

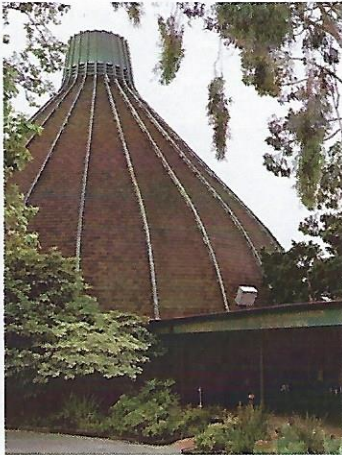


# The North Hills West WESTSIDER



Produced by the North Hills West Neighborhood Council

Spring 2019



**VOTE FOR YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEMBERS!  
SATURDAY, MAY 4TH**

Polls open from 1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at the Sepulveda Unitarian Universalist Society located at 9550 Haskell Avenue -- site of the Historic-Cultural Landmark "The Onion".

Vote and then join your neighbors for a Picnic Lunch compliments of your NHWNC.

Would you like a voice in what happens? The council needs to hear from you! It's important because *community matters*.

## List of 2019

### Candidates:

*15 candidates, 13 seats!*

### Community Interest

Punam Gohel

### General Stakeholders

Shirley Dabit

Garry Fordyce

Dan Gibson

Roger Gillette

Carol Hart

Madlena Minasian

Kreshell "Kris" Ramey

### Residential Stakeholders

Gil Brenner

Dave Brown

Pat Crone

Maggie Elliott

Heather Hudson Beeber

David Hyman

Carlos Pelaez

### Why vote?

Chances are that what matters to you matters to others in our community; our opinions need to be made known in order to help make a difference in the lives of those closest to us!

Becoming an active part of your Neighborhood Council gives you *a seat at the table* and a voice in the decisions that are made by Los Angeles City Council Members, who are charged with representing the best interests of those within their City Council boundaries.

We're in Council District 12. This Neighborhood Council election is more important than ever. We need to elect NC representatives who truly reflect the diversity in our community, who are committed to faithfully serving the needs of their neighbors by connecting them to LA City Services, and to speaking on our behalf, addressing the issues most likely to affect North Hills West Stakeholders.

### Who can vote?

If you live, work, or own a business within our boundaries, you're one of the stakeholders that the North Hills West Neighborhood Council exists to serve.

Stakeholders who reside within the NHWNC and are 18 years or older are eligible to vote!

## Welcome New Stakeholders!

If you have teens -- now is a great time to introduce them to local government and civics -- empower them to change the world!

## What does a Neighborhood Council do?

A Neighborhood Council is an officially recognized advisory body. The City of Los Angeles Neighborhood Council System is part of a citywide system of local representatives. They are official city entities – advocates serving as the eyes, ears, and the voices for the communities and stakeholders they represent.

Like many Angelenos who are looking for ways to make a difference in their communities – with the issues they care about most: crime and safety, gangs, graffiti, the homelessness crisis, our aging infrastructure, and the community improvement needed to aid local economic growth and increased property values. Neighborhood Councils and stakeholder participants are empowered to advocate, taking action which may effect real change in their communities. These councils consist of residents, business owners and staff, plus local property owners, not out-of-area influences like big developers.

Local engagement is important because no one understands a neighborhood better than the people who live, play, work or worship in it.

Neighborhood Councils answer that need and strengthen local democracy by embracing and supporting the fantastic cultural diversity of neighborhoods that comprise the City of Los Angeles.

Stakeholders may participate as much or as little as they'd like. The most fundamental level of involvement is to visit our website at: [www.nhwnc.net](http://www.nhwnc.net).

Neighborhood Councils receive public funds in the amount of \$42,000 each year. They may create events and programs that respond to the unique needs of their community using funds to disseminate information to the public to advocate for solutions to issues such as street repair, the creation of safe play spaces for children, prevention of crime and gang violence, and economic development.



Photograph by Carol N. Hart

Those who want to get more involved should attend our monthly NHWNC meetings, where you're welcomed to make public comments stating your opinions on motions before City Council, and on local issues being considered by your Neighborhood Council. This is also an opportunity to bring a matter to their attention for future consideration.

If you're a real go-getter, keen to have a say in what happens, you can volunteer for any of several NHWNC committees. Those with the time and energy to join Board Members in taking action will find that opportunities abound. Together stakeholders and NC board members can engage in activities and community improvement efforts of all sorts!

Representatives from Neighborhood Councils meet with City Council Members and the Mayor to discuss local issues and our priorities in the annual development of the City budget, prior to its submittal and approval by City Council.

## Best Practices

Neighborhood Councils around the City have worked to: address traffic concerns, produce community festivals, health fairs, holiday toy giveaways, increase parking, leverage city resources and funding, monitor potential real estate development, create community gardens, teach CPR & emergency preparedness, get a much needed DASH Line, to work with elementary & high schools, reduce graffiti, and

collaborate with community-based organizations and non-profits who are also serving their community's needs.

## Neighborhood Council Tools

Neighborhood Council Board members and stakeholders within the community can become more empowered by learning to be more effective in making their voices heard and stepping up to make a difference in North Hills West.

## Civic engagement is the cornerstone of democracy!

By helping to empower many individuals, we can empower whole neighborhoods so that they can improve the quality of their lives as residents of the City of Los Angeles.

## What About YOU?

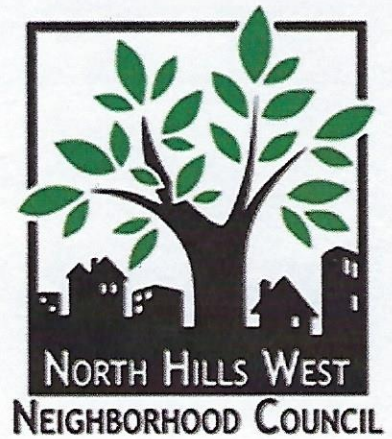
If you have new ideas and great energy to contribute, we urge you to get involved in your NHWNC Committees where you can learn more and provide your own feedback in respect to pending action by City Council.

Stakeholder participation is encouraged so if you'd like to get involved – but you're not quite ready to run for a board seat – committee work offers the best opportunity to serve while you gain a better understanding of how the City of LA conducts “the people's business” and what we can do at the local level to make sure that our tax dollars are spent wisely, our concerns & opinions are represented faithfully, and that the interests of stakeholders are considered whenever City Council makes decisions affecting our lives. This way you can learn how to take effective action by working within the complex system of city government agencies and offices – and by working with our Councilmember, their staff members, a vast array of city departments, and all of the people involved in serving the City of Los Angeles.

## General Board Meetings

3rd Thursdays, monthly, 7:00 pm

New Horizons - Sam's Cafe  
15725 Parthenia St.  
North Hills, CA 91343



Stakeholders can volunteer at any level that feels right to them. Here's a brief list of NHWNC committees and their primary focus.

- Beautification & Infrastructure
- Budget & Finance
- Emergency Preparedness & Public Safety
- Events, Marketing, & Outreach
- Planning & Land Use Management
- Rules & Elections
- Technical Support

Current Ad Hoc Committees are:

- Parking Committee (Aqueduct & Haskell)
- Education Committee

You can find more detailed descriptions of the work done by committee at:

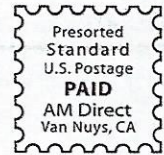
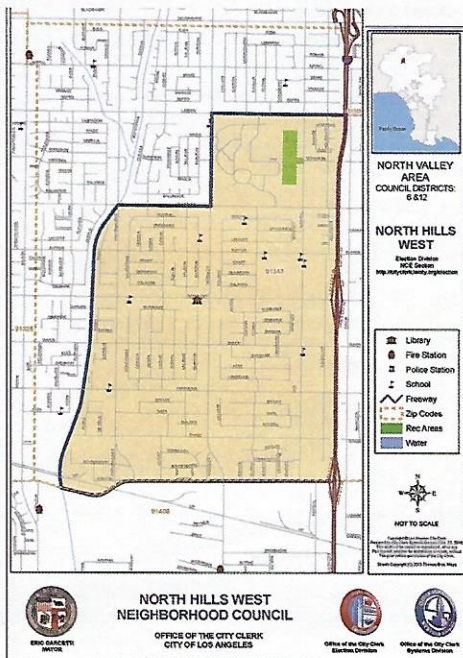
<https://www.nhwnc.net>



Photograph by Carol N. Hart

North Hills West Neighborhood Council  
P.O. Box 2091  
North Hills, CA 91343

**You have a stake in this election!**  
**As a stakeholder, you have the opportunity**  
**to vote for your neighborhood leadership.**



## Filing a Community Impact Statement

In mid-2003, the City began a new system through which Neighborhood Councils can adopt Community Impact Statements summarizing their official position on city issues and having them printed directly on the meeting agendas. It's a unique and unprecedented way for each Neighborhood Council's voice to be made known to the LA City Council decision-makers before a vote is taken.

There are several ways to send Community Impact Statements to the City Clerk for inclusion on the agendas of the City Council, its committees, and City commissions: a paper version may be sent via postal mail, hand-delivery, fax, or online at [cityclerk.lacity.org/cis](https://cityclerk.lacity.org/cis).

## Early Notification System

(ENS) is an online system to which stakeholders subscribe to receive meeting agendas and special event announcements sent directly to their e-mail. The ENS posts Neighborhood Council meeting agendas and NC-sponsored special event announcements on the City's website.

These documents and announcements are available at <https://lacity.org/> under "City Meetings & Agendas" and "City Events Calendar".

For local community events, NC news, and more information about North Hills West Neighborhood Council go to: <https://www.nhwnc.net/>

## LA City Clerk Connect

A web service offered by the Office of the City Clerk where the Council File Management System (CFMS) is readily accessible. The CFMS is online access to a comprehensive file system with both summaries and details of all legislation considered and/or acted upon by the Los Angeles City Council. It's a subscription service; you can sign-up to receive automatic e-mail notifications and RSS feeds when a Council File is updated.

To search for and view City Council legislative records Angelenos can go to:

<https://clerk.lacity.org/council-and-public-services/search-council-documents>