

## FAREWELL TO A FEATHERED FRIEND

He was affectionately known by different names by those who knew him: Big Bird, Charlie, Petey, Peakie or simply The Peacock. It is sad news for me to share with you that he passed away September 26.

Some people in GCNW might not have known there was a male peacock living here. Others remember when he arrived here 15 years ago. For those of us who knew him we all have special stories of that colorful fellow.



He did not 'belong' to anyone the way a dog does. Like a person is 'their own person' he was his own bird who hung out in different yards and roosted every night high in a pine tree in our neighborhood.

I know Dave and I were not the only ones who put out food and treats for him. He rewarded us with his brilliantly colorful presence and his curiosity. We delighted to look out a window and find him looking in. An open door was an open invitation and he would walk through it into the house or garage. It was a thrill to see him walking on the sidewalk ever mindful of people, cars and cats (cats would give him plenty of room after having been introduced to his massive claws). August was when the 'gifts' would arrive, the discarded eye feathers that had grown in the spring and been proudly displayed when he opened his tail throughout the summer. The peacock had other gifts too, namely the 'chocolate kisses' left on the doorstep or patio.

He had quite a set of pipes and could be considered our first 'neighborhood watcher' calling out when alarmed by a sound. While out walking I could hear him clear across to the other side of the neighborhood and it always made me smile thinking of him 'on duty'. We were less likely to smile when he stood outside our bedroom window and practiced honking early in the summer mornings.

Now the great pine tree is void of his silhouette at night. Our yard is colorless without him. Spring will be silent without his calls. His passing is terribly sad but we are grateful for having known this friendly peacock.

## NEXT MEETING

Monday, October 15

7:00 PM - 8:30pm

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

## SPATULA WEILDING GPD DISH UP KILLER BREAKFAST

Members of the **Gardena Police Department** displayed culinary finesse at the pancake breakfast they hosted as part of the **Gardena Heritage Festival**. The **Gardena Police Officers Association** raised over **\$15,000** from internal contributions, pancake breakfast ticket sales, and sales of memory bracelets for missing officers of the September 11 attack. This money will be donated to the families of the New York City Police Officers. Look at [www.GardenaCircle.com](http://www.GardenaCircle.com) to see photos of the event.

The GPD provided **Kid Printing** and this is the first time they took DNA samples. The child's DNA sample, photograph, fingerprints, and bio are all given to the parents for safekeeping at home. If you missed the Kid Printing call **Lt. Ron Mark (217-9612)** to learn of future event dates.

This year's festival featured more booths and activities for kids than last year. It took many staff and volunteers to create the event. *Congratulations* on the success of the event and *Thank You* for your efforts!

## CITIZENS ADVISORY PANEL

As explained in the September newsletter, Chief of Police Mike Skogh invited seven Gardena residents including me to participate in the newly formed Chief of Police Citizen Advisory Panel (COPCAP). This panel will not review complaints or be a watchdog of police activity. We will work with residents, the GPD, businesses and associations to fight crime and the factors that cause it. This is the basis of Community Oriented Policing. Our goal is to improve the quality of life in Gardena by making it a better, safer place to live.

## BACK TO BASICS

You've left the house with a window open before to run a quick errand and everything was okay, so it should be okay this time too. Right? Wrong! Criminals are constant opportunists and prefer easy access into your home. Your open window will help them tremendously.

Having Neighborhood Watch signs on our streets and in our windows is not enough to keep criminals out. You must secure your home and report suspicious activity or sounds to the police.

What should you do if you return home and suspect someone has entered your home:

- DO NOT enter your home! The criminal may still be there and could hurt you
- Go to a neighbor's house and use their phone to call the police
- Keep an eye on the house at all times in case someone comes out so you can take a description of the person
- Let the police investigate the situation. They are the professionals in these matters.

## HEROES AMONG US

Before September 11, there probably was little thought of heroes. Since that day we have heroes who have given their lives, their blood, and their money to help others. We are grateful to these people.

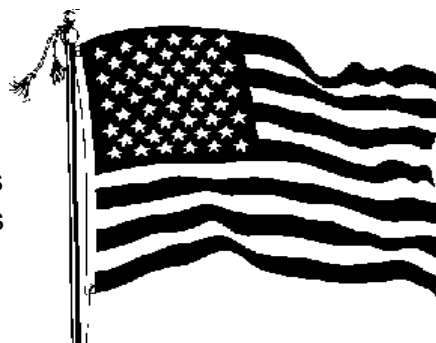
But there are also the 'quiet heroes'. Those who have been with us since before September 11, and who continue to be an asset to our community. These include adults who are raising their children to be confident in themselves and their relationships so, among a million other things a parent desires for their children, they are not influenced by drugs and gangs. There are people who manage to give something more of their lives than to simply fill a space on an employee roster. In a world of many causes, there are people who choose one and fight for it. These heroes are everywhere. Think of the heroes you know and thank them.

## FOR THOSE WHO SERVE

The world is at war against terrorism. People we have known as neighbors are now recognized as military reserves as they are being called up for duty.

There is at least one gentleman in our neighborhood and members of the GPD who will likely be called to active duty. As time marches on we will hear of more people stepping in line to serve.

**Thank You and Good Luck to you and your families.**



## KUDOS

**Thank You** to those who help with the newsletter!

**Rashed** is Distribution Coordinator, ensures newsletter packages are received by each of the neighborhood deliverers

**Phyllis** submits notice of upcoming meetings to the Gardena Valley News

**Dave** created [GardenaCircle.com](http://GardenaCircle.com)

**Alex, Wendy, Jim, Josephine, Helen, Paul, Kate, John, Peggy, Calvin, Debra, Stan, Nathan, Ingrid, Flo,**

Wanda, Barbara, Bill, Thad, Cindie, and Deb deliver newsletters

What would \*YOU\* like to do? Will you photocopy the newsletter at the police station or help in some other way? Please contact [Louise](#).

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

*For crime-related matters:*



- CRIME IN PROGRESS      911
- SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY    323-7911
- GRAFFITI                    217-9568
- WeTIP    800-78CRIME, 800-782-7463

*For ideas & issues regarding GCNW:*



- Gardena Circle NW Web Site [www.GardenaCircle.com](http://www.GardenaCircle.com)
- Louise Stein, Block Captain [Louise\\*GardenaCircle.com](mailto:Louise*GardenaCircle.com)
- Ofc. Dave Golf 217-9670 [Dgolf@gardenapd.org](mailto:Dgolf@gardenapd.org)

[CrimeReport.html](#)