



Westdale VILLAGER

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
WESTDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
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WINTER 2015 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION



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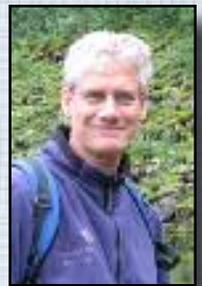
WINTER IN WESTDALE

• *Jerry Hornof*

Being a Los Angeles Kings fan, the start of the season reminds me that winter has returned to Southern California and 2015 is nearing an end. Hopefully, this season will see the return of the Stanley Cup to Los Angeles. The Westdale Homeowners Association's 2015 theme was Hands On, a challenge for "active participation" in our community. On Sunday, October 4th, we benefitted from the many volunteers who help make our Westdale Homeowners Association block party a great success. It was hosted by our neighbors on Coolidge Avenue between Stanwood Drive and Coolidge Place. On a lovely October afternoon (after an early morning threat of rain) an estimated 400 Westdale residents strolled down Coolidge Avenue, eating good food (including 400 hotdogs), and enjoying their neighbors and neighborhood. We were visited by Councilperson Mike Bonin, Senior Lead Officer Adrian Acosta, and a special visit from the Los Angeles Fire Department. Councilperson Bonin's office provided payment for the street closure. I thank board members Ethel Oderberg, Shari Dunn and Lisa Rosenbloom for all their hard work. Their excellent organization was essential to making this a great day. Finally, I want to thank the Coolidge Avenue neighbors. Their hospitality is greatly appreciated. If you missed this year's event please plan on joining us next fall.

October is always an active month in Mar Vista and Westdale. Besides our annual block party, the Mar Vista Community Council sponsors the Fall Festival at Mar Vista park, the park hosts the Halloween Party, and Mar Vista Elementary celebrates the Big Boo. This is a fun month for all Westdale residents.

Over the last three weeks, Mar Vista has seen an increase in low-flying and noisy commercial airplanes. These planes are heading for LAX, arriving through a new, coordinated approach from the north and west. They travel over our neighborhood and across Culver City before making a u-turn near downtown for their final descent into LAX over Inglewood. This new flight path is the beginning of the implementation of a redesign of the routing of



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planes in and out of airports all across the country using "NextGen" technology. The FAA did have a poorly advertised and understood public comment opportunity. You can still act in various ways: 1) you can file noise complaints with LAX by calling LAX's dedicated 24-hour number at (424) 64-NOISE. You can also fill out LAX's complaint form; 2) you can also contact the FAA Noise Ombudsman (202) 267-3521; and 3) you can contact our elected representatives and let them know how much this recent change concerns you. Mayor Garcetti, Councilman Bonin, and Congresswoman Bass are all aware of the issue, but they have expressed the need for many community members to speak out on this issue for there to be an impact. I will provide additional information in the next few weeks.

In closing I wanted to remind everyone to visit the Westdale Homeowners Association website (www.westdalehoa.org). Our Westdale Homeowners Association Annual meeting will occur on Tuesday, January 26, at 7:00pm at Mar Vista Park. Be sure to mark your calendars. As we start the New Year, I hope that 2016 will be a wonderful year for all of our Westdale families.



WHEN SHOULD YOU CALL 911 OR 877-ASK-LAPD

•Leah Oye/Liaison to Pacific Police Division

Last year the 911 phone number received 4.2 million calls with 70% considered non-emergency calls. When should you call 911, and when should you call 877 ASK-LAPD?

The emergency number 911 is for life-threatening situations whether medical, fire or crime in progress. Medical and fire emergencies are routed to the fire department, and crimes in progress are sent to LAPD. For example, if you come home to find someone in your house, get out and call 911. If you see someone checking door handles of cars or looking into windows of homes or cars, that is considered a crime in progress so call 911. If you call from a cell-phone, it may delay the response time, because it does not give location information. When you use a land line, the address of the phone number is automatically displayed.

The 911 operator will ask questions, so please be patient and answer to the best of your ability. You

may think, " I don't want to answer all this, just send someone!" While the operator is asking you questions, she/he is broadcasting the information to the patrol unit(s) at the same time. Do not hang up unless the operator tells you to! The line should stay open until the officers arrive. A situation may change quickly, and you may need to provide more information.

When do you call the non-emergency number, 1 877 ASK-LAPD? This is for suspicious activity or persons. For example, call if you notice someone walking around the neighborhood that "seems funny" or someone sitting in a car. Give as much information as you can such a description of the person, the make of the car, and the license plate number. You may be on hold for a while, but DO NOT hang up; you will lose your place in line. They will answer all calls. If patrols are busy, the operator may broadcast the information, which will allow a patrol to answer when free. If that suspicious person starts walking up a driveway or attempts to hop a fence, call 911 for a crime in progress. You may ask to remain anonymous when making a report.

Contact our senior lead officer, Adrian Acosta, for any non-emergency advice at 37285@lapd.lacity.org or 310 622-3973 (cell).

If you see abandoned belongings on sidewalks or along the side of the road, please report it to the Sanitation Department, <http://lacity.org/myla-311>, NOT LAPD. The Sanitation Department will tag the items and schedule collection.

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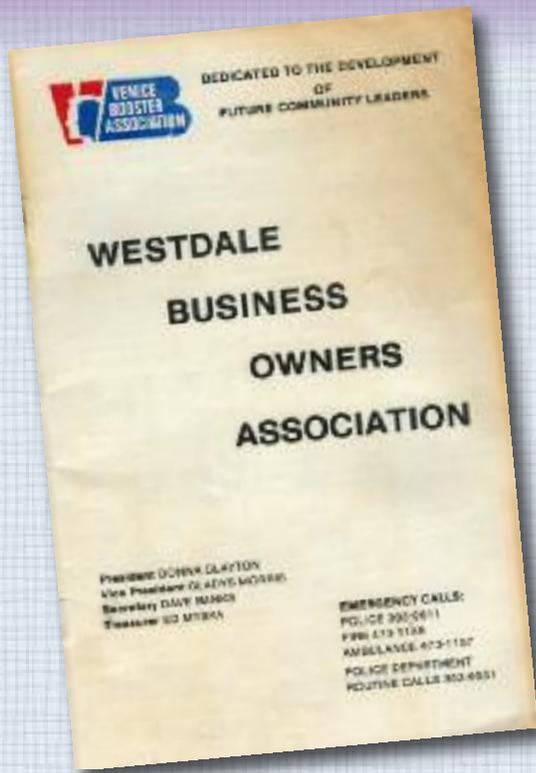


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MARGIE'S MUSINGS

•Margie Templeton

We are starting our membership drive for 2016. Please take time now to fill out the membership form and either mail it or drop it off at my house (3233 Federal). You can check the WHOA web site to see if you have already paid. Currently, 112 homes have paid.

My exciting news is that Ina Lee has consented to take over the advertising for the Villager. Jan Burns retired from the editor job, so I moved into her position. Ina retired from her job as a computer programmer and decided to get involved in the neighborhood. In addition to the Villager, she is part of the neighborhood bridge group and does Tai Chi at the park.

The bridge group is still active. John Keckhut, one of our founding members and a tournament level player, died which left a big hole in our group. We welcome new players. We meet at a home at 2:30 on Thursday afternoons. Contact me if you are interested (mpt@rwtia.com).

Pauline Crouse Alchian celebrated her 100th birthday in July, 2015. She celebrated at the Culver Senior Center and then with family at the Marriott Hotel. **Pauline has lived in Westdale for 67 years!** Her husband of 73 years, Armen, taught economics at UCLA. Pauline and Armen met when they were in graduate school at Stanford. They raised two children Arline and Allen.



WESTDALE MEMORIES

•Margie Templeton

Jean Cohen gave me an old brochure from the "Westdale Business Owner's Association". It has no date, but the phone numbers have no area codes, so it is at least before 1995. The message sounds like Leah's advice today!

Fifty businesses in the area developed a network to discuss "various problems and the crime situation in our neighborhood". They offer tear gas training and have installed inter-business alarms. They offer tips such as "know your neighbor", "lock your windows", and "install burglar alarms". Burglar alarms could be installed for \$100! Not much has changed except for the price level!

The list of advertisers is a trip down memory lane. Most of them are long gone, but Marie Callendar's and Union 76 are still in the same location. Apothecary Pharmacy has changed owners and moved, but it still with us.



WE HAVE SOME AMAZING NEIGHBORS NESTLED IN OUR QUIET WESTDALE NEIGHBORHOOD. THE VILLAGER PERIODICALLY FEATURE STORIES TO ACQUAINT US WITH SOME OF THEM. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST NEIGHBORS TO BE FEATURED IN FUTURE VILLAGER ARTICLES, PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO MPT@RWITIA.COM

GETTING TO KNOW OUR NEIGHBORS

•Margie Templeton

Meg Smith was born in Westdale, and it has been her home for her whole life. She attended Echo Horizon elementary school and is now a junior at Archer School for girls.

Meg studied dance and was an award winning figure skater until the Culver City rink closed. She was also active in community musical theatre. She has done over a dozen shows and has played many starring roles such as Oliver in *Oliver*, Annie in *Annie*, and Alice in *Alice in Wonderland*.

At 16, Meg's main passion is singing and song-writing! She is a California Arts Scholar, a National Young Arts Award winner, and a member of SESAC (Society of European Stage Authors and Composers).

She has written over 60 songs for guitar, piano, and ukulele. She is inspired by artists of every genre and time period. Meg's songs come from her experiences and the people she meets everyday.



Last summer Meg recorded five songs for Warner Brothers Music and traveled the California Coast doing her first radio station and open mike tour.

She has done shows at the UnUrban in Santa Monica, the Pig and the Whistle in Hollywood, the Hardrock Café in Las Vegas and the LA County Fair. She does a mix of her own songs and cover songs she particularly loves.

Fortunately for us, Meg has her own website, megsmithmusic.com, where you can listen to her originals like "Skyline", "Everybody Wants Amy", "Airplane Stranger" and more.





Watch for Santa on the LAPD Sleigh!

Don't forget to plan for a family favorite event in our neighborhood, the LAPD Santa Sleigh. Check out their website for dates & times!

http://www.lapdonline.org/pacific_community_police_station

Dear Neighbors,
We wish you all a Happy Holiday and a very prosperous New Year. Thank you all for your continued support.

~ From all of us at The Noël Team

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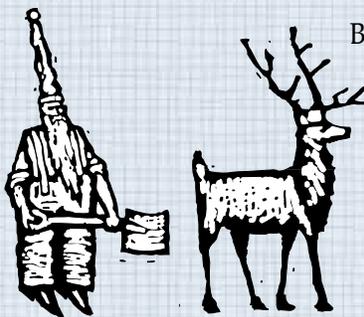
• **Debbie Kaplan**

This has been another price setting year, and we still have more houses on the market that will sell before the end of December. So far, 14 homes have sold in 2015. The highest price in 2015 was \$2,296,000 on Coolidge Ave. It was "98%" remodeled. An original Trousdale built home became all grown up with 3,554 square feet! The price per square foot was \$674. A higher price per square foot was on Rose; it sold at \$796 per square foot. It was also new construction with 2,450 square feet. The sale price was \$1,950,000 and sold at full asking price.

These two sales were of original homes. The replacements could be considered oversized. In March, the City Council unanimously passed the Neighborhood Conservation Interim Control Ordinance, which put a 2 year moratorium on the size of new, single family home in some neighborhoods, including Mar Vista. In 2008, an ordinance was passed to limit the size of homes, but this ordinance had many loopholes. It allowed very large homes to be built. This new ordinance will fill those loopholes. What are your thoughts on these larger homes? I'd love to hear from you on this topic.

Interest rates are starting to rise. When we bought our house, rates were 16%. That was in 1981. Even if they go up to 5%, they are still attractive! Right now, 30 year fixed rates are at 3.75%, and 15 year are at 2.78 %. These rates require excellent credit and at least 20% down payment.

On another subject, I would like to recommend you sign up for the Nextdoor site for our neighborhood. Here's the site: <https://westdaletrousdale-marvista.nextdoor.com>. It's a wonderful site, no cost, and you can get information or give it. Some of the topics include: repairmen, news on community events, referrals for professionals, garage sales, lost pets, found pets, items for sale, items for free, and babysitters. They'll email you lists of postings on the site, and you just might find something that interests you! It's a good place to advertise your unwanted plants, toys, baby furniture, your furniture, or odds and ends.



Best wishes for the holidays!

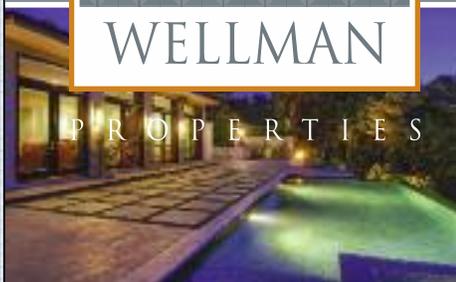
Debbie Kaplan



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BLOCK PARTY 2015

•Ethel Oderberg

On October 4th, the Westdale neighborhood gathered for what turned out to be a weather perfect and wonderful afternoon! Perhaps the best attended party yet!

This year, we gathered on the 3200 Block of Coolidge Avenue; many thanks to our gracious Coolidge neighbors for their hospitality. In particular, I appreciate the help of **Paula Dashiell, Geoffrey & Michelle Forgione** and **Susan & Ryan Minniear**. A lot goes into planning this annual event, and the Homeowner's board would like to recognize the following community partners who helped to make this possible: **Sherri Noel @ Coldwell Banker, Judy Sheller @ Bizzy Blondes, Dean Jubas @ Coldwell Banker, Ron Wynn @ Coldwell Banker, Whole Foods Market, Mar Vista Community Council, Councilman Mike Bonin, and Primo's Donuts**. I would like to give an additional shout out to Dean Jubas for the succulent plant giveaways and to Ron Wynn for the very fun old fashioned ice cream truck. We appreciated the visits from Councilman Mike Bonin and our Senior Lead Officer Adrian Acosta. Our local Fire Department made a brief appearance only to be called away, but that's how it goes. I believe a good time was had by all and **Barbara Algaze's** pictures proves it!

Want to host the next block party? Let us know at ethel@oderberg.com. See you next year!





PARK REPORT

• *Jerry Hornof*

Mar Vista Park continues to be very active. Soccer, flag football, basketball and roller hockey are in full swing. Halloween, celebrated this year on a Saturday, included the Tricks before Treats afternoon event at Mar Vista Park. The event included food, games, bouncers and other activities. It was jointly hosted by Mar Vista and Cheviot Hills parks. The event concluded at 5pm and families spent the evening trick or treating in the neighborhood. I want to thank Park Director Lizka Mendoza for her leadership and the excellent hosting of this event as well as for the park support of the Fall Festival.

The 2015 Mar Vista Community Fall Festival and Silent Auction was held on Saturday, October 17. This year's theme was "Heroes Among Us" which was meant to inspire everyone to find ways to be an everyday hero to their community, neighbors, and family. Over 50 heroes were recognized by name and a poster. These are the people who are finding their own ways to make our community better, both big and small: by helping a neighbor or by helping the young and old in our midst who find themselves in need of assistance. These people inspire everyone to make the most of living in our fabulous Mar Vista community.



The Silent Auction this year was also very successful. The auction raised over \$5,200 in support of the park. These proceeds, bundled with other donations, will be used to add acoustic tiles to the gymnasium which will help to deafen the noise in that facility. Additional donations can be made through the L.A. Parks Foundation (www.laparksfoundation.org/EN). Westdale Homeowners Association donated a wonderful wine basket to the cause. Thank you to Larry Shuman for preparing the basket. Also, Barbara Algaze (one of our directors) donated a Genealogy Consultation. I hope that everyone was able to enjoy the festival. Be sure to be there next year.

Finally, we received excellent news last week that Los Angeles Recreation and Parks has found funding for re-surfacing the soccer field at the west end of the park. The current surface is about 10 years old and in need of replacement. The timeline has the new surface installed by July 1, 2016.

As always, enjoy our wonderful park.



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