



Inside Ladera

Official Publication of the Ladera Heights Civic Association

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Keeping Up Appearances - Slauson Beautification Means Paying Attention

By Dorothy E Harris, Beautification Chair

Remember this? Slauson, 2003, pre-project. They say a picture's worth a thousand words.... so have a look: yesterday, today, and hopefully remedies for tomorrow. Thanks to the ongoing efforts of the "Keeping Up Appearances" walking team; a standing Committee of the LHCA, we are monitoring our Beautification project to ensure it stays that way. A recent walk with member Eva Green along the south side of Slauson, between Wooster and La Cienega, diagnosed a number of problem trees, bushes, weeds and even some graffiti and hardscape damage. The follow-through from the KUA committee chair was a letter to the County's staff requesting repairs. Within a week, the County's contractor for that area, TruGreen LandCare, had their workers there performing the weeding, shaping, etc. Other items, such as the repairs to the hardscape caused by an errant vehicle are also in the pipeline. That pipeline has a habit of getting clogged.... this is where your homeowner association can give a gentle push to move things along.

As a result of a vehicle intrusion, plants, trees, and important utilities are interrupted until the repair is completed.



Before. . .



Today, lush growth provides beauty and a defined separation between busy Slauson Avenue, and our great neighborhoods.

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President's Report

Dear Neighbors,

Home Security

Summer has arrived. With it comes open windows and doors and more opportunities for thieves to come into your home. Fortunately, we have had a very low crime rate in our area. If you want to see the crime stats at any time just go to the web at www.crimemapping.com for the latest information. As in the past, I suggest starting or restarting a block club and holding a meeting to make sure everyone has the needed information to keep your family, home, and neighborhood safe. The association will post signs on your block after you have formed your group. Further, we are trying to compile a list of all block captains so that we have the information in case of an emergency in the community. If we don't have your block club information or to start a block club contact Charlee Williams at (323) 299-6700. Additionally, you can contact Security Service Systems (SSS) to install or activate an alarm system and/or sign up for the dedicated patrol car. We are working to have the car 16 hours, but we need more sign ups. It is only \$28 dollars a month for the patrol. The alarm service is also \$28 per month. However, if you sign-up for both, the cost is \$53 per month, with one month free! Call their office for Senior Rates. A well-spent sum for the peace of mind it provides. Call **George Aceves at 310-477-2095** or his cell **310-462-9842**.



The civic association supports Security Services because after interviewing several companies, including ADT, we found that SSS gave us the best price and is a local company with a local central station. With looming budget cuts, we can only assume we will have fewer Sheriff's officers to patrol; we must protect ourselves. Please call to enroll.

Dues

We are trying to increase our membership for 2011. Your contribution will help pay for our newsletter, support neighborhood beautification, support community improvement and help safeguard against development in our own and the surrounding communities. So please take a minute and send in your check. The dues are just \$20 for the entire year. This is less than you spend to attend a movie and goes to help maintain your neighborhood and your property values. Also we are trying to continue to improve our e-mail tree, so please send in the top part of the dues envelope with your e mail information. If you already paid your dues, just send in the envelope with your name, address, phone and e-mail so we can add you to the information tree. This is the most efficient way to reach the community and in time of community matter we cannot reach you quickly without an email address.

Meeting Date

We will not meet during the months of July and August. Our next regularly-scheduled meeting will be Thursday, September 15, 2011, 7:00 pm at the Senior Center across from Ladera Park on 62nd St. I encourage you to attend our meetings.

Have a good summer.

Ronni Cooper
President



**Don't forget to visit our website:
"http://www.laderaheights.org"**

Ladera Heights Block Club Leaders Meet



Front Row: Charlee Williams, Betty Stivers, Felicia Richard, Dani Belisle
Back Row: Russell Edmond, Woody Harrell, Ray Williams, Connie Oliver, David Oliver, Clare Norris

In May, many of the thirteen volunteer Ladera Heights Block Club Captains met to exchange ideas and discuss specific issues affecting our community. Points covered included unsightly homes with deferred maintenance and overgrowth, efficient communication with neighbors, crime and unlicensed businesses, and block club party guidelines. Also discussed was trash and litter near LaTijera School, extreme traffic on Slauson, speeding on residential streets, replacement of rusted Neighborhood Watch signs, legal/illegal activities at Chariton gazebo, and increased litter/parking from 24-Hour Fitness Center. The work involved on resolving all of the identified issues is ongoing.

Since 1972, the Neighborhood Watch Program (housed within the National Sheriffs' Association) has worked to unite law enforcement agencies, private organizations, and individual citizens in a nation-wide effort to **reduce crime and improve the quality of life in local communities**. The success of the program has established Neighborhood Watch as the nation's premier crime prevention and community mobilization program.

In addition to the crime prevention benefits, participation in a neighborhood watch or Block Club group provides the opportunity for neighbors to become friends who look out for each other.

Charlee Williams, newly appointed Chairperson of the LHCA Block Club Committee, would like to work with you to get Block Clubs operating on every street in Ladera Heights. Examples of the benefits include:

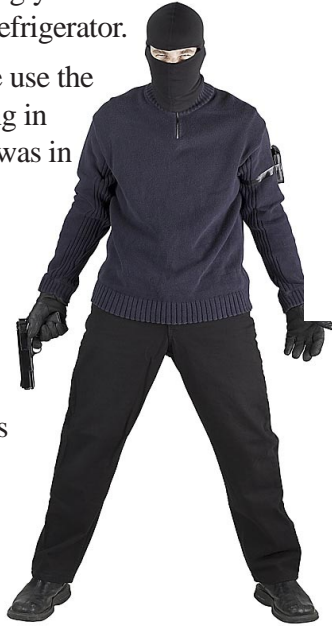
- * Getting to know your neighbors and how to contact them in an emergency or to report suspicious activity.
- * Working together to solve community challenges.
- * Working with the LHCA to elevate concerns and correct problems that cannot be solved on the block level.

Please contact Charlee Williams by email at charleew5@gmail.com, to learn more about how to start and run a Block Club, or to contribute in the efforts to resolve any of the listed, or other community concerns.

13 Things Your Burglar Won't Tell You

Contributed by Charlee Williams

1. Of course I look familiar. I was here just last week cleaning your carpets, painting your shutters, or delivering your new refrigerator.
2. Hey, thanks for letting me use the bathroom when I was working in your yard last week. While I was in there, I unlatched the back window to make my return a little easier.
3. Love those flowers. That tells me you have taste... and taste means there are nice things inside. Those yard toys your kids leave out always make me wonder what type of gaming system they have.
4. Yes, I really do look for newspapers piled up on the Driveway. And I might leave a pizza flyer in your front door to see how long it takes you to remove it...
5. If it snows while you're out of town, get a neighbor to create car and foot tracks into the house... Virgin drifts in the driveway are a dead giveaway.
6. If decorative glass is part of your front entrance, don't let your alarm company install the control pad where I can see if it's set. That makes it too easy.
7. A good security company alarms the window over the sink. And the windows on the second floor, which often access the master bedroom - and your jewelry. It's not a bad idea to put motion detectors up there too.
8. It's raining, you're fumbling with your umbrella, and you forget to lock your door - understandable. But understand this: I don't take a day off because of bad weather.
9. I always knock first. If you answer, I'll ask for directions somewhere or offer to clean your gutters. (Don't take me up on it.)
10. Do you really think I won't look in your sock drawer? I always check dresser drawers, the bedside table, and the medicine cabinet.
11. Here's a helpful hint: I almost never go into kids' rooms.



12. You're right: I won't have enough time to break into that safe where you keep your valuables. But if it's not bolted down, I'll take it with me.

13. A loud TV or radio can be a better deterrent than the best alarm system. If you're reluctant to leave your TV on while you're out of town, you can buy a \$35 device that works on a timer and simulates the flickering glow of a real television. (Find it at <http://www.faketv.com/>)

8 More Secrets a Burglar is Reluctant to Share

1. Sometimes, I carry a clipboard. Sometimes, I dress like a lawn guy and carry a rake. I do my best to never, ever look like a crook.
2. The two things I hate most: loud dogs and nosy neighbors.
3. I'll break a window to get in, even if it makes a little noise. If your neighbor hears one loud sound, he'll stop what he's doing and wait to hear it again. If he doesn't hear it again, he'll just go back to what he was doing. It's human nature.
4. I'm not complaining, but why pay all that money for a fancy alarm system and leave your house without setting it?
5. I love looking in your windows. I'm looking for signs that you're home, and for flat screen TVs or gaming systems I'd like. I'll drive or walk through your neighborhood at night, before you close the blinds, just to pick my targets.
6. Avoid announcing your vacation on your Facebook page. It's easier than you think to look up your address.
7. To you, leaving that window open just a crack during the day is a way to let in a little fresh air. To me, it's an invitation.
8. If you don't answer when I knock, I try the door. Occasionally, I hit the jackpot and walk right in.

More Secrets to Protect You continued on page five...

Sources: *Convicted burglars in North Carolina, Oregon, California, and Kentucky*; security consultant *Chris McGoey*, who runs <http://www.crime.doctor.com/> and *Richard T. Wright*, a criminology professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, who interviewed 105 burglars for his book *Burglars on the Job*.

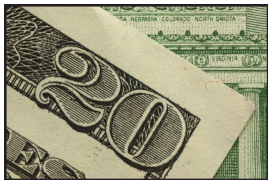
Energy Upgrade California

Contributed by Sandra Goldsmith

Ladera residents now have an opportunity to financially help our Civic Association, lower our home utility bills, and get up to \$4,500 in rebates for energy efficiency improvements. For every homeowner who applies and completes upgrades within the guidelines, we can receive a donation from this program of amounts from \$100 to \$500. This program is only for a limited period and once all the funds for promotion have been exhausted, this special offer will end.

The program is called Energy Upgrade California and is a partnership of the California Energy Commission and the CA Public Utilities Commission. In Los Angeles, it is an alliance among L.A. County, SCE and S. CA Gas. Unique to this program is that the contractors are certified. We encourage you to go to the website www.EnergyUpgradeCA.org or call 877-785-2237 to see how improvements to your home will not only help you reduce utility bills, improve home comfort and air quality, but also have a reduced impact on our environment.

Any additional questions regarding the Civic Associations involvement will be addressed at our monthly meetings or call our hotline @ (310) 641-2294.



Membership Dues

Dilemma by Nancy Day

As Chair of the Ladera Heights Civic Association Membership Committee my job is to convince you

to pay your annual membership dues and to join your neighbors who volunteer their services to the Association and the community.

Whenever I meet my neighbors, I always ask, "Are you a member of the LHCA?" The answer is usually, "Of course I am!" Unfortunately, when I am reviewing membership records, I discover that some of you just don't realize that you have forgotten to send in your \$20.00 check to LHCA! The Association's membership records contain 100s of former members who have not paid their dues from as far back as 2005. If you are uncertain of the status of your membership, please send me an email (nancyday@daywerks.com) and I will let you know when you last paid your dues! Please do your part to keep LHCA an organization that supports the community in which you reside.

The Membership Committee is working with the Block Club Committee to develop a system of identifying and welcoming new neighbors into the community and inviting them to join the LHCA.

Crime Prevention Symposium

This symposium is being sponsored by the Ladera Heights Civic Association and the United Homeowners Association on **July 23, 2011**, at Junior Blind of America, 5300 Angeles Vista Blvd., L. A. 90043, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Participants include the Sheriff's Department, Inglewood Police, LAPD, Culver City PD, and the CHP. Panel topics and breakout sessions include Residential Burglary, Domestic Violence, Narcotics, Homicide, Credit Card Fraud, Auto Theft, Driving Citations, and others.

Ask questions and get answers to everything you always wanted to know.

...continued from page four More Secrets to Protect you and your home:

If you don't have a gun, here's a more humane way to wreck someone's evil plans for you.

Wasp Spray (it's not just for insects that bug you)

A friend who is a receptionist in a church in a high risk area was worried about someone coming into the office on Monday to rob them when they were counting the collection. She asked the local police department about using pepper spray and they recommended to her that she get a can of wasp spray instead. The wasp spray, they told her, can shoot up to twenty feet away and is a lot more accurate. With the pepper spray, they have to get too close and could overpower you. The wasp spray temporarily blinds an attacker until they get to the hospital for an antidote. She keeps a can on her desk in the office and it doesn't attract attention from people like a can of pepper spray would. She also keeps one nearby when at home.

Put your car keys beside your bed at night.

Tell everyone you know to put their car keys on their nightstand. If you hear a noise outside your home or someone trying to get in your house, just press the panic button for your car. The alarm will be set off, and the horn will continue to sound until either you turn it off or the car battery dies. This tip came from a neighborhood watch coordinator. Next time you come home for the night, think of this: you probably already have this alarm system and it requires no installation. Test it. It will go off from most anywhere inside your home and will keep honking until your battery runs down or until you reset it with the button. It works if you park in your driveway or garage. If your car alarm goes off when someone is trying to break into your house, odds are the intruder won't stick around. After a few seconds all the neighbors will be looking out their windows to see who is out there; the criminal won't want that. And remember to carry your keys while walking to your car in a parking lot. The alarm can work the same way there and maybe prevent a life-threatening attack.

Community Phone Numbers



Animal Control: (310) 523-9566

Neighborhood Code Enforcement: 1-877-966-2633

L.A. County Zoning Complaints: (888) 924-4357

Graffiti:

There are two methods to remove graffiti: by leaving a message for the Sheriff's Explorers at (310) 649-6633, or by calling Public Works at (800) 675-4357 (ask for confirmation number). If in L.A. City, call 311. If in Inglewood, call (310) 412-8739.

Mosquito Abatement: (310) 915-7370.

Neighborhood Watch/Block Club:

To start a Neighborhood Watch on your block, contact the LHCA at (310) 641-2294.

Shopping Carts:

Contact California Shopping Cart Retrieval Service: (800) 252-4613.



Sidewalks: (626) 458-4357.

Street Lights:

Southern California Edison:
(800) 655-4555.

Trees:

Removal: (310) 348-6448.

White fly problems: (562) 862-0517.



Trash Collection: The LHCA asks that you put your trash out the **evening** before your pick-up day, and to take in your containers on the **day of** pick-up. For any questions about other containers, or pick-up days, contact Consolidated Disposal Service at (800) 299-4898, Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 5:30 pm. Remember, hazardous wastes like **paint** (latex or oil-based), **paint thinner**, **antifreeze**, **household cleaners**, or **motor oil** are **NOT** allowed. To dispose of these items, call 1(888) 253-2652.

Ladera Park:

The park closes at sunset. Please call the Sheriff's Department if you see anything suspicious.

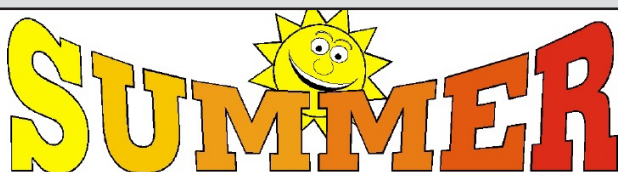
Locating sex offender residences:

www.meganslaw.ca.gov

Emergency Numbers

Sheriff's Dept: (310) 482-6000. Fire Dept: (310) 677-1181, or use 911. CHP (310) 642-3939.

If you live in the Los Angeles City Strip, dial 911 and state
"I live in the City of Los Angeles, Reporting District 1469."



Don't forget to visit our website:
"http://www.laderaheights.org"