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THE GOC

Est. 1955 / WINTER 2015

P.O. BOX 9949 - GLENDALE, CA 91226

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE KICKS OFF THIS MONTH

**January** marks the beginning of our annual membership drive which follows the calendar year, January 1st to December 31st. Your support helps us monitor and address our canyon issues such as the Scholl Canyon Landfill and hill-

side development projects, enables us to provide a forum for information, and allows us to provide canyon-wide activities such as our

Annual Meeting,  
Pancake Breakfast,  
National Night Out  
and our Dog Parade.  
Please complete and  
mail in the enclosed  
membership form

Membership Renewal Form

2015 GOCHA Calendar of Events

The President's Column

Hillside Development

Scholl Canyon Landfill

Emergency Drinking Water

INSIDE  
THIS  
ISSUE:



along with your payment check. Your interest and involvement in GOCHA makes a huge difference in improving the quality of life for all of us who are lucky enough to live here in beautiful Glenoaks Canyon.

**WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!  
THANK YOU!**

*Published by:*

**THE GLEN OAKS CANYON HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION (GOCHA)**

Proudly serving the residents of Glenoaks Canyon - and all of Glendale since 1955

## 2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### ANNUAL CANYON DOG PARADE

Sat. April 11th

11:00 AM—1:00 PM Glenoaks Park

### ANNUAL CLEAN UP DAY

Saturday, May 16th

Meet at Canyon Marker, 9:00 AM

### NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

TUESDAY, AUG. 4th

6:00-8:00 PM Clubhouse, Glenoaks Park

### ANNUAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 16th

7:30 TO 9:00 PM, Clubhouse, Glenoaks Park

### PANCAKE BREAKFAST

SATURDAY, SEPT. 19th

8:00 AM—11:00 AM, Clubhouse, Glenoaks Park

### GLEN OAKS CANYON HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

#### 2015 Board of Directors

##### *Executive Board*

President David Weeks.....662-0902

Vice President Paul Chamberlain...548-8707

Secretary Sharon Kelly Lee.....242-3029

Treasurer Angela Vukos.....247-2781

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Carol Kemp.....244-1097

Rick Marquis.....216-4202

Larry Meyer.....242-4290

Joan Morris (Echo Editor).....242-5586

Gerald Rankin.....241-0450

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## The President's Column

### Winter 2015

Greetings and Happy New Year. It's been a year since I've assumed the duties of GOCHA president and it has been a particularly busy and interesting year. One year ago, I stated in this column that one of the main objectives of GOCHA was to help to maintain the natural beauty of our Canyon. This year we were presented with challenge to this objective when the city of Glendale announced that they intended expand the capacity of the Scholl Canyon Landfill as well as extend the number of years that the landfill would remain open. GOCHA reached out to the city and was able to persuade them to extend the public comments period from the end of May to the end of August. This allowed more time for Canyon residents to review the city's Environmental Impact Report and present their opinions on this proposed expansion. GOCHA was also able to help implement a town hall style meeting back in May at the Joe Bridges Clubhouse where residents were able to express their concerns directly to city officials. GOCHA will continue to pursue this matter into 2015, and with your support, we can and will be able to get the city to reconsider this project as it's been proposed and in turn maintain the natural appearance of the Canyon and its surroundings as well as preserve its environmental integrity.

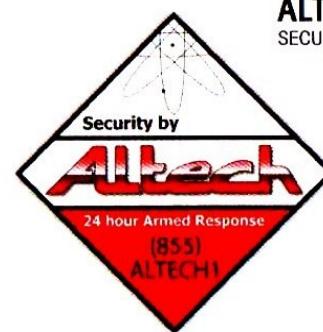
It's also important to point out that GOCHA is by no means a single issue organization. Among our responsibilities is keeping an eye on developers who attempt to build structures which exceed the size of the lot they intend to occupy. In addition, we monitor proposals on steep hillside lots which cannot support such structures. It remains a bit of a mystery to me why the city planning office allows some of these projects to move forward but occasionally they do and that is when an organization such as ours is a benefit to the Canyon.

We also help support and fund our Canyon's Disaster Preparedness group which, through the tireless leadership of Isabelle Meyer, has become one of the most respected such organizations in all of Southern California. I would encourage all residents to participate in this organization if not by becoming a volunteer, to then at least fill out the form that has been mailed out to all Canyon residents so that in the event of an emergency, assistance can be provided if needed.

As always, I encourage everyone to go to our webpage at [glenoakscanyon.org](http://glenoakscanyon.org) for more current information on upcoming GOCHA events or relevant news regarding Glenoaks Canyon. This is also a great time to renew your membership to GOCHA using the enclosed Membership Renewal Form. This form is also available at the GOCHA website.

Thanks and have a wonderful 2015.

**David Weeks**  
GOCHA President  
[Presidentglenoakscanyon.org](mailto:Presidentglenoakscanyon.org)  
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**ride the bus!**

## Threat of Hillside Development Remains in Sleepy Hollow Area

With much of the ridge between Glenoaks Canyon and Eagle Rock under private ownership, further development of the ridge remains an ever-present possibility. A proposed project on the Sleepy Hollow Drive fire road was reported in the fall issue of the ECHO. At the end of March 2014, story poles had been raised on a piece of land just uphill from the "Wilderness" sign on the dirt fire road that leads to the popular viewpoint overlooking Eagle Rock on the crest of the ridge. Those story poles still stand, though now leaning and greatly tattered. Yet, our latest contact with the Glendale City Planning Department reveals that little or no progress on refining plans for a 3,000-square-foot house has been made by the property owner since we last reported the proposed development.

A decision by the City, if it should come, allowing construction of a house on this lot would likely provide the proverbial foot-in-the-door for extensive development of the ridge. We understand that other, nearby property is being offered for sale. Recently, some residents of the Sleepy Hollow area have reported receiving a notice advertising an offer to sell ten "residential vacant lots" on the Valle Vista Drive fire road, which is another designated wilderness area on the ridge.

Construction on the ridge presents numerous challenges to developers. The City indicates that it would require the developers to pay for paving and otherwise improving the dirt roads and for providing the necessary utility infrastructure. Moreover, building on many of the lots would require variances because of steep slopes and unstable ground. To many Glenoaks Canyon residents, building on any of the lots would seriously compromise the recreational and aesthetic value of the ridge. GOCHA will continue to monitor the situation.



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## EMERGENCY DRINKING WATER

Fifty 55 gallon barrels for storing emergency drinking water were recently purchased and delivered to our canyon at a **discount cost of \$82.50 (incl. tax)**. Each is enough to provide safe drinking water for 10 days for a family of 4. A pump and other accessories are included.

Most of the barrels have found homes with families in the canyon but 18 remain. Keep in mind that water from pool and spas cannot be made safe for human consumption.

We urge you to purchase one of these barrels for your home. You fill it with water from the hose, add the preservative and are guaranteed water for the next five years. Then you refill with fresh water for another five years, etc. The barrel should be placed in an accessible area in the shade and not directly on concrete.

Please support GOCHA's 25-year effort to keep canyon residents safe by providing your family with necessary emergency drinking water. Call Isabelle at [\(818\) 242-4290](tel:(818)242-4290) to arrange for delivery.



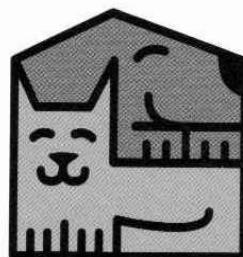
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## **Expansion of Scholl Canyon Landfill Still Under Review**

Glendale City's proposal to expand the Scholl Canyon Landfill is still on the table. We have been told that the final Environmental Impact Report, which will reveal the City's and County's recommendations about the proposal, will be presented to the Glendale City Council for a decision some time in the first half of 2015, probably in the spring. The interests of the City government and those of the residents of Glenoaks Canyon seem at this point intractably opposed. And so are their goals. The City wants to keep the Landfill operating as long as possible – even into the Twenty-Second Century if that could happen. The majority of Glenoaks Canyon residents want it closed as soon as possible. Landfills never have been good neighbors for residential communities. Air and water contamination, noise, spoiled vistas, and ruined recreational areas – Scholl Canyon Landfill involves all of it.

It is now generally accepted by sanitation experts that landfills of any kind in any location are not a good thing. Surely one sitting on top of a range of hills, set in an active earthquake fault zone leading into a great urban center's most important aquifer – is not only a bad thing, it is a monstrous mistake. Combine this scenario with the fact that the landfill is placed squarely in the middle of residential neighborhoods fringing it on all sides, and it seems truly incredible that responsible community leaders could have deliberately placed this thing where it remains for all to see. But it was done, and now many people have come to rely on it.

The Scholl Canyon Landfill takes care of the waste of ten cities and unincorporated communities, among them Glendale, Pasadena, La Crescenta, and La Canada-Flintridge. Without it there are no better alternatives immediately at hand for the Scholl Canyon "wasteshed." If the only feasible alternative is to ship waste to another landfill, the cost to the environment and to the residents within the "wasteshed" would be greatly increased by transporting waste to

distant locations. Using another landfill in the Los Angeles Basin is not an option. All local landfills are either already full or are nearing capacity, and the State Government is unlikely to permit any more urban landfills in California.

The current fallback plan is to transport waste by truck and rail to a landfill roughly 200 miles away in the desert. At this point, the State is urging all communities to adopt a practice it optimistically calls "Zero Waste." The backbone of the "Zero Waste" concept is aggressive recycling. The City deserves praise for adopting the goal of "Zero Waste" along with many other communities. The ultimate objective of "Zero Waste" is elimination of the need for landfills. However, recycling combined with other practices currently being employed by the most forward-looking communities in the State cannot achieve the elimination of all waste. There still will be a substantial quantity of waste that cannot be absorbed through standard methods of disposal, and the City knows it – therefore, the concern to keep Scholl Canyon Landfill open.

In addition to improving recycling efforts and expanding the Landfill, the City has another idea to add years to Scholl Canyon Landfill. It is planning to begin constructing an anaerobic digestion facility at the Scholl Canyon Landfill site. Anaerobic digestion is capable of converting green waste into gasses, which can be used to produce electricity. Yet, it is unable to handle much of the waste that will be left after the robust recycling system envisioned by the City has diverted an anticipated 80% of the waste received for disposal. Establishing an anaerobic digestion facility at Scholl Canyon Landfill would create another disincentive to closing the Landfill. To begin with, it would presumably add a few years to the life of the Landfill by reducing the amount of green waste that would otherwise be buried there. Then once the City is ready to adopt a high-tech waste disposal alternative, it would likely cause some City officials to be reluctant to abandon the Landfill site due to the cost of disassembling the anaerobic facility and reassembling it at another location.

We believe most residents of Glenoaks Canyon would be troubled by the thought of any development at the Landfill (including an anaerobic digestion facility) that would further industrialize this site or expand it in any way. We strongly believe that there are now other, better alternatives than extending the life of the landfill. Plasma technology used in Western Europe is perhaps the most promising of them. The City should be held responsible for thoroughly exploring these alternatives before any new development is begun at the Scholl Canyon Landfill.

**Gerry Rankin**

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