

# PA FIRST NEIGHBORHOOD PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

The First Neighborhood News is published by the First Neighborhood Property Owners Association 31830 Village Center Rd., Westlake Village, CA 91361 (818) 889-0632

Vol. XLII No. 176 February 2022

## Homeowners Meeting

The next scheduled homeowners meeting is Thursday, February 10, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. Due to the recent pandemic the meeting will be held on Zoom. If you have any questions or would like to attend via Zoom, please email showard@emmonsco.net prior to the meeting. All homeowners are invited to attend.

## Welcome Neighbors

These new residents have recently moved into our First Neighborhood, and we welcome them. As new residents and members of the First Neighborhood Property Owners Association, you should call the Community Center office (818) 889-0632 if you have any questions regarding your new home or neighborhood.

*Payam  
4531 Guildhall Court*

## First Neighborhood Summer Camp Seeking Camp Director

The First Neighborhood Board of Directors is seeking a local qualified applicant for the FNDC camp director position. Candidates must have experience. If you know of anyone who is qualified and may be interested, please have them contact Sharon Howard at the Community Center (818) 889-0632 or email your resume to showard@emmonsco.net. Candidates should be organized and have prior experience working with kids, supervising staff, budgets and managing day to day operations.

## Newsletters and Board Meeting Agendas

Please be advised that all current monthly newsletters and board meeting agendas are posted on the bulletin board in front of the Community Center each month.

## Greenbelt News

The original designers of First Neighborhood gave us the gift of a beautiful Greenbelt as a place to walk our dogs, chat with friends, and watch our kids play. For the houses that line the Greenbelt, they thought a little privacy was warranted so they built walls with a back gate to lead us easily out onto the tree-lined pathways. Indeed, it is wonderful to live on the Greenbelt and be able to look out the window at the beautiful vistas, but it comes with an added responsibility. That wall and gate I mentioned are yours and you are responsible for their upkeep.

Generally, the walls are not a big problem. They require little or no work although they do crack and crumble and require some work from time to time to keep them structurally stable. The gates however are a whole different story. They are made out of wood and as such they need to be painted or stained, boards deteriorate and need to be replaced, and in some instances whole gates fall apart and need to be rebuilt. This is not an option it is your responsibility. Nobody wants to stroll down the Greenbelt and look at a crumbling wall or rotted gate barely hanging on its hinges.

So, please be mindful of your walls and gates. Remember, when you live on the Greenbelt you must make sure the outside of your wall and gate is as nice as the inside. It all contributes to keeping our First Neighborhood Greenbelt the lovely jewel we all enjoy.

## Holiday Reminder

Now that the holidays are over, please be sure to remove all holiday decorations and lights. Thank You!

## Architectural Committee Volunteer Needed

The FNPOA is seeking an individual to work as a volunteer on the Architectural Committee. This individual would ideally have experience in most, if not all, of the following areas and a strong desire to help his/her community:

Design  
Landscaping  
Architecture  
Construction  
Home/Improvement/Remodeling

If you are interested, please call Sharon at the First Neighborhood Community Center Office at (818) 889-0632.

## Approved Architectural Applications

Lot#0072 4525 Greengate Court  
Flat Roof  
Lot#0092 4525 Coolhaven Court  
Block Wall  
Lot#0142 32011 Kingspark Court  
Paint  
Lot#0160 32009 Grenville Court  
Tree Removal  
Lot#0312 31900 Benchley Court  
Patio Cover  
Lot#0343 31827 Langspur Court  
Roof  
Lot#0479 31724 Bainbrook Court  
Room Addition  
Lot#0552 4373 Henley Court  
Remodel, Pool/Spa  
Lot#0596 4420 Sevenoaks Court  
Gate  
Lot#0611 4434 Henley Court  
Paint  
Lot#0668 4406 Regents Court  
Solar

# The Sheriff's Department Community Tips

## HOME SECURITY -

### Invest In It Now

If you were locked out of your house, would you still be able to get in? Maybe you keep an unlocked window in the back, a hidden key in your mailbox or on top of a window ledge? You may think this is a good idea, but guess what? If you can break in, so can a burglar! One out of ten homes will be burglarized this year. For a small amount of time and money you can make your home more secure and reduce your chances of being a victim.

Many burglars will spend no longer than 60 seconds to try breaking into a home. Good locks -- and good neighbors who watch out for each other -- can be big deterrents to burglars.

#### Check The Locks

Did you know that in almost half of all completed residential burglaries, thieves simply breezed in through unlocked doors or crawled through unlocked windows?

Make sure every external door has a sturdy, well-installed dead bolt lock. Key-in-the knob locks alone are not enough.

Sliding glass doors can offer easy access if they are not properly secured. You can secure them by installing commercially available locks or putting a broomstick or dowel in the inside track to jam the door. To prevent the door from being lifted off the track, drill a hole through the sliding door frame and the fixed frame. Then insert a pin in the hole. Lock double-hung windows with key locks or "pin" windows by drilling a small hole into a 45 degree angle between the inner and outer frames, then insert a nail that can be removed. Secure basement windows with grills or grates. Instead of hiding keys around the outside of your home, give an extra key to a neighbor you trust.

When you move into a new house or apartment, re-key the locks.

## Community Center Calendar of Events February-March 2022

### FEBRUARY 2022

Saturday 5	Party	9:00 a.m.
Wednesday 9	Party	9:00 a.m.
Thursday 10	Architectural/First Neighborhood POA Meeting	6:30 p.m./7:00 p.m.
Saturday 12	Party	9:00 a.m.
Saturday 26	Party	9:00 a.m.

### MARCH 2022

Saturday 5	Party	9:00 a.m.
Thursday 10	Architectural/First Neighborhood POA Meeting	6:30 p.m./7:00 p.m.
Saturday 26	Party	9:00 a.m.

#### Check The Doors

A lock on a flimsy door is about as effective as locking your car door but leaving the window down.

All outside doors should be metal or solid wood. If your doors don't fit tightly in their frames, install weather stripping around them. Install a peephole or wide-angle viewer in all entry doors so you can see who is outside without opening the door. Door chains break easily and don't keep out intruders.

#### Check The Outside

Look at your house from the outside. Make sure you know the following tips:

Thieves hate bright lights. Install outside lights and keep them on at night. Keep your yard clean. Prune back shrubbery so it doesn't hide doors or windows. Cut back tree limbs that a thief could use to climb to an upper-level window.

HOME SECURITY - Invest In It Now  
Clearly display your house number so police and other emergency vehicles can find your home quickly.

If you travel, create the illusion that you're at home by getting some timers that will turn lights on and off in different areas of your house throughout the evening. Lights burning 24 hours a day signal an empty house.

Leave shades, blinds, and curtains in normal positions. And don't let your mail or newspapers pile up! Call the post office and newspaper offices to stop delivery or have a neighbor collect it.

Make a list of your valuables - VCR's, stereos, computers, jewelry. Take photos of the items, list their serial numbers and descriptions. Check with law enforcement about engraving your valuables through Operation Identification.

Ask local law enforcement for a free home security survey.

#### Consider An Alarm

Alarms can be a good investment, especially if you have many valuables in your home, or live in an isolated area or one with a history of break-ins.

Check with several companies before you buy so you can decide what level of security fits your needs. Do business with an established company and check references before signing a contract. Learn how to use your system properly! Don't "cry wolf" by setting off false alarms. People will stop paying attention and you'll probably be fined.

Some less expensive options . . . a sound-detecting socket that plugs into a light fixture and makes the light flash when it detects certain noises, motion sensing outdoor lights that turn on when someone approaches, or lights with photo cells that turn on when it's dark, and off when it's light.

#### Burglars Do More Than Steal

Burglars can commit rapes, robberies, and assaults if they are surprised by someone coming home or pick a home that is occupied.

*Continues on Page 5*

## Westlake Village Places of Worship



St. Jude's Catholic Church ..... (818) 889-1279  
Fr. Jim Stehly  
32032 Lindero Canyon Rd. - Westlake Village, 91361

St. Paul Lutheran Church,  
MO Synod ..... (818) 889-1620  
Matthew Nolte, Pastor  
30600 Thousand Oaks Blvd. - Agoura, 91301

Temple Adat Elohim..... (805) 497-7101  
Rabbi Barry Diamond  
2420 E. Hillcrest Dr. - Thousand Oaks, 91362

The Church of the Epiphany ..... (818) 991-4797  
(Episcopal)  
Rev. Melissa McCarthy  
5450 Churchwood Dr. - Oak Park, 91377

The Calvary Community Church ..... (818) 991-8040  
Shawn Thornton, Pastor  
5495 Via Rocas - Westlake Village, 91362

Conejo Valley  
Congregational Church ..... (805) 381-0484  
Dave Clack, Pastor  
750 Erbes Road - Thousand Oaks, 91362

Westminster Presbyterian Church... (818) 889-1491  
Rev. David Rohde, Pastor  
32111 Watergate Road - Westlake Village, 91361

United Methodist Church  
of Westlake Village ..... (805) 497-7884  
Rev. Walter Dilg, Pastor  
1049 Westlake Blvd. - Westlake Village, 91361

Church of Jesus Christ of  
Latter-Day Saints..... (818) 991-2550  
La Venta at Watergate - Westlake Village, 91361

First Church of Christ, Scientist ..... (805) 495-3203  
305 Conejo School Road - Thousand Oaks, 91362

New Hope Lutheran Church..... (818) 889-8700  
Craig Beeker, Pastor  
29295 Agoura Road - Agoura Hills, 91301

Temple Etz Chaim..... (805) 497-6891  
Rabbi Ari Averbach  
1080 Janss Road - Thousand Oaks, 91362

### REFERENCE INFORMATION FOR HOMEOWNERS First Neighborhood Property Owners Association

Homeowners and Architectural Committee meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center. Your attendance is most welcome at all regular meetings. The Architectural Committee requests your applications for review and approval of all exterior modifications to your home or landscaping (reroofing, tree removal, etc.) Newsletter deadline is the 3rd Monday of each month. Please submit information in person, by phone or mail to the Community Center.

#### For Emergencies Or Problems:

Police (Sheriff)	911 (Emergency) or 818-878-1808; 818-991-0522 (fax)
Fire/paramedics	911 (Emergency) or 818-889-1122; 818-889-1626 (business)
Animal Control	818-991-0071
Gas Leaks	1-800-427-2200
Electrical Power Loss	1-800-611-1911
Broken Water Main	818-251-2100 (Las Virgenes Water Dist.)
Telephone Repair	611
Las Virgenes Water Dist.	818-251-2100
Vector Control Rodents	626-430-5450
Mosquitoes	310-915-7370

#### For General Information:

Community Center Office	818-889-0632 (8:00 - 12:00 pm, Mon.-Fri.)
Manager - The Emmons Company	805-413-1170 (8:30 am - 5:30 pm, Mon.-Fri.)
City Hall	818-706-1613
Health Dept.	818-880-3409
LA County Health & Human Service Program	211

#### To Report Common Area Problems:

Continuously Running Sprinklers:	
On City Property (Cul-de-Sacs, Medians, Park)	818-706-1613 (9 am - 5 pm, Mon.-Fri.)
On First Neighborhood Property (Greenbelts Only)	818-889-0632 (8:00 am-12:00 pm, Mon.-Fri.)
Lights Out On Greenbelt:	Customer Service 1-800-655-4555
Community Center Alarm:	Aid Alert Security 818-991-6002

#### Board of Directors:

President – Tish Matthews  
Vice President – Richard Shin  
Treasurer – Craig Heiting  
Secretary – James Struyk  
Member at Large – Scott Perrotty

#### Architectural Committee:

Todd Spiegel  
Janie McKay  
Caroline Raser  
Elisa Hirsch  
Wendy Aisley

#### Safety Committee:

Scott Perrotty, Chairman, 818-519-1988  
Vince Costanzo  
Arlene Kovalivker  
Jill Marder-Meyer

#### Linking Internal Neighborhood

Communication Committee:  
Riz Nwosu  
Sam Covert  
Patrick Koors

#### Greenbelt Committee:

Robin Hirsch, Chairman, (818) 822-7091  
Bruce Gruver  
Gina Bradley

#### Welcoming Committee:

Jane Heiting  
Elaine Salewski

#### Notes

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## Minutes of the First Neighborhood Property Owners Association Board of Directors Meeting • November 11, 2021

The First Neighborhood Property Owners Association Board of Directors assembled and held its regular meeting on Thursday, November 11, 2021, at the First Neighborhood Community Center located at 31830 Village Center Road, Westlake Village, CA 91361.

### Call to Order

President Tish Matthews called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### Members Present and Constituting a Quorum

Tish Matthews, President  
Craig Heiting, Treasurer  
James Struyk, Secretary  
Scott Perrotty, Member-at-Large

### Members Absent

Richard Shin, Vice President

### Others Present

Linda Merkle, The Emmons Company  
Sharon Howard, The Emmons Company  
Robin Hirsch, Greenbelt Committee  
Todd Spiegel, Architectural Committee  
Gina Bradley, Volunteer

### Homeowners Present

There were two homeowners present at the meeting.

### Greenbelt Report

Robin Hirsch reported on the greenbelts. Robin Hirsch recommended Gina Bradley to be appointed to serve on the greenbelt committee.

Motion – A motion was made by Tish Matthews to appoint Gina Bradley to serve on the greenbelt committee. Motion was seconded by Craig Heiting and passed unanimously.

Robin Hirsch supplied the Board with a survey regarding the concrete sidewalk repairs that was requested at the last Board meeting. Mr. Hirsch stated the more concrete poured the cheaper it is per square foot. After reviewing the bids from Tom Foster Construction, Craig Heiting suggested obtaining additional bids. The Board discussed forming a sub committee to go out and mark the sidewalks that are in need of repair. Tish Matthews, Jim Struyk, Scott Perrotty, Robin Hirsch and Linda Merkle will schedule a meeting to identify the areas that are in need of repair.

### Safety Committee Report

Scott Perrotty reported for the safety committee. Mr. Perrotty reported the committee will resume their meetings after the first of the year.

### Welcoming Committee

Craig Heiting reported there has been four new residents this month. The committee continues to welcome the new residents.

### Architectural Report

Todd Spiegel reported for the architectural committee. Mr. Spiegel reported the two new additional volunteers will help speed up the process of expediting the applications. The Board also discussed with Mr. Spiegel the Senate Bill SB 9 which takes effect 1/1/22.

The following applications have been approved by the architectural committee.

Lot#0180	32033 Royceton Court	Windows
Lot#0187	32018 Royceton Court	Landscaping
Lot#0207	31919 Richgrove Court	Gate
Lot#0306	31861 Village Brook Road	Windows
Lot#0317	31808 Tynebourne Court	Driveway/Tree Removal/Windows
Lot#0341	31817 Langspur Court	Solar, Roof
Lot #0364	31901 Kingspark Court	Paint/Windows/Remodel/Roof
Lot#0386	31943 Watergate Court	Door
Lot#0493	31703 Dunraven Court	Tree Removal
Lot#0515	4209 Abbingdon Court	Paint/Garage Door/Gate/Siding
Lot#0534	4311 Baronsgate Court	Roof
Lot#0607	4401 Henley Court	Paint
Lot#0670	4420 Regents Court	Room Addition

### Approval of Minutes

Motion: A motion was made by James Struyk to approve the October 14, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes, as amended. Motion was seconded by Scott Perrotty and passed unanimously.

### Management Report

Linda Merkle reported the bids for the front Colonnade repair work has been sent to the City of Westlake Village. Ms. Merkle stated she is still searching for a designer to help select the replacement doors for the Community Center. Craig Heiting stated he may have some contacts.

### Financial / Delinquency Report

Craig Heiting presented the financial report. Mr. Heiting reported total cash on hand as of October 31, 2021, was \$769,576.53. Currently water and sewer are over budget year to date due to several repairs. The Board asked management to supply them with the November & December financials as soon as they are available.

Motion – A motion was made by Craig Heiting to approve the October financials. Motion was seconded by James Struyk and passed unanimously.

### Old Business

The Board approved at last month's meeting to increase the Community Center non-resident rental rates by \$100 for the large room and \$50 for the cardroom/kitchen. The Board agreed to also increase school events, fundraisers, and religious events with the same increase.

Motion: A motion was made by Tish Matthews to approve the Community Center rental rates increase for school events, fundraisers, and religious events by \$100 for the large room and \$50 for the cardroom/kitchen. Motion was seconded by Craig Heiting and passed unanimously.

The Board agreed to table reviewing a page of the rule book for the next meeting.

The Board reviewed the 2022 budget cover letter and made changes. The budget will be mailed out to the membership by December 1, 2021.

Linda Merkle supplied the Board with the 2022 Reserve Study. The Board directed management to make some additions such as adding the Community Center doors/hardware.

Motion – A motion was made by Tish Matthews to approve the 2022 Reserve Study pending the additional items be added. Motion was seconded by James Struyk and passed unanimously.

The Board discussed the election rule change. The update rule change takes out the 30-day pre-ballot notice requirement for most types of membership votes, AB 502 clarifies that the notice is only required for director elections. Also added is an optional 60-day process required for the Board to declare an election by acclamation when it is not contested due to lack of candidates.

Motion – A motion was made by Tish Matthews to approve the election rule changes. Motion was seconded by Scott Perrotty and passed unanimously.

The Board discussed the increase in the LVMWD greenbelt bills. Linda Merkle has been in contact with Cason Gilmer the field customer representative. Currently the bills have dropped due to the water being shut off. Jesse Slade from Slade Landscaping believes the meters may be sending a higher reading due to the way the meters are looped. The Board and Management will continue to reach out to LVMWD to find a solution.

### New Business

The homeowner from lot#0198 was at the meeting to appeal to the Board regarding his architectural application that was recently denied. The homeowner had installed pilasters in front of his home without architectural approval. The homeowner supplied the Board with copies of other homes in the neighborhood. After investigating the other homes, the Board found there were no violations. The Board agreed the pilasters are in violation of the architectural committee rulebook and asked that the homeowner remove them. It was suggested a new application be submitted following the guidelines.

The Board discussed the new Senate Bill SB 9 that was approved by the state legislature and goes into effect January 1, 2022, allowing lot splitting on properties zoned for detached single family housing. After discussing with the association's attorney, the Board directed management to send a proposed change to the Architectural Committee Rules out to the membership for 28 day comment. The rule change would not allow more than one primary residence be constructed on any lot. The board requested that the notice be included with the next quarterly billing to be mailed in December.

Motion – A motion was made by Tish Matthews to approve the Architectural rule change. Motion was seconded by James Struyk and passed unanimously.

The Board reviewed the proposal from Olympic Roofing Company, Inc. to repair the roof leaks at the Community Center in the amount of \$2,203.00. Due to scheduling the repairs are planned for mid-December. The Board approved an allowance of \$3,000.00 if another vendor can do the work sooner.

Motion – A motion was made by Scott Perrotty to approve an allowance up to \$3,000 for roof repairs at the Community Center. Motion was seconded by Craig Heiting and passed unanimously.

The Board discussed the possibility of purchasing an automated external defibrillator for the Community Pool and Community Center. After discussing the Board decided to table this item for the next meeting.

The Board discussed the 2020 loan that was borrowed from the reserves during the pandemic and the possibility of paying back the full amount or partial amount by year's end.

Motion – A motion was made by Scott Perrotty to pay back the 2020 loan from reserves as a full or partial payment by year's end based on the review of the financial reports by Tish Matthews and Craig Heiting. Motion was seconded by James Struyk and passed unanimously.

### Community Center Applications

The Board discussed the current security guards being used for rentals at the Community Center and the need to be added as additional insured on the vendor's policy. Currently the security guards are hired by the renter and are supplying the association with a contract and a hold harmless agreement. Tish Matthews stated she will reach out to local security companies and see if they would be willing to add the association on as additional insured and possibly hire the current security guards.

The following applications for the use of the Community Center were reviewed.

Name	Event	Date	Name	Event	Date
Non-Resident	Reception	01/08/22	Non-Resident	Party	05/28/22
Non-Resident	Party	02/05/22	Non-Resident	Reception	06/11/22
Non-Resident	Party	04/30/22	Non-Resident	Party	06/18/22

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.  
Respectfully submitted, Sharon Howard, Recording Secretary

# Sunset Magazine February Checklist

## Planting

**Annuals.** It's still possible to plant annuals, especially in mild coastal areas. Choices include calendula, dianthus, Iceland poppy, larkspur, nemesia, pansy, primrose, snapdragon, and stock. Low desert gardeners can also plant petunias.

**Bare-root plants.** Bare-root plants are a bargain, and they're also fun: Watching a twiggy stick turn into a leafy plant is always a kick. You have plenty of opportunity to plant this month. Nurseries will still be well stocked with roses, and they will also have stone fruit trees, cane berries, grape and kiwi vines, strawberries, artichokes, and asparagus. Some may also have deciduous ornamental trees. Plant immediately if possible. If soil is too soggy, cover roots with moist soil or plant temporarily in containers.

**Winter Color.** In Southern California, a surprising number of plants bloom in the middle of winter. To add sparkle to the garden during this season, consider a winter-flowering tree such as Acacia baileyana, Hong Kong orchid tree (*Bauhinia blakeana*), or feathery cassia (*Cassia artemisioides*). Tuck a winter-blooming shrub like Christmas heather (*Erica canaliculata*), Geraldton waxflower, or euryops into the flower border, and add bergenia, hellebores, or yellow flax (*Reinwardtia indica*) to your perennial beds. Train flame vine (*Pyrostegia venusta*) or *Jasminum polyanthum* up a trellis. Use aloes or other flowering succulents as accents.

## Maintenance

**Begin dormant-season pruning.** Start with roses. Deciduous fruit trees need pruning too; plums, apricots, and peaches each require a different technique. If in doubt, attend a pruning demonstration at an arboretum or consult a good reference book before proceeding. Don't prune spring-flowering plants now—wait until after bloom. Also wait for spring before removing frost-damaged branches. The damaged portion protects tender interior growth.



**Groom Camellias.** If camellia blight is a problem (petals turn brown and flowers rot in the center), pick infected flowers from plants and remove fallen flowers and leaves promptly from ground beneath plants.

## Pest Control

**Apply dormant spray.** After pruning, spray roses and deciduous flowering and fruit trees with horticultural oil to smother overwintering insects such as mites, scale, and sawfly larvae. For fungal diseases such as peach leaf curl, mix lime sulfur or fixed copper into the oil. Spray the branches, crotches, trunk, and ground beneath the tree's drip line. If rain occurs within 48 hours, repeat.

## City Council Meetings

If you are interested in attending the City Council Meetings, they are scheduled the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall. An agenda is also available to you the Friday before each meeting, which you can pick up at the City Hall or visit the website at [www.wlv.org](http://www.wlv.org).

If something looks questionable -- a slit screen, a broken window or an open door -- don't go in. Call the police from a neighbor's house or a public phone. At night, if you think you hear someone breaking in, leave safely if you can, then call police. If you can't leave, lock yourself in a room with a phone and call police. If an intruder is in your room, pretend you are asleep.

Guns are responsible for many accidental deaths in the home every year. Think carefully before buying a gun. If you do own one, learn how to store it and use it safely.

## Tips Regarding Your Vehicles

Always lock your vehicles. Never keep any valuables in plain view, I.E., laptops, cell phones, brief cases, purses, etc. Don't leave your garage doors open.

## There's More You Can Do

Join a Neighborhood Watch group. If one doesn't exist, you can start one with help from local law enforcement.

Never leave a message on your answering machine that indicates you may be away from home. Rather than saying, "I'm not at home right now," say, "I'm not available right now."

Work with neighbors and local government to organize community clean-ups. The cleaner your neighborhood, the less attractive it is to crime.

## Rental of First Neighborhood Community Center

Do you have a wedding or special party coming up this year? This is a reminder that as a First Neighborhood resident, you are entitled to rent the Community Center for your personal and social events and may reserve the facility one year prior to your event. If you would like to use the Center and would like more information, call Sharon Howard at (818) 889-0632 or drop by the office Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. after hours you may leave a message on the answering machine and your call will be returned the following weekday.



FIRST NEIGHBORHOOD  
PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION  
31830 Village Center Road  
Westlake Village CA 91361  
www.firstneighborhood.org

## What's Inside . . .

- Homeowners Meeting
- Welcome Neighbors
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- Holiday Reminder
- Architectural Committee Volunteer Needed
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- Approved Architectural Applications
- Calendar
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- Minutes
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- Rental of First Neighborhood Community Center

**DATED MATERIAL**

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### Safety Committee

Animal Safety – Please always keep dogs on a leash for the safety of everyone – other people and dogs. Not all dogs are friendly even though yours is and dogs on a leash may react differently to those off leash. Maintaining K9 social distancing also helps keep everyone (humans and dogs) safe. If you observe or encounter a problem with a dog off leash, the POA can send a letter to the homeowner if you are able to get the address of the off-leash dog's owner and send it to Sharon Howard. If a dog is loose on city or private property, you may call LA County Animal Control at 818-991-0071. Please know they are understaffed so the response times may vary and may not be quick. One of our residents recently had his dog attacked by another dog that was off leash. If such an attack occurs, please contact Animal Control. Note that the sheriff's department will not respond to animal incidents of any kind unless there is a human in immediate danger. But, if urgent or immediate Animal Control response is needed, a call to LASD (818-878-1808) may be able to generate a faster response.

We recommend that cats be always kept indoors, but some cat owners need or want their cat to have time outdoors. Please be aware of the risks including coyotes and mountain lions that roam into our neighborhood; a recent Nextdoor post in our local area mentioned a coyote carrying a dead cat. Aside from posting on social media, any wild animal sightings or potential concerns should also be directed to Animal Control.

Pedestrian/traffic safety - LASD recently conducted a crosswalk safety operation in our city on one of the arterial streets. 27 motorist citations were issued for various violations such as speeding, cell phone use, and failure to yield to pedestrians. As pedestrians, even in the seemingly quiet safety of our neighborhood, please watch for and be aware of traffic. Don't assume you can just step into the street and that a motorist will automatically stop for a pedestrian. Watch for any approaching vehicles, make sure they see you, and watch to ensure they are slowing down and yielding accordingly.

Stay safe everyone!