



## **Carthay Circle Neighborhood Association Update**

May 17, 2016

Dear Neighbors,

I am writing to update you on various matters relating to Carthay Circle:

### **ACS Security Patrol Services in Carthay Circle**

A number of you have noted that the ACS patrol vehicle has not been seen frequently enough on our streets. In response to these comments, your neighbors, Carlos Bermudez and Roger Grossman, who head CCNA's ACS committee, have had extensive discussions with ACS to increase and monitor the frequency and the visibility of the ACS patrol vehicle in Carthay Circle.

ACS has been responsive to our concerns and has shown its eagerness to improve its services to our neighborhood. We are hopeful that you will be seeing a significant increase in sightings of the patrol vehicle in Carthay Circle. ACS has acknowledged that they have encountered difficulties hiring qualified armed security personnel which they are working to remedy.

Currently, Carthay Circle is being patrolled for 14 hours every day of the week and if more of our residents sign up for the patrol service these hours will increase.

Keep in mind that the patrol officer is only monitoring the homes of subscribers and will only enter onto the property of subscribers.

If you have an issue with the service ACS is providing to your residence you should call ACS directly at 310-475-9016. However, if you have an issue regarding ACS that impacts the neighborhood please contact me at [President@carthaycircle.org](mailto:President@carthaycircle.org) so that we can work together on the problem.

### **Carthay Circle HPOZ**

**Remember** --- we live in a HPOZ community --- which means that before you undertake any changes to the outside of your home, including any changes to your front lawn or parkway, you should consult with the HPOZ to understand what type of approvals, if any, you will need to obtain.

In recent months a number of neighbors have suffered fines and have had to redo and modify changes made to their homes and lawns because of their failure to obtain HPOZ approval and to comply with the HPOZ rules.

In particular, you should be aware that even though a change of your front lawn or parkway to a drought resistant landscape has been approved by DWP does not mean it satisfies the HPOZ requirements for Carthay Circle. The Carthay Circle HPOZ has its separate and independent criteria that must be satisfied.

You can schedule a preliminary consultation by calling Blair Smith, the City's representative to our HPOZ, at [213-978-1174](tel:213-978-1174) or email her at: [Blair.Smith@lacity.org](mailto:Blair.Smith@lacity.org)

More information regarding the HPOZ can be found on our website: [www.carthaycircle.org](http://www.carthaycircle.org)

### **CONSTRUCTION OF THE METRO PURPLE LINE SUBWAY**

As you know, currently there is extensive construction work involving moving the existing utilities on Wilshire Boulevard, east of La Cienega and around Fairfax Boulevards, to make room for the Metro Purple Line Subway Extension.

Our website also contains links pointing you to where you can obtain up to date information on subway construction activities in our neighborhood. Construction notices are posted from time to time on our website: [www.carthaycircle.org](http://www.carthaycircle.org).

This Thursday, May 19th there will be a community update held at John Burroughs Middle School, 600 McCadden Place, Los Angeles 9005 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. While focusing on the construction at La Brea, the update will also look ahead and explain what will be happening at the Fairfax and La Cienega intersections with Wilshire Boulevard.

### **CARTHAY CENTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Our neighborhood elementary school has been upgraded to an **Environmental Studies Magnet School**. Its presence in Carthay Circle adds in a very meaningful way to the desirability of our neighborhood as a place for young families. We urge families with young school age children to seriously look into sending their children to Carthay Elementary.

To assist in this we will be publishing from time to time explanations from various parents regarding why they choose to send their children to Carthay Center Elementary. We are very grateful to Kim Silverstein for leading off this effort. Her observations follow:

Carthay School of Environmental Studies is truly a neighborhood gem. I like to think of it as Utopian Los Angeles - genuine diversity of race/culture/religion that accurately reflects the city and world in which we live, a commitment to caring for our planet, and a strong community that supports the school and one another. This is not something you find in many other places across LA, and we are truly fortunate to have this in our own Carthay backyard.

We have lived in the neighborhood for 7 years and have been at the school for 3 years now - my oldest is in second and my youngest is in Kinder. When we were starting to think about school for our oldest, private school was not something we considered. And the value of a neighborhood school was high for us. We only looked at one other public school (another magnet program) and still liked Carthay better. There was something about the warmth of the community that really drew us in. We were wildly impressed on the tour, seeing students learning and playing together, and loved meeting other prospective families from the neighborhood. We were able to very quickly envision a future that included walking to school with friends, and our kids having their peers nearby to play with after school and on weekends. It became clear that it's the kind of school where everyone knows everyone - the kids and parents really look out for each other.

As someone who works in public education, and has worked in a private school as well, I can tell you that the two things that matter most for children to thrive in school are strong at Carthay - high quality instruction and an engaged family community. We have some outstanding veteran teachers, and our principal, Ms. Sharon Hall-Johnson, has also hired some dynamic younger teachers as well in the two years she's been at Carthay. When I am able to spend time at the school, visiting my kids' classrooms, I have been blown away by the instruction and the caring, nurturing environment that the teachers foster. My kids have grown by leaps in bounds, doing the kind of work I wish I could go back and do, and making friends from all different backgrounds. The new environmental magnet curriculum blends science and humanities, and our kids have had a rich experience learning about the impact they have on the world and how to be creative problem solvers. They also have PE, art, music, dance, field trips, and garden science - programs that don't exist anymore in many public schools. This is largely thanks to a strong PTA with a commitment to fundraising in order to provide enriching

opportunities for all students. All families find a way to contribute, regardless of their financial abilities or work commitments, whether through volunteering their time and/or giving. Everyone is a member of the Carthay family.

Carthay is special place and we could not be happier with our experience taking advantage of this resource that our neighborhood provides. It will only grow in strength as we continue to encourage more families to stay in the neighborhood instead of looking elsewhere for a great school. I am always happy to talk further about the school and my family's experience. Please reach out to me at any time [kimsilv@gmail.com](mailto:kimsilv@gmail.com)

### **Carthay Elementary--Science Fair & Environmental Expo**

**This Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup> from 12 Noon to 6 PM**

There will be over 3 dozen exhibitors as well as food, rides, free trees, E-waste collection and more, this Saturday at the Carthay Elementary – Science Fair and Environmental Expo. Visit the Announcement page on our website [www.carthaycircle.org](http://www.carthaycircle.org) for additional information.

### **NE corner of Crescent Heights and Wilshire Boulevard**

The major construction project that is now going on, adjacent to our neighborhood, at the NE corner of Crescent Heights and Wilshire Boulevard is a 21 story building with 158 residential condominium units and retail and commercial space on the ground floor. The details of the project are in the letter from the City Department of Planning which you can access on the [Neighborhood Construction Impacting our Neighborhood](#) page on our website [www.carthaycircle.org](http://www.carthaycircle.org).

### **PLANTERS at intersections around Carthay Circle**

Your neighborhood association has completed the repair, replanting and general refreshing, where needed, of the 30 planters located at various intersections around Carthay Circle that serve as safety barriers while at the same time beautifying our community.

We have engaged a gardner to water and generally care for all of our planters on a bi-weekly basis. Currently he is doing this on Sunday mornings.

Please email me with any comments you have regarding our planters: [President@carthaycircle.org](mailto:President@carthaycircle.org).

## **CARTHAY CIRCLE HAS IT OWN FACEBOOK PAGE**

Many of you use the **Nextdoor** website to post comments and requests regarding Carthay Circle.

Please consider joining and using the Carthay Circle Neighborhood Association **Facebook** group to communicate with your neighbors living in Carthay Circle. Our Facebook group is focused on and limited to Carthay Circle residents --- it does not include other neighborhoods as does the Nextdoor website.

## **PLEASE---PLANT TREES on the PARKWAY in FRONT OF YOUR HOME**

Studies have shown that trees in urban spaces have beneficial consequences for the residents of the neighborhood -- they suppress noise, beautify streets, reduce stress and illness, reduce neighborhood crime, reduce wind speeds, remove air and ground water pollution, reduce carbon dioxide, reduce urban temperatures and meaningfully increase property values.

If you do not have trees planted on your parkway we urge you to plant one or more trees --- both you and our neighbors will greatly benefit from it. If you do have trees on your parkway, please preserve and maintain them— they are valuable assets.

Thank you,

Ivan Light

President, Carthay Circle Neighborhood Association

Email: [President@carthaycircle.org](mailto:President@carthaycircle.org)

