

The Canyon Crier

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PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM BRUSH FIRES

Take a minute and look out your window. See all those lush trees and bushes cascading down the San Rafael hills? That beautiful natural hillside is probably one of the reasons you moved to Chevy Chase Canyon, right?

Without a doubt, our majestic pine trees and thick green foliage make the Canyon one of the most desirable residences in Glendale. But they also make the Canyon a High Fire Hazard Area.

In the last few years, we all watched in horror as wild fires destroyed homes in Malibu, Calabasas and Topanga Canyon.

Canyon residents might well ask, "Why them and not us?" The answer is: *a little luck and a lot of brush fire prevention.*

The City of Glendale has designated 4,000 parcels — many of them in Chevy Chase Canyon — as hazardous fire areas.

For the sake of your own home and the homes of your Canyon neighbors, take the time *now* to clear your property of hazardous brush.

While we cannot prevent all brush fires from starting, there are important measures we can take to safeguard our homes in the event a brush fire does start.

Brush Clearance Information Available From Glendale Fire Department

The Glendale Fire Department has published valuable information on what you can do to protect your home from brush fires. Also available is a list of contractors experienced in brush clearance.

If you would like a copy of these publications, or if you have any questions about brush clearance requirements for your particular property, contact Glendale's Fire Prevention Bureau at 548-4810.

A Little Common Sense Goes A Long Way

Brush fires often rage out of control because high winds carry flaming brands which ignite houses and tinder-dry brush miles away from the site of the original fire. This can stretch fire fighting resources well beyond the breaking point.

To assist fire fighters in saving your home in the event of a wild fire, it is vital that you provide a "defensible zone" within 100 feet of your house.

Some of the things you should do to safeguard your home include:

- Remove all dead trees and shrubs.
- Prune out dead wood and rake up fallen leaves.
- Remove branches within 6 feet of

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BIG FINES FOR IGNORING BRUSH CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS

After the devastating 1990 College Hills fire, the City of Glendale implemented the Vegetation Management Program and Prevention Partnership (VMP). As a critical part of VMP, fire officials inspect all property in High Fire Hazard Areas to ensure compliance with the brush-clearance laws which protect us all.

The City has already begun inspections for 1997. If your property is determined to constitute a brush hazard, you will be issued a Notice to Abate Fire Hazard listing items which must be corrected.

If you fail to comply with a Notice to Abate, the Glendale Fire Department will issue a Notice of Intent to Abate Public Nuisance. You will then have 15 days from the date the notice was *mailed* to complete the required brush clearance.

If you *still* do not comply, the City has the right to remedy the problem and charge you:

- All costs of abating the brush on *your* property
- \$275 Administrative Fee
- \$55 Inspection Fee for *each* inspection

Protect yourself and your Canyon neighbors. Clear all





CCEA NEWS & UPDATES



Current CCEA Officers and Directors

Your 1997 CCEA officers are:

- Jerry Briggs, President
- Jennifer Costanza-Weissmuller, Vice President
- Ken Morrow, Treasurer
- Carole Dougherty, Secretary

The other CCEA directors are Ken Boss, Dick Murray, Art Kishiyama, Jeanne Olwin, Brit Trydal and Michael Rosenfeld.

Canyon Development: No News Is . . . No News

In our last issue, we reported that a Corona del Mar developer had his eye on about 150 acres in our canyon. The developer had met with City Planning Division officials last June and set forth ambitious plans to bulldoze our ridge lines and pack a few hundred houses above us.

We are happy to report that, as of this writing, the developer has taken no further action against the Canyon.

CCEA will continue to monitor the situation and advise homeowners of any activity affecting the Canyon.

Traffic Committee Looking for a Few Good Members

Formed in 1996 to identify and resolve traffic issues in the Canyon, the CCEA Traffic Committee is very important to the Canyon. Last year, Committee members worked with the City to install new traffic signs and control Canyon driving speeds.

All CCEA members are encouraged to participate in this Committee to keep the Canyon safe. If you are interested in serving on the Traffic Committee, please call CCEA

President Jerry Briggs at 956-7547.

Homeowners Continue to Fight Oakmont V Development

As reported in the last issue of *The Canyon Crier*, the controversial Oakmont V development proposal is moving steadily through City channels, despite the protests of angry homeowners. The City Planning Department, along with its bevy of consultants, recently conducted another hearing on the required Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Over 200 homeowners attended the EIR hearing, most to express their outrage and opposition to this massive project which would devastate Glendale's hillsides.

There will be another public hearing

in about 90 days regarding the final EIR. If the report is certified by the Glendale Environmental Planning Board, the way will be clear for approval by the Planning Commission. If this happens, the fate of the project — and the hillsides enjoyed by so many homeowners — will be decided by the City Council.

Spend Your Summer Pool-Side

1997 Summer Social Pool Memberships to the Chevy Chase Country Club begin May 24th. With food and bar service direct to your lounge chair, this is a great way to relax on those hot summer days. A lifeguard is on duty during pool hours and private swimming lessons are available. This is a limited offer, so call 246-



CLEAN OUT THOSE CLOSETS!

Rummage Sale to Benefit Chevy Chase Library

On Saturday, May 31, the Chevy Chase Library will be holding a rummage sale. Whether you have household items to donate or simply can't resist a great bargain, stop by, meet your neighbors and find that one-of-a-kind item you've been needing.

Your donations are tax-deductible and all proceeds from the rummage sale will go towards the purchase of an Internet workstation for the library.

Date: Saturday, May 31, 1997

Time: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Place: Chevy Chase Library

The library also needs volunteers to help organize and price items. To donate an item, or to volunteer, please call Rosemarie Lossone at 243-6902 or Wendy Osborn at 240-9721.



Brush Clearance Top Priority for Canyon Residents

(Continued from page 1)

the ground.

- Remove yellowed plant material.
- Water often to keep plants green and healthy during fire season, and use mulches to contain moisture.
- Plant low-growing vegetation with high moisture content, such as flowers and ground covers.
- Avoid planting evergreens, such as junipers and pines.
- Keep taller trees topped.
- Remove *all* branches touching or overhanging your house.
- Be sure your chimney has a spark arrester properly installed.
- Avoid *all* outdoor fires (even barbecues) on windy days.
- *Never* leave an outdoor fire unattended.

With a little hard work and some sensible precautions, we can make the Canyon a safer place for us all.

AND SPEAKING OF WILDFIRE . . .

That's how the news spread that Canyon resident Ginger Bremberg was back.

After far too long an absence from Glendale city politics, former mayor Ginger was recently re-elected to the Glendale City Council.

If you have seen recent Council meetings, you already know that Ginger has, in fact, returned with her usual dash and aplomb — not to mention her uncanny ability to cut to the bottom line of every issue.

A longtime CCEA member, Board member and Board President, Ginger previously served on the City Council for two terms.

Congratulations to Ginger and our heartfelt wishes for another exciting and successful term on the City Council.

See Something Suspicious? Call CRIME STOPPERS

The City of Glendale has established CRIME STOPPERS, a totally anonymous hotline for residents to report information about crimes. Tips are passed along to the police for action.

If you notice any suspicious activity, or have information about a crime, call CRIME STOPPERS at:



For more information on the CRIME STOPPERS program, call the Glendale Police Department Public Information Office at 548-4818.

TIMELINE 1964: Devastating Firestorm Hits Chevy Chase Canyon

Monday, March 16, 1964: Hot dry desert winds had been searing southern California. In the early morning hours, winds snapped high-voltage lines north of the Chevy Chase Country Club, starting a small fire.

With winds gusting up to 90 miles per hour, the fire quickly leaped out of control. A wall of flames moved steadily toward Emerald Isle on the north, headed toward Verdugo Road on the west, and then burned its way southwards down the ridge line.

Amazingly, in the first few hours, no homes burned. But then the southern tip of the fire turned east. As it burned down the ridge toward Chevy Chase, the first firestorm conditions occurred. With towers of flames shooting into the air, several

homes — including houses on Chevy Chase Drive — quickly burned to the ground.

Gale-force winds propelled burning brands high above houses. Brush on the east side of Chevy Chase Canyon caught fire and the flames raced into Glenoaks Canyon.

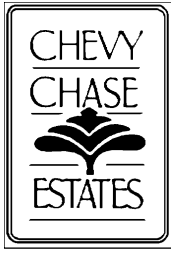
Another terrifying firestorm broke loose and 16 more homes burned. More than 300 people evacuated their homes and could only watch in helpless horror as helicopters began landing on the fairways and desperate fire fighters set up their command post at the Country Club.

Ultimately, the disaster that became known as the San Rafael Fire roared into Eagle Rock and the fringes of Pasadena. With a perimeter of 12 miles, the flames burned 2,100 acres

before the blaze was finally conquered by fire fighters after more than 24 hours of fiery devastation.

The San Rafael Fire was one of the greatest tragedies in the history of the Canyon. But hopefully, by remembering the terror that homeowners must have felt during the fire, we will also remember that Canyon residents can never be completely safe from the devastating effects of brush fires. It's up to *all* of us to safeguard our homes by clearing our land of flammable tinder-dry brush and remaining ever-watchful for even the smallest signs of fire.

The canyon you save could be our home.



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In This Issue... Fire safety affects all of us. See inside for important tips on keeping your home safe this

June 1997 **The Canyon Crier**

Waltz The Night Away: CCEA Turns 60

*Make your
reservations
now for CCEA's
June 14th
dinner dance.*

Seating is limited.



All CCEA members are

To celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Chevy Chase Estates Association, your CCEA Board of Directors has planned a special dinner dance for Saturday, June 14th at the Chevy Chase Country Club.

The festivities will begin at 6:30 pm with no-host cocktails.

Dinner will be served at 7:30 pm, followed

by an evening of live dance music.

invited to this special event. Tickets are \$25.00 per person. Since the club has limited seating, we will be taking reservations on a first-come, first-served basis. So make your reservations early.

As many of you know, CCEA dinner dances are a great opportunity to meet your Canyon neighbors, and have been great successes over the years.

For more information, please call Brit Trydal at 500-1238.

**We Want to
Hear What You
Think!**

The Canyon Crier is published quarterly for Chevy Chase Estates Association members.

If you have any comments or suggestions, or would like to submit an article to *The Canyon Crier*, please contact Michael Rosenfeld at (818) 240-0070.



Fire Safety Issue
Wire Safety Issue