

The Sentinel

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF ROYAL CANYON, GREENBRIAR, AND ADJACENT AREAS



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Although I live on a street off of Greenbriar Road, I make a point of driving home by going up Royal Boulevard so I can see more of the neighborhood. Upper Royal Boulevard, from Imperial Drive to Old Phillips Road, is narrower than lower Royal with no sidewalks or street lights and there are often cars parked on both sides of the street. There are houses at street level on the south side of the street while the north side has many tall bushes/hedges that privatize the view down to homes below the street level. Many of the bushes and hedges are growing out into the street which not only further narrows the street for cars driving up to Old Phillips Road, but removes parking space as well. Furthermore, the overgrowth also blocks the view of key stop signs meant to slow down traffic and prevent accidents. This street has a fair amount of traffic going from/to Old Phillips Road and unfortunately there are drivers that go too fast and ignore the stop signs. When the stop signs are not clearly visible drivers have an excuse not to obey them. As a community, we need to eliminate the excuses not to obey the stop signs. Therefore, I would like to urge the property owners along the north side of upper Royal Boulevard to voluntarily trim their shrubbery back so it does not encroach into the street and to cut it back even further around the stop signs. A simple walk along the street going towards Old Phillips Road will demonstrate the need for pruning. I am sure everyone in the neighborhood would be grateful for the efforts and cooperation of the property owners.



John R. Wolff
President, RCPOA



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The recent heavy rains are both a blessing and a problem. The blessing, of course, is that we can keep our sprinklers turned off, often for many days at a time, which keeps our water usage lower than usual. I enjoy this time of year because the hillsides are nice and green. The problem that goes with it is that come spring they will turn dry and brown which will create additional fire hazards. I have also noticed that phone lines develop problems from the extra water; gutters need to be unclogged and new roof leaks present themselves, among other things. However, we need to remind ourselves that such problems are a small price to pay for living in such a beautiful neighborhood.

Because 2011 is a city-wide election year in Glendale, we can again look forward to several candidates running for 2 of the 5 seats on the Glendale City Council. Your Association has its annual member business meeting and brunch at the Oakmont Country Club on Saturday, February 5, 2011 where the city council candidates will appear in a question and answer forum. Because our Association meets first amongst the various Property Owners Associations in Glendale, we essentially kick-off the political season with our popular forum; you won't want to miss this opportunity to raise questions on the issues facing our city and to meet the candidates. More details about joining the Association and the meeting can be found elsewhere in this newsletter and on our web site at: <http://www.rcpoa.net>

Happy New Year.

John R. Wolff
President, RCPOA

Meet Our New RCPOA Neighbor Chief Ronald De Pompa & Family

By Leanne Reynolds

Local Boy Rises to Chief of Police

Meet our newest resident and RCPOA member Ronald De Pompa, Glendale's Chief of Police. "Glendale's my hometown. I was born and raised in this community and attended local schools, including Glendale Community College," De Pompa explains in a recent interview. The Chief and his wife Carol previously lived in La Crescenta, then Sunland, where they raised three daughters, Allyssa, Dena and Lainey. When promoted to Chief after 33 years on the force, De Pompa searched for a home in Glendale. "It's important for the community to have the Chief of Police live locally," said De Pompa. After viewing hundreds of homes, the Chief's family recently purchased a home in the RCPOA area. Ron and Carol had family and long-time friends living in this area, and they liked its uniqueness. "Carol and I would also like to thank our good friends Rick Barnes (Realty One) and Tye Veden (Rossmoyne Realty); for their tireless assistance in helping us get back to into Glendale. We simply could not have done it without their help," DePompa noted.

Chief Priorities for the Chief

Chief De Pompa reminds us that Glendale is the third largest city in Los Angeles County with a population of 207,000. "The residents of Glendale have such a sense of community. That camouflages the fact we are a large urban city which shares its borders with some of the most prolific gangs and crime areas in the city of Los Angeles." De Pompa added, "Yet Glendale seems to be immune to the criminal effects of that proximity." He explains to us how this doesn't happen by accident.

"First, Glendale is a community that cares – people are engaged and involved in their neighborhoods. Your RCPOA is an example of involved residents. Second, Glendale has a great police department. They are highly dedicated, loyal and hard-working. They truly care about what they do. This makes a difference to keep Glendale safe," said De Pompa. Safe indeed! Glendale has been recognized as one of the top ten safest cities in the United States by Forbes magazine. The Chief adds, "Our challenge is to maintain this high level of safety in our city going forward, especially in this difficult economic recession where the department reduced the number of officers by 10%."

The early release of thousands of state prisoners into local neighborhoods impacts Glendale. California's insufficient budget has the state prisons reducing its population by releasing early from prison "the less violent inmates." "In my opinion," shared De Pompa, "there are no 'less violent' state inmates. These parolees are career criminals. It takes five local felony convictions to wind up in state prison," explained the Chief. "Prisoners are released with no conditions, meaning no parole supervision or conditions such as drug testing. With almost no possibility of getting a job in

this economy, there is nothing for these criminals to do but to resort to what they know best, the life of crime. So this is our 'battle'. These career criminals are targeting property crime, residential burglary and auto theft, in our neighborhoods."

"Our area is a target-rich environment. Plenty of high-end vehicles in nice homes, and we are near the freeway. Also people tend to be more autonomous, keeping to themselves, in this area. This creates a perfect environment for these career criminals to operate," warned De Pompa.

So how does the RCPOA neighborhood maintain its safety? The Chief's recommended formula is Target Hardening and Awareness. Criminals will target property & vehicles, so "harden" these possessions by not being an easy target. Dogs and alarms are good deterrents against property crimes. Check the status of your locks. Take electronics out of your vehicles when parked on the street. Neighborhood Watch Groups create awareness for residents outside of their own property lines and add to home and vehicle protection. The RCPOA will be working with our East Command Team Members of the Police Department in 2011 to form Neighborhood Watch Groups.

Shock Therapy for Traffic Control of Our Area Streets

"I'm astounded with the speed of vehicles on the Royal Blvd and feeder streets."



The Sentinel Editor Leanne Reynolds with Chief De Pompa

Don't be surprised if those red lights behind your vehicle are Chief De Pompa's! I plan to park my police unit in front of my house and to be on area streets with my ticket book so I can personally go after speeders," warned De Pompa. "The speed is uncalled for

(Continued on next page)

GLENDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY CONTACTS

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Immediate Emergency | 911 |
| Area Commander Todd Anderson: | 818-548-3145 |
| | tanderson@ci.glendale.ca.us |
| Lead Officer Susan Shine: | 818 548 4015 |
| | sshine@ci.glendale.ca.us |
| Non-Emergent Crime Reporting: | 818-548-4911 |
| Crime Stoppers: | 800-222-TIPS |
| | Reporting Crimes Anonymously |
| www.crimemapping.com : | To view recent criminal activity by street |

2011 Real Estate Predictions

by *Leanne Reynolds*

* Sales of entry-level homes will dominate, but a lean supply of these homes will drive prices up at the low end. * The bottom in home prices may not have been reached yet, but it's almost there. * Mortgage money will rise but still be near historic lows. * Cash investors will rule since they typically win bidding wars. * Mortgage deductions will remain for homeowners; Congress would feel public wrath if repealed. * Lenders will require golden credit from borrowers and will cause continued softness for the higher-end homes. * Actions of underwater homeowners and strength of the Economic Recovery Act are the wild cards for 2011 real estate.

RCPOA NEIGHBORHOOD HOMES FOR SALE AS OF JANUARY 5, 2011

| ADDRESS | BED ROOMS | BATH ROOMS | SQUARE FEET | SQ FT LOT | ASKING PRICE | DAYS ON MARKET | STATUS |
|-----------------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1533 Arboles Dr | 2 | 2 | 2,018 | 20,900 | \$870,000 | 29 | Active for Sale |
| 1730 Heather Ridge Dr | 4 | 4 | 2,678 | 8,723 | \$849,000 | 15 | Active for Sale |
| 1410 Imperial Dr | 3 | 4 | 4,200 | 12,898 | \$1,350,000 | 8 | Active for Sale |
| 1648 Moreno Dr | 4 | 4 | 3,165 | 28,330 | \$1,399,000 | 38 | Active for Sale |
| 1521 Greenbriar Rd | 4 | 3 | 2,227 | 12,460 | \$629,000 | 11 | Active for Sale |
| 1520 Remah Vista Dr | 3 | 3 | 2,670 | 18,295 | \$1,650,000 | 470 | Active for Sale |

RCPOA NEIGHBORHOOD HOMES IN ESCROW OR SOLD SINCE AUGUST 8, 2010

| | BED ROOMS | BATH ROOMS | SQUARE FEET | SQ FT LOT | SOLD PRICE | | STATUS |
|----------------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----|---------------|
| 901 Penshore Terrace | 4 | 3 | 2,488 | 14,610 | \$785,000 | 36 | Back Up Offer |
| 1033 Old Phillips Rd | 2 | 2 | 2,273 | 12,000 | \$699,000 | 87 | Pending Sale |
| 1421 Greenbriar Rd | 3 | 2 | 2,667 | 33,979 | \$850,000 | 58 | SOLD |
| 1628 Lamego Dr | 4 | 4 | 2,700 | | \$117,500 | 0 | SOLD |
| 1811 Las Flores Dr | 5 | 3 | 2,544 | 17,646 | \$850,000 | 86 | SOLD |
| 1714 Royal Blvd | 3 | 2 | 1,907 | 12,540 | \$540,000 | 26 | SOLD |
| 1629 Ivy Bridge | 3 | 3 | 2,736 | 9,500 | \$1,050,000 | 0 | SOLD |
| 1734 Royal Bld | 2 | 2 | 1,549 | 14,530 | \$699,000 | 188 | Cancelled |
| 1919 Las Flores Dr | 3 | 3 | 3,429 | 24,100 | \$1,060,000 | 49 | Cancelled |
| 1340 Rossmoyne | 3 | 3 | 2,600 | 9,217 | \$1,189,000 | 178 | Expired |
| 1709 Ivy Bridge Rd | 3 | 3 | 2,368 | 13,068 | \$709,000 | 0 | Expired |
| 1630 Puebla Dr | 4 | 3 | 2,423 | 9,096 | \$1,019,000 | 67 | Hold |

DOM = Number of days the home has been for sale
 Back Up Offer = Contingencies not yet removed as of 1/05/11
 * Short Sale = Home sells for less than mortgage
 Cancelled = Contract cancelled with agency

Pending Sale = Contingencies removed from purchase offer
 Expired = Seller withdrew home for sale
 ** Foreclosure sale

Chief De Pompa continued ...

and extremely dangerous. Unfortunately this is not unique to Royal Canyon but is a city-wide issue. People are in a mad rush and overwhelmed with cell phones and texting. They can't wait for the appropriate time for these activities, which create inattention and dangerous driving conditions, driving too fast or not making complete stops at signs and lights. Drivers are not aware of what's on going on around them.

"The Chief goes on to explain the recent "shock therapy" of overturned vehicles purposely placed on Verdugo Blvd by the Glendale Police Department. "The upside-down vehicles and electronic signage warning Speed and Text Kill make

an emotional connection with drivers. Significant emotional events change drivers' behavior, not traffic education. This shock therapy has been very impactful, marked by resident phone calls and slower vehicle speeds," explains De Pompa.

De Pompa discussed the role of the traffic cameras at our main nearby intersection. "The traffic cameras at Verdugo and Mountain have without question reduced red light and turning violations entering our neighborhood by photographing drivers." The Chief informs us that traffic ticket fines cover the cost of operating the cameras and are not a revenue contributor for the department.