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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



W. Allan Nakken

**President,
Friendly Hills Property Owners Association**

I would like to thank all of our members and residents who attended our annual meeting at Whittier Area Community Church April 4. It was one of the largest meetings in our history.

The evening began with In-N-Out hamburgers for our membership and was followed by several speakers who informed our residents about all of the activities taking place with homeless encampments on the Greenbelt along Whittier Boulevard.

City Manager Jeff Collier and Mayor Joe Vinatieri said their hands were tied by a federal Ninth Circuit Court decision, *Martin vs. Boise*, that says authorities cannot legally force homeless people to move if there are not enough shelter beds to house them.

They are hoping for some resolve in the near future. This condition is quite bothersome to many of us and needs to be remedied quickly to maintain property values throughout Whittier. There needs to be a solution that works for everyone.

I am pleased to announce our membership continues to grow and we are very grateful for our new members who have decided to join our association. At our May meeting we will be choosing new executive board members, as we do every year, and will set plans and objectives to accomplish during the remainder of this year.

I am hoping we can soon announce a new Friendly Hills directory. This directory would be optional with respect to privacy concerns and our newest board member, Ella Neely, is compiling the list.

If the board votes to proceed with the directory we will seek legal counsel to ensure the protection of privacy for our members.

We hope to allocate improvement dollars wisely as we have completed the installation of lighting at all but one of our Friendly Hills "welcome" signs.

If any of you have suggestions as to how we can better spend our dues dollars please communicate your ideas so we can achieve relevant objectives during the next 12 months.

Allan Nakken

President
Friendly Hills Property Owners Association

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Letters to the Editor or suggestions for articles may be sent to the address or Website below:

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Friendly Hills Property Owners Association Annual Meeting

By Tim Traeger, Editor, *The Friendly Hiller*

It was a night of free In-N-Out hamburgers, information and camaraderie as about 400 people came to the Friendly Hills Property Association's annual meeting April 4 at Whittier Area Community Church.

Whittier City Manager Jeff Collier presented a comprehensive State of the City address, Whittier Police Chief Jeff Piper and Capt. Aviv Bar gave updates on an overall decrease in crime in our community, Mayor Joe Vinatieri addressed the burgeoning homeless dilemma and Brookfield Residential VP of land Dave Bartlett presented updates on the new Groves project at the former Fred C. Nelles Youth Correctional Facility.

Many in attendance came to address a growing homeless presence in visible spots like the greenbelt along Whittier Boulevard and a burgeoning encampment at Parnell Park.

Friendly Hills doesn't have a homeless problem, per se. The entire city does.

"I would say that Whittier as a city has a homeless population, like many cities around us," Bar said. "Homeless individuals are transient in nature, so they move from place to place in the community. There is a homeless presence in Friendly Hills, as we



have been called by the public about individuals living in ravines and vegetation-heavy areas. The concentration of the homeless community varies throughout the city, influenced by services that are available to them, weather and safety."

Before the annual city Eggxtravaganza at Parnell Park, city crews moved many homeless out of the area. On April 11 city staff, CalTrans, the Whittier First Day Coalition, the police department and officers from the California Highway Patrol removed more than 30 tents from the greenbelt area along Whittier Boulevard.

Yet because of a federal appeals

court decision in Boise, Idaho, homeless encampments cannot be lawfully removed if there's not enough shelter beds to accommodate displaced people. That means encampments could theoretically spring up anywhere in Whittier.

Collier gave an upbeat message to residents, but was honest as he warned the city could face a looming deficit to fund retirement obligations and rising costs going forward.

"Revenues are increasing, but e-commerce is really curtailing sales tax monies," Collier said, referring to brick-and-mortar stores like Sears, J.C. Penney and Kohl's.

"The difficulty is health care



costs, retirement costs, minimum wage increases. California is really in a bind and all cities and school districts are going to feel this pinch, big-time. We're looking at deficits going forward."

He assured that "mission critical" services like police, water, sewer and roads would remain but cautioned about the need for a citywide sales tax increase in the future. "It's not a popular thing to be talking about, but we could be facing a \$6 million deficit in six years.

"Every time you turn around, there's another ballot measure to go after our tax dollars," Collier said. "There' always good reasons. We need to build housing for the homeless. We need to improve our streets. We need to buy more open space. Air quality will be an issue in 2020."

All was not negative news. Collier said Whittier was recognized a second time for being one of the most business-friendly cities

in Los Angeles County as noted by the L.A. County Economic Development Corporation. Bartlett said the new Groves project will add an additional \$1 million to city coffers each year. Nakken added he was pleased to serve as president of the FHPOA going into his 20th year.

"My goal has always been to

brand Friendly Hills like Beverly Hills. Maybe not the same, but to have an identity that says we're a wealthy, professional community," Nakken said. He urged members to join or re-join the association for \$50 a year and touted a new membership directory being compiled by new board member Ella Neely.



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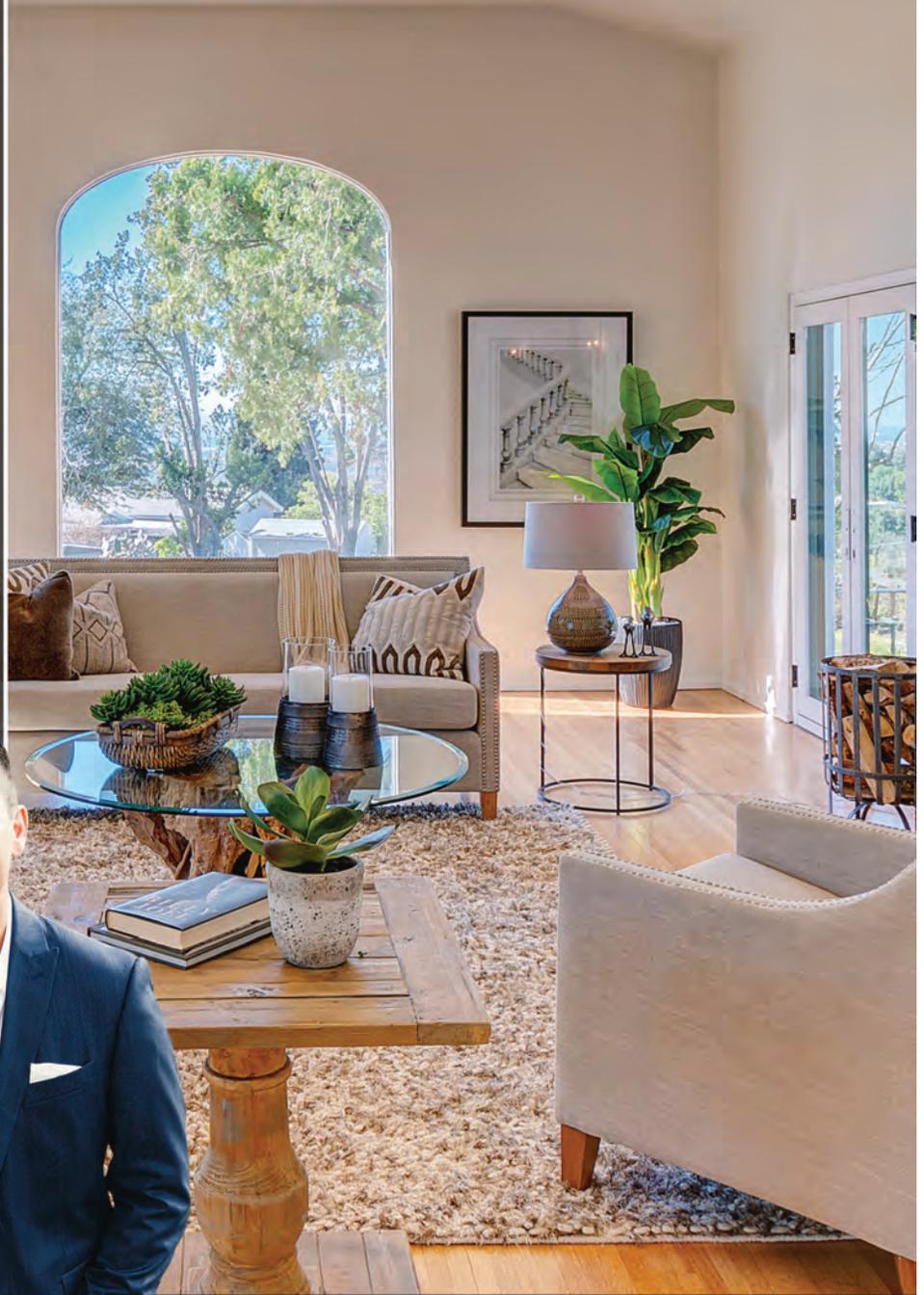
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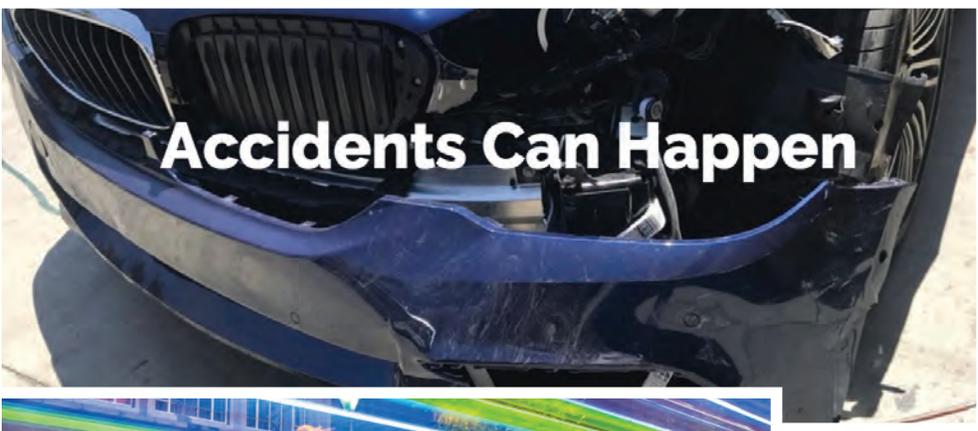
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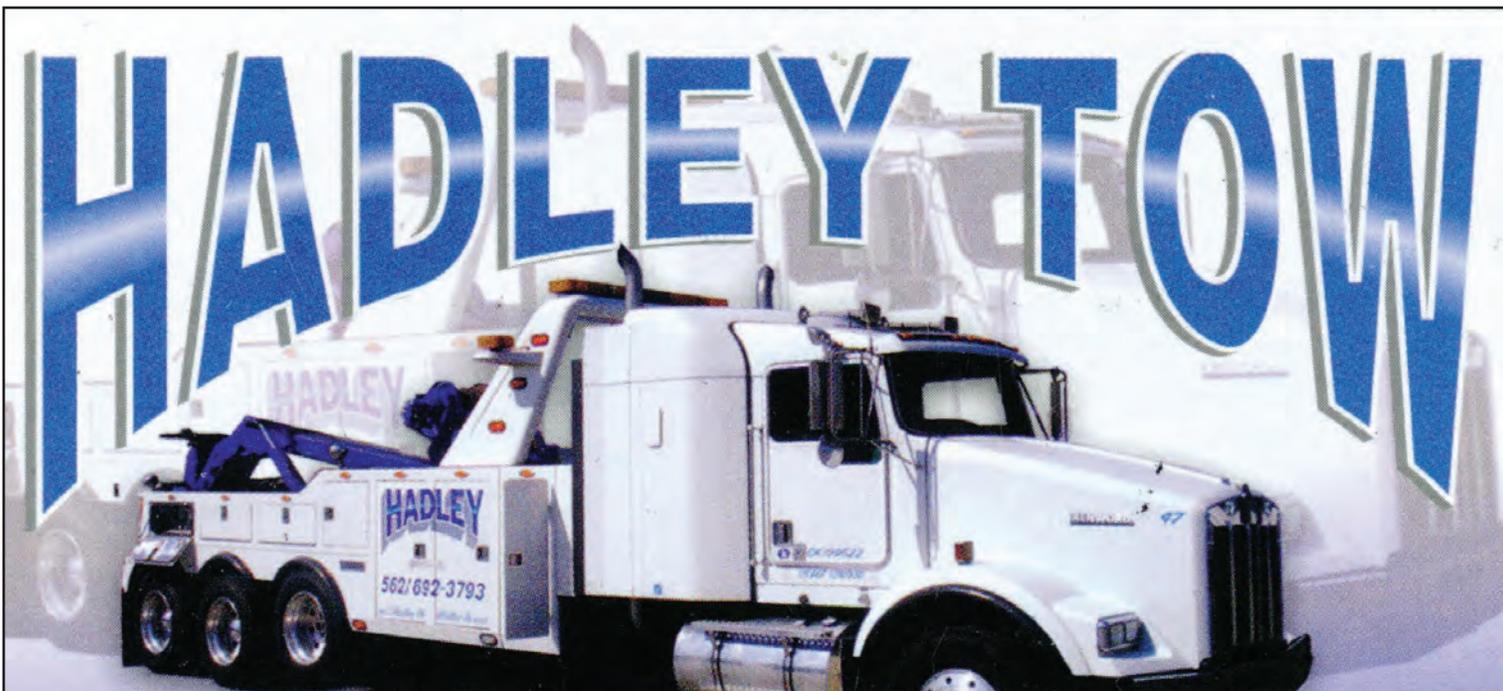
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Friendly Recipes

By Tim Traeger, Editor, *The Friendly Hiller*

Louis A. Grimaldi has a passion for food, and La Serna High School. The Friendly Hills Property Owners Association board member and State Farm Insurance agent had a great idea for a new feature to run quarterly in the Friendly Hiller Magazine. Reach out to residents in our community and ask them to share time-honored recipes passed down through generations.



When he was growing up in Montebello, he'd sit at the kitchen counter after school and do his homework. His father would always be cooking.

The fever caught on.

"My father was a bus driver for the city of Montebello. He worked from 4 a.m. to about 1 p.m. After he'd get off work we were cooking and talking. Kind of our bonding time. I grew up in the kitchen," Grimaldi said.

The Bosco Tech graduate and his wife, Christina, moved to Friendly Hills from Mission Viejo about 15 years ago into a home on Seranata at the end of Youngwood Drive. They raised three sons, Angelo, Gabriel and Anthony, who all went to La Serna.

That spurred Grimaldi to join the Friends of La Serna. He's been an active member for many years and auctions off dinners to raise money for the group.

"We raise money for scholarships and to support programs like the tennis team, German Club, etc.," Grimaldi said from his State Farm office in Downey. "Clubs that don't have established booster clubs."

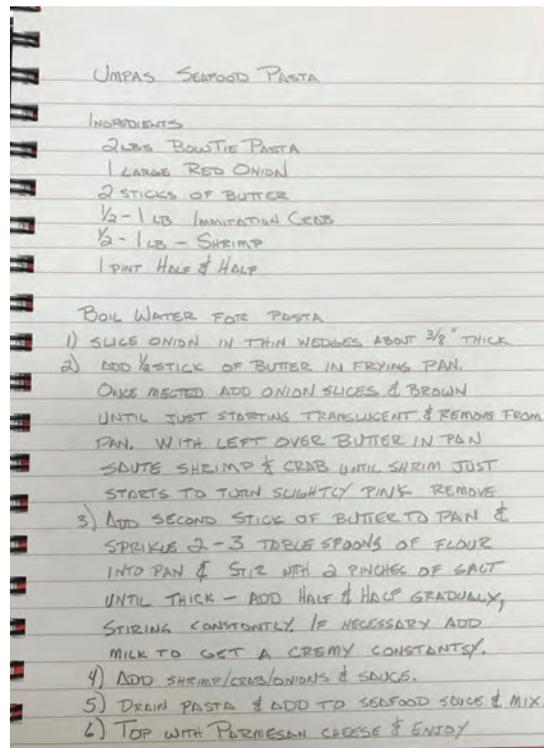
His first dinner was so successful, he was asked to prepare two, then three. Now he said he raises about \$40,000 a year for Friends of La Serna. He said he does it because he loves the community.

"I was always begging my parents to move to Whittier. People in Mission Viejo were involved in their own lives," Grimaldi said. "It was very superficial. When we came to Whittier, we got to really know people. For our little one, he has friends he's known since before kindergarten. The group he grew up with, he's known since he was three years old. As parents, we all knew each other since our kids were three. It's a very close-knit community."

Grimaldi is sharing "Umpa's Seafood Pasta," or "Angelo's Seafood Pasta" as the first recipe for this feature. "It's white sauce, onions, shrimp and imitation crab. It's super easy to make. It takes about half an hour to do it. Everyone who tries it goes nuts over it. That, a salad and garlic bread and everybody's happy. I was thinking about doing something called 'grandma's favorite recipes' or 'The family's favorite recipes.' Write a little paragraph about how they moved to Friendly Hills. And then publish their recipes. Submit your favorite recipes. Maybe it's a desert this month, maybe it's a torta. That way we get a variety.

"We're not asking for recipes from people outside the area. It's just for us," Grimaldi said. "And I'm sure there are a ton of grandparents who have recipes they'd love to share. They just need to email me."

To submit a recipe, email Grimaldi at redsubmariner@gmail.com



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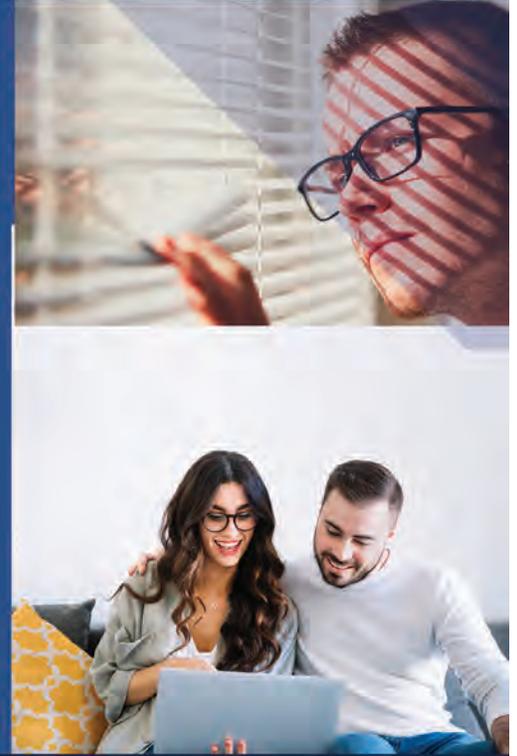
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Homelessness:

Can anything

The City of Whittier continues to seek solutions within the law to alleviate homelessness. The City Council and city staff share the same strong feelings as many residents who have called, emailed and come in person to council meetings to express their concerns regarding the visible state of homelessness in Whittier.

In actuality our city and partnering homeless services providers assist many who are experiencing homelessness - many of whom are not seen by the general public including families, single moms, veterans and many at risk of becoming homeless.

However, we do have some individuals who are much more visible to the general public and they appear to be among a growing population living in our public open spaces.

As you have probably previously heard, the city can no longer move these individuals out of our public spaces unless we have a shelter bed to offer them due to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals' decision in the Martin vs Boise case. This greatly limits our ability to address the impacts of homelessness, which can be detrimental to the quality of life in our community.

Similarly, while we are greatly concerned with the conditions that exist in several of our parks and open

spaces, we find it even more disturbing that there are individuals for whom we as a society cannot provide the basic dignity of shelter. Living on the streets is not healthy and is not acceptable in our community.

So while the city of Whittier still has much to do, we have already done much to address homeless issues:

- For the past 20 years, the city has helped to financially support First Day, a non-profit organization that provides long-term transitional housing and other social services to single adults.
- Additionally, the city has provided funding to the Women and Children's Crises Shelter and the Whole Child, two non-profit agencies that provide housing to families and women and children.
- Most recently, the city has worked with other local stakeholders to find housing for those camped at Parnell Park, has cleaned up the park and held the annual Eggxtravaganza event for Whittier's families.
- On April 22 the homeless encampment along the Whittier Boulevard was removed.
- City staff as well the council continues to address this critical issue on an ongoing basis.

In the meantime we can all support agencies and



Cathy Warner
Whittier City Councilwoman,
District 3



be done?

churches that provide services to those experiencing homelessness.

I had my first experience with the homeless as a sophomore in college. I brought home one of my close girlfriends to spend time with my family. She was attending college full-time with me and working part time. Her parents did not agree with her choices and wanted her to work full time, consequently she was asked to leave her home. She had been living in her car for three weeks when she visited my home.

Upon hearing her story, my father (who had been homeless at age 5) invited her to come live with us and share half the bedroom I already shared with my sister. We bought bunk beds and she lived with our family for several years. She was like a foster sister and bonded with my family, eventually became a successful schoolteacher, also providing services to other adults experiencing homelessness. To this day she still volunteers as an employment mentor.

Several years ago my husband and I found ourselves as mentors to a family that was renting a home from us through the Section 8 program. We were able to assist them in several ways, however eventually the parents

divorced and they were no longer able to rent their home from us. The mom was able to take advantage of the opportunity to enter First Day and stayed there for six months. While she was at First Day, we were able to have her teenage daughter stay in our home. She shared a bedroom with our own teenage daughter and was part of our family for a short time until she could be reunited with her mother.

Through the years, our extended family has participated in the cold weather shelter as well as providing and serving meals for those in need. We have found this experience to be a blessing.

Homelessness is a difficult and tragic situation. Can we help on a personal level and on a city level to find solutions? Please give that some serious consideration. If you find you have an idea or suggestion, contact our city manager by calling 562-567-9999 or send an email (email addresses are on the city website at cityofwhittier.org).



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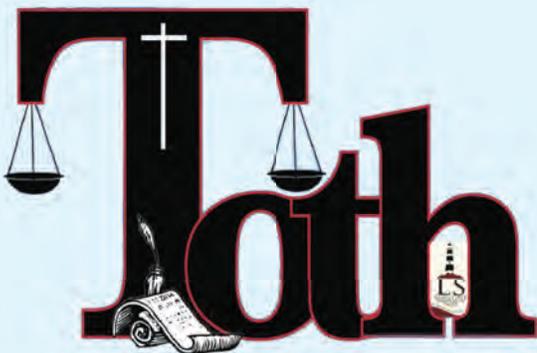
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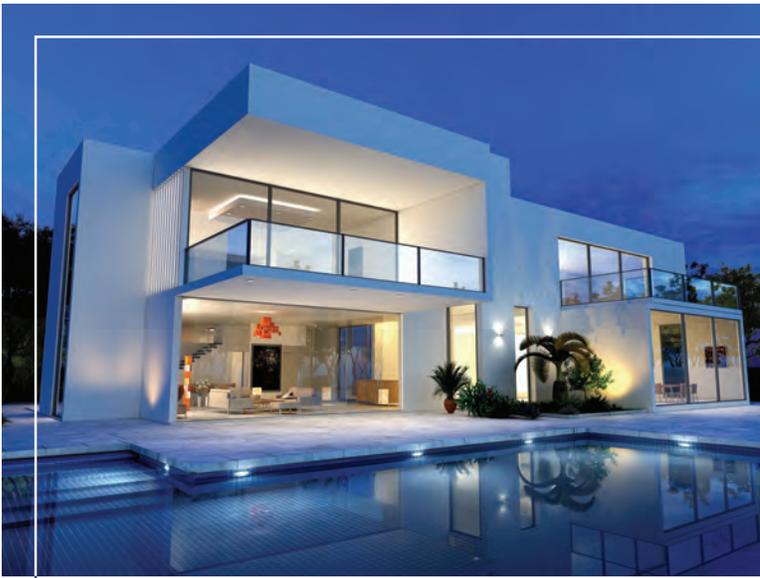
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Friendly Memories

By John K. Sudick, DDS

It is the summer of 1941 and William Spencer, vice president and general manager of the Murphy Ranch Company, announces Murphy Ranch in East Whittier is releasing 800 acres of citrus groves and rolling hills to be the site of a residential community known as "Friendly Hills" with "scenic sites" from one to 50 acres.

On July 23, 1941, the L.A. Times headlined an article "Noted Ranch Subdivided" that proclaimed the location of the Friendly Hills property "ideal for both residential and orchard purposes" with "the south slope of the Whittier Hills, only 16 miles east of downtown Los Angeles by broad highway, it is protected from the north and east winds but commands an uninterrupted sweep to the ocean on the south and west."

An "outstanding feature is the co-operation by the ranch company. Residents can continue the operation and cultivation of avocados and citrus on their properties by the Murphy Ranch Company including the work of irrigation, fertilizing, or pest control.

"The facilities available to property owners include stables for horses, a commissary, filling

station, etc. Use of bridle trails and roads within the ranch will be restricted to residents."

And so Friendly Hills began with the sale of property handled exclusively by the Swain-Nanney Company of Whittier, specialists in country homes and citrus properties.

It is interesting to note that in June of 1941 a large number of interested parties that reserved one- to five-acre parcels were equestrians. These horse owners were interested in the riding trails and the enlargement of the stables at the ranch center to include modern box stalls under construction.

Another L.A. Times article proclaimed "Interest Grows in New Tract, Friendly Hills Attracts Investment Interest." The article points out that although the ranch center (now the site of Friendly Woods Condominiums) includes many conveniences for its residents, "it is purposely kept isolated from the Friendly Hills proper so as to conform with restrictions that do not permit any commercial enterprises in Friendly Hills ... the entire cost of installing gas, electricity, and water will be paid by the ranch company there being no assessments of any kind."



With temperate climate, protection by the beautiful rolling hills, orchards, ocean views and horse trails, our community began with country living as its hallmark.

The photographs of Friendly Hills you see here are taken by Frank Swain, son of the broker and developer of Friendly Hills, John G. Swain of Swain and Nanney Company. Frank took these photos as part of an assignment for his photography class. This collection was donated to the Whittier Public Library by Frank Swain's daughter, Margaret Lewis.



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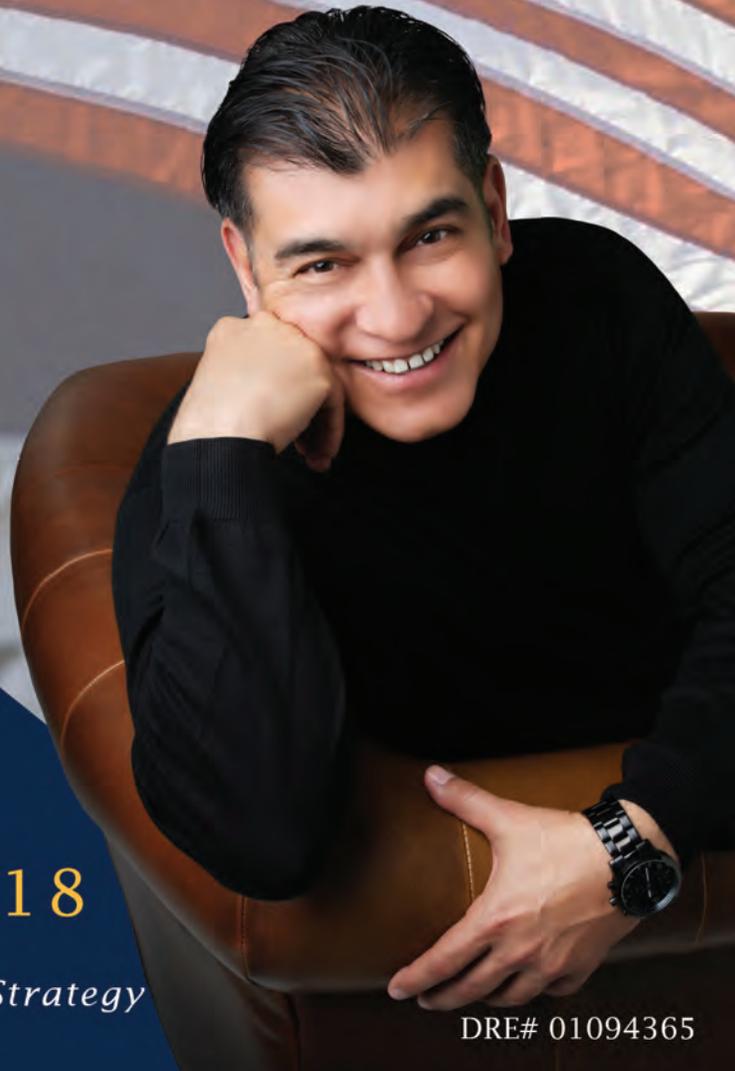
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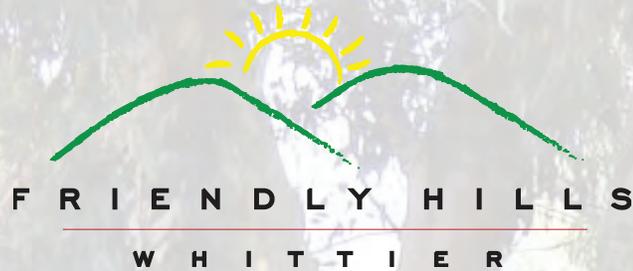
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Ella Neely and Linda Pennino

By Tim Traeger, Editor, *The Friendly Hiller*



Ella Neely

Joining the board of a non-profit organization is a thankless, selfless pursuit. There's no pay, often long hours and late or early meetings. The two things most good board members share is a belief in the organization to which they join and a commitment to its mission.

The Friendly Hills Property Owners Association is lucky indeed with the recent addition of Ella Neely and Linda Pennino to its board. Both professional ladies share a love for Friendly Hills and a dedication to the community in which we live.

Neely moved here in March 2017 from Sherman Oaks and found a 3,800-square-foot tri-level home with three bedrooms, four baths on Angosto, a cul-de-sac abutting Friendly Hills Golf Course. The construction manager and mother fell in love with the 20-foot ceilings and open floor plan. She has taken on the daunting task of developing a membership directory for the association.

Pennino is an accomplished Realtor who moved here with her husband, Joe, more than 25 years ago and bought a home on Portofino Place nearby Friendly Hills Estates. The mother of three serves as association treasurer and was recently lauded at the annual meeting April 4 for presenting a budget showing the association has no debt.

Why Friendly Hills?

"I see Friendly Hills being friendly. I think we're going to get younger families here – a neighborhood where people interact with each other and they do activities with each other, It's a beautiful, wonderful place to live," Neely said. "Living harmoniously with each other. Doing what we have to do to make this place as wonderful as it can be."

"It's a beautiful community," Pennino said. "My reason for getting involved is I want to make sure people have pride in their properties. We want to keep the values up. Real estate has gone up and down, but we've pretty much maintained. We want to keep it that way."



Linda Pennino



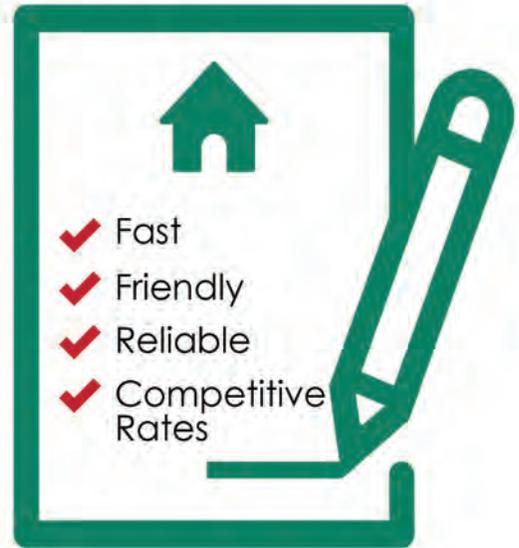
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Greg Williams, Williams Tree Service

By Tim Traeger, Editor, *The Friendly Hiller*

In a forest of saplings, Greg Williams is a towering tree. The Whittier native began sharpening saws and trimming trees after attending Pioneer High School. That led to a successful career grounded in hard work and dedication.

Anyone with a large tree ripping up their driveway, tearing up a shed or dislocating their patio would be wise to call Williams. He began Williams Tree Service in 1984 and the business has grown to support numerous workers. The married 56-year-old father of six now sports more than \$1 million in heavy equipment, including large trucks, razor-sharp chippers, a Bobcat tractor and all the tools needed to get your biggest jobs done.

The current Whittier Host Lions Club president donates thousands of dollars each year back to his community.

The stocky, bearded Williams doesn't pull punches. He speaks in short sentences that have true meaning. When you call him for a quote to remove, thin, shape, plant and maintain your yards, expect him to be there. That comes in a rough trade known for people missing appointments and flaking out on tough jobs.

"There's a lot of the high-risk jobs out there," Williams said. He estimated there are about 25 other tree-service companies around the Whittier, La Habra Heights, La Habra and outlying areas in a very competitive field.

"The other companies refer their customers to me. They just flat-out don't want to deal with it. They

don't have the experience. Otherwise if you have a big tree at your house, they come out and look at it and say 'I can't do it. Call Williams.' They refer me to their customers because the tree is just too big for them," Williams said.

When he's not chipping stumps or running a full-time business, he's coaching his two young boys in T-ball and enjoying life with his wife, Lydia.

Williams' true passion is the sea. In fact he plans to retire on a 50-foot trawler and cruise the ocean. He said his long-term plan is to motor from Maine to Spain and spend a few years exploring Europe.

He said he's most proud of being a great father and giving back to his community. He said one of the keys to life is setting goals and holding yourself accountable.

Past Lions president Mac McFarland sponsored Williams into the service club in 2004. He said Williams is a huge asset to Whittier. He's the real deal.

"I think Greg Williams has been a great president for the Whittier Host Lions Club this year. He's always been an active member and as president has attended nearly all our committee and board meetings. I commend Greg's leadership."

"Whittier is a tight community," Williams said. "Everyone kind of knows each other in their own certain way. I was born and raised here. It's hard to leave Whittier. It's a cool town."

You can reach Williams Tree Service at 562-692-8677 or email wtreedude@aol.com



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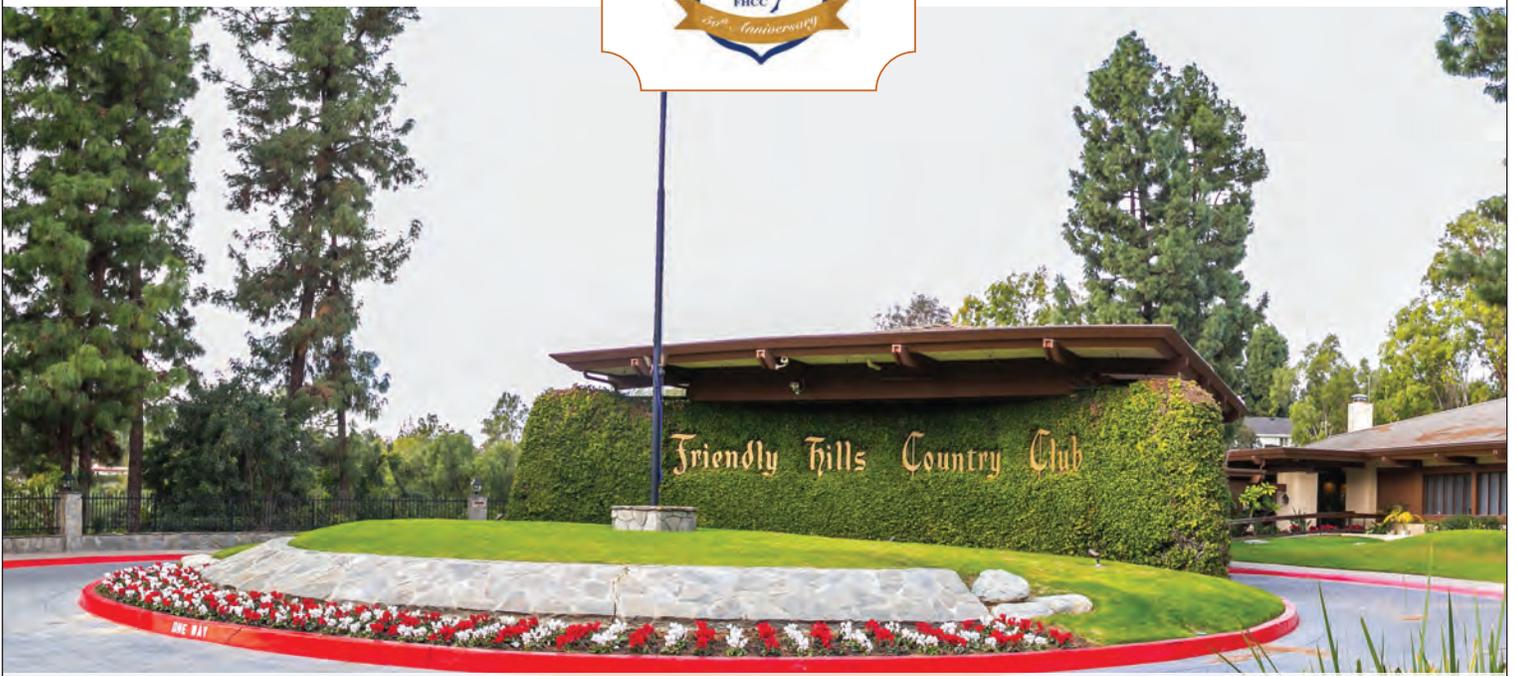
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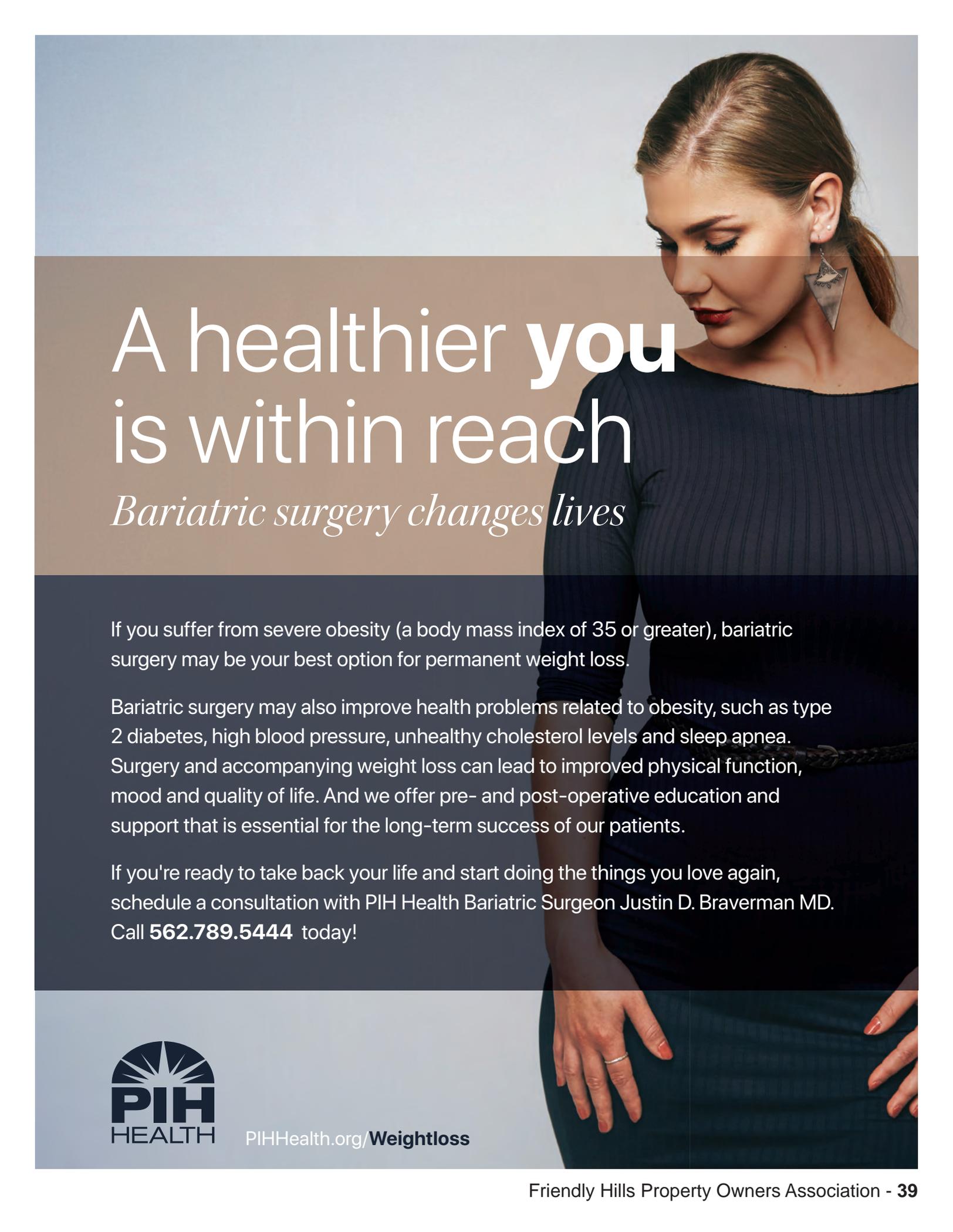
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When your school gets “locked down”



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As a parent, I understand the instant anxiety that happens when you hear that your kids' school is under a lockdown. The main thing to remember is that lockdowns are preventive in nature and that most times, a lockdown does not mean that there is a problem on campus.

Police activity takes place in all areas of the city, sometimes in close proximity to a school. When our officers, watch commander or dispatchers realize that certain police activity is occurring near a school, we may contact the school and ask them to lock down temporarily.

Asking a school to lock down helps us complete the police activity knowing that the nearby campus will not be easily accessible to a suspect we are about to detain or one that we are looking for. It also lets the school know we are nearby and enables them to utilize their security procedures. We use three different levels of lockdown requests from schools, depending on the police activity nearby.

Although they sound scary to parents, lockdowns are very effective in preventing incidents from getting onto school grounds. The next time you hear from another parent or read on social media that a local school is on lockdown, just know that your school staff and the police department are working together to best protect the students.

While we're on the subject of schools, a police car parked at your kids' school does not mean there is any danger to the students. We often see a frenzy of concerned social media postings when one of our police cars is spotted at a local school. Our officers stop by local schools to say hello, to take various minor crime reports, and to deal with truancy and other family issues on a regular basis. We work closely with school administrators and the school districts to inform parents if there is a safety issue taking place.

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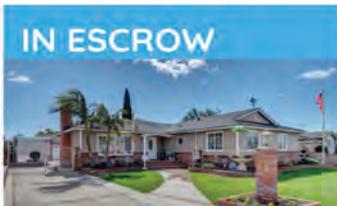
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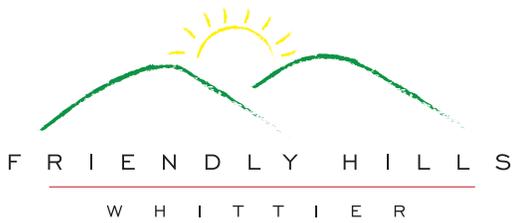
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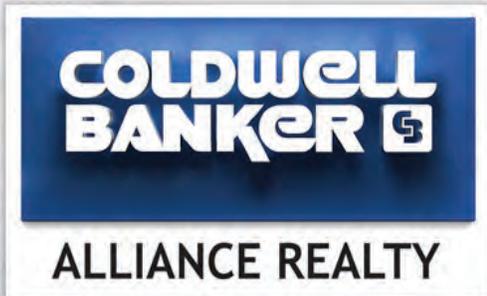
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