

## Long -Term Solutions

## President's Message

The objective of the BHA Board is to protect, preserve and enrich our Brentwood community. We are fortunate that we live in an area that enjoys favorable weather and air quality, low crime rates, excellent schools, increasing property values and residents actively engaged in civic life. However, the quality of life issue that takes precedence consistently through the years is *traffic*, particularly congestion on Sunset Boulevard.

We recently signed formal agreements with the Brentwood School and Archer School for Girls related to their future construction plans and subsequent operations. In both cases, volunteers from the BHA board and nearby neighbors worked for years to hammer out a plan that allows the schools growth, while restricting the impacts on Sunset traffic. Those who hoped to see the school plans quashed were unrealistic. The City of Los Angeles promotes and supports the development of schools both public and private. Those who wished to let the plans proceed unfettered perhaps were not fully considering the potential impacts. After meeting with the City, the institutions, the neighbors and pouring over hundreds of complex documents, the BHA chose what we determined was the most realistic and pragmatic path.

The most important aspect of the agreements is they are long term. They regulate operations and traffic and restrict further expansion *for decades*.

Please remember that while we all feel a little trapped by the congestion, we also live in an amazing neighborhood, more so because we are buffered by other organized and cohesive neighborhoods like Bel Air, Santa Monica and Pacific Palisades.



*Scenes we'd like to see. Sunset Blvd looking west from Barrington Ave on a Sunday morning. Traffic remains the primary complaint in our area.*

On August 30, we are having our **Annual Picnic at Crestwood Hills Park** and we hope you will join us for a few hours of food, fun and meeting your neighbors. Please see the back page for details and RSVP today. We also encourage the few who haven't already signed up for our email alerts to do that today on our website. You will receive valuable and timely updates about our area, and the occasional urgent traffic alert. Thank you for supporting us in making Brentwood an even better place to live!



## The VA West Los Angeles

The Veterans Administration is engaged in a process to prepare a Master Plan for the approximately 388 acre West Los Angeles Campus located north and south of Wilshire Blvd on the east side of Federal Ave. It is the largest medical center campus in the VA system.



The VA estimates that there are 11,000 veterans in the LA area in need of targeted homelessness services. The tentative plans call for a “housing first” model, that would get veterans off the street into housing with treatment and services, and then into permanent housing. The plans also call for a change in the existing policy that required the West LA campus to be strictly alcohol and drug free.

A Master Plan is a high-level land use planning process that uses community and stakeholder input to define what is important about a place and how its character can be preserved in the future. The West Los Angeles VA Master Plan will describe how the physical elements of the campus can be developed for housing, recreational and healthcare services for veterans in the future. It will identify necessary infrastructure improvements, opportunities to enhance open space and how to protect the historic nature of the campus. This will be the third Master Plan in the past 20 years, but the VA Staff promise that there will be more development and services this time.

The target date for a Final Master Plan Report is October 2015. Thereafter, the process will involve environmental review and implementation.

The BHA is committed to being involved in this process to assure that the future plans are productive and practical and both the VA and the surrounding residential neighborhoods live in harmony for years to come.

To learn more, visit [helphouselavets.com](http://helphouselavets.com). You can view plans and make comments by visiting to Building 257 on the North VA Campus on a Tuesday between 1:30pm and 4:30pm. You can email your input or questions to: [hello@helphouselavets.com](mailto:hello@helphouselavets.com).



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### President

RAYMOND KLEIN

#### Vice Presidents

DONALD KELLER

RODNEY LIBER

DAVID WILSON

#### Secretary

THELMA WAXMAN

#### Treasurer

RODNEY LIBER

#### Board Members

CAROLE BOBYS

ADAM BRAUN

ERICA BROIDO

ISAAC V. COHEN

DAN HALSTED

BRUCE JUGAN

SCOTT KAUFMAN

MARIO PIATELLI

MARJORIE PLATZKER

ROBIN STEVENS

#### President Emeritus

ROBERT RENE

#### Summer 2015

PO Box 49427  
Los Angeles, CA 90049-0427  
(310) 471-8712 phone  
(310) 471-8714 fax

#### Email:

[info@brentwoodhomeowners.org](mailto:info@brentwoodhomeowners.org)





## BRENTWOOD BEAUTIFICATION

Many homeowners along Sunset Blvd have begun to improve and maintain their property landscaping, an effort we encourage and applaud. In addition, the BHA is starting to make headway with homeowners who may not understand the areas along Sunset are their responsibility. We have asked them to clean up their parkways and front lawns, especially when their landscaping encroaches on the public right of way. Brentwood is a beautiful and affluent community and there is no reason we should not be able to properly maintain our protected Sunset corridor and the adjacent residential streets.



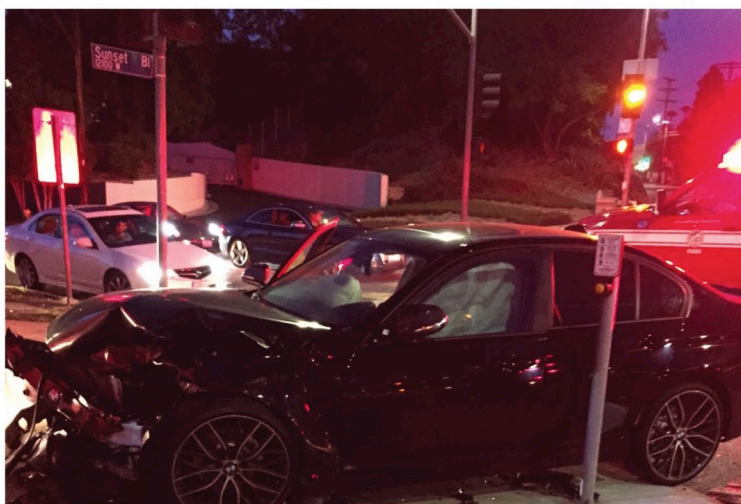
*A long-time Brentwood homeowner took the initiative and improved an area adjacent to Sunset with an attractive landscape of drought resistance planting.*

Please take the time to inspect your property and make sure your area adjacent to the street is at the very least groomed and maintained. In addition, please check to see that your hedges, plantings and trees do not encroach at all on sidewalks, driveways or the street itself. If in doubt, it is best to err on the side of respect for your neighbors and the greater community.



## BUNDY AND SUNSET

The BHA has called on our council district office, LAPD and the Department of Transportation to work with us in finding an immediate solution to the dangerous situation at this intersection. Between July 26 and August 4, there were no less than three collisions, two of which resulted in injuries.



Almost a year ago, the BHA requested DOT reprogram the signals so all four signal lights would be red, in hopes of preventing collisions by drivers heading westbound on Sunset who were frequently running “pure” red lights.

In addition, afternoon gridlock has caused drivers to chance a head-on collision to try and snake around cars blocking the intersection. We will keep you posted on our efforts.





## REPORT A PROBLEM ON THE SPOT



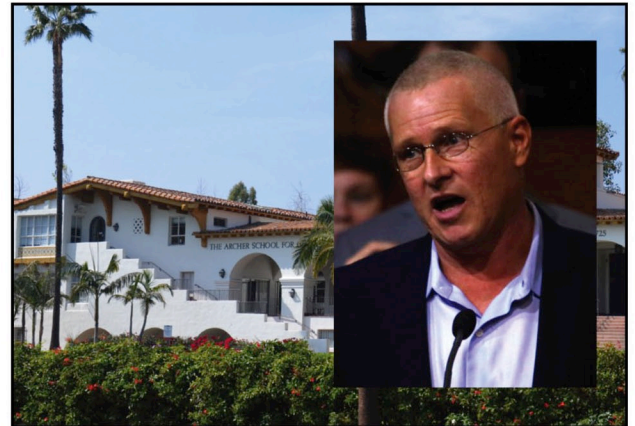
If you want to make your smartphone even smarter, you can download an “app” created by the City to report problems in your area. It is the fastest and most efficient way to see results. You can request the following services via the app: Bulky Item Pickup, Illegal Dumping, Dead Animals, Bin Replacement, Pothole Repair, Street Light Repair, Graffiti Removal and Tree Branches In Street. Our website has links for other City service requests. To get the app, go to [lacity.org/myla311](http://lacity.org/myla311).

## COUNCILMAN BONIN SAYS

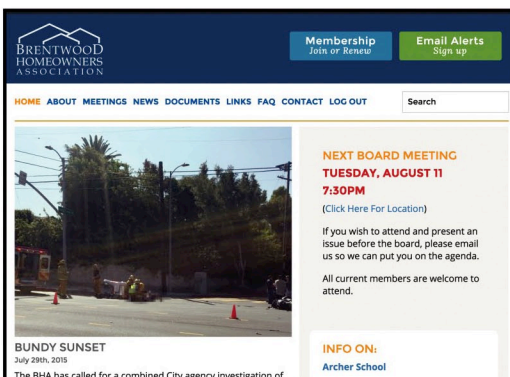
The hot topic around Brentwood these days is the Archer School, so let me get straight to the point: I promised repeatedly that I would not support a project that makes traffic worse. I am proud to report that I delivered, and the approved project will actually reduce Archer’s impact on Sunset traffic.

That’s right. It will reduce traffic – as a result of a set of more than 50 changes to the project, with remarkably strict and groundbreaking conditions, which include: fewer permitted car trips to and from campus than are currently allowed; a whopping 76 percent of students will be required to use vans or buses to commute to and from school; and parent-driven carpools will be required to have at least three students.

These requirements were negotiated largely by the Brentwood Homeowners Association and neighbors of Archer. Archer signed a binding, enforceable covenant with the BHA and neighbors, limiting construction to a tight three-year schedule, and forbidding any further development for 20 years.



I don’t think any school has ever agreed to such significant traffic mitigations, and Archer has set a new standard. If every institution on the Sunset corridor abided by these or similar conditions – we would all experience a noticeable and significant reduction in Sunset traffic. My goal is to make this level of traffic mitigation the norm for Sunset Boulevard so we can all finally get some relief from the corridor's crushing gridlock. Thank you to everyone who made this possible.



## Sign Up For Email Alerts On Our Website Today!!

Only a third of our homeowners take advantage of the important and timely community information we provide via email, including urgent traffic alerts. Each week, we send updates on things happening around Brentwood. It is the easiest and quickest way for us to communicate with you. We will not bombard you with useless information and we will never sell your information to a third party. Please have all adult members of your household sign up today.





## CONNECT WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS

*By Bruce Jugan, member of the BHA Board of Directors*

When we moved into Brentwood over ten years ago, my wife and I didn't want our young children to grow up in an area where we didn't know our neighbors. So, after meeting a few neighbors, we organized a neighborhood watch meeting. The BHA provided guidance and an LAPD officer spoke to the more than 40 people who attended our first meeting in 2006.

Next, we set up a "Yahoo Group" so that we could connect throughout the year. The Yahoo Group allows you to easily send and receive emails to many people and it's free. Using email addresses that we gathered at our watch meeting we invited our neighbors to join. Today, we have over 150 people in the group!



*A council office representative speaks to the Bonhill Group in May.*

It's easy to set up and I encourage you to start a Yahoo Group for your neighborhood. (Google also has a similar product.) Access to our online group is by invitation only and the sole criterion is that the person lives on our street (Bonhill) or on one of the nearby streets. The only non-resident is LAPD Senior Lead Officer Maria Gray who sends us regular crime reports. The online group has enabled us to easily organize block parties and neighborhood watch meetings. Importantly, neighbors can share information and ask questions

about suspicious behavior or police activity and also get recommendations for a plumber or handyman.

To make sure that everyone understands the boundaries of our online group, each person receives the guidelines when he/she registers. We do not allow anonymity or derogatory comments about individuals. The group exists for productive discourse, and allows neighbors to connect and feel part of their block, neighborhood and City.

I strongly encourage you to set this up for your neighborhood. For more information, visit our website home page at [brentwoodhomeowners.org](http://brentwoodhomeowners.org) and click on *GROUPS*, or call our office at 310-471-8712.

---

**THE BHA ANNUAL PICNIC WILL BE FUN FOR ADULT AND KIDS**

**SUNDAY AUGUST 30 \* 1:00 PM TO 4:00 PM**

**RSVP TO [BHA90049@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BHA90049@GMAIL.COM) or 310.471.8712**

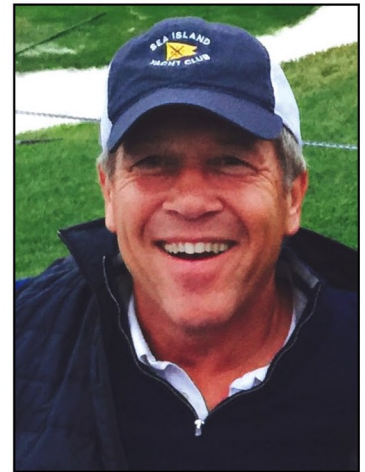
**FREE FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT \* FREE DOOR PRIZES FOR PAID MEMBERS**





## PRESIDENT EMERITUS ~ ROBERT RENE

To quote Albert Einstein, "only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile." And, while the BHA and the challenges of Brentwood hardly rise to the level of Albert's thinking or to level of other problems of the world, it has been nothing short of great to serve as President of the BHA for the past 12 years. During that time, the BHA has been immersed in matters big and small, from neighborly disputes to major institutional development, but in every one of them, the organization has tried to fairly and reasonably protect the interests of our homeowners and community and find balance in reasonable compromise. While serving as President, you should know the vast, vast majority of the work at the BHA was done by others, and I would be remiss if I didn't take a moment to say thanks. Folks like Don Keller, Ray Klein, and Rod Liber have taken on countless complex initiatives, spent many late nights and generally done great work to further our interests. Bruce Jugan, David Wilson, Adam Braun and Ike Cohen have invested lots of hours in lots of matters of critical impact to our constituents. Leslie Vermut remained our rock, as treasurer for well over a decade. And the other directors past and present--too many to mention--have contributed in countless ways on other important matters.



Lastly, I want to thank Council District 11. Councilman Bill Rosendahl, who retired last year, and Norm Kulla, who just retired, were two of our biggest supporters. Note that Brentwood is but a small part of the District, yet we always received the kind of attention and support that made us feel like a very important constituent group. And we are fortunate yet again to be served by another outstanding leader in Councilman Mike Bonin. Where Bill was outspoken, Mike may be a tad less so...but he is no less fierce in his commitment to supporting Brentwood and no less effective in finding balanced and thoughtful solutions to an increasingly complex list of community challenges. We are incredibly fortunate to have Mike's leadership.

While I will no longer serve as president, I will remain on the board, which will no doubt be even better served by our new President, Ray Klein. I'll get to focus even more on my family and at the company I work for, both of which I love, and devote whatever spare time I have to public education and veteran's issues. Thanks so much for the opportunity to serve Brentwood. To say it was a privilege would be an understatement.

## RIGHT ON RED

No intersection draws more intense passion than Barrington Ave and Sunset Blvd. It has been labeled a "choke-point" by the council office and is always the subject of traffic discussions. The Department of Transportation has studied requests that a "No Right On Red" be installed for northbound Barrington vehicles. They have determined this would cause further gridlock at San

Vicente and Barrington and further divert traffic to Barrington Place, and is not a solution to the problems at Sunset.





## BUNDY-MAYFIELD and other STOP SIGNS



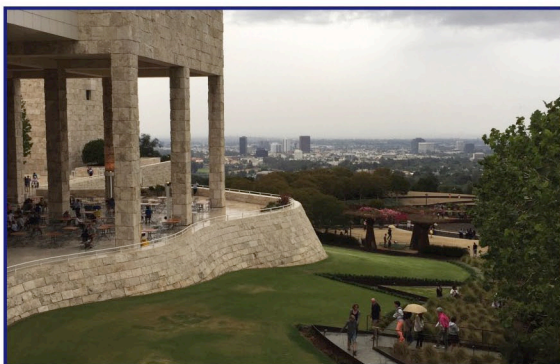
Just when we thought there was a solution at hand, a wrench got thrown in the works. Or in this case, a bus. After herculean efforts by the council office and the Department of Transportation to satisfy most concerns and install a roundabout, a design flaw was discovered, which would prevent the Big Blue Bus from being able to pass through the intersection. This flurry revolving around a stop sign is why the BHA has attended regular meetings with CD11 and DOT and has requested information on all pending installations. We are *not* looking to dictate policy to the experts, but rather avoid costly and questionable installations, which can waste taxpayer money better suited for

more important issues. The installation and subsequent removal of the San Vicente signage is proof we can lend vital input based on decades of community experience to City agencies trying to act in our best interest and keep up with infrastructure standards.

It takes only one resident request for a stop sign installation to get the wheels rolling at DOT. Studies are performed to determine if the basic criteria is met. Those criteria include traffic patterns, average traffic speeds and frequency and records of collisions.

Email and letters we receive from homeowners are divided. While many believe stops signs are warranted as much as possible, others feel they create an interruption to traffic flow and are not always necessary. The BHA takes a measured approach and feels installations are warranted if they meet the DOT criteria and/or a significant and repetitive problem has occurred at a particular intersection.

Let us know what you think by emailing us today!



Beautiful views and spectacular art right in our backyard. The Getty Museum is a short ride and a great place to spend the day.

### Did You Know ??

There are  
enough  
sidewalks in Los  
Angeles to  
stretch from here  
to Paris AND  
BACK!



Sunday mornings on Gretna Green, think about grabbing some fresh air and fresh produce and flowers at the farmers market.





PO Box 49427  
Los Angeles, CA 90049-0427

PRESORTED  
FIRST CLASS MAIL  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 31050  
LOS ANGELES, CA

[brentwoodhomeowners.org](http://brentwoodhomeowners.org)

*Please let us know about any name or address corrections*

BRING THE FAMILY FOR  
**FREE FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT**  
ENJOY A HOT DOG OR TWO FROM PINK'S  
**MEET COUNCILMAN BONIN**

**ANNUAL  
SUMMER  
PICNIC**

**Sunday, August 30 \* 1:00pm to 4:00pm**

**Crestwood Hills Park**

**RSVP to 310-471-8712 or [BHA90049@gmail.com](mailto:BHA90049@gmail.com)**