

#### **FROM JUDY BAYER**, RHOA President

Happy 2024 to all. As we ring in the New Year, let's all explore the Power of Participation. Joining in neighborhood activities and events is an excellent way to connect with our neighbors. Whether it's a Let's Chat gathering, a National Night Out, an Octoberfest, a Wine & Cheese Gathering, or the RHOA Annual Meeting, opportunities are provided to enjoy new friendships and strengthen the existing relationships of a closely-knit community, a safer neighborhood.

By actively initiating and participating in neighborhood watch programs, we can work together to enhance the security of our homes, making everyone feel more at ease.

And let's all join forces to enhance the beauty of our neighborhood. Whether it's improving our landscaping, maintaining our yard and parkway, or organizing work parties to improve Rollingwood entry areas, small efforts can make a significant impact on the aesthetics of our surroundings.

### IF YOU HAVE NOT JOINED THE RHOA, PLEASE CONSIDER DOING SO TODAY. HELP US REACH THE GOAL OF 50% PARTICIPATION

The RHOA Board has made the difficult decision to increase the annual membership dues to \$25.00 per year. While the City requires the Rollingwood development to maintain a homeowner's association, the payment of membership dues is optional. **Our operational costs have steadily increased**, while membership numbers have steadily declined. (The last time membership increased year over year was 2012.) The increasing costs include professional landscape maintenance of both Rollingwood entrances, webpage and internet costs, printing of flyers/newsletters, and costs associated with neighborhood activities.

### Annual Meeting



At our Annual Meeting on October 17, 2023, we enjoyed our guest speaker, Jeannie Naughton, Community Development Director, Rolling Hills Estates. Jeannie has had an impressive career in the public sector, having served in planning and community development roles for four

California cities, where she has helped manage a wide range of high-profile projects. Her experience includes project management of residential development projects, large-scale commercial and mixed-use projects, code and long- range plan revisions and infrastructure projects.

Jeannie has a significant background in sustainability along with a passion for collaboration in her work to support the City's and community's vision. Her recent work on the RHE City's General Plan and its implementation along with the policies set by City Council have been impressive.

At our meeting, Jeannie presented a high-level overview of the housing/land use laws since 2016 that impact RHE, the General Plan (GP) & Housing Element (HE), the upcoming zoning code changes to implement the GP and HE, and our ADU program. Topics addressed included Applicable Changes in State Housing, Bills/Laws since 2016 that Impact RHE, our General Plan and Housing Element, and Zoning Code Update: How they all tie in together.

# Winter 2024

## **Neighborhood Events**

Cheers to the success of our neighborhood **Octoberfest** at the lovely home of Kathleen and Steve Campbell. Planned to the last perfect detail by Kathy Swank, Marie Reichart, and Kathleen Campbell, it was highly enjoyed by all. Mouthwatering German delicacies from pretzels to sausage, and everything in





between provided something for every taste. It was a heartwarming evening of neighbors sharing laughter and clinking glasses in a true spirit of our Rollingwood Community. Thank you, Kathy, Kathleen, and Marie, for giving of your time and skill in making our Octoberfest such a wonderful neighborhood party.

The progressive **Wine and Cheese Gathering** at the homes of Lisa and Mark Pope and Kathy and Bob Swank, was a perfect ending to the year, and a wonderful opportunity to visit with friends old and new. The humming of conversation was heartening as neighbors mingled, sharing stories, and forging connections over a shared appreciation for our special community. Many thanks to the Popes and the Swanks for giving of their time and energy demonstrating once again the power of participation in fostering the success of neighborhood solidarity.



### Join the Rollingwood HOA

You can pay your 2024 HOA dues either by check or via Venmo. For Venmo search for @rollingwoodhoadues or simply scan this QR-code to submit your \$25 payment. Please include your name, address, and contact info (email/phone). The RHOA profile setting is set for PRIVATE, which limits text visibility to the sender and RHOA treasurer. You may also provide or update your information by emailing Kathy Walker at <u>koreklaw@gmail.com</u>. You also may complete the RHOA questionnaire that is available on our webpage (rwoodhoa.org) or attached to this Newsletter.

The membership dues increase applies to those who have not yet submitted their 2024 payment. If you already have paid, please do not submit an adjustment. Check the updated membership list.



For those paying by check, please make your check payable to Rollingwood HOA and mail it to Kathy Walker, Treasurer, 4902 Rockbluff Drive. Many thanks for the hard work of Kathy Walker and her team to set up the Venmo account for us. They did an outstanding job!

## News from Community Relations and Ordinance Education

### - Vice President Doug Wickstrom

Can't Wait for Spring? The New Play Equipment at Rockbluff Park is Open! The 'Grand Opening Celebration' of the new Rockbluff Park play area equipment was a big success in late August. If you and your kids haven't checked it out, Rockbluff Park is located at the east end of Rockbluff Drive. The park also is accessible from a small parking lot on the southwest corner of PV Drive North and Hawthorne Blvd.

Some of the new play area features include a paved access ramp with handrails, benches for play supervisors, and cushioned material under the slide, climbing, and other play equipment.

If your family already has tried out the new play area and liked the experience, why not send an e-mail note to the RHE City Manager, Greg Grammer, and give him a 'thumbs up.' Gregg's email address is: <u>Gregg@rollinghillsestatesca.gov</u>.

### **Opportunities to Help Your Community:**

In addition to participating in the Rollingwood Neighborhood Watch, the City of Rolling Hills Estates has several volunteer committees and commissions which advise the City Council on various issues. These include the Environmental Advisory Committee, the Traffic and Safety Committee, the Equestrian Committee, the Planning Commission, and the Park and Activities Commission. Positions become available on a periodic basis and are an important mechanism for residents to have a positive impact on the community. More information is available on the City website at: https://www.ci.rolling-hills-estates.ca.us/government.

# Crime Report from L.A. County Sheriff's Department:

The rash of residential burglaries in Rollingwood decreased slightly in October and November with only one residential burglary reported on Silver Eagle Road in mid-November.

As a reminder, a Sheriff's Department detective said that investigators will check for exterior video surveillance cameras in the neighborhood of a breakin. Please keep that in mind when installing a surveillance system and when reporting a burglary or other crime.

Also, remember to lock the doors and windows of your home when you are away ... and keep your car doors locked when they are parked on the street or in the driveway.

If you are interested in receiving a crime report by internet, you can sign up by contacting Bob Closson, Coordinator, at rhenw90274@cox.net.

### Something new from Waste Management

Did you know Waste Management's "At Your Door" Special Collection service can safely collect many types of unwanted potentially hazardous and hard-torecycle items from your home? Scheduling a home collection is as easy as 1–2–3. Simply contact Waste Management at <u>https://www.wmatyourdoor.com</u> via email or at <u>atyourdoor@wm.com</u>, or call 800-448-7587.

Most commonly collected items:

**Household Chemicals:** Ammonia, cleaning compounds, bleach, floor stripper, draincleaner, rust remover, carpet/uphostery cleaner, tile/shower cleaner and more.

**Batteries:** Various sizes: AA, AAA, C, D, Rechargeable.

**Fluorescent Lamps:** Compact lamps (CFL) and straight tubes.

# Biking Reminders from the City:

When riding bicycles, e-bikes, scooters, etc., be safe and follow these simple tips:

- Ride in designated areas (i.e. bike lanes) and in the same direction as traffic.
- Always wear a properly fitted helmet and securely fasten the chin strap.
- Never use electronics while riding.
- Follow traffic signs and signals

Finally, the City of Rolling Hills Estates strictly prohibits riding bicycles, e-bikes, scooters, mopeds, skateboards, etc. on equestrian trails.

# **RHE City Web Site:**

If you haven't already done so, take a look at the excellent on-line source of information covering City activities and resources (<u>https://www.ci.rolling-hills-estates.ca.us/community</u>).

# **Community Appearance Updates**

### Warren Arata Holiday Home Decorating in Rollingwood:

As we look back, it seems like the Covid lockdowns and restrictions were so long ago. People are travelling more and freely socializing again. It appears this back to normalcy was reflected in the number of homes decorated for the holiday season.



The home of Kim and Greg Gray on Rockbluff Drive was the perennial neighborhood champion. Bluemound and the area by Willow Wood and Dunwood had a nice density of homes that also were beautifully decorated. We want to thank all who have bedecked their homes this year to make our neighborhood look festive and inviting.

## Winter Rains:

To prepare for the potential rains predicted for this winter, it is a good idea to make sure that your gutters are clean and any drains are clear of dirt and debris. Ensure that you have positive drainage away from your home to the street, (and not your neighbor's property). If you want to capture rain, you can use a good trash can and set it under a downspout, You will be amazed at how fast a 50-gallon trash can will fill.

Sandbags are available for Rolling Hills Estates residents at Ernie Howlett Park Maintenance Facility Monday-Friday from 7:00 am-3:30 pm. A sandbag filling station is also available at L.A. County Fire Department Station 106.

There are many places from which you can purchase rain capture barrels with kits to attach to an existing rain gutter system. Keep an eye out for flyers from the Water District as they routinely give away rain barrels. These programs are very popular, and they invariably run out of barrels quickly. Here is a link to the West Basin free rain barrel program interest list for 2024.

https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/3a6697e668ec46ec b8ce3e8a9ae45020

## From the Editor Will McCown – Communications Chair



Greetings from the newest member of the RHOA board and editor of this newsletter. In addition to the newsletter, I am responsible for maintaining and updating the RHOA website and other duties as they evolve.

I've already done some work cleaning up the website (<u>http://rwoodhoa.org</u>) to bring it a bit more up to date.

I bring to the job expertise from my long career as an engineer, primarily in electronics and computer technology. I spent over 20 years working in Hollywood's special effects industry including designing one of first machines for scanning film to digital imagery for the addition of computer graphics imagery. I currently work for the USC Libraries as a technical project manager.

My wife, Diane Ross, and I moved to Rollingwood from South Pasadena about ten years ago – the climate here is lot better than that of the San Gabriel Valley.

# Winter 2024

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	2023-2024 Roll	ingwood	Homeowners A	ssociation (RH	OA)	
		0	p as of 1/13/24 -	,	,	I
Bluemound (5/38)	Dunwood (3/37)	Rockbluff (1/48)		Rollingwood (2/51)		Willow Wood (2/52)
Ellison*	Leseberg	Galdones		Lutz/Heller*		Pope*
Augustsson*	Stucker			Rosen		Schill
Hughes*	Azer					
Arata						
Newman						
Broken Bow (1/13)	Elmdale (0/37)	Silver	Spring (1/32)	ring (1/32) Foxpoint (0/15)		Kingspine (0/42)
Park*		McCown/Ross		McArthur*		
Davis*						
Silver Eagle (1/11)						
Kotsianas						