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Brian Moore

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I would like to thank all of you who made this year such a successful year for the Hillside Federation.. Firstly, I thank our officers, Steve Twining. Patricia Bell Hearst, Patti Negri. Desmond McDonald, Joan Luchs, Marilyn Stefano. Fritz Zeiser, and Liz Tigar for their instant responses to my cries for help. Secondly, I thank all of you who attend meetings; hearings, report to us on issues in your neighborhoods, and give us input at our monthly meetings.

The year 2006 promises to be as full of issues affecting hillside areas as 2005. Infill developments continue to be presented, old regulations such as Slope Density continue to plague our efforts to understand project impacts on surrounding communities, and we expect fires, floods and earthquakes. to continue to be problems with which to wrestle.

I most sincerely thank you for your assistance. No one person could possibly carry the load - and you are all important to our success as an organization.

I had hoped to have a representative from Councilman Greig Smith's office to be with us in January. but their slates are full and the first of the year is an awkward time - however, we will try again for February. In the meantime, please read the article in this newsletter on the new City Ordinance banning parking on hillside streets during red flag alerts. It's an important issue, and could lead to stronger enforcement of existing development regs regarding parking on hillside lots..

We voted at our December meeting to include organizations existing in other mountain areas in our Federation, noting that our mission statement extends our efforts to "other hillside areas or Los Angeles and its environs" and recognizing the commonality of our issues in all the hillsides in the LA region. Thank you for the unanimous vote, and welcome to new members.

And I hope your holidays are blessed with

The mission of the Hillside Federation shall be:

To protect the property and the quality of life of residents of the Santa Monica Mountains and other hillside areas of Los Angeles and its environs, and to encourage and promote those policies and programs which will best preserve the natural topography and wildlife of the mountains and hillsides for the benefit of all the people of Los Angeles.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, JANUARY 4, 2006 - 8:00pm

TREE PEOPLE

**Corner Mulholland Drive &
Coldwater Canyon
Studio City**

AGENDA

- * Introduction of Members and Guests
- * Minutes of December Meeting to be Approved
- * Question: What Position Should the Federation take regarding the new Hillside Parking Ordinance? Discussion
- * Developments - Mountaingate, Canyon-back Trail
- * Reports: President
Chairman
Vice Presidents
Treasurer
- * Old and New Business

love, joy and peace.

POLLY WARD, President

**AND A THANKS TO OUR
PRESIDENT**

As President Polly thanks us all, we in turn want to return the thanks, and more. Besides conducting interesting informative meetings in her calm manner, she is the tireless figure appearing at endless meetings, speaking for the Hillside Federation, supporting member associations in their fights with developers and/or city agencies to put some controls on the flights of fancy they take in their dreams of wall-to-wall housing in our pristinely pure peaceful hills.

Who knows how many phone calls she answers and makes on Federation business, and how much time is spent reading all the material necessary to understand all the projects to be able to speak about them? She says no one person can handle the job alone, and she receives a great deal of support at meetings from Joan Luchs and Steve

Twining, but she asks for little help from anyone, and really does do most of the job herself

It's a full-time, unpaid job that is probably not thought about by most people, so it's time at this end of the year when we're looking back, and forward, to pay tribute to the woman who is so dedicated and who we're proud to call Madame President, Thanks for a great job..

MARILYN STEFANO, Executive Secretary

PARKING LIMITS RAISE RED FLAGS IN THE HILLSIDES

A new LA law bans cars from narrow hillside roads on days when fire is a threat, raising the question "What to do with cars?"

The newly enacted city ordinance bans parking on narrow, winding hillside streets whenever the LA Fire Department issues a "red flag" fire warning. The law is designed to make it easier for fire trucks to navigate streets that are often lined with parked cars. But with up to 10 red flag days a year, usually during the Santa Ana winds of summer, residents wonder where they are going to park.

The City's Transportation Department has erected 2500 signs warning that vehicles parked on the streets on red flag days will be towed. It plans to install a total 5200 signs by the end of January.

Residents point out that many homes in hillside neighborhoods are built on small lots where usable land is at a premium. If homes have garages, they are relatively small and can't always accommodate more than one car - and that's if the owners haven't converted them into living space.

The ordinance was adopted by the LA City Council early in December, with little fanfare, at the request of the Fire Department.

Councilman Jack Weiss, who helped draft the ordi-

FEDERATION'S WEBSITE UP AND RUNNING

The Federation's new website is
www.hillsidecanyon.org

Please take a look at it, and if there's something else you'd like to see on it, or if you want to send in an article to the Newsletter, we'd love to hear from you. Call Steve Twining at (310) 472-6091 to give your suggestions.

NEWSLETTER

Editor/Publisher MARILYN STEFANO

HEY! Is anyone reading this beside Claire Carafello & Alan Fine? What's happening? 'Sup? What's going on in your neighborhoods? I feel like the mother whose children don't call anymore - isn't anyone interested in spreading the word about great (or awful) news in their neighborhoods? We want a Newsletter that keeps us informed about what's happening (let's have some fun stuff, too). Please PLEASE send us stuff - we appreciate being in the know.- or now - or no? Articles might be subject to some editing for grammar or syntax, if needed - NOT for content - though I doubt it will happen!

For FEBRUARY send by JANUARY 21st
Fax a hard copy 2 weeks before the next meeting to

**310-275-8414 ; OR email at
marijoe90210@sbcglobal.net**

nance after consulting with hillside homeowners groups, said the new rules are crucial to better protecting hillside homes during major brush fires.

The LA Times reports that some hillside homeowners groups have expressed support for the parking ban, saying it's important to give firefighters the help they need to battle brush fires. These backers are said to doubt the rules will cause much inconvenience. Supporters note that local TV and radio stations already broadcast red flag warnings - and the city's website will also begin to note the warnings.

But one supporter said there could be a bright side to the new ordinance."Maybe it'll force some people to clean out their garages so they can park in them."

The Hillside Federation was not consulted about this ordinance, but has asked the Weiss office to contact us re the issue, and hopes someone from the Weiss office will be able to attend our January meeting.

CHARLES & LOTTE MELHORN OVERLOOK

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy opened its newest scenic overlook on November 30, dedicating a crescent-shaped stop on Mulholland Drive to longtime preservationists Lotte Melhorn and her late husband Charles Melhorn.

Beginning in the early 1970s, the couple lobbied the City Council and regional leaders to create the

Mulholland Scenic Parkway and to set aside small pockets along the road for visitors to stop and admire the view. Today the drive is one of the region's major tourist destinations, drawing visitors from around the world, according to the Daily News.

"Charlie and Lotte were among a small nucleus of people who saw the value of the road and the uniqueness of the road and planned to save it for future generations," said LA County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky. "You come to these overlooks during the summer or all through the year and hear maybe three or four languages being spoken," said Joseph Edmiston, Exec. Director of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

The new overlook is the eighth official stop on the drive, about halfway between Beverly Glen and Coldwater Canyon Boulevards, standing above million-dollar homes and a brush-covered slope that is one of the few natural wildlife corridors through the mountains.

It's also the third overlook named for Hillside Federation Officers, the others being Barbara Fine, and Nancy Pohl, all of whom were dedicated and committed to preserving the natural beauty of our mountains and the wildlife within them

DUES NOTICE FOR 2006

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR THE YEAR \$150.00, ARE DUE JANUARY 1, 2006.

You may bring a check to the February meeting,
The Hillside Federation
Fritz Zeiser, Treasurer
2337 Roscomare Rd., PMB 2-228
Los Angeles, CA 90077

10501 WEST SEABURY LANE

We have been informed that the applicant has withdrawn his application for this project.

A major influence on the outcome of this application would appear to be a letter from Vice-President Joan Luchs, writing for the Federation, to Ms. Lynn Wyatt, Office of Zoning Administration.

The letter is printed here, in part:

"After careful review of the proposed project, the Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations is vehemently opposed to this application based on the fact that none of the requests can meet the required findings necessary for approval....it is our belief that the slope of the

lot as measured from the highest point of the lot within five horizontal feet of an exterior wall of the main building to the lowest point of the lot within five horizontal feet is less than 66% and therefore does not qualify for a building height in excess of 36 feet to 45 feet....the proposed project will be materially detrimental and injurious to adjacent properties, is very likely to cause an unsafe adverse impact when you consider the amount of grading."

The letter goes on to list impacts on specific adjoining properties, objects to overheight fences, and giving this property owner unfair advantages over neighbors. The application also requests construction of three retaining walls 10 feet tall, in lieu of a maximum of two as permitted, would not be in conformance with the General Plan, would adversely impact neighbors aesthetically and financially, and would create an unfair disparity.

RE SEABURY LANE

Dear Hillside Federation:

Recently, Beverly Glen had a major problem. A homeowner wanted to build an outsized house on Seabury Lane. The builder wanted to construct a 4600 sq.ft. house on a hill over 4 lots on Seabury Lane - a twisting, narrow street. The plan was for a house totally out of character with the neighborhood.

Joan Luchs came to our aid. Representing the Hillside Federation, Joan took absolute command of the situation and presented indisputable arguments of why this outsized mansion should not be built.

As a result of Joan's efforts, the builder withdrew his plans. She was overwhelming and powerful at the hearing, since she had all the facts, the laws, and the interpretation of the laws.

Thank you, Joan Luchs and the Hillside Federation, for your help re this proposed illegal construction.

**Residents of Beverly Glen
Ken Stern**

CONSTRUCTION ADVISORY for MULHOLLAND DRIVE at ALLENWOOD DR.

Construction is scheduled to begin Tuesday, Dec. 27, and continue through April, 2006 on an emergency hillside stabilization project on Mulholland Dr. at Allenwood Dr. (between Coldwater Canyon Ave. and Laurel

Canyon Ave.), as announced by Councilmember Wendy Greuel's office and the Bureau of Public Works..

East-west access across the Mulholland area will remain open throughout the period either via detours or partial detours. If you have questions, please contact the Bureau of Engineering's Project Engineer, Carlton Jones, at 213-485-0961.

A hillside washout within the Santa Monica Mountains has necessitated an Urgent Necessity construction project by the City of Los Angeles. The purpose of the project is to stabilize a hillside slope adjacent to Mulholland Drive on the north side of the Hollywood Hills. During the construction of the project, you may experience some unavoidable inconvenience.

The contractor will make every effort to minimize adverse effects of construction on all neighboring properties. Local access to residences for area residents will be provided throughout construction. Mulholland Dr. will be closed to through traffic at Skyline Dr. and Allenwood Rd. between Coldwater Canyon Dr. and Laurel Canyon Dr.

Mulholland Dr. will be closed at the project location for a week beginning in late December. A detour for local residents is provided on a Local Access Only basis. After the period of complete closure, one lane westbound will be open to traffic and eastbound traffic will be detoured for the remainder of the project.

You can also contact Greuel's Field Deputy Christopher L. Olsen, at 818-755-7676; fax: 919-755-7862; Christopher.olsen@lacity.org.

SIMI HILLS

The following letter was received from the National Park Service:

"The National Park Service (NPS) in cooperation with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) announces the opening of those portions of the Simi Hills that have been affected by October's Topanga fire as of October 13, 2005. Previously closed on September 28, 2005 to protect public safety, the Cheseboro, Palo Comado, Liberty and Upper Las Virgenes Canyons are now open for restricted use. We expect the restrictions to continue for at least one year or until the area has had a chance to stabilize and begin the recovery process.

During the restriction period, the public must stay on established roads and trails and observe all posted closure signs. Access to the public parkland will be permitted from sunrise to sunset. And as always, motorized vehicles are not allowed beyond public parking facilities.

By complying with the restrictions, the public and park neighbors can play a vital role in the restoration process of our land, wildlife, vegetation, and cultural resources. Additional information regarding park conditions can be found at trailhead kiosks.

In the short term, visitors who recreate in the Simi Hills area should expect to see a blackened landscape with pockets of unburned vegetation. Many oak trees, while scorched, will survive as they have during past fires. Over time, the land will begin to change as vegetation resprouts, wildflowers bloom, and many wildlife species return to the area.

Maps of the Santa Monica NRA are available at the NPS Visitor Center, 401 W. Hillcrest Dr. in Thousand Oaks, by calling (805)370-2301 or on line at: www.nps.gov.samo. Information can also be obtained by contacting the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy at www.smmc.ca.gov or www.lamountains.com.

This is an exciting time to explore and discover the natural cycle of change that follows a wildland fire. Thank you for using your national and state parks in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

Sincerely,
WOODY SMECK
Superintendent.

BEL AIR BEVERLY CREST NC OFFICE

Chairman STEVE TWINING, also President of the above Neighborhood Council, advises that If you are interested in attending any Neighborhood Council meetings, please contact STEVE TWINING at the Council office: 310-479-6247, Fax: 310-479-0458, 1525 S. Sepulveda Blvd., #5. The office is open Mon. & Wed., 9am-6pm, and Fri. 9am-1pm.

REMINDERS: ISSUES & PETITIONS

Federation meetings are scheduled to start at 8:00 pm, and end at 10:00pm and, in order to end on time, an **OUTLINE OF ISSUES & PETITIONS** to be brought before the Board should be mailed to : Pres. POLLY WARD at P.O.Box 1041, Studio City, CA 91614 or faxed to: (818) 761-4065, or e-mailed to: polward@aol.com, 48 hours before the scheduled meeting.

MOTIONS to be made at the meeting should be thought out beforehand, and put into writing so that they are clear and concise. **EACH SPEAKER** will be allowed 5 minutes to make his/her presentation, so that meetings can be kept on time.

MULHOLLAND SCENIC PARKWAY DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

MARVIN BRAUDE SAN FERNANDO
CONSTITUENTS SERVICE CENTER
6262 Van Nuys Blvd., Van Nuys

Date: the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month

Time: 6:30pm