

Benedict Canyon

Winter 2002

Benedict Canyon Association Newsletter

Volume IV Issue 4

SPECIAL PEOPLE, SPECIAL PLACE

. . . long time resident Mary Ann Musico

Every respectable town counts among its assets a town matriarch. So, what does that have to do with Benedict Canyon, you ask. We're not exactly a town and we don't have a matriarch. Ah, but that's where you're wrong. Those of us who understand what's great about living here (99.9 percent of us) realize that in its own unique way, our canyon is like a village unto itself. A special one, with nature at its back door, uncanny peace and quiet and an abundance of intelligent, creative, downright good folk. Who then would be matriarch of this splendid hamlet? Her name is Mary Ann Musico and it's not age that's earned her the honor, but great effort and steadfast devotion.

Those lucky enough to know Mary Ann agree, if she has one flaw it's that she makes hard work look easy. If only she would whine on occasion or complain that she doesn't have enough time or energy

to take on yet another task. We'd understand. But, Mary Ann has no time to complain. She's too busy working to protect and enhance our environment and has been since the day she moved here.

How does a girl from the Midwest flatlands of Chicago find



Mary Ann Musico

her way to the rustic beauty of our canyon? It all started in the early 1950's when, as a student at Northwestern University, Mary Ann paid a visit to a family friend whose home was in Beverly Glen. The experience of living in the moun-

tains and seeing deer in their backyard was all it took for Mary Ann to fall in love with the hillsides and mountains of California. Determined to return, Mary Ann found a job with a film company after graduation and a place to live in the Hollywood Hills.

Her next job, dubbing films, took her to Rome, Italy where she befriended a family member of the Ferragamo Shoe company. Inspired by the exceptional designs and quality of their footwear, she took a detour from her film/broadcasting interests and co-ventured the opening of a shoe salon in Beverly Hills, which was called "Marianna of Florence."

In 1957, shortly after her marriage to John Musico (another impressive Italian import) she purchased a home in Benedict Canyon, fulfilling her dream of living in the California hillsides. She could now devote her energies

Cont. pg. 9

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Special People, Special Place, **pg. 1** . . . Update-Canyon Land Development, **pg. 2** . . . Friend of the Canyon, **pg. 3** . . . Upper Benedict Repaving Delayed, **pg. 3** . . . Keep Your Eye Open For, **pg. 4** . . . President's Message, **pg. 5** . . . Could You Survive For 3 Days?, **pg. 6** . . . Stop Home Robberies, **pg. 10** . . . Two Firestations-no waiting, **pg. 10** . . . Gas Leaf Blowers, **pg. 11**



UPDATE. . .CANYON LAND DEVELOPMENT

REVISION OF THE HILLSIDE ORDINANCE

BCA has been working with the offices of Council members Jack Weiss and Cindy Miscikowski, spearheading efforts to amend the Hillside Ordinance. We want to insure that the 36-foot height limit cannot be circumvented through interpretations of exceptions contained in the Ordinance. The efforts by the late Mark Hughes to construct an oversized structure on the highest ridge in the Canyon highlighted the problem. Councilman Weiss informs us that revised language for the proposed amendment to the Hillside Ordinance should be brought up for consideration by the City's Planning Commission and then by the City Council.

- David Elson

THE TWO PROPOSED RESIDENCES AT 2001 BENEDICT CANYON DRIVE

Pre-construction activities are underway on the 100+ acre parcel owned by a family trust. There ultimately will be two large residences, although the parcel is zoned for many more. Representatives of the family trust have kept BCA advised of work before it commenced and have pledged to work with BCA to limit the impact of construction, which will take several years. BCA will continue to monitor the project closely.

- D.E.

OFFSITE PARKING

The BCA presented written objections and appeared in opposition to an application for a variance sought to allow the construction of a large residence without on-site parking. The proposed development would be on a lot located down a steep slope beneath an existing home on High Ridge Drive. Because of its location, it would not be possible for the eventual owners to park their cars on their own property as is required of every other resident.

- D.E.

1407 AND 1420 DAVIES DRIVE

The Benedict Canyon Association is currently monitoring two specific residential projects. They are 1407 Davies Drive and 1420 Davies Drive. These sites are of primary concern due to their prominent locations and their impact on the view corridor from the southerly entrance into the Canyon. As a result of the steep grades on these two sites, which are side-by-side, severe retaining walls have been constructed to provide access and to create buildable flat pads. Some of these walls exceed thirty-five feet in height and extend more than three hundred feet in length. Consequently, the natural ridgelines with indigenous landscape have been destroyed.

1407 Davies Drive consists of a property that is one acre in size.

The two-story, single-family house, which is designed for this site, is 15,000 square feet in size. The height of the home is 36 feet. 1420 Davies Drive consists of a property that is 1-1/2 acres in area. This two story, single-family house is 7,500 square feet in area. The height of this dwelling is 36 feet.

Both of these projects are within the guidelines of the City of Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety as well as the Department of Planning and Zoning.

Members of the BCA and Councilman Weiss' office are working with the owner's representatives to recommend solutions for treatment of the exposed concrete. The objective is to diminish the visual impact of the walls. Landscaping, so that the walls are reclaimed in a natural manner is one possibility. Painting the concrete has been suggested as another less desirable option.

Under existing regulatory requirements the City can authorize, without public notice and without any exercise of meaningful discretion, projects that include oversized retaining walls and unsightly grading. With enough money and advanced technology, property that was previously unbuildable is now being developed at a high environmental and visual cost. With little concern for wildlife habitat and our environment, this ongoing scaling of our hillsides and "mansionization" must be controlled or we will lose the natural beauty of Benedict Canyon forever. We must work with the City to prevent projects of this nature from being approved in the future.

-Michael L. Chasteen

Benedict residents are the first line of protection against inappropriate development in the Canyon. We encourage you to contact the BCA through our HOTLINE if you become aware of a proposed development which is inconsistent with the unique character of our Canyon.



Senior Lead Officer (SLO) , Mike Wang

FRIEND OF THE CANYON

Officer Mike Wang

Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Mike Wang has been with the LAPD for eight years. He is a graduate of UCLA, a Certified Public Accountant and worked in one of the “Big Five” firms. He is married and has one daughter. Mike is responsible for approximately 15 square miles of territory that includes residences and businesses. His district extends from the 405 Freeway on the West to Coldwater Canyon on the East and from Mulholland Drive South to Santa Monica Boulevard. There are approximately 61,000 people and numerous businesses, shoppers and commuters in his district.

Mike’s specific duties as SLO are as a Community Liaison and Department Facilitator. Twenty -four officers work with Mike as Patrol Officers dealing with issues involving crime, domestic violence, traffic, quality of life, nuisances and drugs. Crime in Benedict Canyon remains at a relatively low level. However, as Mike says, “One Crime is One Too Many”! We still need to be diligent in preventing crime.

Some of Mike’s helpful crime prevention tips are:

- Keep residential and car doors locked at all times
- Keep minimal property in your vehicle while parked
- Personal property should be in your trunk
- Residence should be well-lighted at night
- Be a good neighbor and KNOW your neighbor’s phone number
- Organize and/or join a Neighborhood Watch group
- Stop newspaper and mail delivery when you are away

Mike can be contacted at (213) 509 - 4326, his cell phone where he takes messages, or (310) 575 - 8423, the West LA Station SLO area..

In addition to 911, other emergency phone numbers for police assistance can be found on the BCA web site’s Community Resources Directory.

Mike will be at the BCA Annual Meeting on March 18, 2002. Please introduce yourself and ask any questions you may have.

- Walt Lykosh

UPPER BENEDICT REPAVING DELAYED

Following is an unedited email from the Upper Benedict Canyon Drive Road Repair Project Manager

“Thank you for your input, participation and support. As a follow up to our recent meeting, please find the following project summary and status update.

The design activities are nearing completion. The design for the street element of the project is nearly complete, and details are being finalized. Concurrent with this, the bulkhead design work is underway. The design for the replacement bulkhead is complete. Other than the replacement bulkhead, it is also necessary to construct additional bulkheads to support the roadway in the creep and settlement areas as well as certain eroding and sloughing steep side slope locations along Benedict Canyon Drive. The soil boring are complete, and the bulkhead design work is underway. I am projecting that the street and bulkhead design will be completed in March. The design of the low flow storm drain is also nearly complete. With the completion of the street design, the low flow storm drain design work can be finalized. I am anticipating completion of the low flow storm drain design in April 2002.

As discussed at our meeting, due to additional bulkheads, it has become necessary to conduct an archeological survey and to re-evaluate the environmental clearance for the project. An archaeological survey and a draft environmental initial study were recently prepared. A mitigated negative declaration is forecasted and its approval is antici-

Cont. pg. 5

KEEP YOUR EYE OPEN FOR. . . .

... TERMITES...

THE UNINVITED GUESTS

While many home purchases in California require a termite report indicating that the property is free of termites, it is not uncommon for



"Hi! We're here!"

A. Kincaid

the homeowner to neglect follow-up inspections. According to the State Structural Pest Control Board, if you see the following signs in your house, you might have termites:

- Sawdust-like droppings
- Dirt or mud-like tubes or trails on the structure
- Damaged wood members (like window sills)
- Swarming winged insects within the structure, especially in Spring or Fall

If you think you have a termite infestation in your home you need

to call a structural pest control company to conduct a professional inspection. Make sure the company is licensed and in good standing by calling the Structural Pest Control Board at (916) 263-2533.

-Mary Ann Musico

... FOR TRASH RECEPTACLES

City Ordinances specify that trash receptacles may be put out in the street no earlier than 6:00 P.M. on the evening prior to pick-up (Wednesday evening) and must be returned to their storage area no later than 6:00 P.M. on the day of pick up (Thursday). In some areas Green barrels are picked up on Friday. Same rules apply but a day later. Your association is trying to keep Benedict Canyon clean and beautiful.

Please help us and do your share. Thanks!!

-Sandy Margolis

... BOGUS SERVICE PEOPLE

Recently, there have been five home robberies in the Canyon perpetrated by thieves posing as uniformed service people (i.e. gas company, tree trimmers, roofers and others).

Always check photo ID and confirm with the company if you are not expecting anyone.

-Gordon Smith

... POISON ALERT!

One of our neighborhood families has had a frightening experience and wants to warn everyone to keep all rodent poison out of reach of children and pets. One of their dogs escaped their yard and some-

where nearby picked up a box of gopher poison. The dog brought it home and shared it with the other family dog. Both were found in critical condition. Fortunately the emergency clinic vet was able to save them.

This type of poison can have fatal consequences for both pets and humans. If you have a supply of this type of product, or any type of poison, make sure that it is out of sight and reach of curious children or pets.

- Mary Ann Musico

... BEAUTIFICATION

The Canyon is humming with construction. These activities result in a lot of trash and debris being thrown onto streets, sidewalks and empty lots. It is obvious that service people and construction workers are not as concerned about the cleanliness and appearance of our canyon as we are.

Every time I drive by this trash, I get a little upset by it and groan

Keep Your Eyes Open For Men in Red Vests

Every month along Benedict Canyon Drive professional gardeners are hard at work cleaning up your Canyon. their services are paid for by your donations. The next time you see them wave a friendly hello. It's your money at work.

and gripe to myself, and to passengers in my car. One day I decided that this mess was truly "getting to me". So, I rolled up my sleeves, put on some gloves, picked it up and tossed it in the trash. Now the

Cont. pg. 5

Cont. from pg. 4
KEEP YOUR EYE OPEN

entrance to my neighborhood, Clearview Drive and Benedict Canyon Drive, is more inviting. Several of my neighbors stopped their cars, enthusiastically thanked me, and volunteered to “do it next week”. Please join the “Next Week Club” in your neighborhood and do your part in helping to keep Benedict Canyon clean.

- Sandy Margolis

... ILLEGAL PARKING COULD BE LIFE THREATENING

Many of our canyon streets, and some areas of Benedict Canyon Drive, are narrow. Where safe passage is threatened “NO PARKING” signs are posted. Unfortunately, some signs have been illegally removed, obstructed or damaged.

If paramedics are unable to drive to a victim, they will be

If fire engines and paramedics cannot pass illegally parked cars, a life can be lost or a fire could destroy a home.

forced to leave the fire truck, and walk to the victim, carrying all of their equipment. This additional time could result in a fatality. Please park legally and use your garages when possible. If someone else's car is parked illegally you can call (213) 485-4184 to report it and a citation will be issued. You need to tell them that the car is parked illegally and is creating a dangerous condition. If you are aware of the removal of a NO PARKING SIGN or feel that you need one in your neighborhood, call (310) 575-8138. Please inform your guests, service people or construction personnel of existing parking regulations.

- Sandy Margolis



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we begin a new year and reflect on what has recently taken place, we are reminded time and again that family and friends are what is real and important.

We at BCA try to incorporate these thoughts in our every action. Our bylaws dictate that all our efforts must be directed towards the benefit of Canyon residents.

We have sponsored a community based Emergency Preparedness training program to help our neighbors and friends when the need arises.

We assist Canyon property owners when proposed zoning variances would destroy the ambiance and beauty of the area.

We are attempting to have the City change the regulations that currently allow for the destruction of our mountaintops and ridgelines by bulldozers without proper consideration and review.

We need your help. Volunteering your time and money allows us to continue these efforts and be able to accept any new challenge that may come our way.

This is the time of year when we kick-off our Annual Membership Donor Program. In the past you have been very generous. We hope that once again you will contribute to the BCA in order that we may continue serving you, our friends and neighbors.

I look forward to seeing you at our Annual Meeting to be held on Monday, March 18, 2002, at 7:00 P.M. at the Beverly Hills Hotel. Our agenda includes:

- Election of our Officers and Board Members

- Councilman Jack Weiss and others presenting this year's issue - Preservation of our Mountains and Ridgelines

- Recognizing those Canyon residents who have completed the Los Angeles Fire Department Emergency Preparedness course.

Refreshments created by the Beverly Hills Hotel will be served. Reduced parking rates.

- Chick Harris

Cont. from pg. 3
REPAVING DELAYED

pated by August 2002. Considering this, it is necessary to reschedule the bid and award and the construction activities to commence upon environmental approvals as follows:

- Bid and Award for construction of low flow storm drain - September 2002 to February 2003.
- Fabrication / procurement: concrete storm drainpipes - February 2003 to March 2003.
- Road will be open for local access during construction - April 2003 to July 2004.
- Low flow storm drain construction - April 2003 to July 2003.
- Water line - August 2003 to October 2003.
- Street and bulkhead construction - August 2003 to July 2004.

Thank you again for your active involvement, and support.

- Vahik Vartanians
Project Manager, City of Los Angeles

COULD YOU SURVIVE FOR THREE DAYS?



“In light of recent events many things have changed”. A good friend said that he hoped never to see another story that begins with these words—I can certainly understand his feelings. However, there is no more appropriate opening for this article, because the truth is, since September 11th, many things have changed—some for the better.

Emily Dickenson may have said it best. “We never know how high we are until we are called to rise. And then, if we are true to plan, our statures touch the sky”.

Shortly after September 11th the BCA held an emergency preparedness introductory lecture, pre-

shown basic steps on how to be self-sufficient until firemen arrive. Best estimates are that it may take as long as 3 DAYS before emergency services can show up.

The audience participated by asking questions well beyond the expected time limit of the program. An edition of the LAFD Emergency Preparedness book is available at www.lafd.org.

As this goes to press, the follow-up seven-week course offered by the LAFD, at the Beverly Hills Women’s Club, is nearing completion. The LAFD believes that the only way to survive during an emergency is preparedness—individual and community. We who live

in Benedict Canyon are aware of our limited ingress and egress. That creates special challenges.

Hopefully, this initial outpouring of community interest and involvement will continue so that we can count on each other and ourselves should the need arise.

- Vera Dunn

A HOME SURVIVAL KIT

Uncertainty about what sort of emergency might occur raises the possibility of either having to remain inside your home or evacuating. To be prepared, put together a survival kit that includes:

- A well equipped First Aid Kit
- A weeks supply of bottled water and canned foods
- A working cell phone
- Flashlights and a portable radio
- Plenty of batteries
- Goggles
- Gloves, both leather and latex
- Fiber masks (will not protect against lethal gases)
- Thermal blankets or sleeping bags
- A supply of drugs
- Extra supplies of medicine required by all family members (periodically check expiration dates)
 - Broad-spectrum antibiotics
 - Sleeping pills
 - Painkillers
 - Anti-histamines
 - Mild laxative
 - Anti-diarrhea medication

*Please note:
A variation of this kit should be placed in each car.*



Local residents (lft to rt) Barbara Marcus, Vera Dunn and Janet Hammerman model disaster “fashion.”

sented by the Los Angeles Fire Department, to a standing room only crowd.

LAFD Firefighter III Lead Paramedic Stacy Gerlich gave an extremely inspiring and informative presentation. Information was given on how we can prepare for most types of emergencies, concentrating on fires and earthquakes. We were

Benedict Canyon

BENEDICT CANYON ASSOCIATION 2002 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I want to help protect and preserve our canyon and the environment in which we live and express my support by joining the Benedict Canyon Association at the following membership level:

- \$1000+ Oak Tree
- \$500 Sycamore Tree
- \$250 Eucalyptus Tree
- \$100 Pine Tree
- \$75 Basic Membership

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

E-Mail Address _____

Benedict Canyon Association mailing lists are strictly confidential and are never sold or shared.

I do not wish my name to appear in the BCA Newsletter, but please accept my enclosed contribution.

You can become a member of BCA through Basic Membership or as part of our "Trees of Support" Donor Program. Many members are choosing to designate their membership "In Honor of..." or "Memory of..." for someone who used to live in Benedict Canyon, a beloved family pet or anyone whom you would like to honor in this special way. Basic Membership names will not be published. Also, you may contribute at the donor level and elect not to have your name published. Benedict Canyon is protected only through your individual contributions. Thank you for supporting your community.

For membership information, please call our Hotline - (310) 553-4222(BCA)

Benedict Canyon Association is a non-profit organization.

My payment of \$ _____ is made by:

Check payable to Benedict Canyon Association

Please charge my VISA MasterCard AMEX

Card# _____ Exp. date _____

Name as it appears on card _____

Signature _____

Please return this application along with your payment to:
Benedict Canyon Association, P.O. Box 1265, Beverly Hills, CA 90213

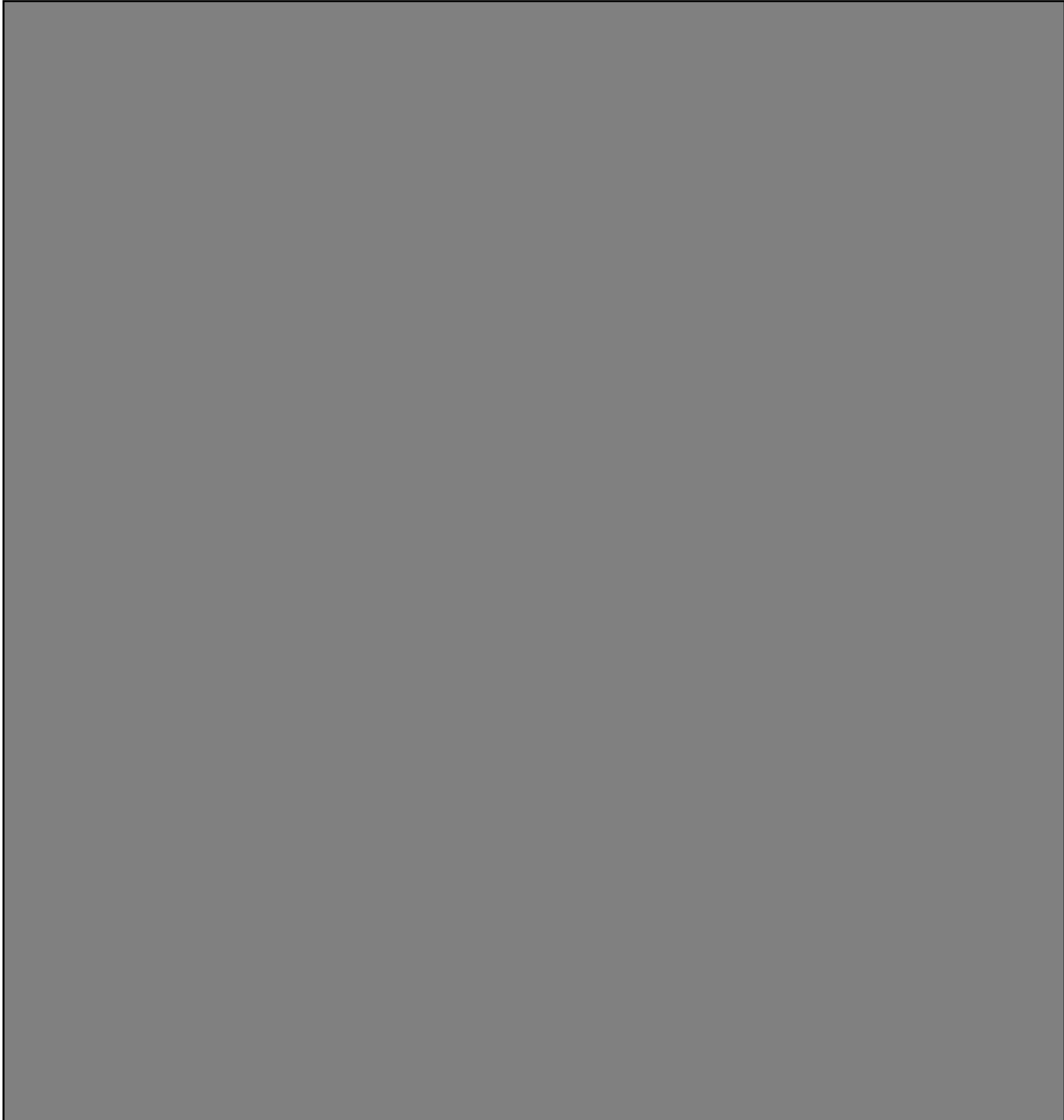
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Benedict Canyon



Final 2001 BCA “Trees of Support” Donor Program Roster



**Contributions received after 9/15/2001*

Cont. from pg. 1
SPECIAL PEOPLE, SPECIAL PLACE

to the mountain environment and her love of the wildlife.

While doing research for a documentary on animals, Mary Ann called a popular newspaper which long time residents might remember as “The Canyon Crier, The Voice of The Hills.” Much to her surprise, the editor asked her to write a story for the paper. And what a story she wrote. “There was an African lion living in a neighbor’s garage,” Mary Ann recalled, “who would roar in the middle of the night, every night.” Apparently, this disarmed locals (oh my God!) who had no way of knowing that the large cat was not going to eat them or their pets. In fact, it was safely contained and awaiting transfer to a proper lion home, but the true tale was such a success it began her column “Canyon Critter Folktale,”-- truth that was stranger than fiction. Affectionately nicknamed Dear Tabby, Mary Ann also offered educational advice and answered questions about domestic animals and wildlife. As a result of that journalistic stint, Mary Ann has been involved in various animal rescue organizations for the last twenty-five years. She is currently on the Board of Directors of the noteworthy Lange Foundation, which rescues dogs and cats from the Los Angeles Animal Shelters.

Years ago, when the greater canyon terrain was uninhabited open space and neighborhoods like Benedict Hills were *just* hills, Mary Ann’s interest and concern in environmental issues led to her involvement in the Benedict Canyon Association. Becoming president of the BCA, she served two years

during one of the most critical periods in our Canyon’s history. The negotiation of the development of Beverly Park Estates (then terrain enjoyed only by hikers and bicyclists) required the coordination of Benedict Canyon, the City of Los Angeles Planning Department and the City of Beverly Hills. Getting these people to the table to reach an agreement was quite an accomplishment.

“There was an African lion living in a neighbor’s garage . . .”

-Mary Ann Musico

In addition to serving as president for the Association, Mary Ann was a founding director of Mulholland Tomorrow, another position affording her the opportunity to be involved with the planning of much of our area’s developments.

Along with several members of the BCA, Mary Ann spent fifteen years working toward the creation of the Los Angeles Hillside Ordinance, which resulted in less density, better access and the preservation of the canyon character. She currently participates on the Land Use Task Force. This is of particular value at a time when so many challenges confront our community and the need for reevaluation of our city’s planning procedures are being considered.

Her expertise as a Realtor and commitment and efforts as an Advisory Board member of the BCA, along with her vast knowledge of the area’s history are a tremendous contribution to us all.

She is an active member of TreePeople, an internationally acclaimed environmental organization. And, as if all of this isn’t enough, she has roused me from my warm home on these cold winter nights to attend the Los Angeles Fire Department’s incredibly worthwhile emergency preparedness classes, given for the benefit of everyone in our canyon. You see what I mean by matriarch?

“I feel fortunate to have found this area so soon after I moved to California,” said Mary Ann who loves living with her husband in the same home they purchased all those years ago. “I find our beautiful green hillsides and the peaceful environment very special. We live in the country and we still have the benefit and advantage of a nearby city.

We have raised three children here. Now we have grandchildren who walk the same paths and climb the same hills their parents did as children.

I was driving through the canyon with a friend who grew up on the East coast. Passing a home with an ivy bank in front we were startled to see three young deer munching on the vegetation. They stared as we stopped to star at them . . . curious, but not deterred by our proximity. What a constant delight. The wildlife still among us - reminders of how fortunate we are to have them as part of our lives. Why would anyone want to live somewhere else?”

In a world where most people take, Mary Ann is a true giver. What do we say to someone who gives so generously of her time and energy and good heart? How about, we’ve noticed, you’re wonderful and thank you very much Mary Ann Musico.

- Barbara Berkowitz

STOP HOME ROBBERIES

Our police department's Residential Burglary Prevention unit has come up with the following suggestions:

LOCKS:

Make sure every external door has a properly installed dead bolt lock. Key knob locks alone are not enough.

Give an extra key to a neighbor you trust instead of hiding keys around the outside of your home. Just moved? Re-key the locks.

DOORS:

A peephole or wide-angle viewer in entry doors let you see who is outside without opening the door. Door chains break easily and don't keep out intruders.

Sliding glass doors can be secured so they cannot be opened or lifted out of its track by installing inexpensive pin type locks to prevent the operation of sliding glass doors.

The Fire Department does not recommend placing a length of broomstick, wooden dowel or metal rod in the lower track to prevent a sliding door from opening when you are in your home. It is difficult to remove in case of a fire.

WINDOWS:

Sliding glass windows can be secured by installing commercially available locks.

Louvered windows are difficult to burglar proof because the individual panes are easily removed. Apply a two-part epoxy resin to each pane of glass.

Don't forget to secure any windows located in the garage.

Place gravel beds below windows. Gravel is tough to sneak across without being heard.

Plant thorny bushes around windows and walkways to discourage entry.

EXTERIOR:

The front, rear and sides of your house should be well lighted and light should always be kept on at night. Installing a timer or photoelectric cell will automatically turn lights on at dusk and off at dawn.

Motion sensor floodlights will ensure lights turn on when a person or object moves past them.

Installation of low voltage lighting uses very little energy and is an excellent way to illuminate lawns, steps, walkways and shrubs.

Clearly display your house number so police and other emergency personnel can find your home quickly.

If you travel, create the illusion that you are at home by getting timers that will turn lights on and off in different areas of your house throughout the evening. Lights burning 24 hours a day are a signal to thieves that the house is vacant.

OPERATION IDENTIFICATION:

Marking your property increases the likelihood of your stolen valuables being returned to you.

Take photos and videos of your valuables;

Record and maintain an up-to-date record of serial numbers and descriptions;

Mark your valuables with your California Driver License or ID card number, never use your social

security number.

And, as a final thought, never leave a message on your answering machine that indicates you may be away from home for a period of time.

- Barbara Marcus

TWO FIRESTATIONS - - NO WAITING

Two Fire Stations serve the Canyon -- Engine Company #71 and Engine Company #99.

Engine Company #71 -- located at Sunset Boulevard and Beverly Glen services the area from Sunset Boulevard to Rimmele Drive and has two Paramedics on call full time.

Engine Company #99 -- located on Mulholland Drive near Benedict Canyon services the area from Rimmele Drive to Mulholland Drive. It has one Paramedic on the Engine and two Paramedics on the ambulance. It may have to respond to emergencies in Van Nuys.

These stations were built 47 years ago and until recently there have been no improvements. There have been fund-raising efforts by the members of the BCA and the adjacent Glenridge and Bel-Air Associations. The original intent was to purchase a new Fire Engine for Station 99. However, the City of Los Angeles supplied an updated truck and the funds raised were then used for capital improvement to both facilities.

Our community made a difference and we all benefit from these efforts.

- Gordon Smith

GAS LEAF BLOWERS: *Illegal Health Menace*

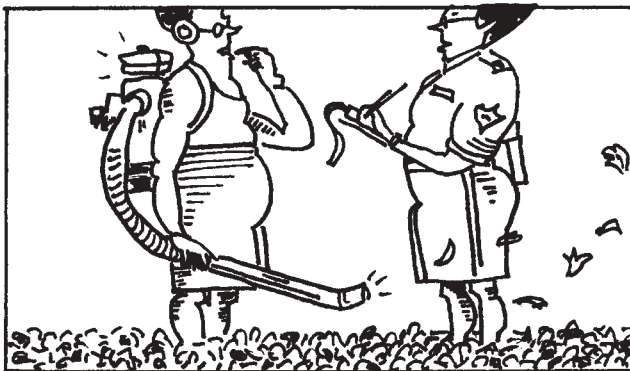
Gas-powered leaf blowers appear to be sneaking back into use in the Canyon despite being illegal in Los Angeles and in the city of Beverly Hills. It is the responsibility of the homeowner to make sure his or her gardener is in compliance with the law and to remind neighbors to also comply. Keep in mind that homeowners are breaking the law as well by permitting leaf blower use and are subject to a fine along with their gardeners. It should be noted that while electric leaf blowers are legal they create some of the same problems as the gas powered version.

In terms of your garden, leaf blowers do far more damage than you imagine. They rob the soil of proper mulch, blow off valuable topsoil and generally “fry” your plants and lawns with a continuous blast of high-pressure air as well as the gasoline and exhaust fumes. Damage to your landscaping is only half the story. The damage to your health is far greater. To get an idea of how much pollution is generated, the South Coast Air Quality Management District estimates that leaf blowers in Southern California spew 5.6 tons of hydrocarbon emissions in the air per day. According to recent studies, one single leaf blower spews as much pollution in one hour as one car driven from New York to Washington, D.C.

On a personal level, when a leaf blower is used near your home, the air you are breathing is a highly

toxic mix of dust and dirt particles, dried animal feces, airborne pesticides and fertilizers as well as asbestos dust from car brake lining. Breathing this mixture is the health equivalent of going outside and licking the street. *If you wouldn't lick your street, why would you willingly breathe the same mixture?*

Many residents of Benedict Canyon are very health conscious.



They make regular visits to the gym or do home exercises, do not smoke, eat the right foods and take vitamins. Yet they still subject themselves in their own home to the highly toxic fumes and byproducts of leaf blowers on a regular basis unaware of the negative impact on their health.

A gas powered leaf blower:

- Is illegal in Los Angeles and Beverly Hills
- In most cases, exceeds acceptable noise levels for residential areas.
- Creates unnecessary and dangerous air pollution for the gardener as well as the homeowner and neighbors
- Ruins plant life and robs gardens of natural mulch and organic matter.

People have maintained beautiful gardens for centuries without leaf blowers and, at the same time, have enjoyed the peace and quiet of their homes and neighborhood. Take control of your home environment. Tell your gardener that you want to obey the law as well as protect your own health and well-being. Say “No” to gas powered leaf blowers. Help to keep Benedict Canyon peaceful and healthy.

- Rodney Kemerer

Benedict Canyon

Benedict Canyon Association Board of Directors

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chick Harris	President
Robert Cohen	Vice President
Vera Dunn	Vice President
Rodney Kemerer	Vice President
Sandy Margolis	Vice President
Gordon Smith	Vice President
Arlene Ruby	Secretary
Alan Fine	Treasurer

ADVISORS

David Elson	Mary Ann Musico
Don Loze	Michael Vignieri

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Babette Bloomgarten	Elliot Marks
Donald Davis	Nickie Miner
Janet Hammerman	Mark Montgomery
Nancy Harris	Barbara Nichols
Arlene Ruby Leviton	Marilyn Stefano
Walter Lykosh	Lynne Werthemier
Barbara Marcus	

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Vera Dunn	Barbara Marcus
Chick Harris	Sandy Margolis
Rodney Kemerer	Elliot Marks,
	<i>Photography</i>

▪ **BENEDICT CANYON ASSOCIATION** ▪

55TH ANNUAL MEETING

**MONDAY MARCH 18, 2002
7:00 P.M.**

BEVERLY HILLS HOTEL

**Guest Speaker
5th District
Councilman Jack Weiss**

- Election of Officers
- Preservation of our Mountains and Ridgelines
 - Open Mike
- Emergency Preparedness Certification Presentation

Refreshments - - Reduced Parking Rates


Benedict Canyon

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