

The Hollywoodlander

MAY 15th, 2026



SUMMER IS COMING

Now is the time to prepare



As temperatures rise and vegetation dries out, our canyon becomes increasingly vulnerable to wildfire. Steep terrain, narrow roads, dense brush, and seasonal winds can turn a small ignition into a fast-moving fire event in minutes. **Continues on pg.2**



California Proposes New "Zone 0" Wildfire Rules for Home

California's Board of Forestry and Fire Protection has released draft "Zone 0" regulations aimed at reducing wildfire **Continues on pg.8**

SUMMER IS COMING

Continued from pg.1

But one of the greatest threats to homes in hillside neighborhoods like ours isn't always the wall of flame itself — it's the ember storm that comes before it.

During a wildfire, burning embers can travel miles ahead of the fire front, landing in gutters, rooflines, attic vents, crawlspace vents, dry landscaping, and accumulated leaf litter. A single ember finding the wrong opening can ignite a home long before the main fire ever arrives.

That's why extensive brush and tree trimming and defensible space are so important right now. Clearing dead vegetation, reducing ladder fuels, trimming back overgrowth, and maintaining the area around your home dramatically lowers the chance of ignition and gives firefighters a safer environment to defend our neighborhood.

The encouraging news is that many of the most effective wildfire protections are surprisingly inexpensive. Installing ember-resistant mesh on attic and foundation vents, adding gutter guards, cleaning roofs and gutters regularly, removing combustible materials near structures, and replacing flammable mulch near the home with noncombustible alternatives can significantly improve a home's ability to survive an ember storm.

Wildfire resilience is not just an individual effort — it's a neighborhood strategy. In communities like ours, one vulnerable home can threaten the next. But the opposite is also true: every hardened, prepared home creates a buffer that helps protect neighboring homes from ignition.



The reality is simple: the only way a canyon neighborhood like ours survives a major wildfire event is if we all do our part. Preparation today could make all the difference tomorrow.





Photo: Courtesy of: Jim Krantz
from 100 years Holiday Parade
jim@jimkrantz.com

The Community Beat

From Conversation to Action

The Hollywoodland Homeowners Association is turning a new page. We have been paying attention to all that residents have to say and, with a **new board in place**, we are getting things done.

Our neighborhood is now in the final stages of becoming a **Firewise community** through the National Fire Protection Association, helping Hollywoodland better prepare for wildfire season and get you discounts on your homeowners insurance. New security cameras are being installed in the village area to provide residents with clearer footage and license plate information when crime happens.

It's not all meetings and safety plans though! — the HHA is also bringing neighbors together with.....

“Hollywoodland Wednesdays,” a new neighborhood mixer aimed at building community and making it easier to connect with the people who live around you.

The HHA is an all volunteer group dedicated to advocating for our neighborhood with Los Angeles City Council District 4 and city officials on everything from traffic to public safety.

We Need You!

Want to help support these initiatives and more? We would love to have you as a member!

**Scan the QR Code
to Become a Member**



HOLLYWOODLAND WEDNESDAYS



Hollywoodland Wednesdays officially kicked off on May 13th – and what a debut it was. Neighbors gathered at Boardners by La Belle to swap neighborhood lore, meet a few new familiar faces, and enjoy a couple drinks courtesy of the HHA.

Huge thanks to Adam Reider and Tommy Wolf for making the night happen and reminding us that a good neighborhood is built one conversation at a time.



defensible space, evacuation planning, vegetation management, and home hardening.

If you're looking for reliable information about protecting your home from wildfire – from ember-resistant vents to Zone Zero landscaping – the Fire Safe Council website is an excellent one-stop resource for all things wildfire preparedness.

Learn more at www.hollywoodhillsfiresafecouncil.org



GRIDLOCKED

With World Cup tourism approaching, the HHA continues searching for ways to reduce Hollywood Sign traffic impacts on the neighborhood. Current projections suggest traffic conditions may be similar to last year, with no additional City traffic enforcement planned at this time.

The board is exploring several ideas, including community ambassadors, LED traffic signage, and possible private security support.

A new City traffic plan is expected to go before City Council soon, although promising, few details have been released so far.

Did you know our Neighborhood has a Firesafe Council?

Fire Safe Councils are community organizations focused on wildfire education,

The World Opens up for a Foal Born Blind

Local Resident helps a foal named Bee to see again

by Laura Davis



Early that morning, a mare named Ivory—whom Joy Weber had been caring for since she was rescued from a kill pen—gave birth to a cream-colored filly with blue eyes just like her mother's. It quickly became obvious, though, that something was wrong. The foal bumped into things and had a hard time finding her mother if they were even slightly apart.

Local vets concluded that this lovely little foal was nearly totally blind, leaving all of us heartbroken. After we learned that the foal's best hope was the vet team at UC Davis, Joy trailered Ivory and her nursing foal to Davis, where Blind Ambition—or Bee, as the baby became known around the barn—had cataract removal surgery.

A long-ago mishap at summer camp involving a horse and a donkey left me deeply suspicious of equine creatures. Yet for some reason, I said yes when my husband suggested we take riding lessons. My yes came with the caveat that if I hated it, I could quit after one lesson. That was ten years ago.

Weber Training Stables in Agua Dulce is my second home, and the people and animals there a second family. Every spring I thrill to the sight of Morgan mares nurturing their newborns, though I've never been lucky enough to witness a birth since they tend to happen in the middle of the night. **June 12, 2025** was no exception.

As common as the condition is in humans, it is rare in horses. A UC Davis ophthalmologist estimates they receive no more than a single case a year. Bee and Ivory remained at Davis for eight weeks, allowing the foal time to heal and adding to the body of medical knowledge about her unusual condition.

All of this came with a price which brings me to our GoFundMe, which remains a bit short of our goal:

Scan the QR Code
To Support the GoFund Me



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Local Resident helps a foal named Bee to see again

Continued from pg.5

Bee, now nine months old, is playful, mischievous, and full of discoveries like how delicious carrots are. For Joy, there was never a question about whether to save her. As Joy told the Santa Clarita Valley Signal: "It's not just about making money, it's about... benefiting the breed. You need to be responsible for what you bring into this work so that they can survive and live a happy life."

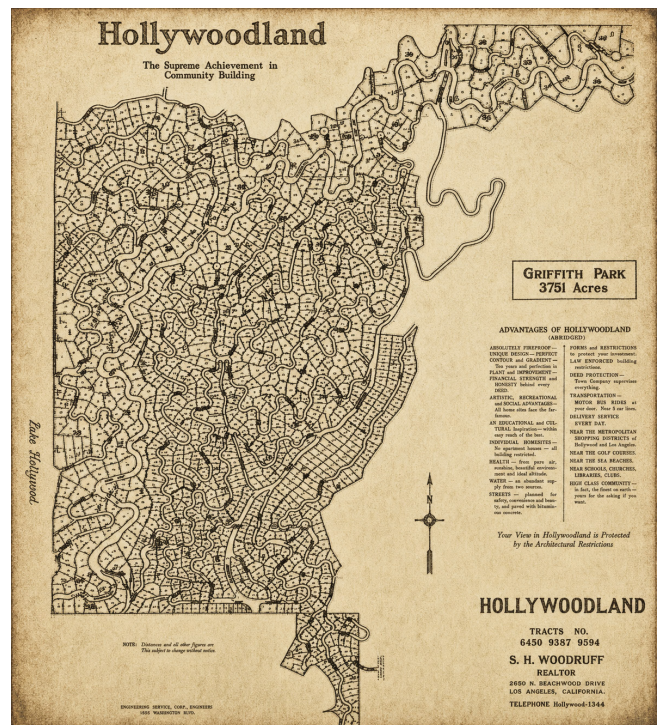
Three Moments that Shaped Hollywoodland

This May, our neighborhood takes a moment to reflect on three historic events that helped define the story of Hollywoodland – from its earliest beginnings to moments of profound loss and resilience.



The first dates back to **May 19, 1916**, when communities around the world celebrated the legacy of William Shakespeare. The spirit of art, storytelling, and culture that shaped Hollywood itself would soon find a home in the hills above the city.

Just a few years later, on **May 15, 1923**, Los Angeles County officially approved the Hollywoodland tract maps, authorizing development of the residential neighborhood we know today. That milestone marked the birth of one of Los Angeles' most iconic hillside communities.



The third event is remembered with far more solemnity. On **May 12, 1961**, the devastating **Hollywoodland Fire** – caused by a broken power line on Rodgerton Drive – swept through the canyon, destroying several historic homes, including the Norman Castle at 6201 Rodgerton, Erté's original home on Beachwood Drive, the home of Aldous Huxley on Deronda Drive, and five other residences.

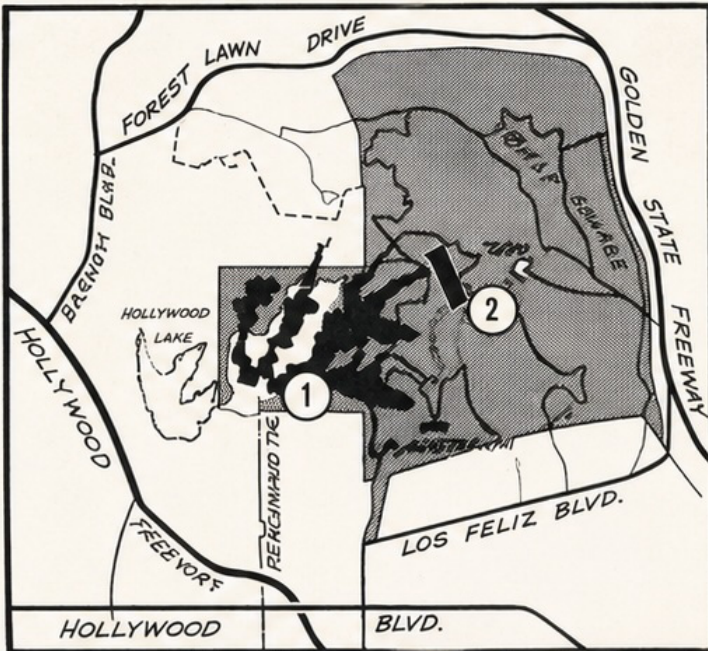
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Three Moments that Shaped Hollywoodland

The Hollywoodland Fire of 1961

Continued from pg.6

Extent of Blaze



This map locates the Hollywood Hills where a brush fire destroyed 24 homes and caused damage estimated at more than \$1 million. Figure 1 indicates spot where blaze started at 1:45 p.m. last night. Fire burned

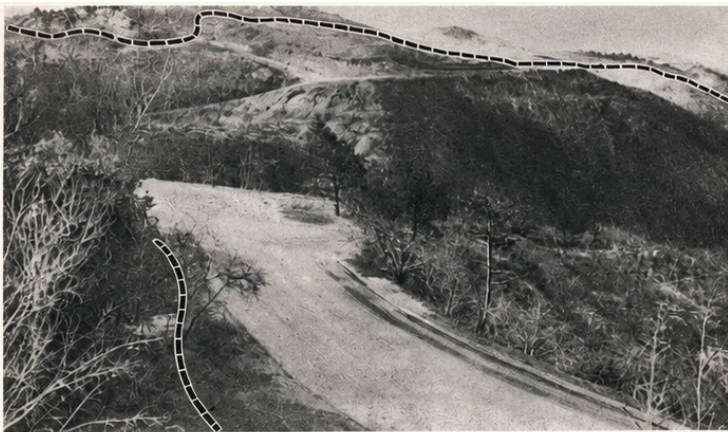
down 1200 acres of tinder dry brush (solid black areas). Early today, firefighters started their own backfires in area (2) to confine fire. Advance of flames only checked in 2,400. Shaded area shows Griffith Park.



The home of Mrs. Virginia Pfitzer at 3271 Deronda Drive is a smoldering, damaged by the brush fire. Black arrow points to dering ruins of The Castle, Hollywood landmark, razed by the blaze. White arrow shows smoul-



A piece of statuary which adorned the once grand home of author Aldous Huxley is examined by Herald-Express reporter Jim Bennett. Only black- ened walls now remain at the site, 3276 Deronda Drive. Huxley had to be restrained from rushing into the flames to rescue manuscripts.



Broken line encompasses some of the acreage which already has been gutted by the fast-moving brush fire. You can see how close it came to the famous Griffith Park Observatory, -arrow.



The Beachwood Canyon fire of May 12, 1961, was a fast-moving blaze in the Hollywood Hills that broke out near 3009 Beachwood Drive. Driven by high winds, low humidity, and heavy brush, it burned 814 acres, destroyed 24 homes, damaged 30 others, and required 500 firefighters to contain.

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Three Moments that Shaped Hollywoodland

Continued from pg.7

To honor these moments in our neighborhood's history, Chris O'Brien and Greg Williams are planning a special community history display for residents to enjoy.

Date: May 30 at

Time: 3pm - 5pm

Location: Hollywoodland Realty Office.

Lecture/talk about the Shakespeare exhibit
from 3pm-3:30pm



Historic photographs, newspaper clippings, and archival materials will help bring these stories back to life for neighbors and visitors alike.

Adding to the celebration, talented residents will prepare several desserts featured in the beloved 1990s Hollywoodland Story Cookbook.

The display will be up for a month and can be viewed by appointment after.

Courtesy of Chris O'Brien



Hollywoodland Realty Co.
2700 Beachwood Drive
1924



This Just In: From Government

Proposition 218 Assessment

For many homeowners, Proposition 218 is about more than just another assessment—it's about accountability.

On June 2nd, residents will vote, **as a separate ballot**, on whether to approve additional charges for services many believe the City should already be providing with existing tax dollars. Critics argue the issue is not a lack of funding, but a pattern of mismanagement and poor oversight despite billions already spent on major city initiatives.

Opponents of the measure believe Proposition 218 assessments should be used sparingly, not as a solution for ongoing budget and service failures.

A NO vote sends a message that residents expect transparency, accountability, and better stewardship of public resources before being asked to pay more. Don't forget, this is a separate ballot from the one that includes Federal, State, County and city elections.

Ballots must be submitted by June 2nd.

California Proposes New "Zone 0" Wildfire Rules for Home

Continued from pg.1

...damage by creating a more ember-resistant area within five feet of homes in high fire hazard zones.

As debate around the proposal grows online, residents should be cautious about

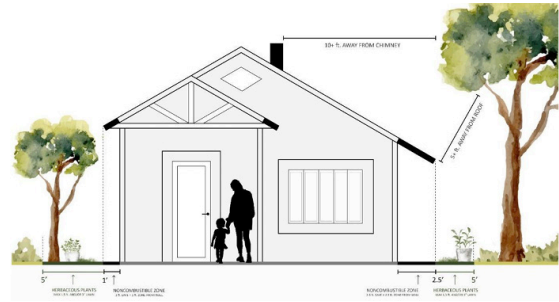
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California Proposes New "Zone 0" Wildfire Rules for Home

Continued from pg.8



while improving maintenance around roofs, gutters, decks, and vegetation.

.... some of the alarming images circulating in opposition to the draft.

The Department of Forestry is not proposing neighborhoods stripped bare of vegetation or replaced with concrete. In fact, the draft specifically allows for properly maintained trees, lawns, low-growing plants, succulents, and other non-woody landscaping within Zone 0.

The document itself includes updated renderings showing attractive, shaded, and landscaped homes that remain compliant with the proposed rules. The goal is not the elimination of urban habitat or greenery, but rather smarter landscaping practices that reduce the risk of ember ignition during wildfires.

The proposal would phase in requirements over several years and focuses primarily on removing combustible materials such as mulch, dead leaves, wood fencing attachments, and firewood near homes

HHA to propose a new City Ordinance to restrict outside traffic in VHFHSZ's during Red Flag Days

The Hollywoodland Homeowners Association is continuing to advocate for stronger wildfire safety measures during Red Flag events.

Following recent fire activity and growing concerns about congestion in hillside communities, the HHA has been pushing for a policy that would allow the City to temporarily restrict non-resident traffic into Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones during extreme fire weather conditions.

The organization is continuing discussions with City leaders and neighboring communities in an effort to improve emergency access, reduce traffic, and better protect residents during wildfire emergencies. Be on the lookout in the next coming weeks for an email further detailing the initiative and asking for your participation in an email drive to our city leaders.

Neighborhood Resources

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY



The Neighborhood Black Book

Our neighborhood WhatsApp has become a great way for residents to stay informed, connected, and prepared. The community includes several threads residents can join, including emergency alerts, neighborhood discussions, and a popular Neighborhood Resources thread where neighbors share trusted contractors and vendors who help keep Hollywoodland homes in tip-top shape.

A special thanks to local resident and HHA member Rochelle Steiner for keeping the neighborhood resource list updated and organized.

The access that list, simply **scan the QR code** below.



The 2026 Hollywoodland Board

Justin Burnett

President

David Agnew

Vice President

Linda Doe

Secretary

Jeanne Clark

Treasurer

Members at Large

Laura Davis | Nancy Girtten | Michael Paolini | Adam Reider | Jeff Swofford, Alexa Williams | Tommy Wolfe

The 2026 Hollywoodland HHA Board is turning the page and refocusing on what matters most: fire safety, neighborhood security, community connection, and strong advocacy for Hollywoodland.

From wildfire preparedness and emergency planning to traffic, safety, and quality-of-life issues, the new board is committed to protecting and strengthening our neighborhood for the future.

Have questions, concerns, or want to learn more about HHA initiatives and activities? Reach out anytime at hha@hollywoodland.org

HOLLYWOODLAND ACTION BOARD



What is the HHA working on?



HOLLYWOODLAND WEDNESDAYS



LAUNCH DATE:

MAY 13, 2026

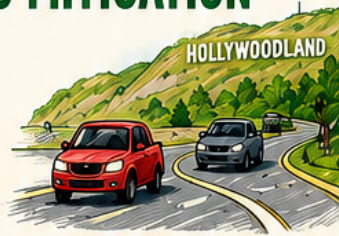
- Neighborhood mixer
- Community building
- Classic Hollywood vibe



WORLD CUP TRAFFIC MITIGATION

GOAL

Reduce traffic congestion from Hollywood Sign tourism during World Cup activity.



CURRENT IDEAS

- Neighborhood ambassadors (POST / ACS)
- Visitor rerouting assistance
- Mobile LED signage options under review



FIREWISE DESIGNATION

GOAL

Official Firewise Community Certification



STATUS

- Application submitted
- Awaiting State revisions



RED FLAG DAY ROAD CLOSURES

GOAL

Restrict outside traffic into hillside communities during wildfire emergencies and red flag events.



STATUS

- Initial request denied by CD4
- Ordinance-only request under reconsideration

NEXT STEPS

- Organize email campaign
- Expand coalition support
- Coordinate with nearby communities
- Push Hillside Federation support



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH DRIVE

GOAL

Expand preparedness + participation



INITIATIVES

- Recruit block captains
- Expand contact database
- Emergency support identification
- Promote HHA membership



ONGOING PROJECTS



Village Camera Upgrade



Neighborhood Block Party Planning



TOGETHER WE PROTECT, PREPARE, AND PRESERVE HOLLYWOODLAND. THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF OUR COMMUNITY!

