

# PICKWICK GARDENS

Ronald W. Stavert  
President and Chief Executive Officer

1001 Riverside Drive  
Burbank, CA 91506

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Dear Neighbor,

In 1953, my grandfather, along with four partners, purchased the Pickwick Swim Park and Pickwick Riding Stables on Riverside Drive between Main Street and Mariposa. This decision, six-plus decades ago, solidified our family's long-term relationship with the City of Burbank.

During the more than 60 years that followed, the Pickwick has been our family's cornerstone with five generations of Staverts working at Pickwick Gardens in varying capacities. In fact, at the age of 12, I started out renting inner tubes at the Pickwick pool. Now I am President and CEO. The Pickwick has become a place of nostalgia for our family and many others. From first dates to birthday parties, the Pickwick holds many memories for generations of Burbank families.

To remain in business, the Pickwick has gone through an evolution of activities to keep up with the changing market. During the last 30 years, development growth and changing interests have resulted in the Pickwick no longer being the social hub it once was. These community gathering places have moved to coffee shops and restaurants, and many new entertainment options are now available in Burbank and surrounding cities. The steady decline in bowlers, ice skaters and conference use has made it difficult for the Pickwick to adjust and retain the patrons needed for a viable business.

Facing an uncertain future, we must now evaluate our options.

Pickwick's current zoning and permitted uses leave our family with limited business options to continue its legacy in Burbank. We can either become an evening entertainment venue or seek a land use amendment to introduce a more compatible use with the neighborhood. With our legacy and the community's best interest in mind, my family and I have partnered with Shea Properties to begin evaluating various options for our property's best use.

We chose Shea Properties for many reasons, but one stood out – they too are a family-owned business. The Shea family has a long history of building milestone projects and, like us, began as a plumbing company. In addition, Shea has a reputation for high-quality development, is based in Southern California and brings to the table both commercial and residential expertise. Equally important, they have an established history of long-term ownership, thereby becoming part of the communities where they reside.

Pickwick Gardens will continue to operate as long as possible. I have a firm commitment from Shea Properties that its first action will be to work with the Rancho neighborhood and greater Burbank to find a use that complements our community.

This is an emotional time for my family. The future of the business we've spent more than half a century building is unclear. But the Pickwick is more than just a business. Its halls and ballrooms have seen the smiling faces of youth hockey players and the happy tears of brides and grooms. We're proud to be part of Burbank's history and it is our hope to continue our legacy in the Rancho for another 60 plus years.

Sincerely,



Ron Stavert

