

# HOLLYWOOD PARK HERALD

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

Winter 2025

## HPNA Business Member Highlight Winter 2025: Nicole Shieh, LMFT *By Paul C. Nauman*



Q: What do you love about Hollywood Park? A: So much! I grew up in a part of San Francisco where no one really talked to each other, everyone minded their own business, and there was constant turnover. Here in Hollywood Park, my husband and I felt immediately welcomed by the neighbors on our block. The community is so friendly, down-to-earth, and diverse. I love that there are so many young families like ours (we have a 6-year old daughter and 3-year old son). Our day-care (run by board member Jillmarie) and elementary school, Leonardo DaVinci, are within walking distance, and we've met dozens of families in the neighborhood. I love seeing our kids growing up together, learning how

to bike, taking walks, and admiring all of the creative front lawns, gardens, and trees. And the houses that go all out for Halloween and Christmas are awesome (the live band that played to trick or treaters, and the Barbie house was especially impressive this year)- Thank you for bringing the holiday spirit that delights us each year!

Q: What would you like neighbors to know about your practice? A: I am a licensed marriage and family therapist, working both in-person at my office in midtown and online throughout California. I can see couples, and individuals teenage and above. I like to do depth-oriented, long-term work with clients on a range of different issues like trauma, depression, anxiety, life transitions, grief, and other difficulties. (cont. Pg 4)

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HOLLYWOOD PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
**COMMUNITY MEETING**  
 and  
**SECOND ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF**


DECEMBER **10** 6:30 - 9:00 PM

Board Elections | HPNA Updates  
 Neighborhood Updates | Chili Cook Off!

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## President's Message

By Claire Sallee

Greetings Neighbors! I hope that you're enjoying these Fall days: beautiful colors, lovely decorations, perfect weather. I feel so lucky to live where we live...AND I feel lucky to be on the HPNA!

It's been nice seeing folks at the various HPNA events of the last couple of months. We hosted **Oktoberfest at Fountainhead Brewing**, which brought out some neighbors to grab a pint after the ever-fantastic Hollywood Park Mega Yard Sale (not sponsored by HPNA, but still very appreciated!). I personally had a great time during the yard sale; I love meeting people and getting rid of my stuff at the same time: a win-win!

We had a wonderful turnout on **September 5 at St. Robert School** for our **FREE annual movie and ice cream social night** with Councilmember Maple's office. A big THANK YOU to Councilmember Maple and to St. Robert School! It was the largest turnout in several years, and it was very sweet seeing so many neighbors come out to watch "How to Train Your Dragon" and enjoy their time outside.

Coming up, we have our annual **Community Meeting the evening of Wednesday, December 10 at Two Rivers Cider!** We will come together for our 2nd annual Chili Cook-off; HPNA Board elections; a review of, and vote on, the HPNA bylaws; updates from your local representatives; and an update on the state of HPNA. You must be a dues-paying HPNA resident member to vote. There's information on the chili cook-off, as well as some candidate statements, elsewhere in this newsletter. We hope that you are able to join us there!

The HPNA is also offering support to Councilmember Maple's **Southside Santa Parade on Saturday, December 14!** The whole entourage (including Santa!) will stop at **St. Robert School from about 6:40 p.m. - 7:10 p.m.**, where your little ones will get hot chocolate, candy canes, and even a photo with Santa! The official site for the event is [sacd5.com/santa](http://sacd5.com/santa) if you'd like more information.

And finally, the HPNA is asking for submissions for your favorite Winter holiday decorations in the neighborhood! Categories are MOST UNIQUE, MOST INTERACTIVE, and BEST OVERALL. To nom-

inate your neighbors, please submit a couple of photos, as well as the address of the residence and which category you're nominating them, to hpna95822@gmail.com. Deadline is Monday, December 1; winners will be announced at the December Community Meeting.

As always, the Board meets on the first Thursday of every month starting at 6:30 p.m. We vary where and how we meet (in person, hybrid, and zoom) to make it easier for folks to join us; always check the HPNA Facebook page for meeting info!

Thanks for being part of this wonderful community; we'll see you around the neighborhood!

## Get Ready to Turn Up the Heat: Hollywood Park's Annual Neighborhood Chili Cookoff & Community Meeting!

By Amanda Jaynes

The smell of spices and friendly competition will soon fill the air as Hollywood Park prepares for its 2nd Annual Neighborhood Chili Cookoff, happening at our December community meeting on Thursday December 10 at 6:30 p.m. at Two Rivers Cider. This new tradition invites residents to showcase their best chili recipes and their community spirit in a fun and festive atmosphere.

Whether you're a seasoned chili champ or a first-time cook with a secret family recipe, everyone is encouraged to join the competition. Participants can enter in one of two categories: Traditional and Vegetarian. Each competitor must prepare a crock pot of chili and bring a list of ingredients. Toppings will be provided by HPNA.

All attendees to the December meeting will be provided with scorecards, and entries will be judged anonymously to keep things fair.

Prizes will be awarded for each category, along with plenty of bragging rights. In addition to the cookoff, there will also be awards given out for holiday house decorations, and a special visit from Santa.


So grab your apron, your best recipe, and your appetite! We look forward to seeing you in December!

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Appointments Available

# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

(continued from Pg 1) Q: Any stories or favorite things about HP? A: I have one funny story. One afternoon, I was walking with my then 4 year old daughter, Opal, from daycare. She had a total meltdown while we were walking, and she was impossible to reason with. A neighbor, I think her name is Vickie, suddenly came out of her house and walked up to Opal and said, "Hi, would you like a banana?" Opal immediately stopped crying and took the banana and started eating it, and then we calmly walked the rest of the way home. If you are reading this Vickie, thank you again, we'll never forget how you saved the day! Connect with Nicole in the neighborhood or through her website: [www.nicoleshietherapy.com](http://www.nicoleshietherapy.com).

## What Happened to the Hollywood Hardware Sign?

By Ralph McDaniel

Many residents in Hollywood Park have been curious about what may have happened to the giant neon hammer that once graced the roof of Hollywood Hardware.

It was reported that Dennis Messner, the former owner of the buildings that contain Hol-



lywood Hardware, Crawford Books and Little Caesar's Pizza, sold the sign to a friend of his who will install it at another business.

It was Mr. Messner's parents who founded the business in 1948.

Any theories or rumors you may have heard about the beloved iconic neon landmark being demolished or that it would be moved to a new hardware store moving into the old Raley's location are unfounded.

Calls to the Messner family for further details

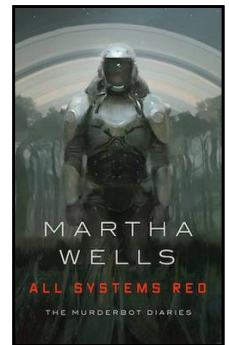
hadn't been returned by the time the Herald went to press.

## Crawford's Corner -- The Murderbot Diaries by Martha Wells

Review by Sue Richards

Who doesn't love a good science fiction novel about a sentient security robot who hacked its governor module and just wants to be left alone to watch its favorite shows...

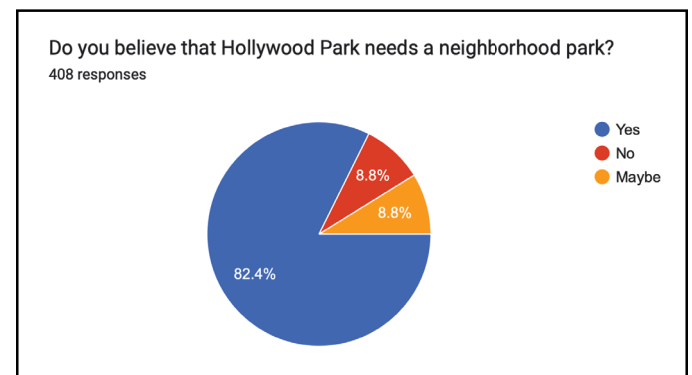
Martha Wells created the The Murderbot Diaries series in 2017. With eleven books to date, this series will keep you entertained by the hijinks and shenanigans of the self-proclaimed Murderbot. Its long-suffering inner monologue is at times laugh-out-loud funny and at others insightful. It is a story about a robot with a heart of gold – in its own words, "As a heartless killing machine, I was a complete failure."



## Update on Our Neighborhood Park Effort

A Message from Councilmember Caity Maple

Many of you have seen the lawn signs around Hollywood Park inviting neighbors to take a survey about the idea of creating a new park. I want to thank everyone who took the time to participate. We received more than 400 responses, which is remarkable for a neighborhood with just over 600 homes. Your level of engagement shows how much this community cares about creating more places for families and kids to gather, play, and enjoy the outdoors.



The response to the survey was overwhelming-

ly positive. As many of you know, conversations about a possible park began a couple years ago when the empty lot behind St. Robert Catholic School was being considered for sale. The property sits between St. Robert, LDV Elementary, and Hollywood Park Elementary, which makes it a natural fit for a neighborhood park. When my office learned the land might be available, we began looking into whether it could be purchased for this purpose. Because the city is currently facing a budget deficit, we also explored using a Community Financing District to fund construction and ongoing maintenance. The survey helped us understand whether neighbors would support that idea.

I want to share the latest update. The Catholic Diocese of Sacramento, which owns the land, has decided not to sell the property. While this is not the outcome we hoped for, I am grateful for everyone who participated, helped spread the word, and voiced support for a park in our neighborhood.

Please know that I remain committed to finding opportunities to bring a park to Hollywood Park. If you hear about any land that may come up for sale, let my office know. You can always reach us at [district5@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:district5@cityofsacramento.org).

### Sugar Cubes and Polio Vaccines, Attending Hollywood Park Elementary in the 1950's

By Greg Grunwald

Over the next 4 editions of The Herald you'll read about romances, friendships and a sense of community built around Hollywood Park Elementary School. Cynthia Gargovich was gracious enough to share how Hollywood Park Elementary School shaped her life.

Among Cynthia's earliest memories is her 1956 kindergarten class with Mrs. Girvin. In a class photo from that year, Cynthia stands in the bottom row, second from the right—a small moment preserved in time. This class was the very last Hollywood Park kindergarten to be held at what is now the site of Leonardo da Vinci School. The twist that makes the memory even sweeter is what came years later: when Cynthia attended Joaquin Miller Junior High School, the very same classroom she once attended as a kinder-

gartner became her art room. The building had changed purpose, the students had grown, but the space held its story.



Another powerful shared moment in Hollywood Park's early history came during the nationwide rollout of the polio vaccine. Cynthia remembers standing in a long line with her parents and brothers, along with families from across the neighborhood, all waiting to receive the vaccine. Instead of a needle, the vaccine came on a sugar cube—a small mercy that brought relief to many anxious children. "We all felt important," she recalls. "Everyone was there. It felt like something that mattered." Looking back, it was not just a medical milestone—it was a community milestone.

In the next articles you'll read about how HPE became Joaquin Miller Junior High and later Leonardo Da Vinci Middle School. You'll also read about Brad Klopp and his times in Hollywood Park.

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## MEET THE CANDIDATES!

Board elections will take place at the HPNA Community Meeting on Wednesday, December 10. Every dues-paying individual member who attends the meeting in person may cast a vote.

Below, please see the Candidate Statements that were submitted by the time this newsletter went to print. Additional statements are still being accepted, so if you are a person looking to build community and support positive change, please send a 100-150 word statement to [hpna95822@gmail.com](mailto:hpna95822@gmail.com). Thank you!

**Sequoia Erasmus:** Hello! My name is Sequoia Erasmus and I am running to continue as a board member of the Hollywood Park Neighborhood association. I would also like to support the association as Treasurer. As treasurer, I would support the Board president and the fundraising committee with the goal of increasing membership and raising funds for more fun activities that reflect the stated priorities of our community. Over the past two years, I have enjoyed working with the Hollywood Park Neighborhood Association and meeting many of our awesome and dedicated neighbors who make up the board or support in many other ways. I have used my own professional experience related to boards and committees to help update our Charter and bylaws and supporting with flyer design for various events. I am also very interested in supporting the realization of an actual park in our neighborhood, and I would support the creation of a “Friends of the Park” organizing group. I hope to continue serving Hollywood Park as a board member and future Treasurer. With gratitude, Sequoia

**Libby Morain Sandy:** I’m interested in joining the HPNA Board to help strengthen and connect our neighborhood. Since moving to Hollywood Park with my husband and two young kids, I’ve been inspired by how engaged and welcoming this community is, and I’d love to help keep that spirit growing. Professionally, I’ve spent 15 years in nonprofit leadership focused on fundraising, marketing, and community engagement — skills I’ve been glad to put to use supporting HPNA’s fundraising committee and membership efforts. Over the past year, I also partnered with HPNA to advocate for neighborhood access to the Hollywood Park Elementary playground, coordinating with city and school partners to move the process forward. I’m excited for the chance to continue building partnerships, welcoming new members, and supporting projects that make Hollywood Park an even more vibrant, inclusive, and family-friendly place to live.

**Paul Nauman:** My name is Paul Nauman, and I am interested in serving on the HPNA board for another term of service. I have enjoyed working with other neighbors to help make Hollywood Park the connected and active neighborhood that my family and I have always enjoyed for the past 16 years. I hope I can contribute to the newsletter and the variety of events that make our community great.

**Claire Sallee:** My name is Claire Sallee, and I am running for a second term on the HPNA Board. During my first two-year term—including one year as President—I have so enjoyed getting to know my neighbors and doing the work to bring more community events to our neighborhood. I had a great time at this year’s SummerFest in particular! I would like to stay on the board so that I can continue to work on an engaging calendar that are enjoyable and/or informative for everyone. I also hope to focus on the efforts to bring a park to our neighborhood by focusing on outreach and connection. I approach this work with neighborhood feedback as a priority to the decisions that we make, and I have the drive to say YES! I hope that I have earned your vote for another term. Thank you!

# HPNA BUSINESS MEMBERS

## Shop local to help the business in our community thrive

You will not only save money and time, the money you spend at local businesses is twice as likely to stay in the neighborhood while supporting local merchants, jobs for people in the area, equity for development and better local government services.

HPNA encourages residents to shop locally. When you shop at any of our business members listed below, let them know you appreciate their membership in the HPNA. Visit our web page at [www.hollywoodpark95822.org](http://www.hollywoodpark95822.org) to join as a business member.

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### Poetry corner announcement

Welcome to the HPNA Poetry Corner. Each quarter, we share a contemporary poem by a local writer — and/or a 'dog-eared' one selected by a neighbor. Our goal is to feature

poems that spotlight our time and place, and do so in a way that appeals to folks of all ages. If you would like to contribute a poem for the Spring newsletter, please email [hp-nasubmissions@gmail.com](mailto:hp-nasubmissions@gmail.com).

This Winter, Charlotte Ely (Hollywood Park resident and LdV mom) is sharing an original piece about an oak.

On December 5, local poets will join Local Sounds — the weekly acoustic music showcase that takes place at Two Rivers Cider every Friday from 6-9 pm. First Fridays from here on out, you can also explore the Local-Verse, imbibing with poets from Sacramento... and beyond.

For a comprehensive list of poetry-related happenings, check out Sacramento's Poet News: <https://www.sacpoetrycenter.org/poetnews>

## Winter Poetry Corner -- Written by Charlotte Ely

He wasn't always so stubborn.

For decades, he would bend and sway,  
letting the wind and the seasons  
move and shape him every which way.

More than old age made him rigid.

Dread tunneled like beetles through bark.  
Each small leaf on those big branches  
feared that ice would tear them apart.

It wasn't the cold that broke him,  
but heat on a calm afternoon.

His thirst became unbearable.  
His roots felt unearthed and hewn.



"What's Next" by Kathy Frevert Levenson

Desperate and dizzy, he panicked,  
as you would without any air.  
Rather than wither completely,  
he dropped his best limb in despair.

The impact was like an earthquake—  
the ground shook for miles around,  
cracking much more than the concrete  
so that rain could soak in the ground.

My brother, the oak, drank deeply,  
swallowing water and, also, his fear.  
To this day he is still standing,  
and his roots grow deeper each year.

## HP Takes Halloween To New Heights

By Paul Nauman

The streets of Hollywood Park were once again filled with tricks, treats, ghosts, goblins, and all manner of sweets-seeking characters. Yard decorations were in full effect throughout the hood, and many of our front yards became impromptu hangout spots for the passing families. Many costumes this year came from the world of anime and demon hunters. Highlights from the adults in costume included Kat and Tony Ebster dressed as Ozzy and Sharon Osbourne, as well as the "6,7" pair of Kathy Kahn and Scott Warner. One yard in particular brought a new element to the neighborhood's Halloween vibe: live music. At the corner of Joaquin and 23rd, Anya Lawler and her family continued their yearly display of skeleton antics. This year, the yard was transformed into the "Afterlife Music Festival" (a takeoff on Sacramento's "Aftershock" festival from a few weeks ago), which featured the lively and energetic music of the real-life



Davis band "Wealth of Nations." The band performed throughout the evening, playing songs from their classic rock catalog. Particularly appropriate



for the evening was the music of The Grateful Dead and "The Monster Mash". The band rocked and rolled throughout the trick-or-treating hours, and they closed with a soulful rendition of "Knocking on Heaven's Door" that had many HP neighbors singing along. Neighbors called for an encore -- got one -- and then some folks began making plans for how this awesome event could be the beginning of a bigger neighborhood event. Watch for discussions of a Hollywood Park Halloween Block Party in the future.