



# BC Bulletin

September 2018

## Canyon Highlights September 1 - October 1

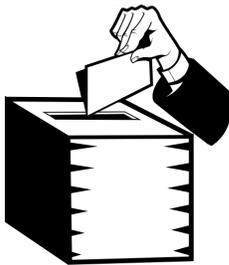
- ◆ Sept 8, 5:30PM: CSD's Endless Summer
- ◆ Sept 10, 4PM: Knitters and Crocheters
- ◆ Sept 11, 7PM: BCAC meeting
- ◆ Sept 13, 7PM: BCA BOD meeting
- ◆ Sept 16, 2PM: BCA BOD Candidate's Forum
- ◆ Sept 19, 10AM: Book Club
- ◆ Sept 24, 7PM: CSD meeting\*
- ◆ Sept 25, 7PM: BCAC meeting
- ◆ Sept 29, 9AM: CSD's Fall Clean Up

\*Subject to change

## Save the Date!

Bell Canyon Association's

### Annual Meeting and Election



BCCC Social Hall

Sunday, October 21, 2018

2 PM

## Fall Frolics: Upcoming Events

Hot on the heels of a busy summer, Bell Canyon's Fall Calendar is bursting with events for the whole family. Here's what's coming up in the next few months. ■

### Labor Day Weekend

Bell Canyon CSD & Kids Committee's



Family Movie Night &  
Campout in the Park

Saturday, 9/1, 7PM - Sunday, 9/2, 11AM

The Bell Canyon CSD's



September 8

5:30 - 10 PM

Bell Canyon Association's

2018 Board of  
Directors Election:  
Meet the Candidates  
Forum



September 16  
2 PM, BCCC

Bell Canyon CSD's Annual

## Fall Clean Up

September 29  
BCCC • Lower Bus Stop  
9 AM-1 PM

Large item drop off  
Donations • Shredding  
Hazardous waste • More

## Bell Canyon CSD and Kids Committee's HAUNTED HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL

October 27, 6 PM - 10 PM

Madcap music, ghoulish games, killer crafts,  
and a horrifying new Haunted House...

## Spotlight on: Richard Levy

Whether you know him as Treasurer of the BCA Board, President of the CSD Board, a friendly face at Bell Canyon events, or just a great neighbor, it's hard to miss Richard Levy—at over six feet tall, he stands out from the crowd, an easygoing figure with a ready handshake or hug. In addition to being one of Bell Canyon's most recognizable faces, he is a CPA and a reserve police officer, and a former river guide. We caught up with Richard between Board meetings and asked him what it's been like to live life to its fullest.

**BCB:** Let's start from the beginning—what's your history? Is there a hidden tragic backstory?

**Richard Levy:** My childhood was unremarkable, as Dr. Evil would say. I was brought up in the Valley, and finished college at CSUN with a double major in accounting and political science. After graduation, I went to work at my father's new accounting practice as a temporary assignment to help build up the business before going to work for the State Department. I'm still there temporarily, 40 years later.

**BCB:** So where does the LAPD fit into this?

**RL:** In 1988, I got strong-armed into working for the LAPD as a reserve. I was originally assigned to Valley traffic detectives, but got moved to Van Nuys homicide and now I'm at Northeast Division homicide, working cold cases and death investigation follow-ups. It's not as exciting as it sounds, but interesting—and a little disgusting.

**BCB:** There's a lot of burnout on the police force, and you already have a full-time job. Why do you keep coming back to police work and the cold cases?

**RL:** Sadly, it's because, with unsolved cases, there's no one else to do it. So my job is to pull the old cases, go through them again, and see if we can pull enough new information to assign it to a full-time detective. I screen them, and very often, there's DNA we can now use, or kids have grown up and are now willing to talk. They're all tragic—I mean, they're murders!—but it's good to know that you can put somebody behind bars.

**BCB:** Is it mostly desk work, then? You're not out there Law-and-Ordering, quipping at crime scenes and wearing shades at night?

**RL:** No, I'm not out chasing people or anything; mostly I hit the books, research the cases, talk to people. I very rarely go out into the field, maybe once a month. I've been to crime scenes, and the arrest of a murderer, but that was very anticlimactic—he gave up immediately.

**BCB:** How long are you planning to stay on the force?

**RL:** I'm actually the oldest detective at my station right now, and I'm not going to retire, at least until I'm in my 80s. It's bad for your health to retire from the police force—I'm one of the last of my friends still around.

**BCB:** So during all of this, accounting and helping solve old murders, what brought you to Bell Canyon?

**RL:** We actually moved here because of my sister, who's lived in the Canyon since 1990. We sold our Calabasas house in 2005, in anticipation of the 2008 crash, looked around for a couple years, and settled on Bell Canyon in 2010. I ended up running for the Board in my first year here! *(Answers have been edited or condensed for clarity.)*



*Richard at a 2013 gathering*

*The story's not over yet! Look for Part 2 of this interview in the October issue: adventures as a river guide, the life of a pilot, and Richard's secret for a life without regrets. Interested in talking to the Bell Canyon Bulletin? Got an idea for a feature story? Email your suggestions to Bri at [reception@bellcanyon.com](mailto:reception@bellcanyon.com) and let us know—your idea could be featured in the next issue.* ■