



HOLLYWOOD UNITED



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Your Neighborhood Council Update

March 2007 Edition

President's Message, Susan Swan

"At 4:31 a.m., on the crisp morning of January 17, 1994, an unknown fault under Northridge in the suburban San Fernando Valley of Los Angeles, California, ruptured and briefly thrust the earth's crust violently upward. Greater Los Angeles area residents were shaken out of their beds by the most severe urban temblor since the devastating 1906 San Francisco earthquake. The initial Northridge quake shook with a staggering Richter magnitude of 6.9, and lasted for more than 20 seconds. The earthquake occurred along a "blind" thrust fault, close to the San Andreas fault. The outcome resulted in one of the most financially destructive natural disasters in American history.

The Northridge quake also claimed 72 lives and inflicted 9,000 injuries, where 1,500 of the injuries were considered severe. <http://www.u-s-history.com/pages/h2176.html> I remember the Northridge Earthquake. I remember the violent shaking, the fear and panic, I remember the dark. I thought it would never stop. We were prepared. We had the water, the battery-operated TV and radio. We had flashlights by every door and by the bed. I even carried one in my purse after an aftershock scared the willies out of me at a mall... which went dark. We had the stock of food set aside, and lots of food for the cats. We'd taken the CERT course. We were *ready!* We congratulated ourselves on our good sense.

Fast-forward 13 years. The water? We haven't replaced it in years.. probably good for washing but not drinking. The store of food? For some reason I've stocked up on pasta and ramen noodles.. got instant coffee.. uh-oh, remember the water? Can opener .. uh oh. Cat food.. uh oh! Flashlights.. hmm, around here somewhere, got tired of carrying it in my purse so out that went. Gas cut-off wrench.. can't recall.. batteries.. what size do those things take? Where the heck did we put the battery-powered TV and radio.. uh-oh.. batteries? I've still got my CERT helmet but I can't recall what we're supposed to do.. and my emergency bag 'expired' years ago. I carried water and sneakers and snacks in my car.. 'just in case'. No more! Well, we are now way overdue for the Big One... WAY overdue. I know I've gotten complacent, and I don't need a wake-up call by the Big One to tell me. In this issue of our myHUNC.com Newsletter we give you the resources that you need to ensure that you, your family, friends and pets can manage for a few days or weeks after a major earthquake or other emergency/disaster. We'll show you how you can get CERT 'ification so that you can help your neighbors after you've helped yourself. Don't know what CERT is? Read on!

Update on the HUNC's Emergency Preparedness efforts in progress...

Bechir Blagui & Maurece Chesse

Through our Public Safety & Transportation Committee, HUNC has been busy preparing for a consolidated community emergency plan. Many outstanding ideas are on the table and being discussed and we still need MORE input from YOU! What questions do YOU have on being prepared?! Included in the discussion; Chief Fry from LAFD as well as the Station 82 Team, our SLO's from the LAPD and we are inviting all stakeholders to participate .

So far one of the ideas involves having disaster proof containers strategically located through out our community (station 82, churches, the schools, etc.) and in the containers a wide variety of emergency supplies.

The best place initially to be prepared, is for you, family and friends to start at home and in your car with at least 3 days of water, comfort foods, walking shoes, working flashlights, etc.

Further more, with direct funds from our annual budget, Maurece Chesse and I have been studying what emergency kits are most useful and can be distributed all around our community, but the HUNC can only do so much. It still begins with **you** taking a serious look at where you stand with **being prepared!**

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Got Neighborhood Watch?!

Ryan Hass & Bechir Blagui

In the February Newsletter, LAPD Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Michael Shea voiced his support of neighborhood watch programs by saying, "Get involved with Neighborhood Watch programs."

At the most recent HUNC Board Meeting in February, LAPD SLO Paula Davidson, addressed the issue of crime in our area and said that one way to prevent a rise in crime is for stakeholders to form Neighborhood Watches (NW). She did state that our area has an above average amount of NWs but more are certainly welcome.

Over the past few months the HUNC's Public Safety & Transportation committee, spearheaded by Ryan Hass & Bechir Blagui, has been seeking a way to promote the forming of such NWs within our boundaries. The first step, financial sponsorship of new NWs, was presented to the board in February and passed with a unanimous vote. The recommendation presented by the PS&T cttee to the HUNC Board was to provide funding (up to \$1000) for each (up to 5) approved new NW applications.

For an application and/or more Info, please contact Ryan Hass (RyanHUNC@gmail.com), Bechir Blagui (bachra@gmail.com) or the HUNC office at 323.957.3784.

HUNC successful in halting sale of possible future park site.

By Erik Sanjuro

Thanks to a tip off from a community member, HUNC was able to work quickly with State and City officials to remove from a public auction a lot on the corner of Ivar and Franklin. The triangular shaped lot, measuring a little under an acre, has been eyed by the adjacent Hollywood Dell for years community as an ideal location for a neighborhood park. For years, CalTrans, which controls the site, has attempted to limit the community's ability to improve the lot, which currently is overrun with ivy and weeds. Neighbors have planted several trees and have proposed adding a beautiful canopy of flowers where the ivy and the rat are now. CalTrans officials rejected these overtures, as well as requests that the State sell the lot to the City for a park.

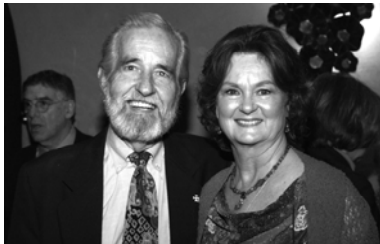
Then, less than a year after insisting that the agency could not afford to part with the flat lot, which is adjacent to the 101 freeway, the site was included on a list of surplus properties scheduled to be sold at a March 5 public auction. Upon hearing about this outrage, newly elected Assembly member Mike Feuer quickly moved to correct this wrong and got CalTrans to pull the item off the agenda. Councilman Tom LaBonge is now working with City and State officials to try to locate funds to buy the lot from the state and turn it into a park. Time is limited as the State wants to resolve this issue soon. HUNC is paying close attention to the progress to date and is encouraging developers of many large projects within walking distance of this proposed park to chip in as a mitigation measure.

Arts, Culture & Entertainment Committee

... "Off to an ambitious beginning!!"

By Andrew Ettinger

The key word to our operating mission and overall philosophy is Creativity! I feel very fortunate to have Nyla Arslanian as the Co-Chair since she is the indefatigable founder and president of the Hollywood Arts Council with over 30 years of devoted service to our community, and editor of the highly informative Discover Hollywood Magazine, as well as host of their annual Charlie Awards.



At our February meeting we discussed the AC&E mission and goals realizing the urgent need for

creativity in our community outreach efforts as well as programs and activities for our HUNC stakeholder/constituents base. We are also planning to develop subcommittees so that we are well-represented in the fields such as art, sculpture, photography, music, singing and choir, dance, theater, TV and film to enlarge our impact in all areas of the AC&E sectors. Our intent is to reach amateurs and professionals, kids and seniors since true creativity has no limits and is a matter of choice and interest for all.

Also in development, a concept that will provide a regularly-scheduled "Creativity Mixer," at an appropriate venue within our area, to provide opportunity for creative-minded individuals to socialize and connect, mix and mingle in a comfortable but stimulating environment. We may also include exhibits, performances, panel discussions, speakers, or other elements that may contribute to a truly "creative experience," not just another stand-around and business card swap meet ...

On March 1st, Mayor Villaraigosa declared March as Creative LA Month noting that LA is home to more than 2500 arts-oriented businesses and organizations with more than 450,000 jobs that account for \$4 Billion in our annual economy. Feeling Creative?! Want to be more creative? Join us in our mission... it can be both rewarding and fun!

The AC&E Committee meets the 4th Wednesday of the month, (check the web site www.hollywoodunitednc.org or call the HUNC office at 323-957-3784 for more information and meeting time.)

What is CERT?!

Local government prepares for everyday emergencies. However, during a disaster, the number and scope of incidents can overwhelm conventional emergency services. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program is an all-risk, all-hazard training. This valuable course is designed to help you protect yourself, your family, your neighbors and your neighborhood in an emergency situation. CERT is a positive and realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations where citizens may initially be on their own and their actions can make a difference. While people will respond to others in need without the training, one goal of the CERT program is to help them do so effectively and efficiently without placing themselves in unnecessary danger. In the CERT training, citizens learn to: manage utilities and put out small fires, treat the three medical killers by opening airways, controlling bleeding, and treating for shock, provide basic medical aid, search for and rescue victims safely, organize themselves and spontaneous volunteers to be effective, and collect disaster intelligence to support first responder efforts.

WHY DO THE CERT TRAINING?

Well, it's like paying for car insurance. You might never need either; you'd hope not to. But if the occasion arises, having the CERT training, just like having car insurance, means you're as ready as you can be to help yourself, your family and your neighborhood.

HOW DO I JOIN? CERT

Members receive 17 1/2 hours (one day a week for seven weeks) of initial training. The 7-week course is followed by full-day biannual refresher drills, and an opportunity to assist the LAFD at local incidents. CERT is provided free of charge within the city of Los Angeles to anyone 18 or over. Classes are taught mornings, afternoons and evenings continually throughout the year in locations all over Los Angeles. The current schedule is always available on the internet at www.cert-la.com/basic. You can search to find a class in your Battalion or Council District or classes that begin on a certain weekday. To register for a class, call the contact person to verify the date, time and location of the class. If the contact says you can't attend for any reason, send an email to cert-la@usa.net immediately. If you miss a class, you can go to any other location to make it up. When you arrive at the make-up session, inform the instructor that you are making up a class. If you don't see a class near you, call the LAFD CERT Unit at 818-756-9674 or send an email and give them your name, phone number, zip code and community name. When a class is scheduled in your area, they will contact you. You can also organize a class for your neighborhood, business or community group. You need a minimum of 25 people to be trained and a location to hold the training. Call the LAFD CERT Unit at 818-756-9674 to schedule your class. The LAFD CERT Training only conducts non-discriminatory classes. Non-discrimination includes race, religion, gender, and group affiliations.