



THE FRIENDLY HILLER

WINTER 2017

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Friendly Hills Property Owners Association

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We have had a busy summer and fall at the Association and this seems like a great point in time to provide our residents with an update:

As you may recall we discontinued our hard-copy newsletter just over a year ago and tried to make our communication exclusively through our Friendly Hills Website. Unfortunately with our diverse residential base we found that many of our senior residents were not going online very often. Recently your Board voted to once again re-create our hard copy newsletter.

We have partnered with Tim Traeger, former editor of the Whittier Daily News, to again start the "Friendly Hiller" in hopes to have a 2017 newsletter ready to publish by the end of January. It is our plan to produce the newsletter each quarter and we hope that our members find it Informative.

As most of you know the Board Ford land is being developed; we are pleased to have it named "The Friendly Hills Market Place." By the time you read this message we are hoping that it will soon be opened, what a great addition to Friendly Hills. If you travel on the north side of La Serna you have no doubt seen that our Friendly Hills monument sign has been moved to its new home. It was a major effort to coordinate but it's now in place. Soon we will install new solar lighting which will illuminate the sign at night.

Our Board will soon offer the city a new sign to replace the broken welcome sign at the Pat Nixon fountain. Branding Friendly Hills has always been an objective for our Board and we will keep you all apprised of our progress. I want to advise each of you that we will host our Annual Meeting once again at W.A.C.C. on Thursday, April 27. We will serve a hosted dinner starting at 5 p.m. and begin our formal meeting at 6:30 p.m.

This year's speakers will include the Vice President of Brookfield Homes, Dave Bartlett who will show a video tour of the proposed development of 750 homes at the Fred C. Nelles Youth Correctional Facility. Mayor Joe Vinatieri and District 3 City Council Lady Cathy Warner will also give us a great video of new development around town.

So much progress has taken place recently in Whittier and there is more to follow.

Happy New Year to all Friendly Hills residents.

W. Allan Nakken President F.H.P.O.A.

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Hon. Cathy Warner Whittier City Councilwoman from District 3

Being a history buff, I was excited when Tim Traeger invited me to write a guest column for the Friendly Hills Property Owners' newsletter "The Friendly Hiller." My thoughts immediately wandered back to 1956 when my family moved from 421

N. Gretna in West Whittier to Christine Drive in East Whittier. Being in the middle of eighth grade at the time, I was devastated to have to leave Dexter Junior High School and transfer to East Whittier Junior High School. However, as most children do, I adjusted very quickly, graduated from East Whittier and went on to California High School where I had four wonderful years.

I remember as if it was yesterday that Colima Road ended at Mar Vista. La Serna High School, Friendly Hills Golf Course, the "new" homes around the golf course and the homes "behind the gates" did not exist at that time. We didn't have traffic issues ... Colima and Mar Vista were sleepy streets as streets relate to car traffic. Much unlike today!

It was not uncommon to see horses being ridden on the streets in old Friendly Hills on both sides of Colima. My sister had hers and rode daily. We still have a barn in the back of our property with three stalls and a corral. Even though my husband and I have lived on La Bajada for 31 years, we have never had horses, only children and grandchildren.

The area east of College Avenue is referred to as East Whittier. East Whittier was a separate agricultural community until the postwar era. The eastern parts of East Whittier, developed in the 1950s and '60s, are Friendly Hills, Murphy Ranch and Leffingwell Ranch.

An interesting event occurred in 1961 both for me personally and for East Whittier. In fact for the entire city.

A few disclaimers as I start this part of the story: (1) My dad was an engineer for the Los Angeles County Fire Department. For many years he was also president of the Firefighters Local Union 1014, (2) The City of Whittier had its own Fire Department (3) In 1961 there was an election held to attempt to annex East Whittier to the City of Whittier.

At the time, the L.A. County Firefighters opposed the annexation effort because, if successful, it would mean that the County would lose fire stations located in East Whittier (the current optical company on the west side of Colima just north of the Chevron station was a County fire station). So, consequently, my dad as union president led the charge for opposition to the annexation. Fortunately for me (although I didn't know it at the time), the annexation effort was successful and my childhood home on Christine Drive and my eventual adult home on La Bajada were now included in the City of Whittier. Eventually, the City of Whittier Fire Department was turned over to Los Angeles County and the County has provided our fire protection ever since.

It has been a privilege and honor for me to not only live in East Whittier since 1956 (except for my college years away from Whittier) but to also represent all the citizens of the East Whittier City School District, the Whittier Union High School District and the City of Whittier for the last 26 years as a local elected official. My youngest child graduated from La Serna High School in 2001 and, having served for 14 years on the school board, I decided I would like to continue public policy work on the City Council. It was with appreciation to the residents of Whittier that I was first elected to the Council in 2004.

With the vote of the citizens of Whittier, our at-large election system was changed this past year to that of four geographical districts and an at-large Mayor. The four council members serve four-year terms and the Mayor serves for two years. This past April, our East Whittier District (number three) and the West Whittier District (number one) held elections

Cathy Warner continued on page 4

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Friendly Hills Property Owners Association

Cathy Warner continued from page 3

along with that of the Mayor. I thank you for your support and was once again returned to the Council. Even though the four council members are now elected from a "District" (you can see the geographical boundaries on CityofWhittier.org) we each still represent the entire city.

To round out my family's experiences in Whittier, my grandparents lived on Pickering near the Catholic Church from 1920 until 1956 when they moved to 515 (now 6041) Bright Ave. In the Historic Homes area. That home stayed in our family until my mother moved in 2004. Also, one of our sons and his family owned a home for 10 years between Mills and Colima south of Whittier Boulevard.

My years living in both West and East Whittier have been very happy and I love living on our quiet, country street (although I'm not sure I like NOT having street lights). I enjoyed my tenure on the Board of Directors of the FHPOA and my one-year term as president in 1990. Kudos to Allan Nakken and his Board for stepping up and leading our association. I look forward to many more years as an East Whittier resident!

Cathy Warner is a Whittier city councilwoman from District 3, which includes Friendly Hills.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE NEXT F.H.P.O.A ANNUAL MEETING ON THURSDAY, APRIL 27 AT WHITTIER AREA COMMUNITY CHURCH
Dinner served at 5 P.M. - Meeting starts at 6:30 P.M.



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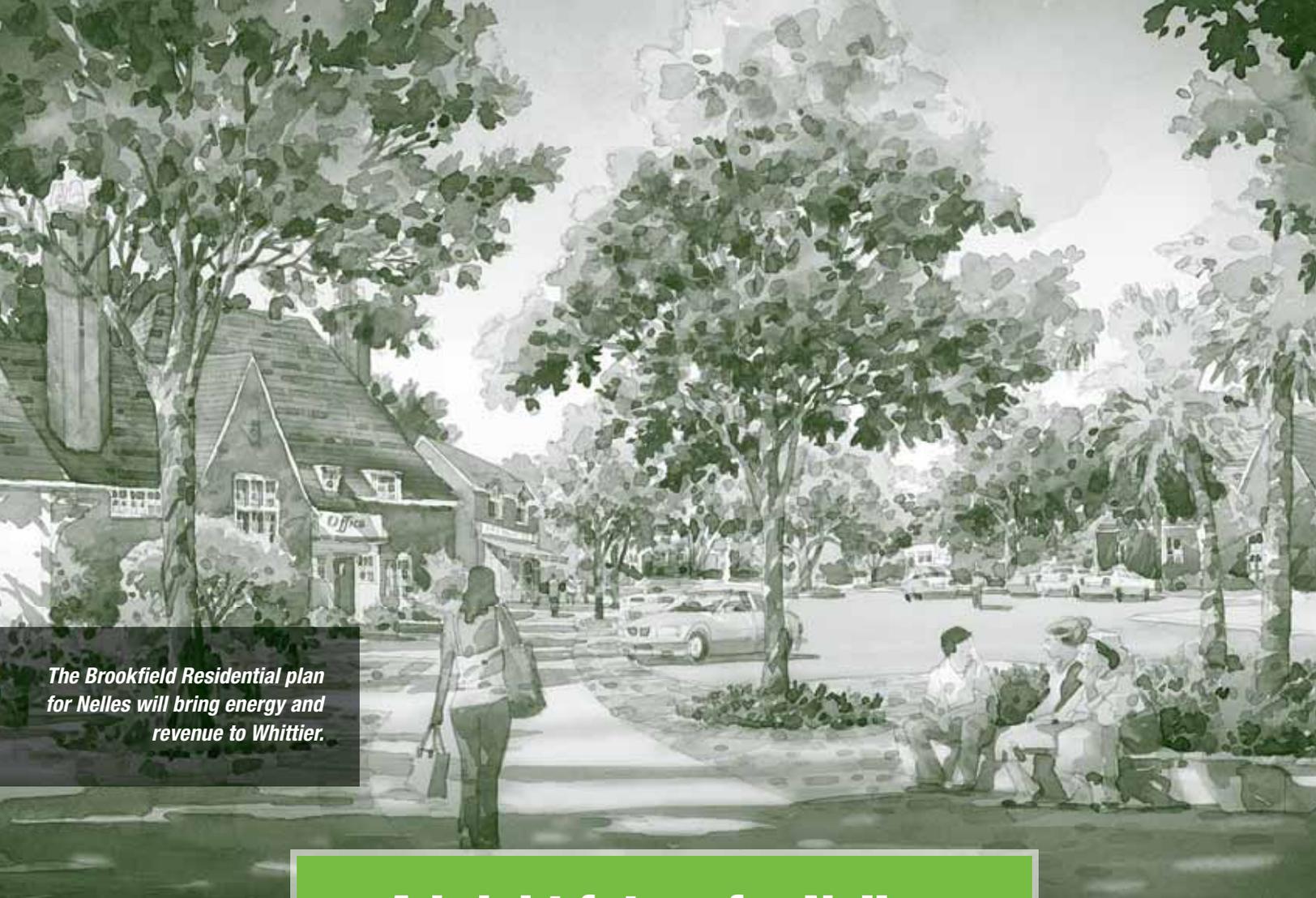
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Lieutenant Jay Tatman Whittier Police Department

Law enforcement has become increasingly more challenging in recent history for a variety of reasons, with demands being placed upon police officers at an all-time high. Many law enforcement officials attribute this trend to an assortment of causal factors, with a major

contributing factor being legislation, and its impact on public safety.

Recent legislation has been responsible for the release of tens of thousands of state prisoners back into our communities, changed the role of parole and probation and supervision of inmates once released, reduced a host of what were once felony crimes to misdemeanors, removed mandates for drug treatment and mental health programs, vastly limited the number of criminals who are incarcerated, and significantly reduced the tools available to law enforcement to effectively manage criminal activity.

It has been widely publicized that property crime rates all over the state have been on the incline since passing of this

legislation, and in several areas, violent crime has increased as well. Whittier has seen similar trends in property crime, but has been fortunate not to experience a violent crime surge. The most prevalent crime currently affecting Friendly Hills are theft-related crimes. I am, however, pleased to stress that you live in a wonderful and safe area. Your police department continues to work diligently to keep criminal activity at bay.

Another area placing strain on our community is social issues such as homelessness and mental health. People soliciting money, pushing shopping carts, displaying bizarre behavior, exhibiting signs of drug or alcohol intoxication, and setting up encampments within public view has become more commonplace. Calls to the police department related to these issues have dramatically increased and account for a considerable draw on police resources.

In an effort to more successfully oversee these problems, Chief Jeff Piper has arranged for a full-time mental health clinician to partner with our officers. This asset will be added to our resources in the near future.

Lieutenant Jay Tatman continued on page 8

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Lieutenant Jay Tatman continued from page 6

On a national level, politics, politicians, public perception and a perceived lack of public support have also placed a significant stress on those entrusted with providing police services. The actions of some police officers around the nation have been in the spotlight and have been the subject of deep scrutiny and opinion. The recent senseless and targeted slayings of police officers tend to challenge one's motivation to remain committed to their duties and have left many questioning their calling. Police officers remove the black mourning band from their badge in honor of one of our fallen, just to place it back on a few short days later.

In the wake of today's issues, the culmination of stress and pressure associated with providing police services can sometimes be overwhelming. But it's the difficult times like we face today that is why most law enforcement officials are drawn to this line of work. Without fail, when asking a young police officer candidate why they want to be an officer they respond, "Because I want to help people."

And while this seemingly all-too-cliché response has become predictable, it is truly what is at the very core and most applicably represents our public servants. The Whittier Police Department is comprised of an outstanding group of dedicated men and women who are here to help people and are fully committed to the needs of the public we serve. We are also grateful to work in such a wonderful community that has been genuinely supportive of the police department. As we walk through the various challenges facing our community together, we are honored for your partnership and proud to serve you, our residents.

The last couple of months have been an outstanding testament to the depth of our community's support. We are sincerely thankful for all of the hugs, handshakes and waves, for the letters and posters pledging your blessings, love and support, and for all of the gracious acts of kindness that came in the form of refreshing bottles of water and sports drinks on a hot summer day, to the sweet culinary treats of ice cream, cookies, and the ever-popular doughnuts that hold a special place in our hearts.

It was great to see all of you at the Sept. 1, 2016 community meeting at WACC. I hope you found the material educational, have made an effort to apply crime prevention tips in your life, and have a better understanding of some of the social struggles we face together.

Jay Tatman is a lieutenant assigned to cover Friendly Hills for the Whittier Police Department.

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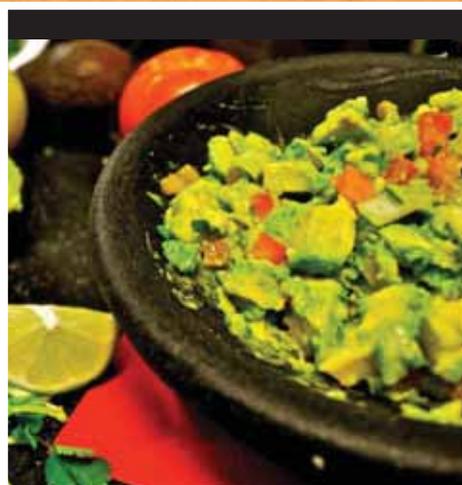
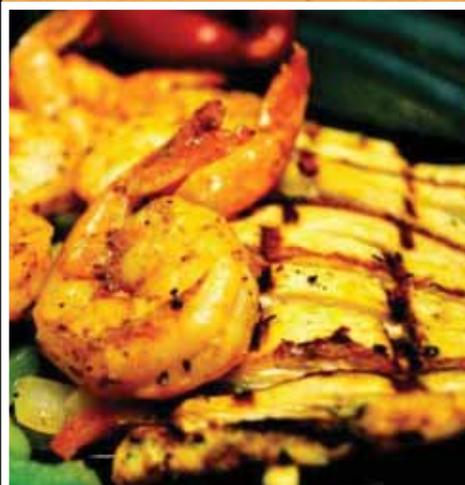
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CRIME IN THE FRIENDLY HILLS ADDRESSED AT WACC



Capt.. Aviv Bar of the Whittier Police Department welcomes about 400 people to a safety and security meeting on Sept. 1, 2016 at Whittier Area Community Church. Photos By Tim Traeger

By Tim Traeger
Editor
The Friendly Hiller

Frustration is a keynote theme when talking about cops vs. robbers in Friendly Hills.

On the heels of a home-invasion robbery in Friendly Hills, Whittier Police Chief Jeff Piper, Capt. Aviv Bar and Lt. Jay Tatman joined Mayor Joe Vinatieri and Friendly Hills Property Owners Association President Allan Nakken at Whittier Area Community Church on Sept. 1, 2016 to discuss how homeowners can protect their property.

An estimated 400 people came ready to voice their concerns. The police provided tips on what you can do to lessen the chance of becoming a victim, but also laid out a systemic flaw caused by legislation recently passed that recycles criminals in and out of the justice system.

“Look around you. You see what kind of a turnout we have here tonight?” Vinatieri said. “The reason why, to be candid, is we’re under siege. And it’s not just Friendly Hills, it’s throughout Whittier and Southern California. The council wants you to know that public safety is our No. 1 responsibility.

It pains me that we even have to talk about this tonight ... but there’s a reason why we’re under siege. You all need to be aware that we’re in a time of danger. The good thing is we can do something about it. Neighborhood watch is breaking out all over Whittier. Why? Because when there’s a problem the people of Whittier step forward to do what needs to be done.” Bar said the perception of crime in Friendly Hills is heightened by a fervent increase in social media.

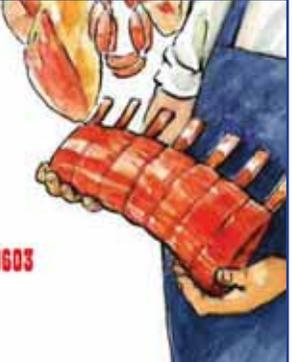
“With technology, we’re a lot more informed about what is going on,” Bar said.

Crime Address continued on page 12

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Crime Address continued from page 10

Bar said residential burglaries are often committed by gang-related burglary "crews" from South Central Los Angeles and Long Beach who send out "hundreds" of members every day – often in stolen or rented vehicles - to bring back cash, jewelry and electronics to satisfy an endless thirst for drugs.

Among proactive measures homeowners can take to protect their possessions include installing video surveillance cameras, home security signs, lockable mailboxes and hiding valuables inside the home. Bar added that vehicle theft can be avoided by locking your vehicle and not leaving valuable items in plain sight.

Another crime prevention tip is obvious. "If you see something, say something," Bar said. He added that police love when someone sees something suspicious and calls police in time for them to catch the theft in progress. The number for a non-emergency report is 562-567-9240.

"But if you see someone hopping a fence, dial 9-1-1. That's a crime in progress. We want to get there pretty quick," Bar said.

He said the police have finite resources, so as criminals escalate their efforts, it's incumbent on homeowners to watch out for each other. Bar suggested using Internet sites like nextdoor.com and crimereports.com to monitor crime locally in real-time.

Piper said the passage of Prop. 47 and legislation passed in 2011 has shifted the game. Fewer courts, a strained District Attorney's office and dwindling resources have led to a revolving door in the justice system.



A healthy crowd of concerned Friendly Hills residents gather at Whittier Area Community Church for a safety and security meeting on Sept. 1, 2016. The Friendly Hills Property Owners Association plans to make this an annual event.

"If one of you out there has a bag of heroin in your pocket, you can raise your hand because if you have no warrants, you are just going to get a ticket," Piper said. "You don't even go to jail. They get six months, they do 10 percent of that and they get released – often times without any probation. I want you to understand how difficult it is. There are three parts to the criminal justice system. We catch them, we give them to the District Attorney's office. Whether they're prosecuted, convicted or sentenced has nothing to do with the Police Department.

"So often times you people become victims two and three times over," Piper said. "If you've ever experienced the system, it's worse than going to the DMV."

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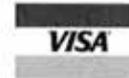
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TILTON HOME WINS BEAUTIFICATION AWARD



John and Diane Tilton relax inside the kitchen of their 3,000-square-foot ranch-style home in Friendly Hills near Murphy Ranch Park with a crystal Beautification Award they won from the Friendly Hills Property Owners Association in April. For more images visit www.friendlyhillspoa.com. Photos By Tim Traeger.

*By Tim Traeger
Editor
The Friendly Hiller*

Elegant without being haughty.

That's how John and Diane Tilton live. But just as sometimes greatness is thrust upon us, their 3,000-square-foot ranch-style home at 16127 Youngwood Drive earned the 2016 Beautification Award from the Friendly Hills Property Owners Association.

The four-bedroom, three-bath home valued at upwards of \$1.8 million overlooks Murphy Ranch Park and features new lighting, a spiral staircase leading to a 1,200-square-foot guest house, country Amish gazebo and whirligigs augmenting a river-rock-laden, drought-tolerant back yard abutting a four-car garage.

The Tiltons have lived in their home for 26 years, but a recent renovation elevated the property to new heights. "We gutted it," Diane said. "When we moved in, our focus was

the guest house because my dad died in 1988 and my mom sold us the house. I grew up in this house and she sold it to us on the condition we built her a guest house."

The half-acre property also features a thoroughly redesigned kitchen with Carrera marble island, state-of-the-art stove and stainless steel refrigerator. "My daughter calls this a 'continent' instead of an island," said Diane, who credited interior designer Cyndi Tietze for creating the home's interior magic.

"She's very talented. She knows my style," Diane said. Both John and Diane said they love living in Whittier and especially like Friendly Hills, although Diane did lament a lack of shopping opportunities in town.

The pair met when they worked at the old Alpha Beta supermarket on Gunn Avenue and Telegraph Road. "I knew the second he walked in. In 17 months I had him (walking) down the aisle. I was only 19," Diane said. "We got married at St. Bruno's. All I was worried about was him showing up." Both were Whittier natives with John graduating from Cal High and Diane graduating from La Serna.

The pair owns Cross Brothers Inc., a custom metal fabricating business based in Commerce. The Tiltons have two grown children. Tony lives in La Habra while Tracy lives in Tustin.

In addition to raising two children and running Cross Brothers, Diane also spent 15 years on the Friendly Hills Property Owners Association board. She believes in the power of a tight-knit community.

"Everybody should join the Property Owners Association," Diane said. "It's only \$45 a year. It's so inexpensive to join. You get a directory. You get a newsletter. It builds the community. I like living in Whittier. We watch out for each other."

SIGN OF THE TIMES

Antonio Rincon ties rebar at the new Friendly Hills welcome sign on La Serna Drive north of Whittier Boulevard. The sign was moved and the hole was dug by Glen Herrick of 11 Western States Land Development. It cost the Association about \$4,500 to move the sign from the old Board Ford property. Oppidan, Inc. of Minneapolis, MN. donated \$3,000 toward the project. Oppidan Vice President Paul Tucci was in charge of the development. Soon the monument will feature solar panels to illuminate the sign at night. Photo By Tim Traeger.





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Realtor/Owner

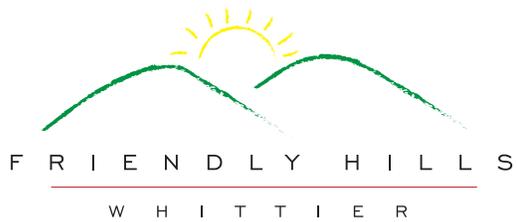
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