay Zone.

New Laws Could Worsen, Not Improve Affordable Housing Shortage

California has now adopted a number of complex housing and zoning laws that the state legislature and governor believe will help alleviate California's affordable housing shortage. They become effective January 1, 2022.

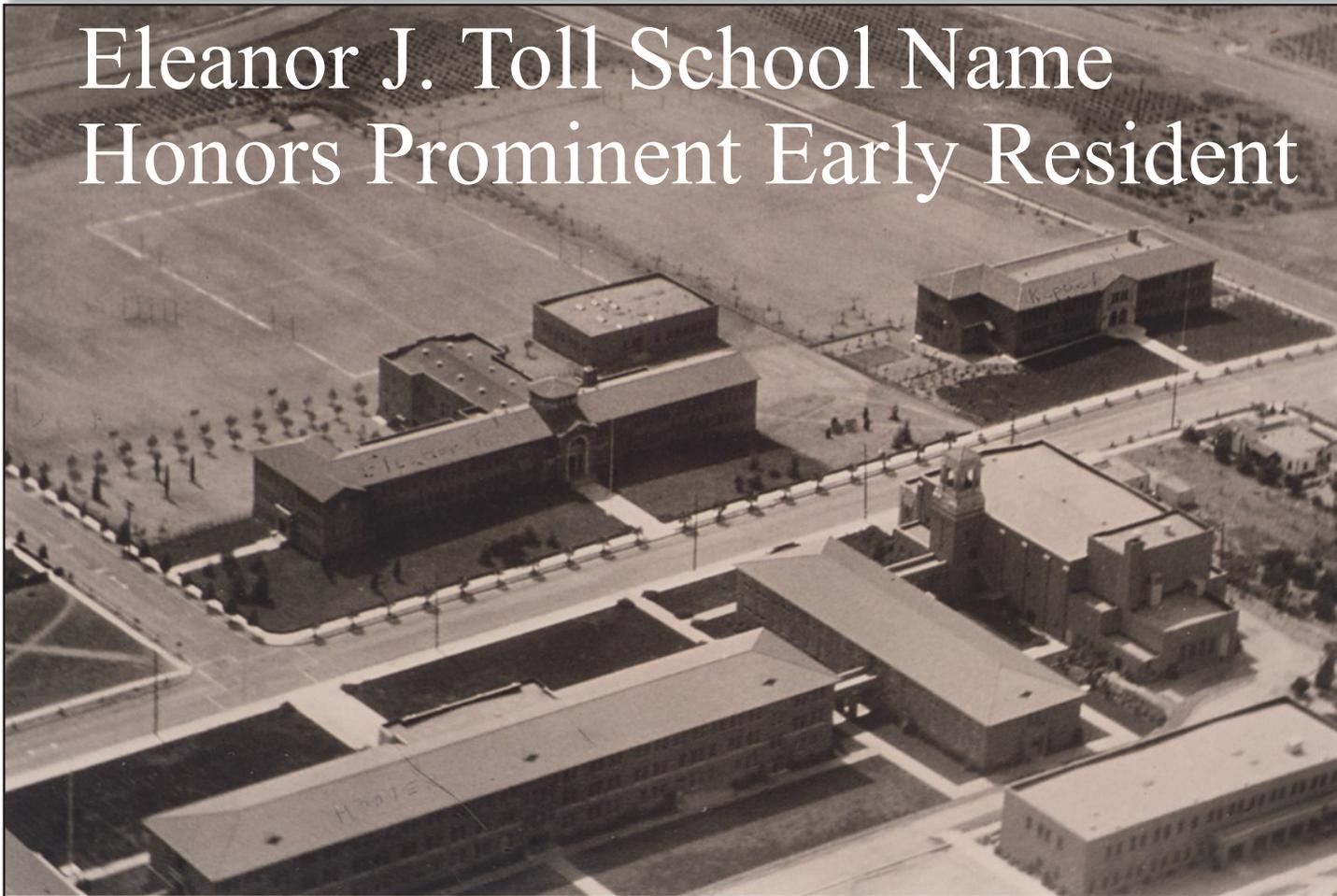
SB 9, known as the California Housing Opportunity and More Efficiency (HOME) Act, has been dubbed by many commentators as the law that will "end single family zoning in California."

The NWGHA and neighborhood activists throughout the state, such as United Neighbors, of which we are a member, recognize the need for more affordable housing, but doubt the latest spate of legislation will actually result in *affordable* housing.

Rather, we believe that most new housing resulting from these laws will, in fact, be market rate (\$\$\$) housing. Worse, the laws could incentivize the demolition of existing affordable housing, only to be replaced by market rate housing, because there is no requirement under SB 9 that any newly constructed units be set aside for affordable housing.

(Continued on page 10)

Eleanor J. Toll School Name Honors Prominent Early Resident



▲ This photo, taken in 1931, shows the three schools on Glenwood. Each parcel was purchased separately. Eleanor J. Toll Intermediate School opened in the fall of 1926, Herbert Hoover High School in 1929, and Mark Keppel Elementary School was built in 1930. ► Eleanor J. Toll. Because of Eleanor J. Toll's endeavors, Glendale is considered to be the birthplace of parent education.

*By Katherine Yamada
Glendale Historian*

A few houses dotted the landscape in northwest Glendale one hundred years ago. A two-room wooden school-house stood at Doran and what is now Columbus Avenue, but most of the land was planted in fruit trees and vines.

Building Boom Necessitated New Schools

Then, suddenly, the orchards and vineyards disappeared and new houses, complete with streets and sidewalks, took their place. So many families moved in that a new school was needed, an intermediate school to be precise.

The school board purchased nine acres on the south side of Glenwood Road in 1923 and began building what was to be called Abraham Lincoln Intermediate School.

By the time it opened, in the fall of

1926, the name had been changed to Eleanor Joy Toll Intermediate School to honor a prominent local woman. Among her many accomplishments, Toll put our town on the map as the birthplace of parent education.

Toll and her parents had come from Minnesota to California in 1875. She taught at Los Angeles High until 1901 when she married Charles H. Toll, a cashier for Southern California Savings Bank. After a merger with Security Trust and Savings in 1907, he became a vice president.

In 1913, the couple hired Charles E. Shattuck to design a home on Columbus Avenue for their growing family.

Becomes Involved in Education

With four school age boys, Toll became very involved in educating mothers about the needs of young children. She joined what was then called the Parent-



Teacher Federation of Glendale, served as president in 1914-15 and soon launched a weekly "Mutual Benefit Reading Circle," in her new home.

There, the women studied the relationship between parent and child with the aid

(Continued on page 3)

Zoomed 2021 Annual Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

speeding on Glenoaks and exhaust violations. The Chief also announced that four additional motor officers have been hired.

We are fortunate have a Chief who has been with the department for decades and knows our city well. Chief Povilaitis was appointed to the position on May 1, 2018. He has been serving the GPD for the past 27 years.

He has worked in nearly every department: Patrol, Investigative Services Division, COPPS Unit, Support Services Division where he supervised the department's Air Support Unit, Traffic Bureau Commander, the Special Operations Division (which initiated the development of the DNA lab and the Information Lead Enforcement and Accountability Data Project).

He literally knows the department and the city from top to bottom. Carl was promoted to Captain in 2010 and Deputy

Chief of Police in 2013.

Carl obtained an Associate's Degree in Administration of Justice from Monterey Peninsula College, a BS in Criminology with an emphasis in Law Enforcement from Fresno State, and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from USC. He is also a graduate of the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training Command College. He participates and volunteers for a number of clubs and non-profit organization boards within the community.

United Neighbors

The second speaker was Maria Pavlov Kalban, founder of United Neighbors, who gave a informative presentation on efforts to protect single family neighborhoods. Recently enacted SB 9 and 10 have both over-ridden local governments from deterring lot splitting and the construction of additional units in single family neighborhoods.

Also presenting was Redondo Beach Mayor Bill Brand. He spoke on behalf of "Our Neighborhood Voices," a new organization opposed to the new bills. (<https://ourneighborhoodvoices.com/>)

He is promoting an initiative which would stop Sacramento politicians from handing a blank check to developers to build what they want, where they want, without contributing to new transit, schools or roads, Assembly Constitutional Amendment (ACA7) would allow local control of building issues. It would amend Article 11 of the California Constitution. Visit their [website](#) to learn more and donate in order to get ACA7 on the ballot. (More in the President's Message on page 1.)

Open Invitation

Directors whose terms were expiring were reelected at the meeting, President Peter Fuad highlighted the activities of the Association over the past year. He invited members who are interested in serving on the board to attend monthly board meetings and volunteer for events. He said it is always good to find out more about the organization before making a commitment. If you are interested, email us at nwglendale@gmail.com.

The Association can always benefit from fresh ideas. Reports were also presented by Treasurer Sam Engel and Membership Chair Holly Keenan.

Early Prominent Resident Eleanor J. Toll

(Continued from page 2)

of materials Toll ordered through the Bureau of Education in D.C.

When the reading group outgrew Toll's home, it was relocated to the new Carnegie Library on Harvard, which had opened in 1914. Delegates from other communities began sitting in on the meetings and spreading the ideas discussed there. Similar groups were soon formed.

When Toll described her theories to the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teachers Association in St. Louis in 1923, she won their enthusiastic approval.

She was also active in the community. She helped organize the Glendale City Beautiful Club, formed in 1914 to ensure that the city planted and maintained street trees and parkways.

First Woman on Glendale School Board

In 1917, Toll was elected to Glendale's school board as its first female member. She earned a decisive majority over her male opponent and served as president for three years.

In the early 1920s, she and her friends formed the Glendale Symphony Orchestra Association to support a new musical

group. It had been organized by conductor J. Arthur Myers to perform at the first Easter Sunrise Service held at Forest Lawn. By popular demand, they were soon performing regularly in school auditoriums.

She also presided over the large and active Ebell Club of Los Angeles.

Toll was planning to write a book about her early childhood education efforts when she died suddenly, after a bout with influenza, in February 1926, at age 56.

Her body lay in state at the Tuesday Afternoon Club, with uniformed Boy Scouts standing guard beneath a lowered flag. Floral arrangements sent by her many groups filled the room as 1500 people filed by the casket and the symphony played her favorite hymns. She was laid to rest at Little Church of the Flowers in Forest Lawn.

That June, Carrie Noble, newly-named principal of Abraham Lincoln Intermediate School, spoke to members of the reading circle at a picnic in Fremont Park.

Newspaper accounts don't identify who suggested the change, but by September, the school, just a few blocks from Toll's home, had been renamed in her memory.

The Guardian

Newsletter of the Northwest Glendale Homeowners Association

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How Voting Districts Came to Glendale Schools

GUSD must adjust districts to reflect population shifts.

By Pam Ellis

As a result of the 2020 U.S. Census, the Glendale Unified School District (GUSD) Board of Education must make minor adjustments to its political district maps before a December 2021 deadline. The changes are precipitated by population shifts.

Why are these districts necessary when Glendale elects City Council members “at large?” Indeed, the City of Glendale City Charter calls for at large elections for both the City Council and the School District.

Lawsuit Threatened

However, GUSD received a letter in December 2013, demanding that the district adopt “by-trustee area elections.” Measure E was presented to the voters on

the April 2015 ballot to amend the City Charter to allow “by-trustee area” elections. The measure was defeated.

A lawsuit followed in April 2015, alleging a violation of the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA). Rather than fight the lawsuit, GUSD settled, since no local government entity, whose at-large election system was challenged, had mounted a successful defense. The resulting stipulated judgement provided for the establishment of districts prior to the 2017 election with no finding of liability or wrongdoing.

A violation occurs under CVRA if a method of electing representatives impairs the ability of a protected class to elect preferred candidates or influence the outcome of elections.

Statewide Issue

For the past several years, county offices of education and school and community college districts around the State of

California have been faced with the issue of trustee area voting, prompted by legal challenges under CVRA. CVRA is part of the State Constitution, and it supersedes the City Charter and Education Code in the area of school district elections.

The “at-large method” had been in place for over 100 years, but the threat by an outside group to sue the district because of a claim of under representing minority groups caused both GUSD and the Glendale Community College to change to “by-area elections”.

It is interesting to note that there is no minority represented in the school district and no examples of under-representation were ever presented.

Northwest Glendale is in GUSD Trustee Area B. Our current trustee is Gregory Krikorian who has served on the Board since 2001.

South Cumberland Heights Historic Zone Newest in NW

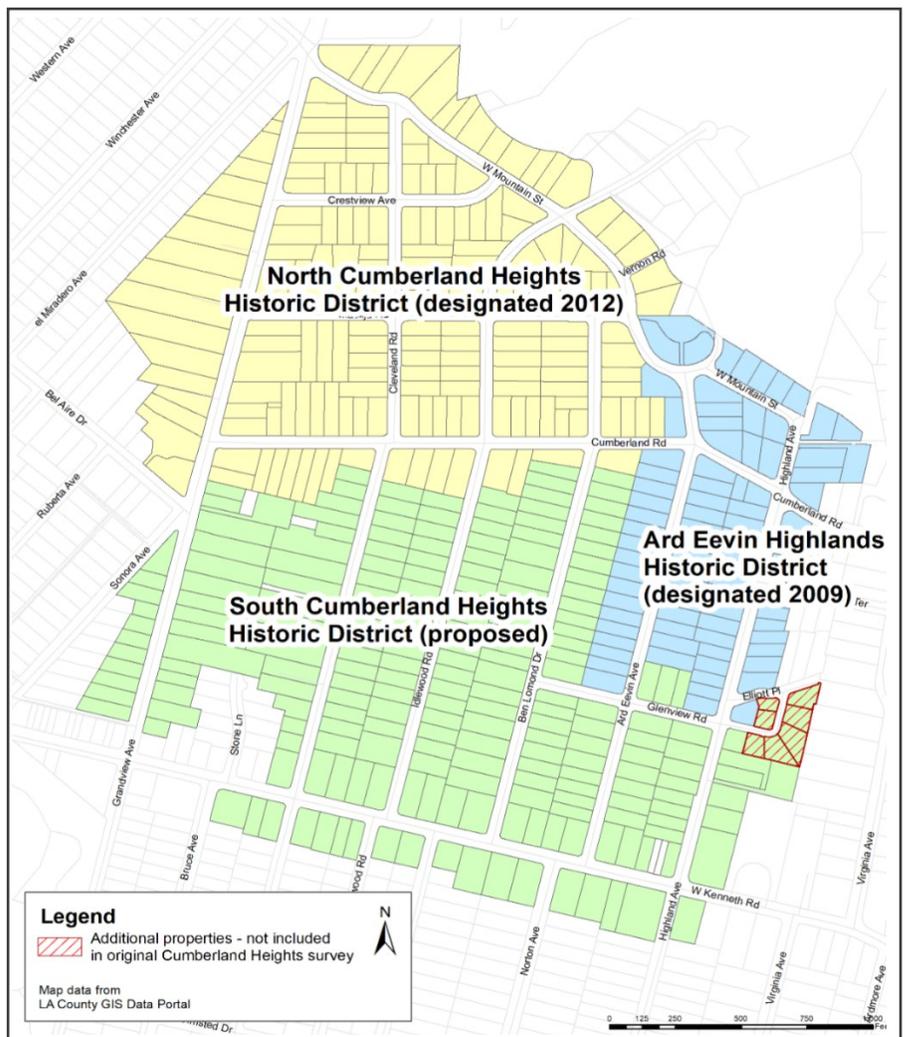
At its November 18 meeting, the Historic Preservation Commission voted to recommend to City Council that the South Cumberland Heights (SCH) and the Casa Verdugo Historic Districts Overlay Zones be established. NWGHA President Peter Fuad spoke at the hearing to voice our Association’s support of the designations.

The proposed SCH district (shown in green on the map on the right) has 163 contributing properties and 52 non-contributing properties. The percentage of contributors stands at 75% (exceeding the 60% minimum).

The total number of properties whose owners requested designation of the SCH district is 123, representing 57% of the total properties and exceeding the city’s requirement of 50%. The signatures have been verified by the Planning Division staff.

Both overlay zones go before the Planning Commission on December 1 and then to the City Council for final adoption on January 11.

South Cumberland Heights is the final neighborhood to be designated from the original Cumberland Heights grassroot movement that started over 20 years ago. Ard Eevin Highlands was established in 2009. North Cumberland Heights was established in 2012.



Welcome New Members

NWGHA welcomes the following new members who have joined in the last six months:

- Anush and Razmik Balian,
- Mike Diehl
- Amanda & Richard Duffy
- Andrew Gee
- Caroline Keefer,
- Doris Kouyias,
- Allison Larsen,
- Joe Neary,
- Amy Newborn
- Michael Morgan
- Rima Sarian
- Juliette Sedlacek and Anne Rivera
- Timothy and Christine Trinidad
- Michelle & Frank Vega
- Maria & Richard Walicki.

Email: If we don't have it, please send your email address to nwglendale@gmail.com

Past Due: see if you're past due by looking at your mailing label on this newsletter envelope. It shows your membership expiration date. If you are past due please send your annual \$25 dues to: NWGHA 1436 W. Glendales Blvd. #190, Glendale CA 91201. Thank you!

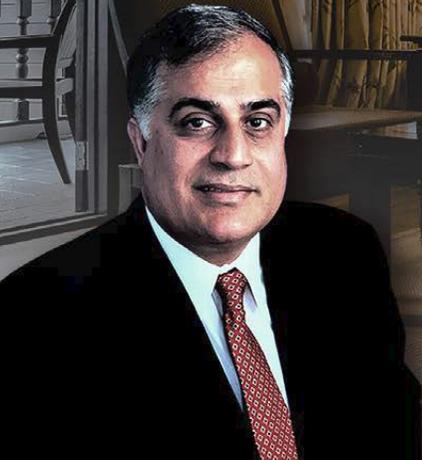
Your Merry Shredders



NWGHA directors at Shredding event. Left to right, Pam Ellis, Sam Engel, Margi Simpkins, Jerome Sander, Holly Keenan and Peter

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Grayson Plan Continues Fossil Fuel Dependence

By Elise Kalfayan

Glendale Environmental Coalition

In its 2017 Grayson Repowering plan, Glendale Water and Power (GWP) proposed replacing its aging gas-burning units with new turbines that would generate 262 MW of electricity.

The Glendale Environmental Coalition (GEC) formed to urge the city to invest in clean energy instead, citing concerns about climate impacts and the need to transition away from fossil fuels. Residents rallied and spoke at City Council meetings in large numbers, and the City Council rejected the plan in 2018 and directed staff to explore clean energy alternatives.

New Grayson Repowering Proposal

Three years later, in August of this year, GWP presented a new Grayson Repowering proposal, with environmental review in a Partially Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (PR-DEIR).

The PR-DEIR proposes two new project alternatives that would both still mean significant fossil fuel use: five new internal combustion engines, or refurbishing two existing Grayson gas-burning units. Both of these alternatives include keeping the newest unit already at Grayson, which was installed in 2003.

They also include a utility-scale battery storage system, and both still entail about 100 MW of new gas-burning capacity. This is still a lot of fossil fuel, and GEC is advocating for clean energy for Glendale in place of that equipment.

Our Concerns

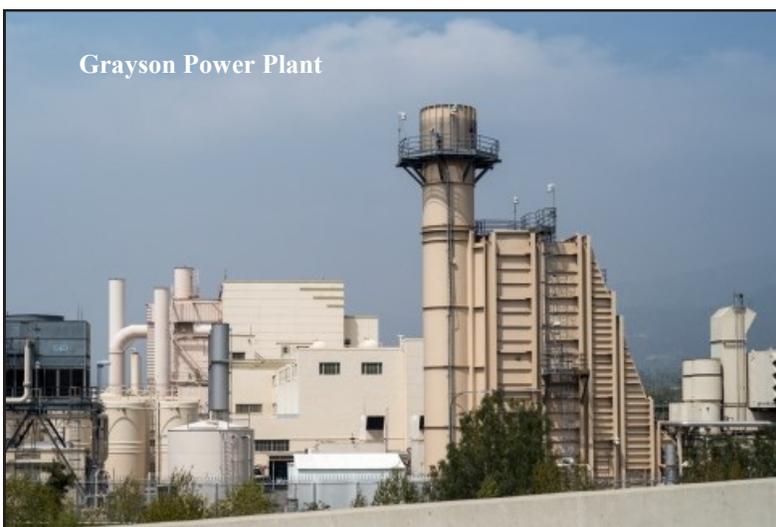
Progress on clean energy projects has been slow, while the new proposal features a lot of gas-burning equipment.

In 2019, GWP presented an energy plan for Glendale that included four new clean energy projects: a virtual power plant, a demand response project, an energy efficiency project, and a project for solar on city-owned sites.

This plan also included the five gas-burning internal combustion engines. GEC advocated for more clean energy in the plan, to reduce or eliminate the need for

gas-burning units. City Council agreed, approving the energy plan with several conditions, including a requirement that GWP take actions that could reduce or eliminate the new units.

But the 2021 Grayson Repowering proposal is almost the same plan that was presented in 2019. There is little additional clean energy in the mix. For example, GEC has been advocating for a large commercial solar plus battery storage program, which hasn't moved forward to the solicitation phase.



Questions

How much is all this going to cost? The total dollar amount for purchasing five new units or refurbishing two existing units is not part of the environmental impact report process. The cost differential between the two is also not available. So we don't know yet.

Does investing in gas-burning equipment make financial sense when it is becoming more and more urgent for us to phase out fossil fuels altogether? California has already set a 2045 deadline for 100% clean energy. If that deadline moves up, what do we do with the gas-burning equipment? GWP has suggested the engines could later be reconfigured so that they could burn hydrogen.

But there are questions as to how green that technology really is, how easily the engines can be adapted to run on hydrogen, how Glendale would produce or transport the hydrogen, and whether that would be a good investment for the energy we would get from it.

If the gas-burning equipment can generate more energy than Glendale itself needs, will our local air quality suffer if the units are run to supply energy to other utilities?

Finally, this is a climate emergency, and we should be planning for a large-scale transition to clean energy now. Why aren't we doing that?

The deadline for public comment on the PR-DEIR is November 15. We expect the Grayson Repowering project will be presented to citizen commissions and the City Council in January

2022. Those dates have not been set yet, but GEC keeping members informed.

We want the City Council to make a good decision for the city, for the climate, and for our future.

Our issues are

- the climate crisis
- the need to stop investing in fossil fuels and fossil fuel equipment
- the need to urgently plan for a clean energy future
- the need for clean air and a healthy environment for all.

GEC Organizing Campaign to Oppose Plan

We need Glendale residents to advocate along with us and be engaged in calling for clean energy for Glendale. If you can get involved, we need people to speak at City Council meetings, write emails to City Council members, speak to neighbors and friends, or do background research.

GEC is organizing a campaign that will grow toward the end of this year and into January. Please join us.

To find out more, you can sign up for our mailing list at [gce.eco/connect](mailto:gec.eco/connect). We have an active Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/GlendaleEnvironment>, which you can ask to join as well.

Also, please [explore the educational series](#) GEC produced this summer featuring composting, greywater systems, home hardening from wildfires, and replacing gas-powered landscaping equipment



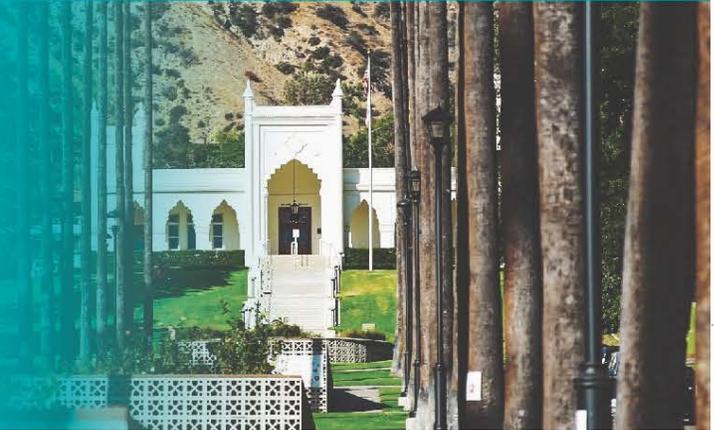
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Verdugo WASH



Verdugo Wash—before (left) and after (right) channelization

Earlier this year the city initiated a “visioning study” of the Verdugo Wash. The purpose is to envision the possibility of a nine mile linear park or “greenway” running through the entire city from Crescenta Valley Park on the north, to the confluence with the Los Angeles River on the south.

The greenway could include pedestrian and bike pathways, park space, native

habitat restoration and more. To learn more about the study, review the pre-design report and to **take the Updated Survey**, please visit:

<https://www.verdugowash.com/>. This survey contains many fascinating historical and current photos and maps of the area before and after channelization.

The vision will help transform the utilitarian design of the Wash (as a flood

control channel) into a significant contributor to the City’s character and amenities.

The original tributary path will be revitalized, biodiversity will be reactivated, and the community will be reconnected with an active transportation corridor.

One of the possibilities being considered is to create a bicycle and pedestrian path in the floor of the channel.



Flautists Rehearsals in the Park

During the height of the pandemic, Brand Park was a go-to place for activities that could no longer be safely held indoors. There were dance classes and yoga practices on the grass. The old basketball court was popular for exercise, yoga. The Sterling Flute Choir, founded and directed by Sandy Kipp Iles, used it for rehearsals, which provided lovely music to park users. Founded in 2009, it is a Glendale based group. *(Carol Brusha photo)*

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President's Message

Council to Enact Ordinances Implementing SB 9

(Continued from page 1)

SB 9 allows a property owner to build two units and/or subdivide an existing single-family-zoned parcel into two parcels. It also requires cities and counties to “ministerially” approve a housing development containing no more than two residential units (duplex) on a single parcel in single-family zones (“two-on-a-lot” projects). The bill also requires a city to ministerially approve an urban lot split, creating two independent lots that may be sold separately.

A property owner could potentially combine the two provisions of SB 9 to split one existing lot into two and then build two residential units on each new lot, resulting in four residential units where only one was allowed before.

SB 9 Allows Cities to Adopt Certain Limits

The law does allow California cities to enact implementing ordinances containing “objective” zoning, subdivision, and design guidelines, with some explicit limitations such as a prohibition on precluding either of the two units from being at least 800 square feet in floor area and setback regulation limitations similar to those applicable to accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and junior accessory dwelling units.

Glendale's Proposals

Council intends to adopt an Interim Urgency Ordinance in December 2021 to address these issues.

There are many nuances, ambiguities and undoubtedly unintended consequences embedded in SB 9. These issues will only be recognized and sorted out over time on a local and statewide basis.

Given this, we sent a letter to Council setting forth our belief that Council should adopt, as a guiding principle, that it is preferable to err on the side of being more restrictive under SB 9 for now than allowing something questionable that could come back to haunt us later.

While the city code can be tweaked later to be more permissive, any significant tightening of the code later could be opposed by developers as violating their vested rights to develop a property acquired in reliance on a more permissive code. Importantly, poorly designed units that will have been built or in the pipeline cannot be unbuilt if they were allowed under a more permissive code.

In terms of specific items, we have endorsed comments made by the Verdugo Woodlands West Homeowners Association. These include maintaining existing front setbacks as much as possible, retaining current height limits, limiting SB 9 units to 800 square feet regardless of the size of the lot or existing home, and requiring design review for any new single family house.

A local control initiative has been proposed for the state ballot that would return planning to local jurisdictions. It would, among other things, provide that local planning laws take precedence over state laws. (See more in the Annual Meeting article on page 3.)

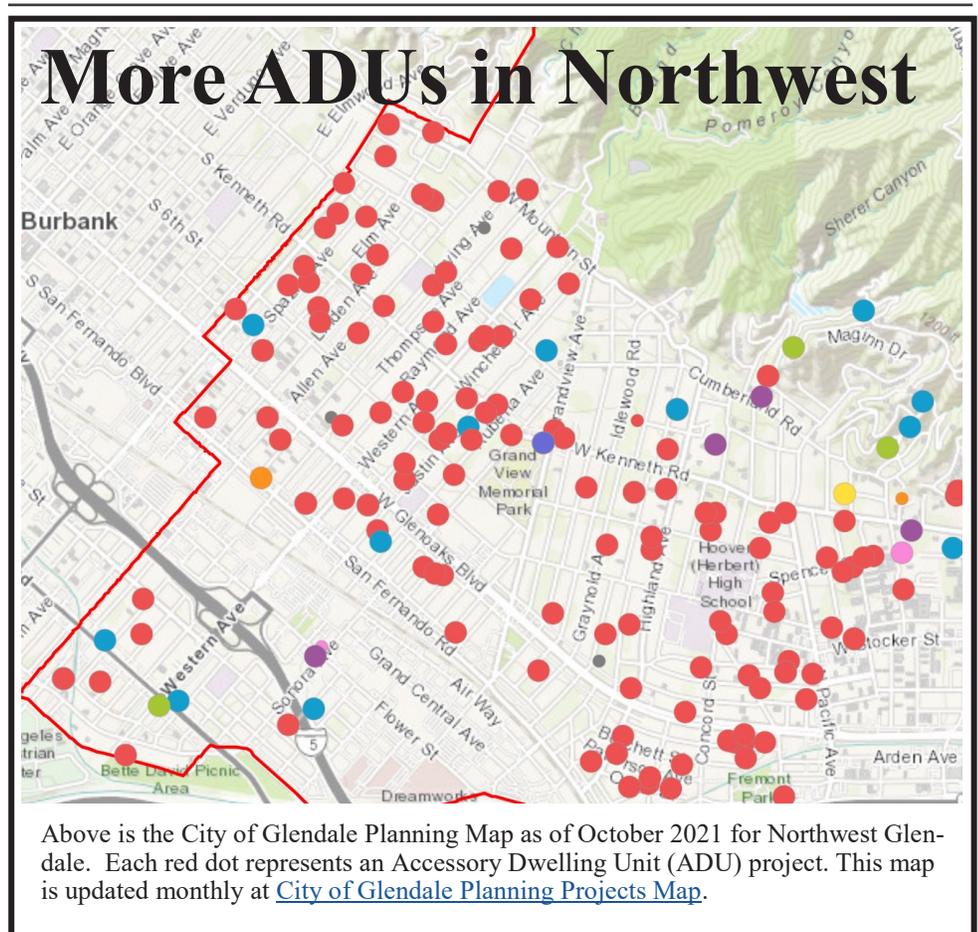
This effort is being spearheaded by Bill Brand, mayor of Redondo Beach, who discussed this at our annual meeting. You may go to their website for proponents and more information at www.OurNeighborhoodVoices.com.

South Cumberland Heights Historic District Overlay Zone

The good news is that the Historic Preservation Commission has voted to recommend to the City Council that the South Cumberland Heights Historic District Overlay Zone be established. Importantly, historic overlay zones are exempt from SB 9. (See the map and our story on page 4.)

Annual Meeting

Thanks to all of you who tuned in to our Zoom Annual Meeting. Thanks to our speakers as well. Zoom meetings are convenient, but we hope to resume in person meetings next year if possible, with maybe a video or audio feed for those who prefer watching from home.





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How to Flee Those Pesky Mosquitoes

By Pam Ellis

Mosquitoes are not just a summer nuisance. They cause more worldwide human suffering than any other organism and are active in Glendale all year round. Over one million people worldwide die from mosquito-borne diseases every year so there are good reasons to fight back. We may be at less risk in the United States than in some parts of the world but we still must work at keeping our homes mosquito-free.

There are fifteen species of mosquitoes in Los Angeles County. They are never welcome in our neighborhoods. They bite us leaving itchy skin and have the potential to transmit diseases. We need everyone's cooperation to make our homes and neighborhood mosquito free. You can do the following:

Protect yourself by using insect repellent when you are outside. Decide which one is best for you depending on your age, activities, and type of pest. (Deet, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, IR3535) Check out www.epa.gov/insect-repellants for more information.

Wear loose-fitting, light-colored clothes when outside. Mosquitoes are attracted to dark colors. Apply insect repellent to both exposed skin and/or clothing.

Cover and maintain the screens on your windows and doors. Use fine mesh screens that will stop entrance into your home by the mosquito. Patch any holes or tears.

Properly screen and maintain barrels, gutters and drains so mosquitoes cannot access any standing water.

Tip and toss any water that accumulates in potted plants, saucers, buckets, recycling bins, tarps at least once each week. Don't forget the flower vases and potted plants inside your home too. This is probably the most overlooked and the most important protective step. **Some mosquitoes can lay their eggs in containers as small as a bottle cap!** Dispose of old containers not in use. Remove all standing water. If you have a bird bath, empty and refill every couple of days.

All mosquitos need standing water to complete their life cycle. After a female mosquito takes a blood meal (bites), she will look for standing water to lay her eggs.

Maintain your backyard swimming pools. Unkept swimming pools can provide the largest area for breeding. One unkept pool can produce up to 3 million mosquitoes in one month. Any pool that produces mosquitoes are public health risks and should be reported.

The mosquito nuisance may diminish by the end of October when colder nighttime temperatures affect their life cycles but they don't disappear. They will reappear in greater numbers again in May.

The time to remove the breeding spots is **NOW**. We need to fight back all year round. We in the Los Angeles area have the unwanted designation as the #1 Mosquito City in the US for 2021 according to Orkin who tallies the number of customers who call them for service.

Join *Mosquito Watch* today. This is a

neighborhood watch program designed to protect our communities from mosquitoes and mosquito-borne diseases.

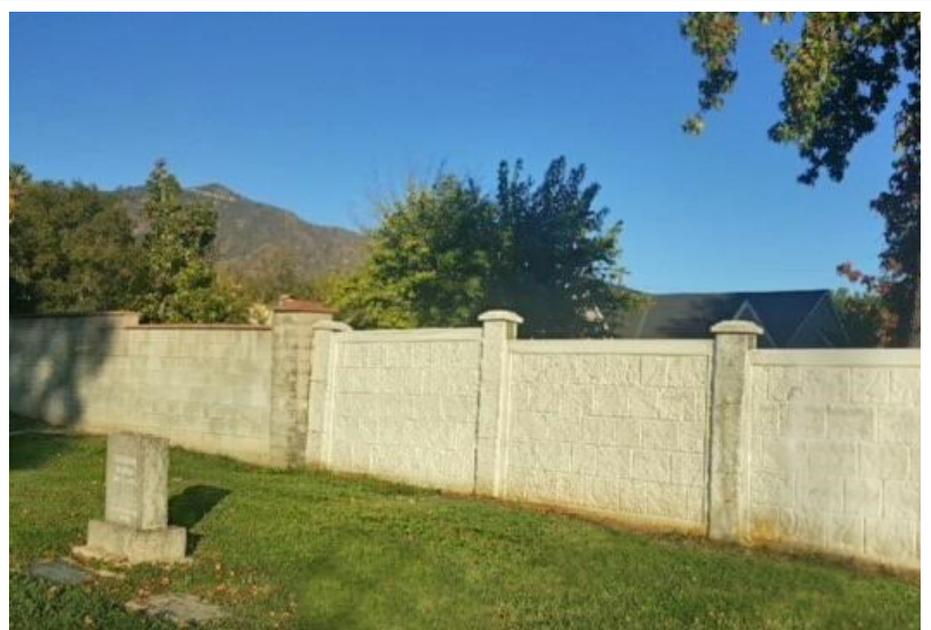
Pledge today to join the over 300+ people who are taking action against mosquitoes.

Become a Mobilizer by requesting door hangers to distribute around your neighborhood and encouraging your neighbors to have a survey of their yard to identify mosquito breeding spots.

Become a Neighborhood Champion yourself. You can organize a presentation for you and your neighbors from a representative from the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District.

Visit the website at glamosquito.org for more information or to request service.

Remember that "One less mosquito, one less worry."



Goodbye Bedsheets: the Wall is Fixed

By Carol Brusha

Grand View Memorial Park has finally fixed the broken wall and while the new prefabricated plastic material does not match the old concrete block wall, I feel it adds a bit of charm to this 137-year-old cemetery. The bright white color is contrasted by the grayish color of the old wall.

I would like to believe that when NWGHA contacted city officials and then publicized the jury-rigged replacement in our last newsletter, it brought swift action and is making the Grandview Avenue neighbors happy. They no longer have to look at strung up bedsheets-like fabrics.

The broken wall on the Glenwood side was also fixed with the same material.

Is This LA Zoo Expansion Really Needed?

By Carol Brusha

The official name of the LA Zoo in Griffith Park is The Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens. While children visiting the Zoo are there for the animals, many adults enjoy the surrounding plants and trees for the shade and peace they offer.

Botanical Gardens Threatened

Now the botanical part is in serious danger of being demolished. The new \$650 million vision Zoo update plan would destroy 23 acres of native woodlands in order to construct tourist attractions that, in my opinion, do not belong in this 133-acre Zoo. It is a 20-year vision plan but the 2028 Summer Olympics in L.A. have given impetus to make some changes quickly in order to attract national and international visitors.

Plans call for a 60-foot-deep canyon for rock climbing in an area coined Condor Canyon. (This name should not be confused with the real Condor Canyon that is already in Griffith Park). It would require blasting and excavation to the bedrock. Is this really necessary in a place where animal welfare should be the first priority and children should visit as an educational pursuit and not to do amusement park activities?

Then there is a Yosemite lodge-style California Center with all-encompassing views of a 25,000-square foot vineyard. These things take exceptional amounts of water. The state is in a drought and will always be drought prone.

Destruction of Native Forest

To achieve all this, what would be lost? Sixty toyons, 120 coast live oaks, 22 California black walnut trees, 25 Mexican elderberry trees, plus many federally and stated-listed endangered shrubs. All are matured and under inclusion in the City of Los Angeles Protected Trees and Shrubs Species.

Pushback has come from Friends of Griffith Park, of which I am a founding board member, the Sierra Club, the California Native Plant Society to name a few.

2000 Car Parking Garage, Restaurants

There is much more in the plans, such as a 2,000-space parking garage, more restaurants and rental spaces for private events. The funding would come from donations raised by the Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association (GLAZA), public-private partnerships per the zoo, and grants.

If the Zoo gets City Council approval, phase one could begin next year.

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Drive Safe Glendale Formed

By Cari Field and Hank Schlinger

Drive Safe Glendale (DSG) is a coalition of Glendale residents that formed after a community meeting of the Northwest Glendale Homeowner's Association in 2016, when Hank Schlinger brought up the problem of speeding and reckless driving during the question-and-answer period. Although the topic was not on the agenda, once the issue was raised it was clear by the enormous response of the attendee's that the topic was of great concern to many in the community.

Forming Drive Safe Glendale

Following that meeting, phone numbers were exchanged and a gathering at Brand Park was planned for the following Sunday morning. Those who attended formed "Drive Safe Glendale" and our numbers have grown from there.

DSG drafted a Change.org [petition](#). Among the measures we asked to be considered, as part of a city-wide plan, were increased traffic enforcement, engineering (i.e., traffic calming), and education, the so-called three E's.

Once the petition was posted, we began meeting with as many stakeholders at the local and state level as we could to try and get some movement on the issues.

DSG Accomplishments

Below are some of the highlights of what DSG has accomplished so far:

- Met with every Glendale Homeowner's Association and the Coordinating Council for the HOA's to learn about the Traffic issues for each part of the city and

to hear ideas on how to fix them.

- Met with current and past city officials, ex-Sheriffs, City Engineers and other staff who work/worked for the City of Glendale for what has been done so far and for recommendations about how to proceed.

- Met numerous times with various Glendale Police Department officers, Traffic Safety Lieutenants, Chiefs of Police, Division Heads, etc., for their input, assistance and advice.

- Met with Juan Gonzalez who oversees "Be Street Smart Glendale." "Be Street Smart" was under the Department of Transportation and is one element of the Pedestrian Plan that The City of Glendale Developed with Nelson / Nygaard Inc.

- Assisted "Be Street Smart Glendale" in getting residents to the Pedestrian Plan Survey because all feedback we received was that all decisions in Glendale are data driven when it comes to safety and what the city will spend money on.

- We have more than once met with our Assemblymember Laura Friedman, who is chair of the Transportation Committee, to discuss our concerns and to learn about her Bill AB43 and AB550, both of which DSG supports. You access a petition supporting AB43 by going [here](#).

- Met with Senator Anthony Portantino for the 25th District regarding the street safety issues in Glendale.

- Wrote to LA District Attorney George Gascon and Superior Court Judge

Gus Gomez, who is assigned to hear infraction cases in the Glendale Courthouse, about the problems of speeding and reckless driving and the impact their decisions and regulations have on the citizens of Glendale.

- Wrote letters to the editor of Glendale News Press and were quoted by a staff writer for an article on the driving problems in Glendale.

- Supported City Councilman Dan Brotman's push for Measure S Funds to be set aside to implement the Pedestrian Plan for Slow Streets during COVID-19 lockdown; for the Vision Zero for Pedestrian and Street Safety; and for the Glendale Narrows Riverwalk.

- Opposed Traffic Signal Installations and Modifications at Various Locations Phase 2 Projects.

- Partnered with Glendale Traffic Safety Coalition a newly launched citizens coalition dedicated to addressing the city's traffic safety crisis and working to join together a broad cross section of Glendale's stakeholders.

- Updated those who have signed the petition and get their support when they can help with issues that are taken up by our representatives and by GPD

Most recently, DSG has worked closely with Lt. Toby Darby of the GPD Traffic Division who has made the enforcement of speeding and reckless driving, street racing, and modified exhausts a priority and his actions over the past year or so have had a noticeable impact on these problems. Lt. Darby has been a true partner who takes the time to listen to Glendale residents and business owners and we can't thank him enough. He's a big part of why you have seen improvements over the last few years on our streets.

GPD Efforts Undermined

Unfortunately, we have seen the hard work by the GPD frequently undermined by citations issued by the GPD being either tossed out or fines are reduced, and repeat offenders often walk away scot-free.

It is demoralizing to the GPD and to those of us trying to make our streets safer when the citations and arrests made are undercut by the L.A. County DA and the local traffic judges by reducing fines and sentences and letting dangerous criminals back out on the street.

We appreciate the strides GPD has made.

(Continued on page 15)



Walking the streets of Northwest Glendale can lead to surprises such as this new parklet. How many readers know where this is? (Carol Brusha photo)

Drive Safe Glendale

(Continued from page 14)

DSG's next plan of action is to work with the principals of GUDSD on education and continue to support the City Council members who are putting forward engineering solutions to slow down our streets and to get people out of their cars.

We continue to try to get L.A. County D.A. George Gascon and Judge Gus Gomez to hear their constituents and understand their decisions are putting the lives of Glendale residents at risk.

Things You Can Do

NWGHA members can help by (1) emailing info@drivesafeglendale.com if you would like to join our efforts, (2) signing the DSG petition so we can keep you up to date, (3) calling (818) 578-4840 when you see reckless driving, street racing, hear loud modified exhausts with the time, location, and, if possible, make/model of the car (it's helpful to GPD who can't be everywhere, all the time), (4) parents of students emailing principals and asking that pedestrian/street safety and driver education programs be taught at all grade levels, (5) voting for City Council, assembly members and congressmembers who make addressing street safety a priority, (6) voting for traffic court judges who will uphold the law and impose the appropriate penalties on offenders, (7) writing to George Gascon and urging him to enforce the citations and arrests involving reckless driving/street racing in Glendale and prosecuting them with the maximum punishments, and (8) most of all, Drive Safe, Glendale!



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