



BC Bulletin

February 2020

Canyon Highlights February 1 - February 29

- ◆ Feb 3, 4PM: Knitters and Crocheters
- ◆ Feb 9, 2PM: Heart2Heart
- ◆ Feb 11, 7PM: BCAC meeting
- ◆ Feb 13, 7PM: BCA BOD meeting
- ◆ Feb 19, 10AM: Book Club
- ◆ Feb 24, 7PM: CSD meeting*
- ◆ Feb 25, 7PM: BCAC meeting

*Subject to change

Save the Date

Super Tuesday Special

Food Truck Rally



3/3/2020, BCCC

6AM: Polling place and Apollo's Coffee open

4PM: Food Trucks open

5PM: Live election results

Grab a bite, cast your vote,
and engage with your
community!

Heart2Heart: Send a Smile with a Stuffed Animal Pal



Just a few of the furry friends waiting to be filled and sent to a new home

When the Bell Canyon Kids Committee first formed the idea for Heart2Heart, the goal was to provide Bell Canyon's kids an opportunity to give back to the local community, building good citizenship habits from a young age. In the aftermath of the Woolsey Fire, it was a simple matter to shift focus and create a space where kids could say "thank you" to their local first responders and donate cards for fire houses. This year, the Kids Committee is shining a spotlight on a different kind of house: the homes of Hathaway-Sycamores Child and Family Services.

Hathaway-Sycamores is a Pasadena-based family services provider that began as the Pasadena Children's Training Society in 1902. As understanding of child health, care, and welfare grew, the Society joined forces with Hathaway Children & Family Services to provide an expanded range of inpatient, outpatient, and social services for kids in need. Today, Hathaway-Sycamores extends throughout the greater Los Angeles area and includes a residential treatment center, a family resource center, a transitional living program, in-home counseling, and school-based mental health treatment, among other programs. The children they serve come from all walks of life, but they share one thing in common: the need for support and care from the wider community.

On Sunday, February 9, from 2-4PM, Heart2Heart will feature a host of family-friendly activities at the Bell Canyon Community Center. Kids (and parents!) will be able to fill a stuffed animal with soft fluff and a custom heart, then drop it off at the wrapping table for our teen volunteers to package and prep for delivery. A grazing table filled with healthy, kid-friendly snacks and desserts will be accompanied by a hot chocolate and coffee station to warm up those cold February fingers, and two friendly Giving Faeries will be on hand with glitter, balloons, and face paint for the whole family. Adults are welcome to join in the stuffed animal fun, fill up a plate, and mingle with representatives from the local first response agencies. After the event, all the finished stuffed animals will be sent to make a new friend at the Hathaway-Sycamores facilities, so the more helping hands, the merrier.

To ensure that sufficient to-be-stuffed animals and filling packages are ordered, the Kids Committee is asking that parents please reserve a stuffed animal ahead of time using the online RSVP form located at <https://forms.gle/5tC5HpFdKumwNYnWA>. The form also includes a space to note any major food allergies or restrictions your children might have, so that the grazing table can be made accessible to as many folks as possible. Of course, the Committee will also keep a few extra animals on hand in case a surprise friend, cousin, or parent wants to participate! If you have any questions about the form or the event, please contact Bri in the office at 818-346-9879 or at reception@bellcanyon.com. If you're interested in learning more about the work that Hathaway-Sycamores does, you can visit them on the web at <https://www.hathaway-sycamores.org/programs/>. ■

Seeing Red: the BCA Maintenance Team

You may see the red shirted BCA staff members everywhere in Bell Canyon, from the top of the Ridge Trail, to the bottom of the dozens of huge storm drains spread throughout the Canyon. Every month, the eight-member maintenance staff team spends nearly 1,000 total man hours on community maintenance. The team is led by Jose Avila, who's been with Bell Canyon for over 10 years and knows every niche and quirk of the property. Team members bring a huge array of skills to the table, from electrical, to carpentry, to concrete, to a knack for getting the Gym's TV remote controls to work again.

If you've ever wondered how the maintenance staff knows what task to tackle first, here's a brief overview of maintenance life

behind the scenes. The staff handles two main categories of maintenance work: regular and project. Regular work is the necessary daily, monthly, and annual maintenance that keeps Bell Canyon working like a charm. This broad category includes street cleaning, weed clearing, fence repairs, holiday decorations, community event preparation and clean-up, trail and park upkeep, and maintenance of the facilities, like the community and equestrian centers, office, bus stop, and entry station. On the other hand, projects might be long-term, but usually encompass a single goal, and will change year to year. These might include concrete replacement, facility improvements, new landscaping, new monuments and signage, or big jobs like the upper school bus stop. The Association requires both kinds of work to keep it operating and looking right. Below is a table of the time spent on the major components of BCA maintenance for six months of 2019.

THERE'S BIRTH, THERE'S DEATH, AND IN BETWEEN THERE'S MAINTENANCE

TOM ROBBINS

HOURS	June	July	August	September	October	November
Facilities	333	504.75	423.25	322.75	429.75	431.25
Events	12	0	0	269.75	267.5	71.25
Streets	96.5	76.25	140.25	126.25	152	111.25
Weeds	35.75	46.25	19.5	24	39.75	19
Trails & Park	49.25	46	62.5	11.5	5	6
Projects	104.5	153.75	190	164.5	48.5	44

Along with the obvious tasks, there are many elements of Bell Canyon requiring regular maintenance that residents may not even think of. Jobs such as preparing for winter rains, ensuring the dog stations are clean and supplied, building the stage for Endless Summer or Bell Canyon Broadway, and keeping the maintenance yard, trucks, and equipment in working order are just a few of the less-visible tasks the staff handles. However, you can be assured that, even when you can't see them, like Savoir-Faire, the maintenance staff is everywhere. ■

Don't Let Trash Cans Trip You Up

Although it may seem like a small thing, unkempt trash bins are unsightly at best, and block essential services at worst. Avoid common can calamities with the following tips:

1. Bins should only be out during the correct hours: CSD Ordinance 99-04 specifies that cans should be out no earlier than 5 PM the day before pickup and in no later than 7 PM the day of pickup.
2. Make sure your cans are not blocking important access, especially to the mailbox. Federal guidelines require carriers to be able to pull up, deliver the mail, and pull away without having to back in or out of a spot, so make sure you place your cans far enough away to leave room for Connie, Kevin, and the rest of Bell Canyon's mail carriers.
3. Store cans in a secure location. Not only are trash bin enclosures part of the Bell Canyon CC&Rs, but they prevent trouble with racoons, coyotes, and—of course—the winds!



With a little extra care, you can keep your cans safe from Canyon hazards: rogue mail trucks, marauding hungry critters, wild Santa Anas, and, of course, those bright red violation stickers. ■