



The Guardian

NORTHWEST GLENDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
LARGEST HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION IN GLENDALE

nwglendaleha.org

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34th Year, Fall 2014

Supervisor Barger at Annual Meeting

Kathryn Barger, Los Angeles County Supervisor for the Fifth District, which includes Glendale, was the guest speaker at the Association's 2024 Annual Meeting held at the Brand Recital Hall on October 16. Attendance was robust despite a competing Dodger NLCS Championship game that evening.

The Supervisor spoke on several current topics. On the homeless problem, she noted that 70% of the unhoused have mental health and drug addiction issues, so more housing alone is not the total solution. Mental health facilities must be expanded to handle this population, which the County is endeavoring to accomplish. Ms. Barger has traveled to Washington with county officials to press for more funding and flexibility in regulations.

She also spoke against County Measure G which passed on November 5. It expands the Board to nine members and creates an elected chief executive officer who can veto decisions made by a majority of the Board. Ms. Barger also took questions.



Supervisor Barger at Annual Meeting

Current board members were reelected at the meeting. Sam Engel, NWGHA Treasurer, presented the Association's financial picture, which remains good. Holly Keenan, Membership Chair, reported that membership stood at 305.

Peter Fuad, NWGHA President, noted the passing of Brian Ellis, cofounder of the Association. *(See below and President's Message on page 4)*

Cleveland Knoll HD survives Council chaos—Page 7
GWP to keep \$9.2 million in overcharges—Page 8

Brian Ellis, the “Go-To” Guy, Passes



Brian Ellis—NWGHA Founder, Community Activist, Friend

Brian James Ellis
(1953-2024)

By Randy Carter

On September 21, a memorial service was held celebrating the life of Brian Ellis, a founding board member of Northwest Glendale Homeowners Association.

Family members, friends and neighbors added their recollections of his early life, his motion picture career as a member of the Directors Guild of America, his contributions to numerous Glendale organizations including the Alex Film Society, the Glendale Symphony Orchestra and the Northwest Glendale Homeowners Association.

I am grateful to NWGHA for inviting me to add a few notes recounting his vital contributions to that organization.

(Continued on page 4)

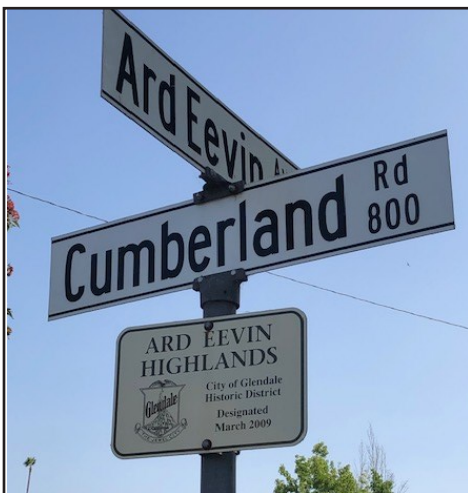
Campbell Family Develops NW Glendale

Editor's Note: This is the second part of the story of the Campbell family developing Northwest Glendale. The first part appeared in the March 2024 *The Guardian*.

By Katherine Yamada

Glendale pioneers Dan and Margaret Campbell played an important role in this city. He was vice president of one of Glendale's earliest banks and later opened his own bank. Margaret joined the Tuesday Afternoon Club and was one of five members who raised \$100,000 to buy land and build a clubhouse.

Much of the land directly around the Campbells had already been subdivided and new houses were going up by the time Dan and Margaret decided to join in the land boom of the 20s.



Dan's brother, Arthur, had purchased several acres adjacent to Dan and Margaret in the early 1900s. Arthur married in 1908 and the couple moved into a bungalow at the top of Highland Avenue. He later built a new home on a slight knoll directly above the bungalow.

The two brothers agreed to combine Arthur's ten acres with 20 of Dan's acres. Dan kept fourteen acres around his house, along with ten acres of mountain property that remained in the family's hands until a few years ago. (It is now being developed.)

The new subdivision included four streets: Ard Eevin Drive (now Avenue), Ben Lomond Drive, Idlewood Road and Chesterfield Avenue (now Cleveland Road) that ran between Kenneth Road and Cumberland Drive (now Road). The street names reflected the Campbell's Irish heritage.

The Way It Was

Katherine Yamada
Glendale Historian

Houses in New Campbell Heights

By the end of the year, several houses had already been built in the new Campbell Heights. "The best advertisement for these lots is seeing them," according to an ad in the October 20, 1923 Glendale Evening News. "Stop at our tract office at Virginia Avenue and Kenneth Road and let our representatives show you these magnificent home sites so that you can visualize what it will mean to you and your families to live amid the grandeur of mountains and valleys."

Basic utilities such as water, gas, electricity, curbs, sidewalks, and paved streets were included. The new Pacific Electric bus line was scheduled to run within two blocks of the tract.

Dan and Margaret Campbell Pass

A few years after they subdivided, Dan and Margaret visited their native Ireland. They returned, looking forward to a leisurely retirement. But Dan became ill and, after several weeks in a Los Angeles hospital, died in 1932 at age 59. Funeral services were held at Glendale Presbyterian Church and he was buried in Forest Lawn Memorial Park.

Just a few months later, Margaret died at the family home in north Glendale.

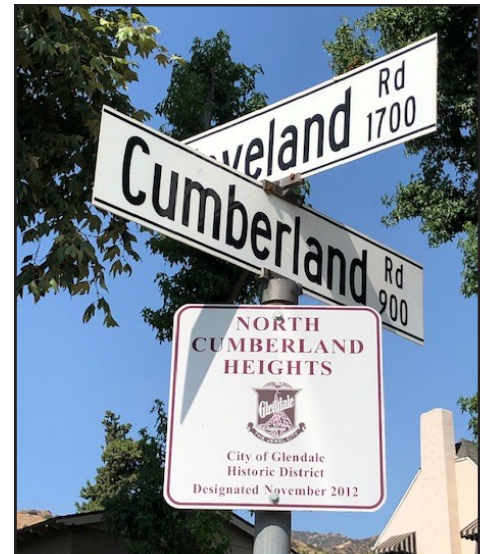


Dan Campbell, Jr. Opens Ford Dealership

Their oldest son, Dan Campbell, Jr., a Stanford University graduate, later partnered with Al Land and J. Marshall Pearson to open a Ford dealership at Brand Boulevard and San Fernando Road.

In 1930, Campbell sold his interest to his two partners and opened up a new Ford dealership on San Fernando Road, near the air terminal.

A glowing article in the February 16, 1932, Glendale Evening News praised Campbell's new business. "This work has given him an outlet for the many phases of his ability," wrote Jack Lindsley in a column titled "Glendale Personalities."



Dan Jr. Wins \$250,000 in 1940 Irish Sweepstakes

Dan Jr., and his wife Agnes lived in the family home. In 1940, Dan won \$250,000 in the Irish Sweepstakes, an international lottery run by the Irish government to benefit Irish hospitals. They used the winnings to remodel two upstairs bedrooms into a master suite, according to an online blog 'Etan Does LA, Exploring Los Angeles History, one landmark at a time.'

Ard Eevin was added to the National Register of Historic Places on November 21, 2006.

Original Property in Historic Districts

Most of their original property is now included in three historic districts: North Cumberland Heights, South Cumberland Heights and Ard Eevin Heights.

Farewell to Charlie

By Carol Brusha

Charlie, our beloved celebrity neighborhood cat, left us on September 28, after a life of total outdoor freedom that gave him fan clubs on Idlewood, Graynold, and finally Cleveland and Olmsted. (And sometimes Norton.) He was a nomad. One of his theme songs was “Don’t Fence Me In.” People who did not know him as he walked the streets looking for petting, and maybe a treat, were tricked into thinking he was homeless. This included Ron and me when we first met him.

His age was 18 years, more or less.

Ron and I were his employees for the last three years of his long life and he’s left a deep void for us. He was a unique little guy, who besides loving to be petted, liked to mingle with people in social situations and could chase off coyotes if necessary. (Two eyewitnesses told me this.)

A Roaming Guy

He’d been brought to his first home on Idlewood by Connie, who fostered dogs but also wanted a cat. I’ve been told he came from Best Friends Animal Society. Charlie soon made it clear that he did not want to be an indoor cat and, as much as Connie tried to keep him inside, eventually she had to give in to his wishes. She opened the door and let him do his thing. He could always be found on Idlewood until he started jumping walls into different streets. He crossed streets but always looked first.

Ron and I met Charlie many years ago when he wandered into our backyard but quickly left. He returned a few days later. We determined he was homeless and fed him on our back porch. Charlie had no qualms about entering homes, so we invited him inside.



We’ll have to take care of him,” I said to Ron. “Yes,” he replied but then Charlie left. A few days later, we found out who he was and where he lived.

When Connie had to move, she agonized about Charlie’s fate, as did all of us who loved him. She wanted to take him but

how would he fare in a new location? He knew this one so well. The decision was made to let him stay in the neighborhood after he began hanging out with Noelle Ebright and Matt O’Connor at their Graynold home. He was promised a good home and the neighborhood loved him. They were called “Charlie’s Angels.” One neighbor gave him an Instagram page (charlieglenwood). One house kept a bowl of food out on the patio.

All was well there for years until baby Cameron was born to Noelle and Matt.

“Once we could no longer meet his 1000 pets per day quota with the arrival of our baby, Charlie sauntered off and upgraded to your place,” said Matt.

Popping in For Petting Fix

Throughout the years, Charlie would pop in to see us for a petting fix but never stayed until that day three years ago, when he came into the backyard and did not leave. He stayed outside for the first two or three nights but then at 5 a.m. he would yowl or scratch the closed screen door letting us know he was hungry. At that point, we became his slaves. We kept the screen door open and fixed up a kitty door so he had 24/7 access inside the house.

For the first couple of months with us, he would wander back to Graynold and Idlewood but would eventually return to us since his food was here. On a cold night, he would sometimes sleep on the bed or on the dining room table, or wherever he wanted to bed down. Noelle said there was Winter Charlie and Summer Charlie. Summertime found him outside all the time and in winter he came inside.

Making New Friends

He made new people friends on Olmsted. Some would make it a point to walk by hoping to pet him. One man took photos. He slept during the day and in the early evening positioned himself on the Olmsted sidewalk to greet his public. He had a lot of energy and would jump onto the roof of our garage or post himself like a sentry on pillars by the driveway gate, sometimes letting out a loud meow to passing walkers.

He was not afraid of dogs, no matter their sizes, and he was used as a training vehicle for Oso, an extra-large puppy, who was brought over to see him by Elodie and Mike Powers. Charlie would not run away. I believe Oso learned about cats from



Charlie. Charlie never ran from any dog.

Bad Limp Arises

On September 28, he came inside the house with a bad limp in the right hind leg and the foot was twisted. Matt and Cameron, who often came to visit Charlie, were walking by. Matt helped put him in a carrier. Ron and I drove him to VCA Animal Specialty Group, which has 24/7 emergency services, thinking he had hurt his leg, which would be fixed up and we would all return home, but it was not to be.

The diagnosis was a saddle thrombus, which is a blood clot that blocks blood flow to the hind limbs of an animal, usually a cat or dog. There were also other issues. The doctor said we had no choice but to let him go peacefully. I asked if he could be saved and she kindly replied, “I am in the business of saving animals, so I would not tell you this if I could do it.”

Options

We stayed with him as he passed. Then we were given several options; one was to donate him to a veterinary medical school. We immediately said yes and the doctor’s face lit up with pleasure and surprise. He did us a lot of good and now he can be of help to future doctors.

Charlie was everybody’s cat, but nobody truly owned him. During his time with us, he always kept us guessing where he would be or when he would come inside the house. On that last day, he came inside for our help. His other theme song was, “My Way.”

President's Message

Historic Districts, Council Districting; Biking on Brand; Films at Brand

By Peter Fuad
NWGHA President

Much has been happening under the radar lately that could negatively affect the stability and beauty of our neighborhood.

Historic Districts Under Siege

The formation of new historic districts has been questioned by Mayor Elen Asatryan. At their October 8 meeting, Council unanimously approved a consent item that authorizes a survey of homes for the proposed Cleveland Knoll Historic District. However, later in the meeting, after all supporters and relevant staff had left, Mayor Asatryan sought to undo this approval, which turned into a mess as Allan Durham explains in his article on page 7.

Council Districting and Dog Parks

Over many meetings, Council has considered, and then punted, on proposals to increase the number of Councilmembers, elect them by district and/or have an elected mayor. A Charter Commission created by Council to address details and options has not made progress on this thorny issue.

If and when concrete proposals/alternatives emerge, we will reach out to our members for their views and take a position based on them. In the meantime, we will keep you informed on this matter.

One issue that comes to mind that we believe militates against districting: the proposal for a dog park in Brand Park.

In our and neighbors' fight against that dog park, we enlisted the support of

more than one Councilmember, making our collective voice stronger, and which helped lead to the park's defeat.

What would have happened if the Councilmember for a district encompassing NW Glendale wanted the dog park? (As it was, one Councilmember did strongly favor the park.)

If other Councilmembers deferred to the wishes of the Councilmember representing our district (as is routinely the case in Los Angeles and many other cities in land use matters), we might have been out of luck. Engaging with other Councilmembers might have been useless. It is our view that we would *lose* clout, not gain it, if we had districts.

Boulevard of Broken Dreams

It appears to be the virtually unanimous view of residents and Council that the North Brand Boulevard Complete Streets Demonstration Project is a failure. It has made driving and parking on Brand more hazardous, and it is not benefiting

(Continued on page 14)

Brian Ellis: "Go-To Guy"

(Continued from page 1)

Fighting Mansionization

In 1989, residential areas of Glendale were getting hit with the disturbing infill development problem that became known nationwide as *mansionization*. Existing housing was being demolished, replaced by large, oversized homes without any design compatibility with the neighborhood.

A group of concerned homeowners met in my living room on Ben Lomond Drive with then Councilman Jerry Milner to discuss the problem. He suggested that we form an association and approach City Council with a proposed ordinance. Lots of enthusiasm and many ideas were offered, but there was real work to be done.

You need a bank account, a set of bylaws, application for a 501 non-profit status . . . even insurance to protect against "slapp" suits. Brian, as our first president, set most of those tasks in motion. Whenever the conversation turned to "Somebody should go to Council, somebody should write a letter to the *News Press*, somebody should call . . . the "somebody" usually turned out to be Brian Ellis.

Facts, Not Emotion, Persuasive

One thing that NWGHA members can be proud of and a practice that continues to this day, is the insistence on factual details to buttress any argument. We noticed early on that emotional appeals without backup documentation led nowhere and could weaken our cause.

Zombie Fence Legislation

Case in point: the "zombie" legislation before Council seeking to allow fences in the front setback always positioned the argument as one denying a little old lady the right to have a white picket fence to protect her roses.

Brian got hold of a high-end video camera and we did a survey of nearby North Hollywood that showed the real horror of cyclone fencing, plastic barriers and stone walls, a real contrast with Glendale's unique open frontscapes. That's the case that NWGHA presented at Council.

Brian Produced Televised Candidate Forums

NWGHA has for many years sponsored a Candidates Night Forum for Glendale office seekers. It's an important calling card to establish NWGHA as a major

player in city life. For many years, Brian produced that night, recorded it with three cameras and delivered it for rebroadcast on the city cable Channel 6. He found the venue, booked the crew (taking advantage of his contacts on the TV show *Cheers*), got the camera equipment and edited the piece. Real work.

These are but brief, random memories and it's noteworthy that his associates on all those other groups and boards can tell similar stories about his tireless efforts on their behalf.

NWGHA President Multiple Times

For several years Brian and I traded off the role of NWGHA President and I know for a fact that he was very proud of that the association continues and that new members have come on board to "carry the flag."

Loss of Close Friend

On a personal note, I'd like to conclude that my family lost a close friend. Brian and I worked in the industry together. We first came to Glendale to visit Brian and his wife Pam and then bought our home here. Our children grew up together and, like many residents, attended Keppel, Toll and Hoover. We went camping and attended lots of local events together as a group.

The loss is real, but his spirit lingers. That's the good news.

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This was Then—

Cleveland Knoll First Developed 100 Years Ago

Editor's Note:

The area of 238 homes encompasses Bruce, Cleveland, Idlewood and Graynold from Kenneth to Glenwood plus Olmsted homes that front these streets. A survey by Architectural Resources Group to determine how many homes are contributors and how many are non-contributors was approved by Council in a chaotic meeting on September 17. See article on page opposite for more on that.

After the survey, there will be several public hearings and another community forum with owners and residents being informed of each. A petition will be circulated that must be signed by 50 plus 1% of owners within the final boundaries. Council will make the final decision.

For further information or to express your interest in supporting the neighborhood team efforts in the months ahead, please contact clevelandknoll@gmail.com.

Cleveland Knoll's area is over 100 years old. Property began selling in 1923. Below is the history that was researched and written by Jack Chicca.

"Dream-Tract of Northwest is Opened to Homeseekers! Cleveland Knoll, one of the choicest pieces of property in Glendale's Most Exclusive Sections, Goes on Market Today!"

On February 3, 1923, the Realty Section of the Glendale Daily Press opened with a full-page article on this exciting new development in the northwest area of the city. One hundred years later, in early 2023, a team of neighbors came together to begin researching the history of this unique neighborhood. Over a five-month period and with extensive support from The Glendale Historical Society (TGHS), an application was developed and submitted to Glendale's Historic Preservation Commission to establish the Cleveland Knoll Historic District.

A Unique Development History

The 1920s and '30s was a period of great population boom in the greater Los Angeles area. Glendale's natural beauty and the introduction of public transportation allowed for the city to connect to Los Angeles's urban core while providing a more suburban neighborhood for local residents. The citrus orchards that once swept

over Glendale were rapidly being subdivided and developed into neighborhoods.

Dr. Kate Shephardson, a native of Indiana, received her medical degree in Cleveland, Ohio in 1874. She practiced medicine in Columbus, Ohio, where she married Dr. S. Black. They moved to California in 1883, and purchased land in both Pomona and Glendale.

After practicing medicine in Pasadena for 15 years, the couple moved to the northwest Glendale and moved into a new home at 715 West Kenneth Road, where she oversaw a ranch just south of their home. In 1923, she sold 20 acres of land to a Cleveland, Ohio, syndicate to begin development of an area to be called Cleveland Knoll.

Affordable Homes Early Goal

A unique feature of the new neighborhood was that it was to be developed with the average working-class family in mind—with the intent of providing an opportunity to own land and live in one of Glendale's most desirable neighborhoods at relative affordable prices.



This was achieved by capping the sizes and prices of building lots and initial construction costs for homes. The sale of properties included free architectural design and building construction offered by the developers.

The lot prices also included public utilities, road construction, sidewalks, curbing and Marbelite concrete lampposts that lined the streets of the neighborhood. Many of Cleveland Knoll sidewalks and one of the streets still retain their original concrete construction stamps.

Historic Houses Included

The Cleveland Knoll neighborhood was developed over a period extending from 1923 into the 1940's, including post-war period development. The suggested historic district boundaries include 238 properties on the 1300 and 1400 blocks of Bruce Avenue, Cleveland Road, Idlewood Road, and Graynold Avenue, inclusive of properties along Olmsted Drive.

The district's southern boundary encompasses the north properties along Glenwood Road. Much of the area includes Period Revival styles that were gaining popularity at that time, as well as Minimal Traditional homes that came to prominence in the post-war period.

In addition, the neighborhood includes the Taylor House at 1027 Glenwood Road (GR No. 4, c. 1873), which is the second oldest wood-frame structure in the city, and the Cole-Carothers House at 1235 Glenwood Road (GR No. 132, c. 1910). Both historic homes had initially been built elsewhere in Glendale, and then relocated to the Cleveland Knoll neighborhood during the development period.

Efforts Going Forward

The efforts to establish the historic district have received strong resident support to date.

On October 17, there was a community meeting and then the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) hearing to consider the Cleveland Knoll Historic District Overlay Zone Designation Application. Based on strong resident support and HPC staff recommendation, the commission unanimously found that the district is eligible as an overlay zone and authorized staff to retain a consultant to conduct a historic resources survey.

Cleveland Knoll is now considered to be a "pending" historic district, with protections in place to help preserve and protect the unique character and charm of the 100-year-old neighborhood.

For those who think too many historic districts have been established, less than 3% of the dwellings in Glendale have been included within established historic districts to date. Many Cleveland Knoll residents are excited about the prospect of finalizing the historic district status in the coming months, not only for its current residents, but also for future generations to enjoy!

This is Now—

Cleveland Knoll HD Survives Council Chaos

By Allan Durham

One of the Consent Items on the Agenda at the September 17, 2024 City Council meeting was the approval of a historic resource consultant to conduct a Survey of the prosed Cleveland Knoll Historic District (“CKHD”) in Northwest Glendale. See article on the development of Cleveland Knoll in the article to the right.

Established procedure is for all Consent Items to be approved together by a single Council vote unless a Councilmember or a member of the public requests a particular Consent Item to be “pulled” for separate discussion and vote.

Numerous Supporters Attend Meeting

There were numerous in-person attendees in support of the CKHD Survey at the meeting including Taleen Barsoumian, the new President of the Glendale Historical Society. Prior to the meeting, these supporters agreed that there would be no need to speak in favor of the Survey unless an opponent “pulled” this Consent Item for separate discussion and vote. There was no such request that the CKHD Survey be “pulled” so it got unanimously approved by Council along with all the other non-contested Consent Items.

Council Approves Survey; Supporters and Staff Then Leave

At this point, all of the supporters of the CKHD Survey except me left the Council meeting understanding that the Survey had been unanimously approved and that there would be no need to speak in support. Jay Platt and Ani Mnatsakanyan, Glendale’s Historic Preservation Planners, also left the meeting as soon as the Consent Items were approved showing that experienced City staff also understood that the CKHD Survey had been approved.

Mayor Asatryan Wants to Reconsider Approval 45 minutes later

However, approximately 45 minutes later, Mayor Asatryan announced that she wanted to reconsider, discuss and separately vote on the CKHD Survey.

Mayor Asatryan then made a “motion to reconsider” that was unsupported by any substantive or factual reason. She claimed that Council had been “confused” by the fact that the Verdugo Woodlands Historic District Survey was pulled while CKHD Survey was not.

I heard no such “confusion”, and the

reason for pulling the Verdugo Woodlands Survey had nothing to do with the CKHD Survey. Mayor Asatryan also claimed that “Without realizing it, we (Council) passed it (the CKHD Survey)”. This also was false – none of the other Councilmembers ever expressed that they didn’t realize what they had voted to approve.

From Mayor Asatryan’s vehement opposition to the CKHD Survey, it’s not unreasonable to speculate that she simply forgot to “pull” the item before the Consent Items were unanimously approved.

Council Shockingly Votes to Reconsider Its Approval; Chaotic Discussion Ensues

The next shock of the evening was that all five Councilmembers voted in favor of Mayor Asatryan’s “motion to reconsider”. I felt sure that several Councilmembers would vote against it on the basis that there was no substantive reason to reconsider a clearly stated Consent Item which had been unanimously approved by Council only 45 minutes earlier.

There followed a chaotic discussion of the CKHD Survey. Both Councilmember Dan Brotman and City Attorney Mike Garcia were initially misled by misinformation that the CKHD Survey was not pulled earlier in the meeting due to “confusion” about speaker cards on the part of the City Clerk and the attendees.

City Clerk and City Attorney Weigh In

Suzie Abajian, the City Clerk, mistakenly claimed that speaker cards from supporters had indeed been submitted for the CKHD Survey and that the Item had therefore mistakenly not been pulled for public comment. Later, the City Clerk sheepishly, and almost inaudibly, had to admit that there had been no speaker cards submitted for our Survey during the earlier Consent Item portion of the meeting.

Mike Garcia also mistakenly claimed (based on no evidence) that supporters had left the meeting confused about whether the CKHD Survey had been approved or instead continued to a future Council meeting. In fact, all supporters met outside Council Chambers immediately after the Consent Item vote to confirm that the CKHD Survey had indeed been approved.

Mayor Asatryan Vehemently Opposes Survey

Mayor Asatryan argued vehemently against the CKHD Survey, saying “I al-

ready stated my position on the Cleveland Knoll one. I said I don’t want it. I know that even down the line I’m not going to want this. I’m not going to support it. So why would I approve to spend \$50,000 of our City’s budget in doing the Survey?”

To state that her mind is already made up against approval of the proposed CKHD at future Council meetings before ever receiving data from the Survey (i.e. percentage of contributing properties) or how many owner signatures are eventually collected, is not appropriate for any Councilmember with respect to any issue.

Vartan Gharptian was the most supportive of approving the CKHD Survey. When Mayor Asatryan stated that the Council’s earlier Consent Item vote had only moved our Survey “forward”, he clarified that Council had “approved” it rather than just “moved it forward”. Councilmember Gharptian summed up the whole mess when he stated “The reason all the supporters left is because their Survey was approved”.

Councilmember Ardy Kassakhian stated that reversing itself on an issue midway through a proceeding looks bad and does not reflect well on the Council. He also added that all of the confusion surrounding the CKHD Survey at the meeting was unacceptable and reflected poorly on City Staff and Council. He also stated that he supports historic district surveys.

I admonish Council

When I finally was permitted to speak, I admonished the Council that it was undemocratic to reopen the CKHD Survey for a vote after it had been unanimously approved and after all of its supporters but me had left the meeting. I stated that if Council wanted to reopen the issue, they should continue it to a future meeting to allow its proponents to speak in support. I certainly did not want to risk a “NO” vote without our having the opportunity to voice our support for the Survey.

However, Council *did* decide to proceed with a second vote, and the CKHD Survey (and funding) was approved 3 to 2. Gharptian, Kassakhian & Brotman voted in favor. Mayor Asatryan and Najarian voted against. But it was definitely a discouraging example of dysfunction on the part of City Council and Staff.

Council Keeps \$9.2 million in GWP Overcharges

By Allan Durham

At the October 1, 2024 City Council meeting, Manuel Robledo, Interim General Manager of Glendale Water & Power (GWP), announced that GWP had “inadvertently over collected” a massive \$9.2 million in the State mandated Public Benefits Charge (PBC) levied on customers’ electricity bills. By subsequent Council action, none of this overcharge will be refunded directly to customers.

State Required PBC Fees

In 1996, AB-1890 mandated the collection of a 2.85% PBC on electric revenue. This PBC was to be used for energy efficiency, renewable energy or low-income assistance programs. In 2008, SB-1 increased the PBC to 3.6% for a ten-year period to fund solar incentives.

Mr. Robledo then stated: “Unfortunately, when it (the PBC increase) expired, it was an oversight that it continued to be 3.6% when it should have gone

back down” to 2.85%. Therefore, GWP has overcharged electric customers from FY 2017/2018 until November 2024 by \$9.2 million. GWP has already spent \$5.8 million of this overcharge on additional solar incentives. \$3.4 million of the funds remain unspent.

Council Votes to Keep, Not Refund Overcharge

Amazingly, no Councilmember raised the issue of granting any refund to GWP’s overcharged customers. Nor was there any Council admonishment of GWP management for allowing such an obvious error to continue for over six years and to try to excuse it as simply “an oversight”.

Instead, City Council agreed and subsequently voted to approve a reduction in the PBC from 3.6% to 2.85% effective November 2024 and to use the \$3.4 million in unspent PBC overcharges on GWP’s “Home Energy & Water Savings Rebate Program” which primarily consists of in-

creased rebates for future purchases of Energy Star appliances including air conditioners.

Councilman Dan Brotman even suggested maintaining the PBC at 3.6% going forward to fund low-income programs. City Attorney Mike Garcia questioned the potential legality of such an action under state law.

Can Council Do This?

This seems to raise the issue of why Council probably couldn’t vote to maintain the 3.6% PBC in excess of the state mandate, but can vote to authorize GWP to use the \$9.2 million PBC overcharge for energy rebates.

Proposition 218 prohibits GWP from charging its electric customers more than the actual cost of providing its services. The \$9.2 million PBC overcharge was neither mandated by State law nor any part of GWP’s cost of providing service.

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Classic Films Under the Stars at Brand

By Randy Carter

With major support from NWGHA, the summer series *Classic Films Under the Stars* concluded its second season of outdoor screenings on the lawn of the Doctors House in Brand Park. A growing cadre of local residents were joined by movie fans looking to spread their blankets, enjoy a sunset picnic, followed by a fun movie on Glendale's *Parks and Recs* giant projection screen.

The template designed by the non-profits (*Brand Associates, Alex Film Society, The Glendale Historical Society*) called for combined email blasts by all the groups to their members announcing and publicizing the events.

Additional help was provided by Glendale's *Management Services* who made sure that all of the city's websites and printed calendars included the three screenings. The *Glendale News Press* profiled all of the film titles and included pictures and posters in their articles. All the stars were aligned and it's a task that needs to be duplicated.

Pinocchio and NWGHA

The three selected films are positioned in the wheelhouse of the production partners, with each group hosting an evening and making

an informational pitch for their group. AFS and NWGHA launched the summer with Walt Disney's *Pinocchio* (1940), acclaimed as one of the finest animated films ever produced. AFS Board Member and animation producer Frank Gladstone set the historical context and profiled the artists who called Glendale their home. NWGHA President Peter Fuad welcomed the crowd, spoke about the association and encouraged new members to join.

Crime Wave and TGHS

TGHS scored big time with *Crime Wave* (1954), a gritty *film noir* featuring several Glendale locations and capped by a bank robbery and chase on Brand Blvd.

Bye Bye Birdie

The season ended with Brand Associates hosting *Bye Bye Birdie* (1963). Ann

Margret's star making vehicle proved to be a very hip musical comedy that aged quite well and was a real crowd pleaser.

Even Free Popcorn!

Brand Library once again loaned their popcorn machine to the event planners and Northwest residents Craig and Jean Yaussi kept the bags full and distributed them to the often surprised attendees: "You mean Free Popcorn?" "Why thanks!"

NWGHA recognized early on that these were quality events and available right in our backyard. The Doctors House is a unique venue and is opened only a couple of hours each week for tours from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sundays. An increasing number of patrons have started assembling gourmet meals similar to those consumed at the Hollywood Bowl.

Planning 2025 Underway

Plans are already under way for the 2025 summer. There's the matter of confirming dates, title selection, licensing the films, assembling promotional materials, seeking additional sponsorships etc. The Alex Film Society is in its 25th year and is still chartered to promote the exhibition of classic films...so it is...kind of a "labor of love."



Meet Ana, a Special Peahen

By Carol Brusha

Peacocks are considered a sign of purity in India and there is a belief that if a peacock unexpectedly shows up at your home, it symbolizes various positive meanings depending on cultural beliefs and personal interpretations.



Last August 26, the day Indians celebrate Janmashtami commemorating the birth of Lord Krishna, a Hindu deity who is often depicted wearing a peacock feather in his hair, a peahen

suddenly appeared at the northwest home of Neal Patel.

"She has remained here continuously, gracing her presence often," Neal said. "She sleeps in a large nearby tree and comes down in the morning and evening for feedings. My son has named her Ana."

Below is from Google.

When a peacock unexpectedly shows up at your house, it can carry various meanings depending on cultural beliefs and personal interpretations:

1. **Symbol of Beauty and Pride:** Peacocks are often seen as symbols of beauty, pride, and confidence. Their unexpected arrival might be interpreted as a reminder to embrace these qualities in

yourself or your surroundings.

2. **Spiritual Significance:** In some cultures, peacocks are associated with spiritual awakening and transformation. Their appearance could signify a new beginning or a call to pay attention to your spiritual journey.

3. **Good Luck or Prosperity:** In certain traditions, a peacock visiting your home is considered a sign of good luck or that prosperity is on the way.

4. **Connection with Nature:** A peacock's presence can also be a reminder to connect with nature and appreciate the beauty around you.

5. **Personal Meaning:** Ultimately, the significance can be personal. Consider your feelings and thoughts when you saw the peacock, as it might resonate with something specific in your life.

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Member Notes

By Holly Keenan
Membership Chair

We welcome the following new members who have joined NWGHA in the last six months: **Michael Cizmar, Jeffrey and Sylvia Smith, Cathy Sullivan, and Daniel Tschopp.**

Email: we still have members who are not on our Constant Contact email list. Please send us your email address to nwglendale@gmail.com

QR code: If you'd like to join our association for \$25/year just scan QR code and it will take you to our PayPal.

Past Due Members: there's an easy way to see if you're past due: look at your

mailing label on this newsletter which shows your membership expiration date. If you're past due please send in your annual \$25 dues to: NWGHA, 1436 W. Glenoaks Blvd., #190, Glendale CA 91201 or scan our QR code.



The Guardian

Newsletter of the Northwest Glendale Homeowners Association

NWGHA Officers and Directors

Peter Fuad, President,
Editor of The Guardian

Lawrence Kalfayan, Vice President

Sam Engel, Treasurer

Holly Keenan, Membership Chair,
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Carol Brusha, Recording Secretary,
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Allan Durham,
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Pam Ellis, Director

Margi Simpkins, Director

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Staying Informed with City Council: A Quick Guide

By Pam Ellis

If you're anything like me, you want to stay informed about what our Glendale City Council is up to, but finding time to attend meetings can be a challenge. Luckily, with internet access, you can follow city updates from home! Here's how you can get started:

1. Start at Glendale's website: glendaleca.gov. This is your go-to resource for city updates and meeting information.

2. **To stay up-to-date on City Council issues, subscribe to City Newsletters and Agenda Notifications:**

- Go to the homepage, click on "Government" at the top.
- From the drop-down menu, select "Agendas and Minutes" in the first column on the left.
- Directly under that, you'll find "Newsletter and Agenda Notifications." Enter your email to choose the newsletters and notices you'd like to receive.

3. **To access City Council Agendas and Minutes to keep track of Council decisions:**

- Under "Government" on the homepage, click on "Agendas and Minutes." This will take you to the Public Meeting Portal, where you can find agen-

das, minutes, and recorded proceedings for all City boards and commissions.

- **Explore** "Current and Upcoming Meetings" or dive into Archived Meetings to catch up on past discussions.
3. If you want to see a specific past City Council meeting? Here's how:
- Navigate to **Archived Meetings > 2024 > City Council > October 22, 2024.**
 - Here you'll see options like **HTML Agenda, Agenda, and Packet** (the packet contains all documents given to Council members).
 - In the **HTML Agenda**, look for paper -clip icons next to items; clicking on these will open supporting documents. You can also watch videos of the meeting by clicking on the Video button.
- Meetings dating back to April 6, 2004, are archived here, giving you plenty of resources to past decisions.
5. With over 40 years in Glendale, I can say it's never been easier to stay in the loop. Take advantage of these online resources and feel free to reach out if you have questions or suggestions for topics you'd like to see covered in the future!

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President's Message

AFS Films; Brian Ellis

(Continued from page 4)

bikers (seen any?) in part because there is zero connectivity to other bike routes. Current thinking is that the boulevard will be returned to the way it was after the demonstration period.

AFS Classic Films Under the Stars; Allan

This year was not all grim. Happily, we were a proud sponsor, along with the Alex Film Society, The Glendale Historical Society and Brand Associates, of this past summer's "Classic Films Under the Stars." See the article on page 10 by Randy Carter who helped make this event happen.

I must thank our newest board director Allan Durham for his tireless efforts (and patience) in attending many city meetings in-person or remotely, making reasoned comments and reporting back to us so we, and you, are informed of items that might otherwise fly under the radar. As an example, see his article on page 8 about overcharges by GWP.

...

Brian

Finally, a note on the passing of Brian Ellis, the first president and a founding member of the NWGHA. See the article by cofounder and friend Randy Carter on page 1. Brian was a neighborhood activist in the best sense of that term and was involved in many community activities. He looked out for us. His wife Pam is an Association board member.

Brian was unfailingly upbeat, a positive influence and a personal friend of many of us. We join with many others in saying we will miss him

Join Us Pronto!

NWGHA's mission is to preserve and enhance our neighborhood— from preserving precious open park land to keeping members informed of important events and meetings. Join us.

Name(s) _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Email : _____ Tel: (____) _____

Dues are \$25 a year and are tax deductible. Go to our website Nwglendaleha.org or make checks payable to: Northwest Glendale Homeowners Association, 1436 West Glenoaks, Unit 190, Glendale, California 91201.

New and current members can also pay dues through PayPal. Scan our QR code to the right, which will take you to our PayPal site.



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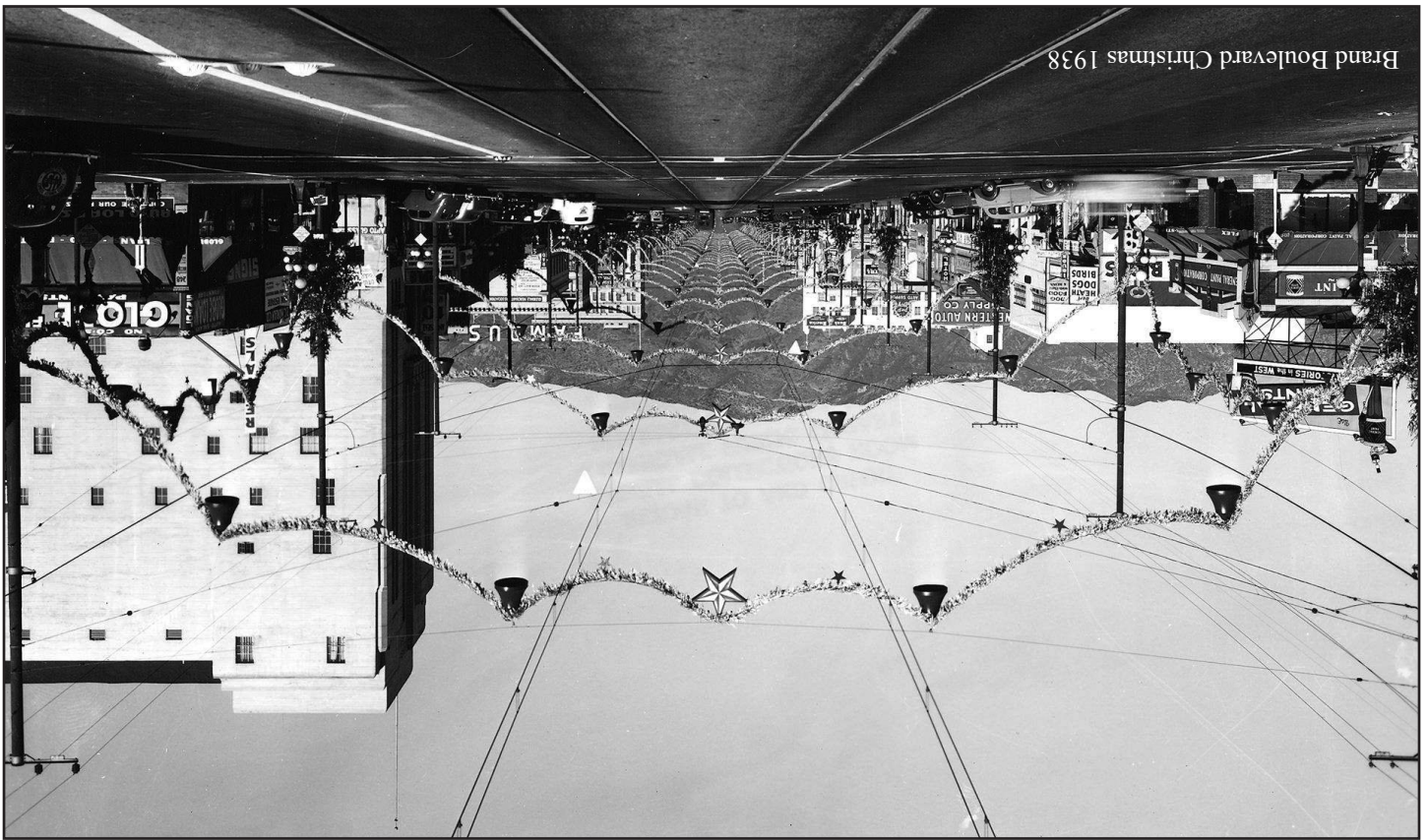
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