

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 . . .

March 1991

THE 54TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION

with a forum of the Glendale City Council Candidates

Tuesday, March 19, 1991, at the Glenoaks Elementary School

Multipurpose Room, 2015 E. Glenoaks Blvd.

Social hour at 6:30 p.m., business meeting at 7:00, program at 7:30

ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

All homeowners in Chevy Chase canyon are invited to attend this important and informative meeting, learn of the issues confronting the canyon and the city, and hear the City Council candidates say how they will resolve these problems.

All eight Council candidates:

John Beach
Mary Ann Plumley
Eileen Givins
Mary Ann Prelock
Shirley Griffin
Bob Torres
Dick Matthews
Larry Zarian

have accepted invitations to give a short presentation and then to respond briefly to any questions you may have.

You will also be updated on two "active" developments in the area (all others are restricted by a moratorium), on the proposed hillside ordinance revisions, and on other matters that affect us all.

Note that this meeting won't be at the Country Club, which is being remodeled.

FOUR DIRECTORS TO BE ELECTED

Four Directors will be elected at this meeting. All four incumbent Directors--Ann Zabriskie, Michael Graves, Carole Dougherty, and Michael Dickerson--are seeking election to new three-year terms.

In accordance with Association bylaws, any dues-paying member may also be nominated by securing 10 signatures of members supporting his or her nomination and submitting them to the Secretary (2915 Graceland Way) by March 12.

1991 ASSOCIATION DUES NOW DUE

**CANYON HOMEOWNERS MUST HELP PREVENT
THE NEXT CANYON FIRE DISASTER**

Your Board of Directors voted in January to retain the annual dues at \$20.00 per residence. Thanks to the lack of abnormal expenditures in 1990, the Association was able to meet all expenses out of current income. We can do the same this year, if membership increases by just 10%. In 1990, less than a third of the canyon residents joined the Chevy Chase Estates Association. You and your neighbors' support of the Association will keep the dues down and will insure that your Association continues to monitor and address canyon issues.

And there is an added membership bonus: In a recent letter, Glendale Fire Chief John Montenero stated that, in the event of fire, earthquake, or other disaster where access to the canyon was limited to "residents only," the fire and police departments would accept the Chevy Chase decal on an auto windshield as proof of residency--and the decals come only with membership in the Association.

So, complete the enclosed dues notice and return it with your check in the enclosed envelope. New members will be sent their decals and the "History of Chevy Chase Canyon" book. Past members can order more decals from any Director.

BE SURE TO VOTE ON APRIL 2

Too often voter apathy lets the wrong person get elected. Listen to the candidates at our Annual Meeting, read their literature, and then decide which ones best represent the interests of the canyon dwellers and the city as a whole.

WATER CONSERVATION POINTERS

Included with this issue of the Canyon Crier is a Metropolitan Water District brochure that gives "25 ways to save water." We may soon face mandatory water rationing, and these pointers may help you conserve water.

SORTING TRASH IS A PAIN, BUT . . .

. . . it does help prolong the life of the City's dump site. When it fills and garbage must be hauled elsewhere, your utility bill will increase greatly. So sorting trash helps postpone that day, and also improves the environment.

We all chose to live here in Chevy Chase Canyon because it is remote, wild, and rural. We like to surround ourselves with trees and shrubs, and look from our decks at the hillsides around us. It is the good life . . .

But our way of life carries with it a responsibility to protect it from the natural threats inherent in the area. One such threat is the calamity that struck nearby last summer--fire! There is, fortunately, much that we can do to protect our homes and our families and to keep such a disaster from happening in Chevy Chase canyon.

The Chevy Chase Estates Association is sending to all residents with this issue of the Canyon Crier some reprints from Sunset magazine that show us how to protect our homes and hillsides against a brushfire--the type of fire that burned and devastated the College Hills and Glenmore Canyon areas last summer.

In its summary of that fire, the Glendale Fire Department revealed that the flames came very close to entering our canyon. With firefighting resources exhausted, the fire could have burned unchecked to La Canada-Flintridge and Pasadena. There are over 1,400 homes in Chevy Chase canyon alone -- and the City of Glendale has only 22 fire trucks, with another 100 on call from neighboring cities (IF there are no other fires in the region, such as there were at the time of last summer's fire).

As a result, we privileged residents of Chevy Chase canyon must assume much of the responsibility to protect our homes from fire, so that we can continue to be thankful for the pleasures that life has bestowed on all of us.

The enclosed reprints will help you gain the satisfaction you have done what you can to protect your home from brushfire.

The last major brushfire in this area was in 1964, when houses burned in both Emerald Isle and the lower canyon.

CANYON DEVELOPMENTS . . .

The building moratorium placed on all hillside projects (of 4 or more homes) is

scheduled to expire in October, 1991. There are currently several developments under discussion, but no applications have been made to the city.

Your Association is working with the city to ensure that proper modifications to the hillside ordinance are completed before the moratorium expires and it is too late. The changes in the ordinance are directed at eliminating irresponsible developments in the remaining hillside open space within the city of Glendale. We believe that the net impact of the soon-to-be-revised hillside ordinance on the Chevy Chase Canyon will be a slower growth rate with less disruption of canyon terrain, wild-life, and flora.

Two developments were exempted from the moratorium, based on their application status at the time it was enacted.

SOMERSET . . .

A developer would like to build 12 homes in a small sylvan canyon above Cascadia, near the junction with St. Andrews. It would require that 40,000 cubic yards of dirt be scraped or dynamited from the sides of the canyon to fill in the floor for the house pads. This would create ugly scars that would last for years, and would wantonly destroy the beauty of one of the loveliest spots in the canyon.

Some development is probably inevitable, and while sad, it would be bearable with minimal grading and with houses that conformed to the natural landscape.

This poorly-planned project was rightly rejected by the Planning Commission, but the developer elected to seek City Council approval, on March 5.

The streets in this area are narrow, and the EIR woefully underestimates the impact of traffic in this isolated area. The Chevy Chase Estates Association has requested that a traffic study be done to determine the actual auto traffic in the area. Approval of the development will mean more cars trying to turn onto Chevy Chase on blind curves.

The Fire Department is concerned about safety and wants a new road cut across the face of the hills to provide a second access into the project. We agree that this might be needed for 12 houses, but believe that reducing the number of homes

to those that would fit naturally into the area would eliminate the need for this highly visible road (the City would pay half of the cost of the road, the developer the remainder).

You can help defeat the 12-house project in Somerset Canyon by attending the City Council's special evening hearing on the development -- 7 p.m. on March 5 at City Hall. The City Council will be impressed not only by the strong arguments they will hear, but also by the sight of an overflow crowd of canyon residents who object to the continued scarring and the ruthless destruction of the hillsides.

The developer offered to reduce the number of homes to 9, if the road is not built and the fire danger ignored. However, the 40,000 cubic yards of dirt would still be moved. The neighbors and the Association rejected this offer. We urge that there be no earth movement (except that necessary for the roadways and that the number of houses be limited to those that can safely be built on the naturally existing terrain.

DUNSMERE - LINDA VISTA . . .

This project has had its Environmental Impact Report (EIR) approved, based on its 6-house alternative proposal. The original project called for construction of 10 homes. Since no final plans have been filed with or approved by the City, the ultimate configuration of the development is unknown. Based on the EIR, 3 houses would be accessed from Dunsmere and 3 from Linda Vista.

Three additional lots are currently for sale on the road that accesses the Linda Vista houses. If built out completely, there would be a total of 9 new houses in the Dunsmere-Linda Vista area.

WHY BE JUST A "CURRENT RESIDENT"?

This mailing was addressed to about 100 "Current Residents" in the canyon. We hate to use this cold, commercial method--but it is necessary because we don't have your names.

The Association will continue to send its mailings to you--but would rather send them to living persons. So, if you are a "Current Resident" on this newsletter's

mailing label, why not call the CCEA Secretary (or his answering machine) at 956-5404 and give him your name or names and your street address, so that future CCEA mailings can come to you, and not just to "current resident."

A DAY AT THE RACES

Sunday, March 24, will be the "Glendale Rose Float Association's "Day at the Races," with reserved parking, special infield privileges with a private picnic area (or a snack bar is nearby) and some of the weirdest "Pick Six" handicapping ever devised--I mean, picking the horse that will come in last?--all for just \$10 a person (children under 16 free). For tickets or more information, call Eileen Young (790-9060).

REPORTS FROM THE SICOMORO FORESTERS

While most of us have just thought it would be nice if the hillsides were once again covered with native trees, the Sicomoro Foresters are taking the first steps to accomplish this task. But they can't do it alone; they could use help:

If a native tree on your property is growing seedling under it, call Dick Knudsen (244-2631) and he or one of the Foresters will dig it up and move it to their nursery for young native plants.

Save your empty milk carton, plastic pop bottles and nursery plant boxes, for use as containers for these plants.

Volunteer to care for the young cuttings and seedling until they are old enough to be transplanted onto the hillsides.

Or, just become a Sicomoro Forester, and donate a little time and effort, so that your children can look out on hillsides covered with native trees.

And, if you want to learn more about the advantages of planting drought-resist native plants, Dick Knudsen can help you select native plants that are suitable for all purposes--flowers, ground covers, accent plants, trees--and all need just minimal watering the first year, and no watering after that!

Some Important City Telephone Numbers

Abandoned cars..... 548-3700
 AMBULANCE..... 911 or
 548-4800

Animal control.....	242-1128
(after 5:30).....	548-4840
Barking dogs.....	242-1128
City Council.....	548-4844
(Agenda).....	548-2094
Dial-a-Ride info.....	548-3961
FIRE (emergency).....	911 or
.....	548-4800
Fire information.....	548-4814
Graffiti removal.....	548-3700
Neighborhood	
Services	548-3700
Overgrown weeds,	
litter.....	548-3700
Parks/Recreation.....	548-2000
POLICE (emergency).....	911 or
.....	548-4911
(information).....	548-4840
Power emergency.....	548-2011
Recycling info.....	548-6480
Senior Citizens	
Hot Line.....	241-4136
Sign maintenance.....	548-3950
Street light out.....	548-2011
Street, sidewalk	
repair.....	548-3950
Trash, bulky,	
collection... ..	548-3916
Tree maintenance.....	548-3950
Water emergency.....	548-2011

Remember these dates:

March 19, the Annual Meeting of your Chevy Chase Estates Association, 7:00 p.m. at Glenoaks Elementary School

April 2, the City Council elections, with the winners having a tremendous influence on hillside development