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# Westdale VILLAGER

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE  
WESTDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION  
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# Westdale VILLAGER

SPRING 2016 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### WESTDALE - BUILDING COMMUNITY

•Jerry Hornof

The theme for this year is Building Community. We live in a wonderful neighborhood in Los Angeles and a big part of what makes that special is our neighbors. The challenge this year is to actively work to expand our community. Whether you are participating in our schools, neighborhood councils, park programs, Neighborhood Watch, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) or volunteer organizations please look for ways to involve more of the Westdale Community. To sustain the features we love in Westdale will require building a larger community of participants.

The Westdale Homeowners Association Annual Meeting was held on January 26th. It was an active year for the Westdale Homeowners Association. The 2015 Block Party was held on Coolidge Ave and attracted close to 500 people including Council Member Bonin and LAPD Senior Lead Office Acosta. Marjorie Templeton is our new Village editor. The Mar Vista Community Council Fall Festival and Silent Auction was a success with a wine basket donation from Westdale. We also donated to the Police Department Toys for Tots drive.

The Annual Meeting featured Len Nguyen who is a Field Deputy for Mike Bonin and Council District 11. He has been working in the Council District 11 for ten years. Len introduced Phyllis Hayashibara, Chair of the Venice Japanese American Memorial Marker (VJAMM) Committee. The marker will be installed at the northwest corner of Venice Blvd and Lincoln Blvd and will honor local Japanese Americans that were interned during World War II. Len talked about the development of the VA property for housing homeless Veterans that is being planned for the near future. He also touched on the issue of jets flying lower over Mar Vista.

The 11th District Council Office was also represented by Ezra Gale, Senior Planner. Ezra talked about a variety of development projects that will be



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impacting our Westdale neighborhood. These include:

1) Small lot subdivisions on the Barrington corridor that may include a total of 14 single family homes that are presently zoned R3. The owners are being actively pursued by developers.

2) Traffic on Barrington and cut through traffic through our neighborhood.

3) Development of the Martin Cadillac property on the corner of Bundy and Olympic. They are planning 500 residential units plus retail shops.

We also heard from our LAPD Senior Lead Officer Adrian Acosta. He emphasized the fact that we live in a safe community because we are vigilant. Our Neighborhood Watch program is a critical component of our safety. Our board member Leah Oye was recognized for her outstanding efforts in the Neighborhood Watch program. Officer Acosta encouraged residents to contact him (cell phone at (310) 622-3973 or e-mail at 37285@LAPD.LAcity.org). He emphasized that if we suspect a criminal activity is occurring be sure to first contact 911. Read more about this in his article on page 3.

The meeting concluded with presentations by Mar Vista Community Council President Bill Koontz, our CERT Coordinator Carl Ginsberg, and a Real Estate report by Debbie Kaplan. Please note that Mar Vista Community Council Elections are in June and they are looking for candidates.

In closing, please look for ways to Build Community. Your participation and encouragement to others to participate is essential to keeping Westdale wonderful.



## LAPD GOALS

### •Adian Acosta - Pacific Police Division

Good day all. I hope that this note finds you well.

After twelve consecutive years of crime reduction, the City of Los Angeles saw an increase in overall crime by nearly 15%. Pacific Division was not immune to the increase with an 11% increase. That increase was fueled by property crimes: Grand Theft Auto, Burglary, Theft, and Theft from Motor Vehicle.



Although some of these crimes were situations where the suspect forced entry, a majority, nearly 70%, were due to an open point of entry: unlocked door, window, gate or unattended property. These are all crimes of opportunity, and it is up to us to eliminate the opportunity. So far this year you are doing just that. In the first few months of calendar year 2016, we are seeing a decrease in crime to the tune of nearly 20% in the Mar Vista Area. KEEP IT UP!!

#### **THE LAPD GOALS FOR 2016:**

- 1. Reduce Crime and Victimization**
- 2. Build Community Trust and Collaboration**
- 3. Improve Traffic Safety**
- 4. Enhance Preparedness and Counter-Terrorism**

## **WHOA MEMBERSHIP**

•*Margie Templeton*

You will see a corrected membership form in this issue. The December issue had the wrong files included for the dues insert and the envelope. Do not use the earlier envelope, since the post office sometimes returns the letter when the PO box is 504 rather than 66504. Don't ask me why, because, when the zip is given in the address, it should work and often does!

Many people have already paid for 2016. Some of you had paid for multiple years, and others got checks to me in spite of the mix-up. So far, 138 people have paid for 2016. You can check your status on our web site: [westdalehoa.org](http://westdalehoa.org). Want to learn more about these? Join or form a Neighborhood Watch, and we'll discuss them all as well as other concerns as a group!

Thanks again for all of your support. Together let's make 2016 the best year yet!



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## GETTING TO KNOW OUR OFFICERS

### •Margie Templeton

This month we are featuring our officers. They really do have a life beyond the Westdale Homeowner's work!



**Jerry Hornof**, our president grew up in Chicago, IL. He left Chicago in 1971 to go to college at the University of Washington (UW) in Seattle where he received his undergraduate degrees in Biological Oceanography and Zoology. After graduation he worked as an oceanographer at the UW for three years before returning to graduate school in the Center for Quantitative Analysis. While in graduate school, he met Karen, who was in her third year of pathology residency at the UW. Upon completion of their studies in 1984, Karen accepted a pathology fellowship position at Cedars Sinai Medical Center and Jerry accepted a position with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries in Long Beach. The NOAA Fisheries West Coast regional responsibilities include Commercial and Recreational Fisheries Management, Protection of Marine

Mammals and Marine Endangered Species, and Habitat Conservation and Restoration for California, Oregon, Washington and Idaho. Jerry has participated in both science and management over his 30 years with Fisheries. He has traveled and worked throughout the Pacific including Alaska, the Arctic and the Hawaiian Islands.

Jerry and Karen moved to Westdale in 1986. Their sons, Alex and Jeffrey, grew up with Mar Vista Park being their second home. Jerry coached baseball, soccer and hockey at the park over the next 20 years. Jerry became an active member of the park advisory board and was involved in the development of the playground, soccer field, hockey rink, and park festival. Alex is now completing his PhD in Applied Mathematics at the UW in Seattle. and Jeffrey is completing his Masters in Speech Language Pathology at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo.



**Ethel Oderberg**, the 1st VP, was born and raised in Westdale. She attended Mar Vista, Webster and Venice, and she moved back into her childhood home with her own family in 1995. She and her husband, David, are the proud parents of three young adults, two sons and a daughter. Professionally, she has been a licensed clinical social worker since 1986 and she is presently employed with Skirball Hospice, which is a program of the Jewish Home for the Aging. She has been an active board member for many years. She feels that this neighborhood continues to be as great as when she was growing up here.





D. THE VILLAGER PERIODICALLY FEATURE STORIES TO ACQUAINT US WITH SOME OF THEM.  
ER ARTICLES, PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO MARGIE TEMPLETON AT MPT@RWTIA.COM

**Jay Swerdlow**, our treasurer, grew up in LA. He has lived in Westdale since 1970. Jay started his career as a bank loan officer. He joined Pacific Theaters/Arclight Cinemas in 1969 where he was Director of Concessions, Swap Meets and Theatre Operations, and, later, Executive Vice President and General Manager. He retired in 2009 and jumped right into a volunteer career. Both while working, and currently, he has been on the board of the Variety Boys and Girls Club in Boyle Heights. The club has operated for over 65 years providing vital programming for children in one of the most impoverished, under served areas of Los Angeles. He is also a volunteer reader with Koreh LA at Clover Avenue Elementary school. In his free time he enjoys golf, tennis, bridge and traveling.



He and Andrea raised two boys, Bobby and Steve. Today, Bobby is a lawyer in LA and has two sons. Steve is Central Asia Researcher for Human Rights Watch. He and his family have been based in Kyrgyzstan the last several years and he has one son.



**Barbara Algaze**, the secretary, and her husband, Albert, have lived in Westdale since September 1976. They moved from their first home which was in the first development created by Paul Trousdale (behind the Westside Pavilion). Their two children attended Webster Junior High School and Venice High School. Barbara went to her first Board of Directors meeting in 2002, when Larry Rudick was president of the Board of Directors, in order to find out what could be done about the tree roots pulling up the sidewalks in our neighborhood. Larry convinced her to stay and become part of the Board.



Shortly after that she became Recording Secretary, and she has been dutifully writing up the minutes of every General Meeting and Board Meeting since then. Barbara has a Master's Degree in Psychiatric Social Work from USC. She has worked as an Auditor in the Entertainment field and as an instructor teaching home gardening and landscaping. Her present passion is Genealogy. She teaches classes through the OASIS program at the Westside Pavilion and volunteers regularly at the Family History library. When the weather is nice, she can be found puttering in her garden. When it is not, she is behind her computer "doing Genealogy."





## REAL ESTATE REPORT Is A SHIFT COMING?

•*Sheri Noel*

I've lived in the Westdale/Trousdale neighborhood for the last 11 years and we've watched the market go down and up. We actually bought at close to the top of the market, remodeled and then watched the market go way down and now back up. The market fluctuation is normal and real estate goes through cycles.

The Westside real estate market is what we consider blue chip real estate. It's a pretty safe investment over time and always goes up, however just like the stock market it can also go down. Historically if one doesn't need to sell in the down cycle, the market goes back up and it's always higher than the last peak. We may be nearing the top or we may have a bit more time to reach it. Generally during an election year and other times of uncertainty people tend to do nothing or take a wait and see attitude. The uncertainty can start a shift in the marketplace.

When the shift in the market happens weather it's a rise or a decline it happens slowly over time, so the market goes up slowly and goes down slowly. The following numbers that relate to Westdale/Trousdale for the past three years are a perfect illustration of that point.

### WESTDALE/TROUSDALE SALES ACTIVITY SINGLE FAMILY HOMES 2013-2015

AVG. SALES PRICE	2015	\$1,462,476
	2014	\$1,444,398
	2013	\$1,313,955
AVG. PRICE PER FT. <sup>2</sup>	2015	\$723
	2014	\$681
	2013	\$606

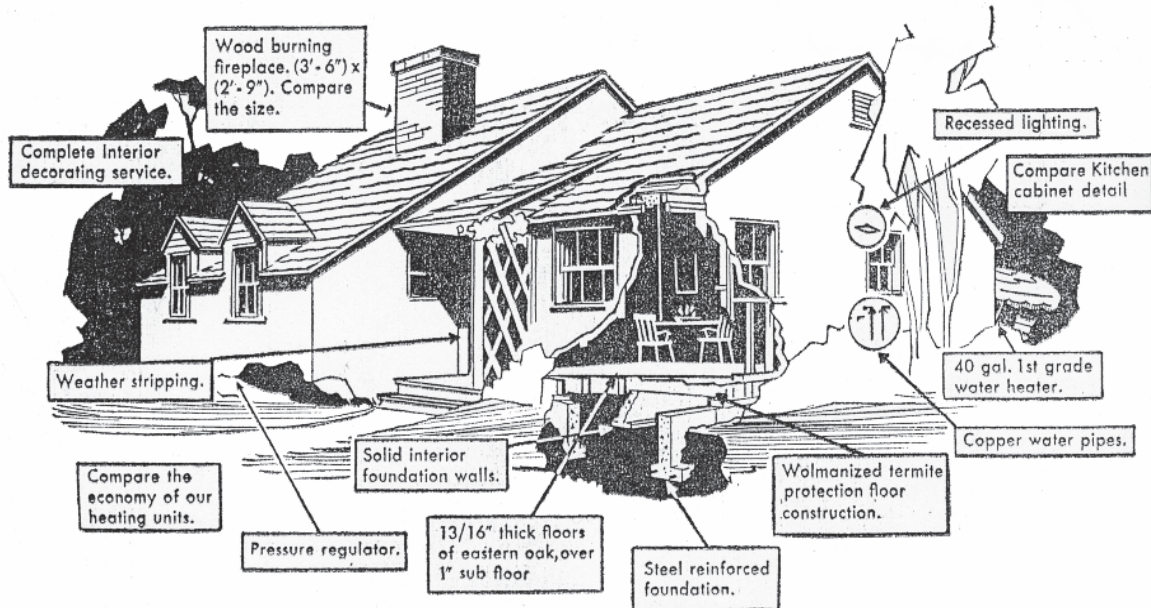
**Fun Fact:** When I moved here from another part of Mar Vista I worked with the neighborhood to try and block the development on National Blvd but was unsuccessful. Today those building helps mitigate noise from National Blvd. and the alley actually is beautifully landscaped so walking down the alley is much more pleasant. I came across the cover of my booklet that was created to try and convince the city not to allow the development and thought I'd share it. Our website will soon have copies of other parts of the original advertising from the 1940's if you'd like to take a look under Mar Vista neighborhoods.





FROM THE WESTDALE VILLAGER IMAGE VAULT...

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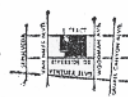
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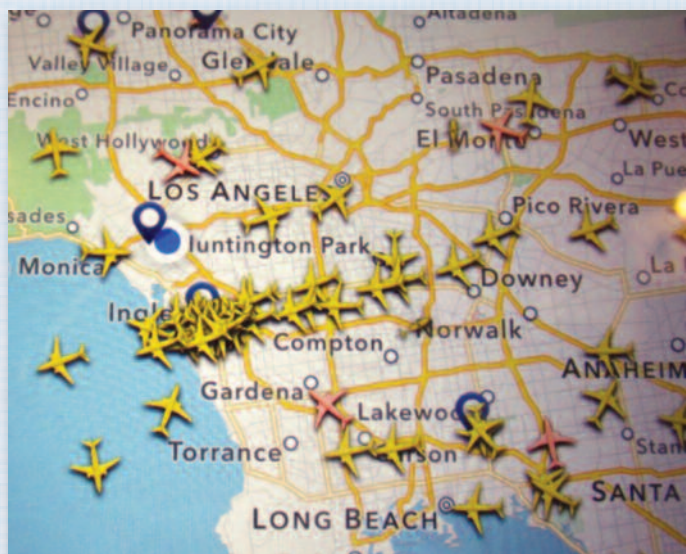


# PLANE TRAFFIC OVER MAR VISTA

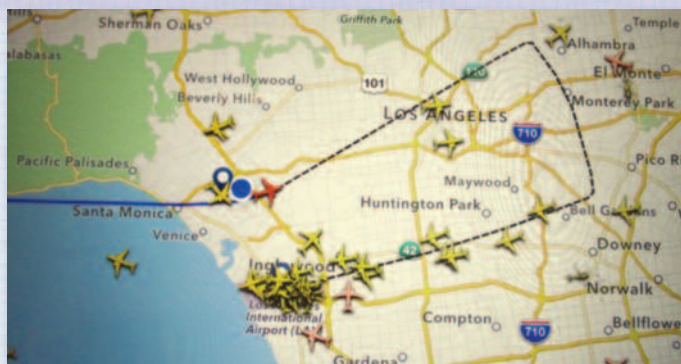
•*Margie Templeton*

There has been discussion lately about the increase in air-plane traffic over our community. My pilot son, Chris, showed me an interesting app, Flightradar24, that gives live information about planes in the area along with their origin and destination, plane type, and altitude. It is clear to me, after viewing the airspace, that it is a waste of time to try to get the FAA to change anything!

We live near one of the world's busiest airports. If the planes don't come over our homes, they will be going over another area. I counted 29 commercial planes, including 3 from London, over our house between 7PM and 9PM one evening. Here is a graphic picture of the planes in our area at 9AM on February 1st:



Notice the circle on the left side. This represents our house and the Santa Monica airport. The planes from the West Coast, Hawaii, Asia, and Australia go right over our house. I suspect that a recent change has also brought many of the European planes over our house as well. At the time that I took this picture, the planes over us included 1 from Japan, 3 from N. California, 1 from Hong Kong, and 1 from Canada. In addition, we have planes crossing to and from other airports. To add to the mix, we have the planes in and out of Santa Monica.



Here is the flight path of a plane from Tokyo. I think that the planes use our house as a beacon! The big 777s and Airbuses are at least 7,000' when they pass over Mar Vista. Some of the 737s are lower. The noisiest are the propeller planes into Santa Monica.

Some of the complaints are due to a temporary change due to military tests which caused night flights over the city. Normally, all flights in and out of LAX between mid-night and 6:00 AM are over the ocean. I have not heard it officially, but I think that there is also rerouting of planes from Europe. We fly to Sweden every year to visit our son Edward and his family. Until this year, we flew over San Bernadino and across the LA basin. This June, we flew down the central valley, across Malibu, and then right over our house. We have planes flying over us from London, Zurich, Frankfurt, and Copenhagen. This lessens the impact on the residents of eastern LA, but it increases traffic for us in Mar Vista. As a frequent flyer, I believe that it is important to set the flight paths in the safest and most efficient way. My message is to accept this change and put our efforts into what we can possibly influence!

## BLOCK PARTY HELP NEEDED

•*Ethel Oderberg*

Dear Fellow Neighbors,  
After planning the annual Block Party for the past 7 years, I am looking for someone interested in being the chairperson for this annual event. I have happily planned this successful community party with the help of fellow board members Shari Dunn and Lisa Rosenbloom. We will continue to help and be a part of planning, but it is time for someone new to step up and get involved. Additionally, if you are also interested in becoming a board member with this job, there is room for you! If you are curious about what is involved with the block party planning or board position (time commitment, etc.), please email me at [ethel@oderberg.com](mailto:ethel@oderberg.com). THANKS!



## PARK REPORT

• **Jerry Hornof**

Mar Vista Park continues to be a very fun and active resource. The Winter Sports programs continue to grow. The Winter sports programs include basketball, soccer and hockey. Also remember that the park offers open activities like table tennis, badminton, and volleyball. The Mar Vista Park brochure can be found at [www.laparks.org/dos/reccenter/pdf/marVista/brochure.pdf](http://www.laparks.org/dos/reccenter/pdf/marVista/brochure.pdf).

As I mentioned in the Winter Villager, the proceeds from the Fall Festival are being bundled with other donations to install acoustic tiles in the gymnasium to help deaden the noise in that facility. We have a park-approved vendor, The Sound Control Company, that has provided quotes. The Park Advisory Board is reviewing proposals. We have enough money in the Festival and Los Angeles Park's Foundation fund to do this project. The park will be looking at dates that minimize the impact on the basketball programs to begin installation.

The replacement of the synthetic surface on the soccer field is moving forward. The funds have been identified, and the city is gathering bids and should have chosen a vendor by March. We anticipate replacement to begin in early summer with the field unavailable for 6-8 weeks.



The sports programs at Mar Vista have had outstanding performances in city wide competition. In December 2015 the Mar Vista Park Major Division All Star soccer team won the city championship. A banner is being made for placement on the soccer field fence, and we are scheduling a date to hang the banner and to celebrate the player's success.

Be sure to mark your calendar. The next outdoor movie night is scheduled for March 19. The movie will be "Babe" and will begin at dusk. The Spring Eggstravaganza is scheduled for March 26 between 11am and 3pm. As always, enjoy your park.

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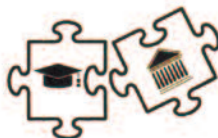
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