



# Newsletter

MARCH 2024

## Calendar

DATE	EVENT	TIME
3/3	Horse & Pony Day	11:00AM*
3/3	Senior Luncheon	11:30AM*
3/4	Theater Committee Meeting	10:00AM*
3/5	Board of Directors	
	Executive Session	4:30PM*
3/6	Landscape Committee Meeting	9:00AM*
3/8	Movie Night: CRAZY RICH ASIANS	7:00 PM*
3/11	City Council Meeting	5:30PM
3/13	Parks and Recreation	
	Committee Meeting	11:00AM*
3/19	Board of Directors	
	Open Session Meeting	6:30PM*
3/20	Equestrian Services Committee	6:45PM*
3/21	Bunco Night	7:00PM*
3/27	Architectural Committee Meeting	6:30PM*

\* Hidden Hills Community Center (24549 Long Valley Road)  
Non asterisk meetings held at City Hall, 6165 Spring Valley Road

## City Council

Mayor	Eniko Gold
Mayor Pro Tem	Larry G. Weber
Council Member	Laura McCorkindale
Council Member	Joe Loggia

## City Staff

Interim City Manager	Marcella Marlowe, Ph.D.
City Clerk	Deana L. Gonzalez, CMC
Accounting Specialist	Theresa Hernandez
Administrative Analyst	Aaron Williams
Interim City Attorney	Michael Jenkins
City Engineer	Dirk Lovett
Building Inspector	Steve O'Hara



## Turning Over a New Leaf

Since 1994, gasoline powered leaf blowers have been prohibited throughout the City of Hidden Hills. This prohibition was put in place as the use of gas-powered leaf blowers raise concerns about excessive noise, air pollution, and exposure to particulate matter. No gas leaf blowers are allowed to be used in the City, anywhere.

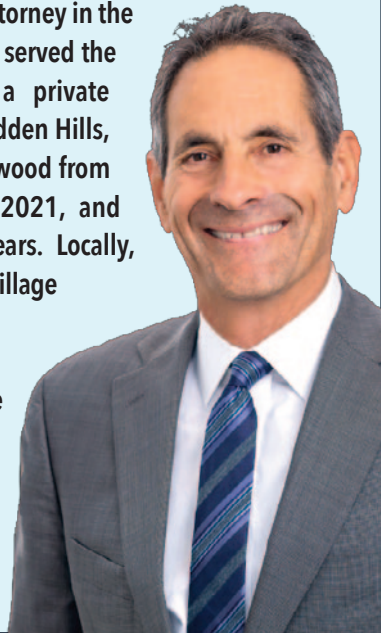
Non-gasoline powered (electric or battery powered) leaf blowers are permitted - but only on private property - for example, in residential front yards and backyards. Leaf blowers are not allowed to be used on parkways, roadways, streets, or pedestrian or equestrian trails.

The City thanks all residents who have worked to help implement these rules. If you see a gas leaf blower or improper use of an electric or battery-powered leaf blower, you can report the violation to City Hall by calling 818-888-9281 or by emailing [staff@hiddenhillscity.org](mailto:staff@hiddenhillscity.org). When possible, please include photos and video in your report.

## Michael Jenkins Re-Joins City as Interim City Attorney

If his name sounds familiar, that's because it is. The City is thrilled to have Michael Jenkins, of Best, Best, and Krieger (BBK), return to the City as Interim City Attorney. Jenkins has over 45 years' experience representing multiple California cities as city attorney, including a stint serving Hidden Hills as its City Attorney in the early 1990s. Mr. Jenkins served the City of Rolling Hills, a private community similar to Hidden Hills, for 40 years, West Hollywood from its incorporation until 2021, and Hermosa Beach for 27 years. Locally, he also served Westlake Village and Malibu.

Mr. Jenkins is among the most highly regarded municipal law specialists in California, advising municipalities all over the State.



## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

CHANGE... This word has only six letters, but carries so much content. How you feel about the word and what meaning it takes on when you read it depends on our own personal experiences. When we reflect on our lives, we all took risks and worked hard to achieve positive change.

"Change" can be a verb and a noun: an action taken or a mental concept. At our city, it's both: we made conscious decisions to pursue better services to our residents and thus improving our city in the process. To me, the word signifies progress and the courage to act even when the status quo feels so familiar and comfortable.

It's not easy to be an Agent of Change. It carries risks - failure is always lurking around the corner. What I have realized in my early days as an immigrant though is that change is quintessentially American! Change is what made our country the greatest and what will keep it the greatest for centuries to come. Just like in nature, adaptability -the ability to change - guarantees the success and survival of a species.

Our goal at the City is to create policies and services that are commensurate with our residents and we will only get there if we keep our hearts and minds open to the wonderful possibilities of these six letters: C-H-A-N-G-E.

**Eniko Gold,**  
Mayor of Hidden Hills

## Navigating a Longer Wetter Rainy Season

Not in two decades has Hidden Hills seen the deluge of rain that impacted the City and all of Southern California in early February. It's important to be mindful that the rainy season is still in full swing until Spring. During this period, heavy rains and high winds are expected, and all residents need to be prepared for these weather conditions.

Winds have the potential to cause damage by toppling various items and dispersing debris that was not properly disposed of. This debris may find its way into storm drains and local waterways. The accumulation of litter and debris in drains, coupled with increased rainfall, raises the concern of potential flooding and transport of pollutants. Trash can also reach our waterways without passing through the storm drain system. Wind can lift debris and transport it to our local lakes and creeks. Despite these challenges, there are several proactive measures we can take to safeguard our waterways.

Let's work together to ensure the safety and resilience of our community during this rainy season.

### Take Action!

- Check your local weather regularly for adverse weather conditions such as strong wind and rain.
- Secure your trash bins to prevent them from falling over with wind.
- Ensure your trash bins are closed or covered at all times.
- Maintain and clean roof gutters and outdoor irrigation drainage pipes to ensure rainwater properly flows to street drains and doesn't flood your yard.
- Sweep dirt out of curbs and into landscaping to prevent it from entering storm drains.
- Do not apply fertilizers before a rain event or within
  - 5 feet of pavement
  - 25 feet of a storm drain
  - 50 feet of a water body
- Always pick up after your pet.

For more tips on how you can take action to reduce pollution visit the City's website at <https://hiddenhillscity.org/city-departments/public-works/stormwater-plan/>.

# Available Tax Relief for Natural Disasters

This has been a challenging few months when it comes to our weather. The rain totals have been historic with meteorologists indicating the most recent storm was the third wettest over a two-day period since 1877.

In the event of any damage to your home resulting from the recent storms or other natural disaster, there is property tax relief available.

By filing a claim for Misfortune & Calamity relief within one year of the incident, properties that have sustained a minimum of \$10,000 in damage may be eligible for a refund of taxes already paid and lower annual tax bills until the property is repaired or rebuilt.

The M&C claim forms - known as the Application for Reassessment: Property Damaged or Destroyed by Misfortune or Calamity - can be obtained online at: <https://assessor.lacounty.gov/tax-relief/disaster-relief> or by phone at (213) 974-8658.



# Sheriff's Blotter

## January 2024

	CURRENT MONTH	YTD 2024	YTD 2023	CHANGE
Homicide	0	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	0	0
Robbery				
Armed	0	0	0	0
Strong-arm	0	0	0	0
Assault	0	0	0	0
Burglary				
Residential	0	0	0	0
Business	0	0	0	0
Vehicle (locked)	0	0	0	0
Theft				
Grand (\$950+)	0	0	0	0
Petty	0	0	0	0
Vehicle (unlocked)	0	0	0	0
Grand Theft Vehicle	0	0	0	0
Arson	0	0	0	0
Domestic Violence / Felony	0	0	0	0

### Noteworthy Incidents:

- There were no noteworthy incidents in the month of January.

# Take Action!



### COVER AND SECURE TRASH BINS

Secure trash bin lids to prevent debris from entering our waterways. Trash can degrade habitats, harm wildlife and potentially endanger people's health.



### INSPECT YOUR LAWN AND OUTDOOR AREAS

Properly dispose of any debris or trash seen around your property. Wind can cause loose debris and trash to end up in waterways, degrading the quality of our water supply.



### PROPERLY MANAGE GREEN WASTE

Ensure grass clippings and leaves are disposed of in a green waste bin. They can release Nitrogen and Phosphorus which adversely impact water quality.



### PICK UP AFTER YOUR PET

During rainfall, pet waste left on lawns washes into storm drains. It contains pathogens (bacteria, parasites and viruses), harming the environment and human health.

## City Council UPDATES

At the Council meeting on February 12th, the Council heard a legislative update presentation by Dane Hutchings, the Managing Director of Renne Public Policy Group, who informed the Council on a slate of bills being proposed in Sacramento to be mindful of. The Council then approved the appointment of Michael Jenkins, of Best,

Best, and Krieger (BBK), as Interim City Attorney. Read the story on page 3 for more about Interim City Attorney Jenkins.

The next City Council meeting will be held on Monday, March 11th. The meeting starts at 5:30 p.m. and can be watched on Channel 3 (Charter/Spectrum Cable) or web streamed via the City's website.

## Save on Your L.A. County Property Tax Bill Every Year Homeowners' Exemption Available

If you own a home and it is your principal place of residence as of January 1, you may apply for an exemption of \$7,000 from your assessed value.

The Los Angeles County Assessor, who is responsible for discovering all taxable property in Los Angeles County, except for state-assessed property, is committed to helping every qualified homeowner in LA County in receiving a Homeowners' Exemption (HOX) tax savings.

The HOX is the easiest and most accessible program to apply for that reduces the assessed value of a home by \$7,000 for tax purposes,

provided that the property is the owner's principal place of residence as of January 1st. This translates to a reduction of \$70 annually to a homeowners' property tax bill.

County records indicate that 40% percent of eligible homeowners in the City of Hidden Hills do not take advantage of the HOX tax savings. All you need to do to receive the tax break is fill out the application at: [www.assessor.lacounty.gov/exemptions/homeowner-exemption](http://www.assessor.lacounty.gov/exemptions/homeowner-exemption).

The deadline was February 15th and if you missed the deadline you should still file your claim as you will have your savings prorated for this tax year and receive the full benefit in future years. The savings will continue until a change (such as a sale) is recorded.

If you have any questions, visit [www.assessor.lacounty.gov](http://www.assessor.lacounty.gov) or call (213) 974-3211.

## FIESTA 2024 CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

The 2024 Fiesta weekend dates are in! This year Fiesta will be Saturday, September 14, and Sunday, September 15. It's never too early to express interest, submit theme ideas, and volunteer for Fiesta committees. Call or email City Hall at 818-888-9281 or [staff@hiddenhillscity.org](mailto:staff@hiddenhillscity.org).

## CONCERNS OR ISSUES WITH YOUR TRASH PICKUP AND SERVICE?

The City's trash hauler provides a dedicated Concierge for all your service inquiries.

MARILYN GALLAGHER  
WM Education & Outreach  
[mgallagh@wm.com](mailto:mgallagh@wm.com)  
805-210-0965

