

United Streets of Hollywood Newsletter

April-May-June 2000

News & opinion by John Ehretz... Co-Chair

The Bus station nearing completion Cahuenga now, illustrates the ongoing wilful attrition of vital parking, so needed for Blvd. revival. (And a witless removal from its comfortable site on Vine St. simply to accommodate the mindless and useless Cinerama Dome project, if that ever sees the light of day in a desirable fashion.)

The SAVON on Cahuenga @ Yucca is finally completed.

The only parking surface available now for the 'revival' of the Blvd. is the truck storage property on the East side. But, that's owned by the Mayor's confidante, and subject to his pleasure.

HOLLYWOOD MARKETPLACE.UPDATE

The new approved plans are for 'affordable' apartments above shops and restaurants. 'Affordable' apartments, i.e. subsidized housings. Endorsed by **Goldberg** and the City Council. Mid America is obviously not to be the customer for this complex in a once famed location. The developers 'chickened'...this may possibly be unfair., heck, they are only strangers, attracted by the hoopla...looking for a superficial quick buck project. Sorrowfully, they are not 'world class entrepreneurs', . just guys trying to skateboard in on a trend. Confused, and,... looking at the desolate scene, who's to blame them for their exit protocol. Welllll, I'll make a motion, any seconds? But, what the heck, this is not the exuberance of the '80's with megabucks principals vieing for a pace in the rebirth of a world class Hollywood...These guys aren't even searching for the DNA of the remains for a clue..They recently abandoned a major project in Burbank leaving dismayed civic folk there. Too bad they simply didn't sell out hereabouts. But, there's even worst:

THE DOOLITTLE THEATRE, is to be bought from **UCLA** by the **CRA** and transferred to the **Regent** properties for resale to a latino extremist organization named **Nosotros**. We can expect community 'guerrilla' theatre in this once prospering live theatre site.

Thus: The theme of a commercial theatre district in this vicinity is now dead excepting only **The Pantages** as the sole survivor....for how long, one wonders. We exclude the Henry Fonda theatre, since it has been dark save only for rare ideologic bills

Curiously, the **Pacific Theatre** too, is deemed unfit for commercial use and designated for 'community ethnic theatre'(by what 'dictate'?) As is the old **Ivar Theatre**. Thus the planned demise of the

Hollywood Entertainment District as a regional entertainment resource. Incredible.

On an upbeat note: Hollywood Blvd. enterprise and revival is graced by **Tom Gilmore** redeveloper of the Equitable Bldg. @ Vine Street. Nowhere is one more needed and, most happily, more likely to succeed than he and his coterie there. He heralded for his revival of the **Palace Theatre** downtown. Vision and enthusiasm, and, evidently, financing. Oh, if he were only allowed a crack at the **Doolittle Theatre**. Folks such as he working to restore the Blvd. are 'the only game in town'

HOLLYWOOD, the City.

Every passing day proclaims the dire need for local control. The disastrous condition we are now in is revealed in obscure ways. i.e., a real estate advisor recommends purchasing in an adjacent community, rather than in a borderline city location because L.A.'s transfer tax is 5 times higher than the neighboring city.

Other sources: L.A. is by far the most expensive city to do business in.. The fundamental reason for the departure of all major Corporations from the city boundaries. Thanks to **Virginia Charon** sharing the L.A. Business journal, I see that the famed **JOEL KOTKIN** proclaims the concept that **USH** has long advanced: i.e. the need for radical surgery on the structure of our L.A. if it is to again be functional. In his words L.A. badly needs to become 'an archipelago of smaller cities' with a county legislature restricted to regional authority in limited issues...Essentially, that vision which **GEOFF SALDIVAR & I** presented to the Reform committees early on. I'll append a copy of his article. It identifies the dire needs which should propel the drive for an Independent Hollywood. Early August is the deadline for presenting sufficient signatures to put the matter to a vote of the residents of Hollywood.

The Yucca Corridor

MERLE SINGER of the **Yucca Corridor Coalition**, has been working on a comprehensive beautification of the neighborhood. The **Woodbury College** has enthusiastically joined in this effort, using the talents of faculty and students. The first project, the beautification of the Triangle Park @ Cahuenga & Franklin Aves. was unveiled April 19th at a meeting of activists. **Ms Jeanine Centuori**, Assoc. prof. of Architecture presented a model for evaluation.

This pocket park was first improved in the early 80's by a community group led by **Marshall Caskey**. The beautiful Jacaranda Tree has matured and will be retained. Changes planned are for more trees, and vegetation less suited to the comfortable lounging of

vagrants., etc. The discussion raised the hope of systematic tree plantings on surrounding street frontages, etc. all to achieve an improvement in this entry way to Hollywood Relieving the 'semi industrial' appearance. Way to go Merle. Funding is well along, we hear. Most comforting to see this coalition of interests toward much needed improvements.

GANGS, DRUGS, Most fatiguedly, we are again confronted with the infamous 18th streeters. They are now investing the Corridor as fleas in season. Graffiti again blossoms and, within buildings as well as publicly. The demise of CRASH and the intimidation of Patrollers is undoubtedly a major cause. We hear that we are to again have an Anti-Gang Unit...it cannot come soon enough.

Council elections are on board for this year and all residents of greater Hollywood must take particular interest in an optimal choice for the 13th Seat.

The last time we had a prominent resident activist stand and spend of his own money to seek election was some 14 years ago with the owner of the famous Tick Tock Cafe, Buzz Johnson. He lost to a professional politician, well connected and with ample funds. We have had 'professionals' ever inflicting their weird agendas on our tattered scene.

It is far to late in the day for us to have less than a seasoned local leader, and thinking of such: **JEFF SALDIVAR** has announced his candidacy for the 13th Council post soon to be vacated. We fervently wish him all success in this race. June 4th **GEOFF** is to be saluted as 'Man of the Year' by the 45th Assembly District Democratic party Assn. This at a spiffy luncheon @ the Westin Bonaventura Hotel downtown...

His mother, **ELAINE** is at home now recovering from pneumonia and a stay in the Centinela Hospital. **VIRGINIA CHARON** & I visited her recently there, it seems a very superior facility. **GEOFF** says that she has gained much needed weight at home and is now not entirely bedfast. Way to go **ELAINE**...

An organization of 13th district residents has met recently and plans another meet in June. Its theme is interviewing candidates for public office and determining support for such

It is called the;
COALITION OF 13TH COUNCIL DISTRICT RESIDENT'S ASSOCIATIONS
NEIL MALMBERG heads it and his address and phone number follow: 4037 Perelita Ave. #B
Los Angeles CA 90039
(323) 664-5642

Four council candidates were scheduled to appear, 2 did so and the 3rd, **Mr. TERRAZAS** sent a 13th council representative. **BENNETT KAYSER** spoke first, **GEOFF SALDIVAR** thereafter. He alone left a info sheet...a copy of which is appended to this publication

All who wish to be notified of future meetings should call Mr. Malmberg.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS

Hollywood folk have been exploring ways and the means whereby rationally organized folk could have some improved impact on issues involving their vicinities via the constraints of this ordained revision of the Charter. **JOE SHEA** speaking at one session, nailed it exactly, saying that the concept should be: An association of neighborhood organizations.

We have been asked our opinion of the prospects of this mandated crittur, and replied: slim and none, with the downside volcanic potential of abuse and corruption. But, chapter and verse are needed, herewith some thoughts.

These Councils are to have a legal association with the city governance. This will require them to operate with the same official behaviour with respect to notice, and the myriad requirements of governmental bodies. Membership, elections, meetings will all be so entailed.

To so prescribe the activities of volunteers is to propose the ridiculous. Those who recall the arcane elections for the CRA committees will recoil in horror. The norm was that mailings looked like junk mail and discarded, or were so arcane that the mass of those addressed simply discarded them, and searches had to be made for candidates to volunteer for the weird criteria, such as 'owner-resident', 'neighborhood juvenile leader', ad madhouse.

These Councils will need to be staffed and budgets provided. Suggestions abound as to payment for Council leaderships. Which brings into question the definition of a 'volunteer'. This is definitely not academic, we now have people calling themselves 'volunteers' who are paid for their time. Indeed, Universities now require 'volunteer' work as a needed credit for graduation.

Our Conclusion: After a first blush of enthusiasm the Councils will, with the exception of homeowner associations, end up as claques of City Council members, and, the famed **Ernani Bernani**, will be hailed as prescient in his observation of the outcome of the Charter Reform fiasco: that, "What was illegal in the time of Mayor Shaw will now be legal"

Would you believe it? via Virginia Charon L.A. has no ordinance prohibiting public urination or defecations by humans. This is doggone discriminatory against canines.

EVENTS:

JUNE 8TH VERA TYLECEK'S terrific neighborhood organization, the **OAKWOOD-SAINT ANDREWS-MAPLEWOOD Neighborhood Watch** will hold a meeting at the Korean Church. We're told it will touch on sensitive issues regarding animal control. All those interested in the plight of the lesser creatures are urged to attend. **6:45PM Korean Presbyterian Church, at: 4900 West Maplewood Ave & 470 N. St. Andrews Place** Street parking or in the lot behind the church

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The HOLLYWOOD COORDINATING COUNCIL's June meeting will install the new officers. The next season should provide meetings of great local interest. **Aaron Epstein** is in charge of planning such, tell him of your interests and thoughts. fax him @ (818) 506-0663

June Meeting

Time: June 9th, Noon

Place Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel

Reservations: 323-463-0716 Fax 464-2950

Email: DRemsenAHS@aol.com

Passings: 'AL' HAVARD, early May 4th morn. in COUNTY USC MEDICAL CENTER from the complications of a metastasized prostate cancer. Long beloved and respected on the Hollywood scene, he was prominent in Disney films, TV dramas and commercials. and devoted to the community. His genial and hearty persona is greatly missed in the Blessed Sacrament Church and by all who knew him. His grim final ordeal is a sharp lesson to all to be alert to this vulnerability so as to act timely.

Visit your website: **www.ushollywood.net**
Suggestions and contributions solicited. J.K.E. ed.