

T H E C A N Y O N C R I E R

Published by the Chevy Chase Estates Association, Inc.

For all residents of the Chevy Chase Canyon . . .

November 1990

ABOUT THAT "GRIN" NEWSLETTER . . .

Most Chevy Chase Canyon residents received a newsletter from an organization called GRIN (Glendale Residents to Improve our Neighborhood). This new organization is soliciting membership in what seems to be a new homeowners group.

In their newsletter GRIN stated that a 435-home tract has been proposed in our canyon, located on the ridge between Chevy Chase Drive and Glenoaks Blvd. Your homeowners association Board of Directors monitors all developments in the canyon and were also surprised to read about the proposed project.

After investigating this matter, the Directors found that no such Project has been proposed. The information in the GRIN brochure on this development is simply incorrect.

Should a plan of this nature ever be proposed at any time in the future, the CCEA Board of Directors will alert every homeowner in the canyon and solicit help in our opposition to such a massive development project.

REVISED HILLSIDE DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE

As a result of continuing development in the canyon and the substantial cutting, grading, and scarring of the hillsides, it is very apparent that the City's hillside development ordinance needs to be revised. The City Council recently extended the moratorium on further large hillside developments until October 1991 while they prepare a new ordinance that will limit cutting, grading and density.

The Board of Directors has been advised by Mayor Larry Zarian that the City will consider a revised hillside development ordinance after the completion of a study to be conducted in the next 4-months. The

Board believes that the revised ordinance should be addressed by the City Council as quickly as possible, and will continue to monitor the progress of the revised ordinance.

But in the meantime, the Board asks that each canyon resident contact the City Council and request speedy consideration of a revised ordinance.

ACQUISITION OF OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PROPERTY

In the last few months, there has been a lot of publicity about the possible purchase by the City of Glendale of a substantial portion of the undeveloped hillsides surrounding the city and other properties within it. If this were done, it would halt the development of a portion of hillsides and other properties in the city and thereby limit the city's rapidly growing population and the increasing pressures on traffic:, schools, and utilities.

To acquire the open space and other recreational properties, the citizens of Glendale would request the City Council to hold an election to vote on a bond issue some time in 1991. The proceeds of the bond would be used to acquire about 1,200 acres of privately owned property, both undeveloped developed, in the city and dedicate the property to perpetual open space and recreation use.

If such a bond issue were passed by two thirds of the voters, it would increase each property owner's property tax for 30 years. The exact amount of the tax increase is not known at this time, for it depends on the amount of property acquired and the estimated purchase price.

As a general rule, however, a useful formula is that property taxes would increase by \$1 for each \$100,000 of

appraised value of the property, times each one million dollars of value of the bond. An example of this hypothetical formula:

Appraised value of Property = \$400,000
Bond indebtedness = \$40,000,000
4 x \$1 x 40 = \$160 annual tax increase

Those favoring the bond issue believe that this is a small annual fee to pay for the privilege of knowing that the hills around Glendale will remain green forever and will never be the site of massive grading, huge houses on minuscule lots and over-lighted streets.

The feasibility of acquiring open space and other property in this manner is being evaluated by a CCEA "Property Owners Feasibility Committee." If you would like to participate in this effort, please call one of the following CCEA Directors:

George Young, President 213/550-0500
Mike Graves, Vice Pres. 213/236-3400
Gerald Briggs 714/983-9811

Regardless of the publicity you may have read, the open space and recreation property acquisition bond issue has not been proposed to the City Council and none is anticipated until the concept is fully evaluated by Glendale property owners and until there is a consensus that property owners would likely approve such a purchase.

EASY ACCESSIBILITY OF CITY COUNCILMEN

The City of Glendale is blessed with a City Council that is not only very easy to contact but also and more remarkably, one that welcomes and even appreciates input from all Glendale residents. Just send your comments to:

Glendale City Council, City hall,
613 E. Broadway, Glendale, CA 91206

Copies will be made of your letter and distributed to each councilperson. If you prefer to telephone and get immediate feedback, the number is 548-4844.

The City Councilmen (and woman) are:

Ginger Bremberg Jerold F. Milner
Richard Jutras Carl W. Raggio
Larry Zarian, Mayor

FIRE PREVENTION IN THE CANYON

All canyon residents can assist themselves and the Glendale Fire Department by being alert to fire hazards in the canyon. Such hazards as uncleared hillside brush, piles of tree and brush trimmings, and

trash stacked on the curb for extended periods can lead to devastating fires in the canyon. If you see any fire hazards, please report them to the Glendale Fire Prevention Bureau at 548-4810.

THE ROAD IS OPEN, . THE DEER ARE OUT

The new road connecting Emerald Isle to Mountain Street and the freeway is now open. Deer have often been seen on this road, and at night, a car's headlights may cause them to 'freeze' in the middle of the road. Until the 'Deer crossing' signs are posted, take care.

PLANS TO RESTORE "SICOMORO FOREST" WITH SYCAMORE AND LIVE OAK TREES

Once, long ago, the sides of Chevy Chase canyon were covered with dense forests of live oak and sycamore trees. The Spaniards called it "Sicomoro Canyon" and the area is still called that on the city plat maps. But the hillsides today are virtually bare, except for chaparral and a few treasured oak tree thickets.

Yet, with a lot of planning and a bit of effort, green trees could once again cover our hillsides. Long-time resident Dick Knudsen of Paddington Road would like to organize a group of "Sicomoro Foresters" to accomplish this goal. The first task would be to determine where trees could be planted. Trees can be planted on private property only with the owner's permission. And permission would also have to be obtained to plant trees on corporate-owned property (Such as the Edison right-of-way) and also on hillside property owned by the City of Glendale or CalTrans.

Once the areas where trees could be planted were pinpointed, then the Sicomoro Foresters would locate seedling trees available for planting and finally mobilize a legion or two of dedicated residents, give them instructions on how to successfully plant oak and sycamore trees on hillsides, and then aim the intrepid tree planters toward the hills. And in just a few years, they (and the rest of us) can sit back and admire the thick green forest that is beginning to cover the once-barren hillsides.

If you would like to help accomplish this goal, give Dick Knudsen a call at 244-2631. Become a Sicomoro Forester!

THE HILLS ARE FULL OF POISON OAK!

The hillsides around us are lovely to look and delightful to know-but beware of casual strolls or hikes to seek even greater familiarity: those hills are alive with poison oak! After just casual

contact with the sap of this low-growing plant, most people develop an intensely itching rash, and a few become seriously ill, with loss of work and even hospitalization. If tempted to take a hike in our hillsides, you should wear gloves, long sleeves, pants, and boots - and even if you think you haven't been exposed, it is always wise to take a shower immediately after the hike and to wash the clothing, to rid it of poison oak's toxic sap and oils.

ACTIVITIES AT CHEVY CHASE BRANCH LIBRARY

Take a few minutes sometime to visit the Chevy Chase branch library and explore the many educational and informational resources they have available. And, of course, there are the activities . . .

Toddler time continues at 10-11 a.m. each Friday with stories, songs, and crafts for children age 18 months to 3 years (and their parents!).

Storytime, for children ages 3-8, held from 7-8 p.m. on the last Wednesday of every month (except December) features stories, crafts, and movies.

For adults in the community, there's the **Talking about Vietnam** reading and discussion group, with GCC's Marshall Nunn leading the discussion of "Vietcong Memoir" on November 14 and "Ethical Issues" on December 5, both 7-8 p.m., with refreshments served. To get the most out of the sessions, check with the library for book/video assignments.

Any questions? Call Mindy Liberman at our Chevy Chase Branch Library, 956-2046

FLASH: SOMERSET HEARING ON NOVEMBER 9

A hearing on the 14-house Somerset tract above Cascadia and Kennington before the Planning Commission will be held on Friday, November 9 at 2:30 p.m. in City Hall. Attend if you can and help support the neighborhood's opposition to this 'Polygon blister,' this further blight on the hillsides.