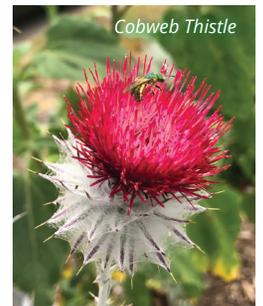


# HOLLYWOOD PARK HERALD

Published by the Hollywood Park Neighborhood Association for Hollywood Park & Carleton Tract residents, Sacramento, CA

Fall 2020



## Native Plant Gardening: If You Plant It, They Will Come

By Julie Clements

Nurturing my yard back to life has been a joy and a privilege right here in Hollywood Park. We took a hot, barren, weedy front lawn and created a small California urban wild-scaped oasis over the last four years.

An indicator of ecosystem health is the wildlife supported within your space. This spring, a pair of western blue birds moved in and raised and fed a clutch of chicks. Every day I would see the pair spend a lot of time foraging in the yard. As an avid wildlife enthusiast, I was thrilled. The key to keeping wildlife around is maintaining the food web and habitat intact.

*Story continues on page 3*

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### Hollywood Park Activists Help Win Study of Freeport Blvd. \$250,000 Grant from CalTrans

by Julie Scheff

For John Maradik-Symkowick, and for so many of his Hollywood Park neighbors, making Freeport Blvd. a safer street is just as important to his family as properly securing a child's car seat.

When he walks his five-year-old son, Oscar, to school across Freeport Blvd, he can't help but remember that a grandmother lost her life doing the very same thing in 2018. Her grandson, a schoolmate of Oscar's, was also critically injured.

Along with neighbors from both sides of Freeport, John has been tirelessly advocating for safety changes on Freeport Blvd since then. The city had erased the crosswalk at Oregon and Freeport Blvd just two months before the fatality. They had also taken out the crosswalks at Potrero and Virginia (and Freeport Blvd.)

*Story continues on page 6*

### Meet Your Neighbor

by Kathleen Spitzer

If you walk by UC Davis geology researcher and lecturer Dylan Spaulding's 23rd Street house you would never suspect he was building a 17' Northeast dory from scratch in his garage.



Having built two similar boats with his late father, and inheriting some of his tools, he decided to take on the challenge of building a boat along with the sailing rig, oars, and everything else needed to get it on the water. Dylan and his wife Megan have lived in the neighborhood since 2017 and welcomed a son last year.

# NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWS



Jeff Lidicker, HPNA President

## President's Letter

Hello to all Hollywood Park and Carleton Tract residents! I wanted to thank each of you for a successful HPNA June General Meeting on Zoom. Clearly, we have never done such a thing before and are thrilled that it went so well. As part of the June meeting, we asked residents

what they thought of and what they wanted from HPNA, and we heard you!

Here are a few highlights of what we heard from residents:

**More HPNA Community Events.** The Board has responded by working hard to design community events that all can participate in during the pandemic, including children. For starters, we are considering changing the name of the quarterly HPNA General Meetings to Community Meetings to better reflect their purpose. Look in this issue of the newsletter for new types of events and contests we are planning.

**More Neighborhood Information and News.** The Board has responded by providing a related article in this newsletter on the City winning a \$250,000 grant from CalTrans to study the Freeport Blvd. business corridor for safety and beatification improvements. More local news articles include native gardens to create bee and bird habitats,

our own local chalk artist, and resources for our seniors during COVID-19.

**More Information About Our Local Businesses and Residents.** The Board has responded with articles in this newsletter of long-time residents, one with a unique project. Look for more articles of this type in future newsletters.

**More HPNA Board Transparency.** The Board has responded by adding a feature to the website called "Email the Board" so that it will be easy to contact the Board about any topic you like. The public Board meetings are being held on Zoom during COVID-19 so it will be easy for anyone to attend, see [hollywoodpark95822.org](http://hollywoodpark95822.org) for more information. Also, we are designing a resident online survey we hope to release in the Winter to better learn what HPNA means to you and what can be done for you.

Keep your eye out for our September General Meeting on Zoom, uh....or I should say, our September Community Meeting Wednesday, the 16th at 6:30pm.

As usual, there is definitely more that needs to be done than there are Board members to do it. We are always looking for help. If you have a skill or can provide labor, please visit our website, [hollywoodpark95822.org](http://hollywoodpark95822.org), to volunteer or just send us an email at [info@hollywoodpark95822.org](mailto:info@hollywoodpark95822.org). I wish everyone health and safety. I'll see you all walking and biking around!

Your HPNA President,  
Jeff Lidicker

## HPNA Community (General) Meeting

Wednesday, Sept. 16th  
6:30 p.m. | via Zoom

Join your neighbors and the HPNA Board for a virtual Community Meeting to discuss projects and initiatives that impact our neighborhood.

**Zoom Meeting ID: 813 6100 5278**

**Meeting Passcode: 333743**

More information and a direct link to the Zoom meeting is available at [www.hollywoodpark95822.org](http://www.hollywoodpark95822.org).



The Hollywood Park Neighborhood Association (HPNA) has been working to improve our neighborhood since 2001. We are active in monitoring local and county government projects and enjoy hosting annual neighborhood events.

## HPNA Board of Directors

<b>President</b> Jeff Lidicker	<b>Vice President</b> Jannelle Rattigan
<b>Treasurer</b> Debbie Keller	<b>Secretary</b> Julie Scheff

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## Contact the Board of Directors

Email: [info@hollywoodpark95822.org](mailto:info@hollywoodpark95822.org) | P.O. Box 22278 Sacramento, CA 95822

## Native Plant Gardening *(continued from cover)*

Common gardening techniques, which I had previously practiced myself, call for removing all leaf litter, using herbicides and pesticides, dead-heading, lolly-popping trees, and generally pristinely cleaning up the garden. This was before I learned about native plant gardening.

Native plants play essential roles for the food web. They naturally produce flowers at the right time to feed birds and bees. Each native plant attracts different species. It's a choose your own adventure story. Do you like seeing the lesser goldfinch in your yard? Plant cobweb thistle and the annual common fiddlehead. If you want to see the beautiful Western tiger swallowtail, attract them with buttonbush, a type of willow. If you are looking to attract adorable longhorn bees who sleep in flowers then plant the annual CA sunflower. Want to see flocks of berry eating western waxwings? Plant an Elderberry tree. They are also host plants. The narrow leaf milkweed in the valley is the only plant Monarch larvae will eat.

Leave the seeds! Seed heads are natural little grain silos that many birds and small animals depend on. Collect some of the seeds to share or propagate yourself. Many native plants vs. nursery clones readily reseed. They love our climate! Know your plants and don't over crowd them. Plant for your size and width to avoid pruning. This will reduce your green waste and your carbon footprint.



*My front yard "Before" transforming it into a field of wildflowers (vs. "After" cover photo)*

Leaving plants in their natural shape allows for self-mulching and weed suppression. Initially you might start out with bark chips but ultimately a natural process will take over. Beneficial insects thrive in leaf mulch. Leave as much leaf litter as you can around your plants. It not

only naturally feeds the soil and the plant but it also is habitat for overwintering native bees. When we remove all the leaf mulch we are destroying insect and small animal habitat.

I also started a compost bin where I put extra leaves, yard trimmings, food waste and small sticks. Removing food scraps from your trash reduces methane production and while most native plants don't like compost, your vegetable garden will thank you. Incorporating logs and larger sticks into the yard design creates habitat for beetles and lizards. I often see western blue jays hammering away at the logs looking for insects.

The native plant eco garden has many benefits. From simple joy and mental health benefits to reducing urban heat sinks and mitigating asthma by creating better air quality. The future is going to bring only more environmental pressure. I encourage everyone to find their niche and think long term. I changed some key gardening practices and the results in my own yard have been so rewarding. Fall is the most advantageous time to plant a native garden. For plants propagated from our region go to Elderberry Farms, SacValleycnps.org.



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# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

## The Hollywood Park Neighborhood Mega Garage Sale

### Back by Popular Demand!

*Saturday, October 3rd*

After last year's success and the general enjoyment of all, the Hollywood Park Neighborhood Mega Garage Sale is "tentatively" set for Saturday, October 3rd. So reevaluate your closets. Ask that bike "When WAS the last time you left the garage?" Set some of those throw pillows free. The event will be posted on Nextdoor and Facebook. Signs will be posted, but any and all who want to participate can add their own direction signs. If you would like your house listed, please send an email titled Garage Sale to 920sac@gmail.com. You will receive a response when the address is added.

Please remember with the changes in how all our communities are handling day-to-day living, we will all need to practice safe and healthy guidelines for ourselves and our neighbors. *[This event is not sponsored by any organization. It is all volunteer.]*

## CommuniTree Planting Day

*by Irene Wilson*

Hollywood Park CommuniTree Committee thanks all the neighbors who have planted free shade trees in the past two years and are keeping them well watered during the long hot summer months. This year we are planning a social distanced Planting Day on October 24th. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions we won't be able to have teams of volunteers planting the trees, as we have done previously. If someone is physically unable to plant a tree, they can request some help.

Trees will be delivered to participants' homes prior to October 24th. Tools and mulch will be available for recipients on that date. Videos from Sacramento Tree Foundation will be provided online with detailed instructions on planting procedures. We are also offering free stump removal of front yard shade trees.

These services are being funded through a grant from our District 2, County Supervisor, Patrick Kennedy.

If you are interested in any of these programs, please contact Torin Dunnivant at Sacramento Tree Foundation:

torin@sactree.com | (916) 924-8733

## Families: Join Us for the Spirit of Each Season!

Children are encouraged to create seasonal artwork based on the themes listed below. Any family that sends us an email by the end of each month with a picture of your child's artwork in

your window gets their name in the next newsletter and/or on the HPNA website. Email us at [info@hollywoodpark95822.org](mailto:info@hollywoodpark95822.org).

In lieu of the city sponsored Ice Cream Social which has been canceled due to COVID-19, HPNA is launching the September Ice Cream theme. The first 50 entries that we receive will also receive a cold treat from HPNA! When you email us, please provide the name of your child as you would like it to appear in HPNA media.

- September: Ice Cream (due September 30)
- October: Fall Festival: apples for Apple Hill season or fall leaves, pumpkins, etc. (due October 31)
- November: Turkeys (due Nov 30)
- December: Snowflakes (due December 31)

## Fun in the Hollywood Park Sun

*by Christina Maradik-Symkowitz*

More ways to enjoy outdoor time in Hollywood Park

What can you complete on this list?

- Read a book on your front porch
- Pick a fallen leaf or two from the ground, bring them home and identify the tree from which it's fallen... or make a leaf wreath? leaf rubbings? leaf art?
- Participate in your monthly HPNA window scavenger hunt
- Visit Libby's front yard (Murieta Way + Knight Way) and find some beautiful fossils for your kids
- Eat lunch in your front yard, heck, breakfast or dinner, too
- Take a walk to our favorite neighborhood farm (23rd St. & Anita Ave.) to appreciate the change of season
- How many of Nixy's chalk drawings have you seen? Your neighbors? Have you made any?
- Go for a bike ride
- Smile and wave 'hello' to a passing neighbor, even if you do not know who they are
- Write a Haiku (a three-lined poem):  
line 1 = 5 syllables; line 2 = 7 syllables; line 3 = 5 syllables

Walks in the morning

in lovely Hollywood Park

make me so happy.

- How many little libraries have you found?
- Can you walk down an entire neighborhood street backward? or by only hopping?

# Halloween in Hollywood Park

by Christina Maradik-Symkowitz

Halloween is the next big holiday and our very own chalk artist Nixy is organizing a Hollywood Park Halloween Scavenger Hunt! If you were already planning to decorate for Halloween, this would be a perfect opportunity to join us for some Halloween hunt fun!

This is an opportunity for those who do not necessarily feel comfortable with trick-or-treating, but would still like to participate in Halloween festivities.

How to participate:

If you would like your spooky decorations (spiders, bats, skeletons playing monopoly or gardening, pumpkins, etc.) on a printable list and for your home to be included on a map for the Hollywood Park Halloween Scavenger Hunt, please call or text us with your information at (916) 583-8612. Closer to Halloween, this information will also be posted on the Hollywood Park Facebook page with a digital link to send your information.



*Suggestion: put decorations up by October 25th for fun all week long!*

We have put together some common sense tips and suggestions (with the caveat that we are not doctors) to try and keep physically distanced for Halloween in Hollywood Park.

- Halloween is on a Saturday this year. Trick-or-Treating between 4-6pm might make sense for you. Daylight would help drivers see families crossing the street as well as help families see ahead to keep physically distant.
- Having a treat table or container on your front lawn close to the sidewalk could ease congestion of kids coming to your porch, and allow for physical distancing.
- It could be fun to sit more than 6 feet away from the treat table and enjoy the costumes!
- Goody bags of one or a few items may be easier for little hands to grab without touching many things.
- Ask your child to pick up the first item that they touch.
- It might be helpful to have a pump of hand sanitizer with your treats for the little Halloween travelers.
- If you are in a part of the neighborhood that sees more foot traffic, it could be useful to mark some "Xs" more than 6 feet apart on the sidewalk indicating where to stand to keep physically distant.



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## Hollywood Park Activists Help Win Study of Freeport Blvd. *(continued from cover)*

a few years prior when John and other neighbors advocated for improvements.

For the last two years, as chair of the Freeport Blvd. Transportation Safety Committee, John has been working with other neighborhood activists, the organization WalkSacramento, and local leaders to enhance the safety and walkability of Freeport from Sutterville to 34th Ave. Their work included a resident survey and a Walk Audit in May 2019. In February 2020, WalkSacramento finalized the Freeport Blvd. Walk Audit Report for the committee. It highlighted the biggest hazards on Freeport and states the group's recommendations.

In October of 2019, John was surprised to hear that the city decided to apply for a grant to conduct a safety study of the corridor. This is the critical first step before actual comprehensive infrastructure changes can occur. With the support of the Hollywood Park Neighborhood Association and WalkSacramento, the application was a success. The July 2020 award of one quarter-million-dollars from CalTrans means that Hollywood Park residents and surrounding neighbors will get to help direct changes to Freeport Blvd. and improve that fatal corridor.

"It's a big victory. The fact we got this is huge," said John, "Our neighbors and HPNA and other neighborhood associations wrote letters of support, which sealed the deal."

The committee hopes the future plan for Freeport Blvd. will slow traffic, and create more crosswalks to make crossing Freeport Blvd. safer. The plan could also beautify the route so that drivers realize they are next to a residential neighborhood.

City planning techniques can create safer and more beautiful roadways. Some could be used along Freeport Blvd., said John. Sidewalk "bulbs-outs" in which sidewalks protrude into the street make crosswalks shorter and with better lines of visibility. Planting trees in park-like pedestrian walkways not only enhance people's experience, it also signals to drivers they are passing a place where people live, walk, and play. Narrowing lanes from the existing 12-13' to 10' or even 11' would be another signal for drivers to slow down.

Other changes the committee hopes to accomplish along Freeport Blvd. include better bus shelters with coverage from the elements, improved sidewalks, tree plantings, and trash cans

As part of a letter-writing campaign to support the city's grant application, John's son, Oscar, wrote a letter to the city pleading for Freeport Blvd. changes. In that letter he asked for speed bumps to slow traffic. Once, when traveling a portion of Freeport with newly-installed speed bumps (from Broadway to 4th Ave.), Oscar cried out: "they listened to me". He did not realize that those speed bumps were part of a different effort totally unrelated to the safety grant for Hollywood Park and that change is much slower than one would like. For instance, it could be five to ten years before the study's findings are implemented.

In October 2020, as the first step of the Freeport Blvd. safety study project, the city of Sacramento will search for a consulting group to conduct the study. And in Winter 2021, neighbors will be interviewed about their desired changes.

"Community engagement is a big part of this project and the city and county will be reaching out to the community for input," said John.

Simultaneously, John and others are working with another group called the Greater Land Park Safety Coalition. The group, which represents ten communities (among them Hollywood Park), is working to get community priorities accomplished more cost effectively and more quickly. They are working with city leaders to apply for funds to that end. The Hollywood Park Neighborhood Association has committed to write a letter of support for their efforts.

*"It's a big victory. The fact we got this is huge."*



*John and committee members highlight areas of safety concerns*

## Sidewalks & Safety

From the Office of City Councilmember Jay Schenirer



Jay Schenirer, District 5

Greetings Hollywood Park!

As we approach the end of summer we can look back and reflect on the fact that this one was anything but ordinary. While it would be easy to see this as a negative thing, we can also choose to focus on the incredible resilience in your community. It's been great to see neighbors making the

most of being at home, including walking and biking. Some great things are happening around Hollywood Park.

Although things look a little different than they normally do—usually my message this time of year is to remind parents to slow down around LdV and Hollywood Park Elementary—a lot of great things are continuing to happen. Recently, the Transportation Planning group in Public Works was awarded a grant of \$509,000 from CalTrans to study both Northgate Blvd. and Freeport Blvd. These corridors have been designated as top priority thanks to the help and awareness brought forth by the Freeport Blvd. Transportation Committee, based right out of Hollywood Park! It is anticipated that the planning effort will kick-off in early 2021. The community outreach and planning

effort will take approximately 24 months and the plans will be brought to council for approval in Winter 2023. We are excited to work with the community on these plans to increase safety and mobility along Freeport.

On the topic of safety, I also want to address a topic that we've received many emails about: sidewalk repairs. Sacramento City Code, Section 12.32, and California Streets & Highway Code 5610 requires that the maintenance and repair of public sidewalks be the responsibility of the property owner. Defective sidewalks can cause serious injuries and transportation issues for wheelchairs and other similar devices. By taking responsibility for our sidewalks, we are able to help prevent these issues from happening in the community.

We are also understanding of the current climate; to learn more about the option to defer the repair, residents can reach out to the inspector listed on their notice or call 311. For more information on the City of Sacramento's residential sidewalk program, please visit our website at [www.cityofsacramento.org/Public-Works](http://www.cityofsacramento.org/Public-Works).

As always, please contact our office should you have questions or concerns.

(916) 808-7005 | [jschenirer@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:jschenirer@cityofsacramento.org)

We're here to help.

- Jay

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## Edna Johnson: 70 Years in Hollywood Park!

by Lynn Humphries

It was September of 1950. Edna and Knute Johnson had just moved into their newly completed house on Knight Way. Prior to that, they had been living in a one-bedroom house in the Veteran's Housing at 5th and Broadway. There were still many empty lots and plenty of construction going on during their first year or two in Hollywood Park. Raley's was at the corner of 24th and Fruitridge and there were ditches along 24th Street. Edna and Knute raised their three children, Norma, Stan and Les in Hollywood Park. They all attended the two neighborhood schools, Hollywood Park Elementary and Joaquin Miller Junior High before attending McClatchy High School. Knute passed away in 2004.



Edna turned 93 on July 25th. She remembers fondly all the neighbors who have come and gone during her 70 years in Hollywood Park. With a grin on her face, she recalled how Les caught a frog one year in the ponds

*Knight Way in 1950 (top) and Knight Way today (bottom)*

that used to form during the winter months. She said that frog lived for over 20 years in her backyard. Edna is very independent, still drives, plays Mexican Train Dominoes with Les and his wife Maureen, and enjoys the weekly "social distancing" gatherings with her Knight Way neighbors.

## Rita Templin: My Blue Bird Leader

by Kathleen Spitzer

When Margaret (known as Rita) Templin and her late husband, Dr. Harold Templin, moved to Florence Way in Hollywood Park in 1954, gasoline was \$.29 a gallon, postage was \$.03, and a loaf of bread was \$.17. Shortly after, Florence Way became Joaquin Way. Apparently, there was another street in Sacramento already named Florence Way.



The Templins bought their house directly from the builder (Mr. Phillips, who lived next door) for \$19,500 and their monthly payment was \$139.

A native of Dallas, Texas, Mrs. Templin has a degree in Spanish from Southern Methodist University, and was a substitute teacher while her husband attended dental school at Baylor. While raising their three children, Larry, Anne, and Peggy, she was very active in the PTA, was my Blue Bird leader, and until the COVID-19 shutdown occurred, was the Financial Secretary at First United Methodist Church. And at 96, Rita still plays a mean piano.

The Blue Birds was grade-based level of the Camp Fire Girls, an inclusive youth program that came to Sacramento in the 1920s and remained popular in this region for more than seventy-five years. When Blue Birds, the youngest members, entered the fourth grade they could 'fly up' to the next level and become Camp Fire Girls.

## Pandemic Resources for Seniors

by Lynn Humphries, owner of A Sure Solution, Senior Living & Consulting

People have asked if there are resources for seniors who are living alone during this pandemic. The answer is yes:

### 211.org

Enter your location to find referrals to more than 1,600 community services in the Sacramento area, including financial, health care, and housing assistance, as well as meal deliveries through the "Great Plates Delivered" program, a first-in-the-nation meal delivery service for California's older adults (funded by FEMA).

(800) 510-2020 | [cityofsacramento.org](http://cityofsacramento.org).

### ACC Meals on Wheels

Provides meals and home delivery for homebound seniors.

(916) 444-9533 | [moswac.org](http://moswac.org)

### Agency on Aging - Area 4

Provides a wide variety of community resources for all of Northern California

(916) 486-1876 | [Agencyonaging4.org](http://Agencyonaging4.org)

### Paratransit

(916) 557-4685 | [www.paratransit.org](http://www.paratransit.org)

### Resources for Independent Living

(916) 446-3074

[reception@ril-sacramento.org](mailto:reception@ril-sacramento.org)

### Sacramento County In Home Supportive Services (IHSS)

The IHSS program provides services to eligible people over the age of 65, the

blind and/or the disabled. The goal of this program is to allow you to live safely in your own home and avoid the need for out of home care.

(916) 874-2888 | [saccounty.net](http://saccounty.net)

### Senior Companion Program

This is a volunteer program for anyone 60 years of age and older, low income, who are willing to share their lifetime of experience to help homebound seniors remain safely and happily in their own home. For more information, please call:

(916) 875-4463 or (916) 875-3631

There are also In-Home Care companies that can provide assistance in your home, either part-time or full-time. Care can include meal preparation, house cleaning, laundry, shopping, personal care, and transportation to and from appointments.