



[www.whcouncil.org](http://www.whcouncil.org)



## A message from our President, Dena Weiss

Greetings everyone who is lucky enough to reside within the boundaries of Woodland Hills and / or Warner Center:

Despite heavy rains and blustering winds, we are all coming through February and March showers and entering into a glorious Woodland Hills springtime. The blossoms will be peeking out from the bushes and the trees are flourishing from the amount of water they received. One thing your Neighborhood Council (NC) has been doing is investigating the location of empty tree wells, so that we can request tree replacements in those wells where died and been removed.

Your NC has also been busy participating in community events and listening to stakeholder concerns. The various NC committees have been meeting regularly, furthering each agenda item and bringing issues to the attention of the Board. We would love more stakeholders to join these committees, so see if there is one that you would like to join.

Finally, I wish to welcome our new NC Vice President, Tracey Rosen, who has hit the ground running and I am thrilled to have such a hands on teammate. We are all lucky to have her as our NCVP, especially me.

Go Team.



The public is always invited to attend any of our Board and Committee meetings. Please visit our website for updated information about meeting locations / Zoom links and times, and agendas.

**The Woodland Hills - Warner Center  
Neighborhood Council meets on the 2nd  
Wednesday of each month at LAFD Fire Station  
#84**

## WHWCNC Committees

*All committees meet at 6:30pm unless noted below*

### Community Service

- Meets on the 1st & 3rd Monday

### Education

- Meets on the 1st Tuesday

### Environment & Beautification

- Meets on the 2nd Tuesday

### Governance

- Meets on the 3rd Tuesday

### Government Relations

- Meets on the 1st Wednesday at 3pm

### **1st Saturdays Clean-Up**

Join us for our monthly neighborhood clean-up! Visit our website for updated information and meeting location

If you are a Stakeholder of Woodland Hills - Warner Center and interested in joining one of our committees, please reach out to the committee chair and Tracey Rosen at [t.rosen@whcouncil.org](mailto:t.rosen@whcouncil.org)

### **Homeless & Social Justice Advocacy**

- Meets on the last Tuesday

### **Outreach**

- Meets on the 2nd & 4th Monday

### **PLUM (Planning, Land Use & Mobility)**

- Meets on the 1st & 3rd Thursday

### **Public Safety**

- Meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 11am

### **WHIP (Woodland Hills Issues & Policies)**

- Meets on the 3rd Wednesday



Join us at one of the following upcoming community events and stop by our booth to speak with your neighborhood representatives.

### **April 6th - Grateful Hearts**

<https://www.woodlandhillsgcc.net/gratefulhearts.php>

### **April 14th – Assemblyman Jesse Gabriel’s Day of Service**

<https://a46.asmdc.org/event/20240414-3rd-annual-valley-day-service>

### **May 4<sup>th</sup> - Woodlake Night of the Arts**

<https://www.woodlakeelementary.org/night-of-the-arts-nota>

### **May 18th - ONE Generation Senior Symposium**

<https://www.onegeneration.org/senior-symposium/>

### **Woodland Hills Farmers Market**

<https://www.instagram.com/woodlandhillsfarmersmarket/?hl=en>

### **Concerts at Warner Park**

<https://valleycultural.org/event/2024-concerts-at-warner-park-return-june-16/>

## How did Woodland Hills get its name?

Our community was inhabited for approximately 8,000 years by Native Americans of the Fernandeano-Tataviam and Chumash-Venturaño tribes that lived in the Santa Monica Mountains. In 1910, the largest ever-land transaction in Los Angeles County occurred when a syndicate of wealthy investors, including Harry Chandler of the Los Angeles Times, purchased the southern half of the valley, south of present-day Roscoe Boulevard, from Toluca Lake to Woodland Hills, and formed the Los Angeles Suburban Homes Company. In 1922, Victor Girard Kleinberger bought 2,866 acres in the valley from Chandler's group, and founded the town of Girard.



Girard went to great lengths to attract residents and businesses to his new town, including planting 120,000 trees such as Eucalyptus, Cypress, Acacia, Pepper, and Monterey Pine. Girard himself had a colorful reputation as a "devious genius." The town of Girard took off, but during the Great Depression the population dwindled.

Over the years, most of Girard's contributions have disappeared, except for a few of the original cabins and the renamed Woodland Hills Country Club. Victor Girard chose to lay low, eventually returning to real estate and property development until his death in 1954.

During the 1930s, Harry Warner of Warner Bros. Entertainment acquired over 1,000 acres of land where he raised thoroughbred racing horses. In the 1950's and 60's Warner began selling off much of what was known as "Warner Ranch". The first major purchase was made by Rockwell International for its Rocketdyne facility. Soon thereafter, Kaiser-Aetna purchased a significant portion of what is known today as Warner Center. In the mid 1960's Kaiser-Aetna contracted with Albert C. Martin to create a master plan for the community. This plan served as the basis for the first Warner Center Specific Plan which was adopted in 1971 by the City of Los Angeles.

The inception of our community's current name and identity began in 1941, as a new Chamber of Commerce was established, and in homage to the many trees planted by Victor Girard, "Woodland Hills" became the official title. Because of its history and beauty, a collection of 300 Pepper trees planted along Canoga Avenue between Ventura Boulevard and Saltillo Street was named Los Angeles Cultural Monument #93 in 1972.

During the 1940s and 1950s, Woodland Hills experienced a population boom, as returning veterans and their families settled here. This led to the development of new homes, schools, and businesses.

One of the most significant events in Woodland Hills history was the opening of the Ventura Freeway in 1958. This freeway provided easy access to Los Angeles and other parts of the San Fernando Valley, making it possible for people to live in Woodland Hills while still working in the city.

As the population grew, so did the need for community services and amenities. In 1965, the Woodland Hills Chamber of Commerce was founded, followed by the Woodland Hills-Warner Center Neighborhood Council in 2000. Today, these organizations continue to work to promote the community's interests and ensure that Woodland Hills remains a vibrant place to live and thrive.

- Steve Sommers



As they say, it takes a village and together we make a difference. Each month, the Woodland Hills - Warner Center meets on the first Saturday (weather permitting) to clean up an area of Woodland Hills - Warner Center that could use a little extra love.

Make sure you follow us on social media or visit our website to see where we'll be cleaning / gardening. We can use your help!

And if you have a recommended public area that needs some extra TLC, please send your suggestions through the contact form on <https://whcouncil.org/committees/environmental>

---



## The Role of WHIP in Shaping Woodland Hills and Warner Center's Future

In the far west of Los Angeles, the Woodland Hills and Warner Center neighborhoods are vibrant communities known for their diverse populations and dynamic landscapes from flats to hillsides, rural to urban. However, like in many metropolitan areas, they face unique challenges. This is where the Woodland Hills - Warner Center Issues and Policies Committee (WHIP) steps in, serving as a crucial bridge between the residents and the city's decision-makers.

WHIP is dedicated to empowering Woodland Hills and Warner Center stakeholders by providing a robust platform for voicing concerns, sharing insights, and influencing the Los Angeles City Government's decision-making processes. The committee recognizes the challenges of feeling unheard and disconnected in a bustling city. It strives to ensure that residents' voices are heard and influential in shaping the policies and decisions that affect their daily lives.

WHIP is currently working on suggestions for amendments to the Los Angeles City Charter. In the past, it has developed Community Impact Statements regarding City Council Districting, Expansion of Fire District 1, Treatment of animals at shelters, Sepulveda Basin Dog Park, an independent Redistricting Commission, Support of reforms proposed by the Ethics Commission, and City responses to State legislation.

### The Importance of Community Engagement

Community engagement is at the heart of WHIP's mission. The committee facilitates open and accessible channels for community members to express their opinions and concerns regarding local and city-wide issues. This open dialogue is crucial for identifying the community's needs and aspirations and ensuring that development and urban planning are carried out responsibly and with the community's best interests in mind.

WHIP encourages active participation in committee meetings, public comment sessions, and even committee membership opportunities. This inclusive approach fosters a collaborative and informed community environment, where every stakeholder can contribute to shaping their neighborhood's future.

### Advocacy and Action

One of WHIP's key roles is advocating for the community through direct engagement with City entities. By amplifying the collective voice of Woodland Hills and Warner Center residents, the committee prompts meaningful action and change within the City. This advocacy is crucial in ensuring that city planners, developers, and policymakers adequately consider and address the community's needs.

### The Challenge of Representation

Despite residents' deep care and concern for their neighborhoods, many feel powerless to influence city leaders' decisions. This lack of influence and representation can lead to frustration, disconnection, and uncertainty about the future. WHIP aims to mitigate these feelings by providing a platform for community members to voice their concerns and working with the city government to ensure decisions are made in the community's best interests.

### Join WHIP and Make a Difference

The Woodland Hills - Warner Center Issues and Policies Committee is more than just a committee; it's a movement towards a more inclusive, responsive, and community-focused urban development process. By getting involved with WHIP, you can help shape the future of our community and city. Attend meetings, participate in events, and share your ideas and concerns. Your involvement is crucial in creating a better, more livable community.

Together, we can ensure that Woodland Hills and Warner Center grow and thrive. Join us in making a difference. Your voice is powerful, and together, we can shape a brighter future for our community.

- August Steurer

[a.steurer@whcouncil.org](mailto:a.steurer@whcouncil.org)



The rising homelessness issue effects both the housed and the unhoused. Do you consider it important to understand the complexities of homelessness? Are you willing to research and develop programming to improve the Woodland Hills - Warner Center Community? If so, the Woodland Hills Warner Center Neighborhood Council Homeless & Social Justice Advocacy Committee needs you!

By joining the Homeless & Social Justice Advocacy Committee, you will have an opportunity to learn ways in which the unhoused and those in need are affected. You will be able to advocate for programs and services, volunteer at local events, and meet our local civic leaders.

Through working with local non-profit agencies, volunteers learn about the functions and operations of our government. Volunteers gain knowledge of local resources available to solve community needs. Attend meetings, get involved, and share your ideas with the committee.

- Reina Cerros-McCaughey

Contact [r.mccaughey@whcouncil.org](mailto:r.mccaughey@whcouncil.org) for more information.

---

## PLUM: Working to Make Sure All the Pieces Fit.



The Planning, Land Use and Mobility Committee (PLUM) of the Neighborhood Council was created at the inception of the City's Charter edict for creating Neighborhood Councils, and was tasked with interfacing with developers and their representatives, any potentially impacted neighborhoods (plus the Woodland Hills Community as a whole), and the land use deputies of the Council District-3 as well as the City's Planning Department. The goal was to assure that the City and County's development requirements were being met while balancing--and hopefully enhancing--the needs and desires of the targeted neighborhoods.

The PLUM Committee takes its duties and responsibilities seriously. Our guidelines are to fairly and ethically represent the views, hopes and any concerns about projects that our residents, businesses and community-based organizations have about a project that has legally filed for consideration with the City's Planning Department. We must also factor in the legal and creative rights of developers and land owners. At the same time, PLUM is expected to weigh all impacts the project will have on existing Specific Plans and City rules. Finally, PLUM see its mission and responsibility to address any questionable stylistic and mobility elements of the proposed project, or to physically or logistically enhance a project so that it "plusses" the neighborhood, the community and the City when finally developed.

The first Thursday of each month has been designated by PLUM for its open meetings which are held in the Community Room of Firehouse 84 on Burbank Blvd. The third Thursday of the month may also be scheduled for additional meetings at the same location if needed. All PLUM discussions are open to the public, and public commentary is taken, evaluated and factored into most committee determinations.

So, exactly how does the PLUM operate? Officially, we are charged by Planning and the Council District-3 office to act upon *official* City cases that are sent to us for evaluations and observations about their potential impacts and enhancements to the surrounding neighborhood as a way to alert City Planners and our Councilman about the potential plusses and minuses of a requested project. Those types of Cases can include zoning change requests, variances, house and residential apartment or commercial building proposals, open space, accessibility and a slew of other important factors that can impact a site, a business or a neighborhood.

Once that Planning Case is received, it is assigned to a member or members of the PLUM to interface with the developer, representative or requestor, and evaluate the positives and negatives. The project developer, owner, or representative is usually asked to make a presentation (slide, video, or just oral) to the full PLUM Committee and the community. After questions and discussions, a second meeting is scheduled, and the PLUM Case leader(s) then assembles all of the pertinent information, and creates a written Case Report that lists the pertinent details, discusses the pros and cons, and offers a recommendation for a motion for the full WHWCNC Board to support or not support, along with detailed reasons and any requested conditions for the Planning Department and the CD-3 to consider before making their determinations. It is important to note, that neither PLUM nor the neighborhood council approves or denies projects.

Once that recommendation is made to Planning and the Councilman, the project is out of the hands of the Neighborhood Council. But if the community or the developer doesn't agree with the determination issued by City Planning or the CD-3, there are opportunities for the community to appeal and/or change the determination through the Planning Department. The neighborhood council cannot appeal cases.

Over the last four years, the PLUM Committee has had a slew of requested projects come before it, but since the middle of last year, the number of official Cases from Planning has seen a tremendous drop-off. According to PLUM Chairman Don Patterson, a great number of proposed projects have either postponed or completely dropped their plans due to the escalating costs of building materials, the high interest rates by lenders to finance those projects, significant changes to building rules and requirements due to a number of bills passed by Sacramento, and an Executive Directorate and initiated by LA Mayor Bass.

- Marty Lipkin & Don Patterson

[m.lipkin@whcouncil.org](mailto:m.lipkin@whcouncil.org) [d.patterson@whcouncil.org](mailto:d.patterson@whcouncil.org)



## Record Amount of Education Grants Awarded in Woodland Hills

The Education Committee of the Woodland Hills - Warner Center Neighborhood Council processed a record amount of Neighborhood Purpose Grants for area schools this fiscal year. Three elementary schools received city funding toward programs outside of the classroom totaling \$6,300.00, thanks to the Education Committee and the greater Board of the WHWC Neighborhood Council.

Chaired by newly elected Julie Waltrip, the Committee received grant applications from four area schools and the Board was able to pass three of them, leveraging city funds to the schools' non-profit Parent Teacher Organizations (PTO). The PTOs on Woodland Hills campuses benefitting from the grant money include Lockhurst Drive Charter Elementary, Woodlake Elementary Community Charter, and Calabash Charter Academy. The city grant money is earmarked by the Council each fiscal year to fund educational programs that augment classroom instruction with hands-on activities for students. Gardening & Ecology, Arts & Expression, and STEM field trips are all green-lit to happen concurrently on these Woodland Hills school campuses this Spring. The annual Night Of The Arts (NOTA) event at Woodlake Elementary is a free family-friendly event open to the public on Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup> 5:00-8:00 pm. For more information on this event or to learn more about Neighborhood Purpose Grants, visit our website at [whcouncil.org](http://whcouncil.org) and search for the NPG form.

- Julie Waltrip

[j.waltrip@whcouncil.org](mailto:j.waltrip@whcouncil.org)

## Community Service: Working to Benefit Others



The Community Services Committee is dedicated to enhancing our community and fostering collaboration on projects that benefit the residents of Woodland Hills while empowering stakeholders to access essential services provided by the City and County of Los Angeles. Our mission encompasses providing information, support, and guidance to address concerns effectively, directing individuals to the appropriate LA City departments for assistance.

One of our primary goals is to promote stakeholder initiatives and cultivate partnerships within the diverse neighborhoods of Woodland Hills - Warner Center. Through our efforts, we have facilitated various projects, including senior forums, toy and food drives, insurance and health seminars, job fairs, and the installation of Neighborhood Council banners. Additionally, we contribute to enhancing the festive spirit of Ventura Blvd. through holiday street lighting initiatives and offer grants to non-profit organizations serving our community.



Collaborating closely with the Outreach Committee and the Woodland Hills - Warner Center Neighborhood Council board, our committee actively participates in local events to provide comprehensive support. Look out for our booths at upcoming events such as The Grateful Hearts event on Saturday, April 6, 2024, benefiting local first responders and promoting public safety, and the ONEgeneration Senior Symposium on Saturday, May 18, 2024, aimed at educating seniors about health, housing, food security, and support services available in the West San Fernando Valley. You can find a list of additional events on our website and in our newsletter.

We extend a warm invitation to visit our booths at these events to meet your council representatives and discuss any neighborhood or community concerns you may have. We value your input and encourage you to share suggestions for future seminars or workshops that would benefit our stakeholders in the upcoming fiscal year. We eagerly anticipate hearing from you and working together to enhance the quality of life in Woodland Hills - Warner Center.

- Joyce Fletcher  
[j.fletcher@whcouncil.org](mailto:j.fletcher@whcouncil.org)

## Have you heard people talk about MyLA311 but have no idea what it is?

With the MyLA311 app, City information and services are just a few taps away. Use the app to quickly and easily request the City's most popular services, including graffiti removal, pothole repair, bulky-item pickup, parking enforcement, animal services, and more.



[Download for Apple](#)

[Download for Android](#)

If you prefer to call, Contact the MyLA311 Call Center by Dialing 311 or (213) 473-3231  
Mon-Fri: 7:00am-7:00pm / Weekend & Holidays: 8:00am-4:45pm

Or, if you would like to submit a request through the website, visit [MyLA311.lacity.org](http://MyLA311.lacity.org)

Please note that some services are typically addressed faster when submitted through the App or website with a submitted photo.



Woodland Hills-Warner Center Neighborhood Council | 20929 Ventura Blvd., Suite 47-535, Woodland Hills, CA 91364