



Arcadia Highlands Home Owners Association

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2020

This is the rebirth of a long line of communications with our members and a way to inform our members of our activities. As I have mentioned in the past, the association is truly an affiliation of likeminded people interested in maintaining a level of quality of the neighborhood where they live and never before has that enthusiasm been more clearly evident than during these difficult months of 2020. I don't think any one of us anticipated the disruption that has been caused by conflicting ideologies which have at times taken over our streets, a pandemic caused by a virus that caught the world health agencies flat-footed – and the subsequent lockdowns - and a contentious election that places a strain on our remaining patience. Oh, and then there was a forest fire. Who knew?

Because of the virus and the attendant lockdowns, for health and safety reasons, our lifestyle in the Highlands has had to make adjustments, as has the HOA, and we will have to continue to see what exceptions can be made in the future and which regulations we will have to continue to observe. Some of those changes have also affected the way the HOA operates, at least for the near future. The immediate impact of those restrictions has affected our traditional activities. Consequently, this is not your typical President's Message.

To recap the year, so far:

1. The HOA had to cancel the planned Annual Picnic because of Covid group restrictions. We have also learned that Wilderness Park will be closed through 2021 for improvement work which was scheduled prior to the fire. With that in mind we are working on a gathering in 2021. We would welcome any suggestions as to where that could be held.

2. There will be no annual meeting this year because of the virus and limitations in gathering size but we will be considering when we can meet in early 2021.

3. The current Board has agreed to another year of service and there will be no need to send out ballots. We would appreciate input from our members regarding any interest you may have in being part of the Board and part of the HOA's activities. If you have an interest, please contact Bob Stover@ 626-355-0684 or email him at rstover@earthlink.net. New volunteers are always welcomed & needed.

4. As you may know, the new Neighborhood Watch coordinator is Lee Marshall. He is continuing the outstanding work of Knut Dale, who has decided his objectives have been reached and he is passing the baton to Lee. If you would like to become a block captain for your street, please give Lee a call at 626-824-7885 or email him at: lmarshall3las@gmail.com. The growth and success of the additional block coverage has been amazing, but there are still several streets that need coverage.

5. Regarding HOA dues – the Board has decided to waive dues for 2021. If you would like to make a donation to the treasury please make your check payable to AHHOA & mail to our AHHOA mailbox at PO Box 660533, Arcadia, CA 91066-0533

6. One of our most active members, Olga Hassler, has done a tremendous amount of research about fire prevention shields for attic vents. Olga has info on 3 different companies. If you have an interest in finding out more about these devices, please send an inquiry to highlandsarb@gmail.com and the ARB can give you contact information.

7. The Board would be interested to know if the HOA membership decals were of any assistance in gaining access to the area during the fire.

8. Regarding the financial status of the HOA, you should know that for 2020 we have 178 active members, which represents a 5% increase over 2019. Our emergency fund account has been stable at \$625. Our main account remains healthy at \$13,410.06 which represents a 4% increase over 2019, which is largely due to the cancellation of our annual picnic and general meetings. This precipitates the Board's decision to waive dues for 2021.

9. And last, but not least, your Architectural Review Board has been busy, even during these strange times with 17 short reviews, and 5 “regular” reviews. As a help to our members and residents, there is a quick reference table, which provides information on changes that were approved in December 2019. This can be helpful to residents to know what level of review they will need for typical project types. This can be found on the City of Arcadia website at - <https://www.arcadiaca.gov/Shape%20Arcadia/Development%20Services/development%20code/7.Arcadia%20DevCodeDivision7PermitProcedures.pdf>

I would also like to give a word of thanks to the City of Arcadia, Arcadia Fire Department and Arcadia Police Department for the

amazing job they have done of keeping us safe and secure during the recent Bobcat Fire. Their efforts and long days are more appreciated than we can put into words and we are thankful and grateful for their dedication to their calling and to the neighborhoods they serve. Which brings me to the activities of various residents keeping us all up to date on the fire through Facebook and Nextdoor.com. And, a special shout-out to Christina Ramirez who organized neighbors to provide first responders with food and beverages as they worked untold hours protecting our homes and providing security on our streets.

In regards to our Police Department, you may know by now that our current Chief, Robert Guthrie will be retiring, after 31 years of service, and Capt. Roy Nakamura has been appointed as our new Chief. Capt. Nakamura joined the Arcadia Police Department in 1992 as an Officer and at one time was the Area Commander for the Highlands. We would like to wish both men the best.

This has not been a “usual” year and this is not a “usual” newsletter, but as your President I want you to know that the Highlands Home Owners Association is grateful for our members and for the neighborhood support we’ve experienced during these difficult times. We are looking for, and hoping for, a “usual” year next year and trust all our members are also.

Thank you,

Robert Stover

President

Arcadia Highlands Home Owners Association.