

NEXT MEETING

Monday, September 17

7:00PM- 8:30PM

Freeman Park, 154th Street, one street east of Van Ness

OPEN LETTER

Dear Neighbors,

My heart is burdened as I apply myself to preparing this month's newsletter for deadline. Since the events of Tuesday, September 11, deadlines seem pointless and willpower is elusive. Like many of you I am sorting my thoughts and emotions, trying to make sense of the senseless aggression we have witnessed in the attacks on our country.

But there is also a lifting of my soul as I learn the stories of those who sprung into action to help others. Many of those people may have died for their efforts. Daily we each answer the question of how far are we willing to go to make a difference. Rarely are we put to such a test as those on the hijacked plane or who entered the doomed buildings to help others.

These attacks on our nation have been identified as attacks on Freedom itself. The rallying cry is that we are freedom-loving people and will not tolerate these vicious actions. This has led me to consider the parallels between fighting for our nation and fighting for our homes and community. An assault on your homeland is no different than an assault on your home: you are left feeling violated, anguished, angry, and ready for action. Your home is your haven, your place of safety and restoration, your personal and financial

investment, and expression of your Self. The United States represents that and more to many of us.

How do these feelings translate into action? You may have lost confidence in the agencies and regulations designed to protect us but have gained compassion for other Americans and people of the world who have been attacked. You may have wept at the incredible loss of life but are inspired to give blood because of the great need and it is a useful contribution you can make.

In your neighborhood you are on the lookout for suspicious activity and can participate in many ways in your neighborhood watch. No one, NO ONE, has the right to treat you or your property with willful disregard. Protecting and investing yourself in your home, relationships, and community serves to empower you and strengthen your community. Empowered and resourceful citizens are formidable. They bring vitality, direction, and action to the community.



You, your family, me, our friends and neighbors - each one of us is on the front lines in defense of the United States and it all starts at HOME. The values we take into the world, our passions and hopes, the quality of our interactions with those we know as well as passers-by, everything echoes into the world around and beyond us.

I welcome you to join me and commit anew to the opportunity of making our neighborhood and our country spectacular places to live. Your enthusiasm, your ideas, your willingness, and your time will make it so.

Regards,
 Louise M. Stein
 Founder & Block Captain, GCNW

CITIZEN ADVISORY PANEL

I am honored to be a member of this panel and look forward to the work ahead of us. I am also looking forward to working with and learning from other leaders in our community. You will be kept informed of our progress and opportunities for you to participate.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

With my involvement in the Citizen Advisory Panel I anticipate having less time to devote to the ongoing activities of Gardena Circle Neighborhood Watch. I need to ask for your participation and spread out some of the tasks if we are to continue to have a NW.

I've indicated a couple opportunities for involvement below. Of all the efforts that go into GCNW there is not one that would take more than an hour a month.



Chief of Police Mike Skogh invited me to join the newly formed Chief of Police Citizen Advisory Panel (COPCAP). There are seven members on the panel. Six of us represent each of the police 'beats' in which we live; the seventh member is also a resident but represents the business community. We all have leadership experience in neighborhood watches or community efforts.

In GCNW we have invested in and are reaping the benefits of Community Oriented Policing (COP), the police/citizen partnership to combat crime and resolve certain issues. Working together, the panel and GPD will enhance and broaden the reach of COP throughout Gardena. Through this relationship it is our goal to make Gardena a safer community and to improve the quality of life.

You can choose something that fits your interest and availability. Give me a call if you are interested, have any questions or ideas you'd like to incorporate.

PHOTOCOPY COORDINATOR (PC).

Receive original monthly newsletter from the editor, photocopy it at the GPD, and deliver copies to the DISTRIBUTION COORDINATOR(S). Time: 60 mins/month.

I have been doing the photocopying each month at the police station in the evening (when the copy machine is not heavily needed). It has been a great opportunity for me to get acquainted with the officers, staff, and volunteers.

DISTRIBUTION COORDINATOR(S) (DC). Receive copied newsletters from the PC. Bundle newsletters in individual packages for distribution by neighbors.

GARDENA: A successful culturally diverse city.
A positive example of the richness of America!

Coordinate with newsletter deliverers for when they will be out of town and need someone to deliver to their area. Time: 30 - 60 mins/month.

NEWSLETTER DELIVERERS. Receive newsletters from DC for specific streets and deliver door to door. Time: 15 - 30 mins/month.

Currently there are about 12 people who are available to deliver newsletters. Due to vacations, sicknesses, and other activities, back-up coverage or rotation is sometimes needed. The DC should coordinate this unless the Deliverer makes arrangements w/ a neighbor.

These are just a few ways in which I need help if we are to continue to have an active NW. There's room for more ideas too: WEB DESIGNER, GUEST SPEAKER COORDINATOR, BLOCK PARTY COORDINATOR, NEWSLETTER WRITERS, etc. What would YOU like to do?

CITY OF GARDENA

Next Council Meeting: Tues., Sept. 24, 7:30PM, Council Chamber, City Hall, 1700 West 162nd Street, Gardena.
City of Gardena: www.ci.gardena.ca.us

DON'T FALL PREY TO A HOAX!

There are many avenues for you to make a financial contribution to assist those most critically impacted by the attacks. Be certain you are making a contribution to a LEGITIMATE AGENCY.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For crime-related matters:



CRIME IN PROGRESS
911
SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY
323-7911
GRAFFITI 217-9568

For ideas & issues regarding GCNW:



Gardena Circle NW Web Site

www.GardenaCircle.com

Louise Stein, Block Captain

Louise*GardenaCircle.com

Ofc. Dave Golf 217-9670

Gardena Circle Neighborhood Watch = Neighbors Looking Out for Each Other



AUGUST MEETING

HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Sgt. Ed Medrano has been assigned to the Support Services Division under the command of Captain Tom Monson. He works directly for the Investigative Services Bureau under the command of Lt. Ron Mark. His new assignment consists of the following areas:

- Coordinator of Community Oriented Policing (includes Neighborhood Watch)
- Problem Oriented Policing Supervisor
- Gang Enforcement Supervisor
- He is also the Assistant Detective/Narcotics Supervisor.

Lt. Ron Mark shared his interest in the success of the police and NW relationships. He has been on the force for a number of years and lives with his family in Gardena. He has a vested interest in the health of our city and encourages you to call him at the station if you have any questions.

Councilman Steve Bradford answered questions and provided information about city issues and policies, as well as heard residents' concerns. Councilman Bradford is available to meet with the public one Saturday a month; check the GVN for details.

There were many great ideas for the Welcome Kit. Paul and Helen Stone shared the information package they received from Gardena when our neighborhood was annexed in 1995. Besides the interesting historical significance, there is a wealth of information in this package that would be suitable for incorporation in a kit. People shared the following ideas for the kit:

City map; Trash collection schedule, rules, stickers; Police ; Hospitals, urgent care; Post offices; GVN, community newsletter; Places to eat; Chamber of Commerce, ATMs, banks, shopping centers, businesses; Schools, Adult day care; Bus schedules, public transportation; Ordinances; Service organizations

The next step is to collect this information and figure out how to present, package, keep it updated, and distribute it.

Questions have arisen about city ordinances. They can be found at http://ordlink.com/codes/gardena/_DATA/index.html or by accessing www.GardenaCircle.com and selecting "Ordinances & Laws".

On Saturday, October 6 at Nakaoka Center, festivities will be in full swing for the annual Gardena Heritage Festival. Food, dance demonstrations, music, clubs, and exhibits will showcase the diverse cultures that make up our city. The GPD will host a pancake breakfast. They will also have an open house tour of the police station, kid print, demonstrations, and information booths. The event will highlight the police explorers, volunteer program, neighborhood watch, Tactical Response Team, traffic, G.R.E.A.T program, and the detective bureau to name a few.

DID YOU KNOW...?



In 1964, the City Council held a citywide contest to adopt an official City flag. The flag shows the City Seal surrounded by a green "G" on a field of yellow and white, with sprays of Bonsai branches emanating from the upper left and lower right portions of the "G". The colors and design of the City flag signify the rich agriculture abounding in the Gardena area, and the close alliance with the Japanese-Americans in this locale, as well as our Sister City affiliation with Ichikawa, Japan.



Gardena is proud to have been one of only nine winners from across the nation and the only city in California to receive the prestigious "All-America City Award" in 1980. Awarded by the National Municipal League, the award recognizes cities throughout the country for active involvement of its citizens in initiating action and working with local officials to help resolve significant community problems.