



## Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Oaks Neighborhood!

Celebrating the History of the Oaks Neighborhood

The Oaks neighborhood began to be constructed about one hundred years ago. We're planning a number of things to celebrate that milestone and we could use your help...



First, we'll be holding a festive evening benefit event in early December at one of the most architecturally significant homes in the Oaks. We'll celebrate the history of the homes of the Oaks as well as the people who built them and lived in them over the last century. We're still in the planning phase of that event and we'll be sending you more details as we move forward.

That event will raise money to fund the creation of a new digital archive of the Oaks neighborhood. We want to gather historic photographs of Oaks homes as they came to be, as well as the histories and narratives of the people who first lived here. To do that, we'll need help. If you're interested in researching the history of our neighborhood, we could use you. The Archive Project will begin this year but will continue on into the future as we gather more and more material (photos, documents, histories) and compile them in an online accessible format. This is an exciting undertaking and we hope you'll be a part of it.

## Welcome to our New Oaks Field Deputy from CD4 – Josef Siroky

Contact: [josef.siroky@lacity.org](mailto:josef.siroky@lacity.org)

Please welcome our new Field Deputy  
from Nithya Raman's City Council

office, Josef Siroky. Josef is a native of Culver City and attended CSULA, earning a bachelors degree in political science and economics. He started his public service career serving as treasurer on his neighborhood council, later working for LA County, and more recently staffed in the Office of State Senator Sydney Kamlager where for two years he was a field deputy.



Members of the Oaks Board have already met with Josef and briefed him on the priorities for our neighborhood (you may have gotten a chance to see Josef in action at our Feb 8<sup>th</sup> Town Hall). Some of the areas we highlighted for Josef are: 1) A new sidewalk at the entrance to Bronson park and bathrooms in the park, 2) Repair of streets that are in bad condition, 3) No Stopping/No Parking/Red Flag signs that are missing on many streets, 4) Homeless RV parking, especially on Canyon Drive, 5) Short-term rental abuse and party houses, 6) reversing the Beachwood Trailhead closure and 7) Street cleaning. Josef told us he'll be working on all of these priorities in the coming months.

### The MyLA311 App is a key to unlocking City services

Have you downloaded the MyLA311 app onto your phone yet? The MyLA311 app connects you directly to city agencies and services so that you can report problems like poorly-maintained streets, abandoned houses, broken streetlights, bulky item pick-up, graffiti to be removed, nuisance barking dogs, illegal construction, gas-powered leaf blower violations, water waste and other topics. The MyLA311 app is a direct connection with the city and allows you to avoid waiting for hours on hold to connect with city personnel.



Just download the MyLA311 app to your phone or tablet. From there simply follow the prompts to select the type of service request you want to make. MyLA311 will report back to you in a few days as to the status of your request.

If you feel that your request for service is more urgent or you think that the city is not responding expeditiously, you can contact our new field deputy at CD4, Josef Siroky (at [josef.siroky@lacity.org](mailto:josef.siroky@lacity.org)). Let Josef know the nature of your request and when you filed your report at MyLA311. Josef will check in with the appropriate city agency to see when and how they plan to deal with your reported problem.

Let us at the Neighborhood Association know if you have a good experience or a bad experience with MyLA311. We'd like to know if city services are working for residents of the city.

## If it's your hillside, it's your responsibility

Neighbors have been pointing out a number of dirt hillsides in the Oaks that are tumbling into our streets. This sort of hillside erosion is a serious safety problem as the accumulated dirt and debris piles up on the roadway, reducing the width of the street and forcing motorists into the center in the way of oncoming traffic. Dirt piled in the street also removes the shoulders of the road where pedestrians walk with dogs and strollers and friends.



These eroding hillsides might be at the back of your property where you don't see them... but they affect the navigability of the streets we all drive on and live on. Remember: the hillside on the front or the backside of your property is ***your responsibility***. It's not up to the City to keep it clear; ***it's up to you***.

So please: clear away dirt and plants and rocks that have fallen from your hillside into the street. If this is an ongoing problem, why not consider building a small retaining wall? A two- or three-foot-high retaining wall can successfully hold a hillside of dirt where it is and relieve you of a persistent problem.

Please...keep your hillside on the hill, not in the street.

## Progress Made on the Homeless Front

Homelessness is one of the most pressing, difficult issues facing Los Angeles these days, and all neighborhoods are affected. The Oaks Neighborhood Association has been speaking with our council district representatives and with those of neighboring CD13 for years about the encampments in our area, and it does seem that progress is being made placing people into housing, one encampment at a time.



And that is what Councilmember Nithya Raman told our community at the recent Oaks Neighborhood Association Town Hall Meeting: that her office was taking "two steps forward and a half a step back" in terms of clearing encampments and getting unhoused people into permanent housing.

Certainly, we have seen these efforts paying off on Franklin and Canyon where it seems the last person to be housed accepted permanent housing as of February 8th and the encampment and belongings were

cleared. We also have our Field Deputy Joseph Siroky to thank for that.

When asked how we can help and who residents should call when they see someone who is clearly in mental distress, the Councilmember responded that there is a real shortage of case workers who specialize in mental illness, with only one team for all of the San Fernando Valley, our area and Skid Row. The program (called CIRCLE) is designed to reduce interactions between law enforcement and unhoused Angelenos by deploying trained crisis response teams and proactive outreach.

Hopefully, these programs and resources will soon be increased as the LA County Board of Supervisors just approved a \$600 Million budget for homeless initiatives, including programs designed to boost mental health and substance abuse services.

## Goodbye P22

by Linda Othenin-Girard



P22 is gone and I miss him already. There was such a sense of wildness and mystery when he was in the Park. Just knowing that the big cat was roaming around, searching for food, burying his prey to eat later, finding a quiet place to sleep... it gave me a feeling of wonder. It made living next to Griffith Park a little more exciting, with an added dash of danger. How many times have I

watched those grainy videos of him walking so nonchalantly down a street less than a mile from my house? I longed for a least one live glimpse.

What's so surprising is how this one creature created so much emotion, devotion, and activity. In the asphalt jungle that is Los Angeles -- all cars, mini-malls, traffic lights and busyness -- he got us thinking and questioning. What if we really are part of a greater web of life that includes this apex predator? What does that mean? For many, it meant a change in perspective, the realization that we have a responsibility to keep and preserve this stunning feline intact. To others it meant a newfound sense of connection to all mountain lions and wildlife in the region. Which resulted in the creation of the wildlife connectivity bridge to be built over the 101 freeway. What a legacy, to have inspired the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing, an overpass spanning the Ventura Freeway in Agoura Hills. This wildlife corridor will allow animals, particularly mountain lions to travel through areas that are fragmented by freeways. As we all know, P22 got to Griffith Park by crossing a freeway; but many cougars haven't survived the trek.

Of course, to make sense of all this we like to project human qualities on our beloved big cat. Some called him courageous and noble. Some called him dashing and handsome, the Brad Pitt of pumas. He was all



this and more and he didn't even know it. Like so many Angelenos, he was just trying to survive this big city with all its hardness and challenges, using all the resources and instincts given him. It wasn't easy but he kept at it until he couldn't. He didn't know he was noble. He just knew he had to make a living. Alone. He didn't know that we had whole day of celebrations dedicated to him with T-shirts, stuffed animals, and coloring books.

He gave us more than we gave him. He gave us awe.

## Show Your Neighborhood Pride with an Oaks Hat!

We love our neighborhood, so why not show your Oaks pride by purchasing one of our new Oaks logo hats and wearing it around the neighborhood? These stylish logan-green corduroy hats not only are exclusive to our neighborhood, but a part of your purchase price goes to help fund our work on behalf of the Oaks. Wow your friends! Protect your head from the sun! Buy an Oaks hat today!



Just click on this [LINK](#) to purchase your hat via PayPal or credit card.

## It's Now Required in Los Angeles: Curbside Organics Recycling



The City of Los Angeles has announced the creation of **OrganicsLA**, a curbside organics recycling program which is now required for all residents of the City of Los Angeles. The program was mandated by California Senate Bill 1383, a

statewide mandate aimed at keeping organic waste out of landfills and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Effective immediately, residents are required to place food scraps and food-soiled paper, along with yard waste, in their green bins. These items include:

- Fruits, vegetables
- Dairy, eggshells
- Bread, cereal, grains, rice, pasta, beans
- Meat, bone, fish, shells
- Coffee grounds and filters
- Food soiled paper products
- Yard waste, flowers, and clean untreated wood

For more information on the program and to get a free kitchen pail, visit: [LA SANITATION](#)

## It's time to Update Your No Trespassing Sign Authorization Form

If you have one of the Oaks No Trespassing Signs posted on your property you need to renew your Authorization Form annually. This involves registering with the LAPD in order for them to have you on file if you call with a trespasser report. If you are registered with the LAPD, the trespasser can be taken into custody as they violated a posted No Trespassing notification. The form to fill out and register with the LAPD is here: [“No Trespass Authorization Form”](#). Once complete, send the form via e-mail to: [40988@lapd.online](mailto:40988@lapd.online).



[The Oaks Neighborhood Association](#)

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