



Westdale VILLAGER

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
WESTDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
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SUMMER 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. To sustain the features we love in Westdale will require building a larger community of participants. This was definitely realized as we discussed and influenced development in our neighborhood and, especially, the Barrington Avenue corridor south of National Boulevard. Many Westdale families attended a series of Mar Vista Community Council (MVCC) meetings where we discussed options and formulated a recommendation regarding these properties. Although the preferred outcome would be to retain single family homes on the R3 (multi-family) zoned section of Barrington Avenue, the reality is that at least four properties have been sold to parties interested in multi-family development. By right, in an R3 zone a developer can construct, without a variance, a 45' apartment building housing 9-12 units depending on the design and lot size. The alternative is a small lot subdivision model. This would result in a division into four or five lots, one unit per lot, with each unit individually owned. It was recognized that this is not an ideal solution, but the majority in attendance felt that supporting a small lot subdivision approach represented the most workable and least impactful outcome. Looking at future development along Barrington Avenue, rather than 9-12 rental units in a 45' apartment building per lot, we favored 4-5 individually owned small lot homes per lot. This would result in significantly reduced densification and provide an ownership model. We also agreed to support a recommendation that the MVCC formally requests that Councilmember Mike Bonin's office coordinate with the Department of Transportation to expedite a comprehensive study of the Barrington Avenue corridor to address current traffic congestion and the added congestion the densification will have upon Barrington Avenue and the immediate surrounding community. I appreciate the many Westdale residents who attended, spoke out, and helped to address this issue.

+ WESTDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION +

SAVE THE DATE:

PICNIC IN THE PARK

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9TH, 2016

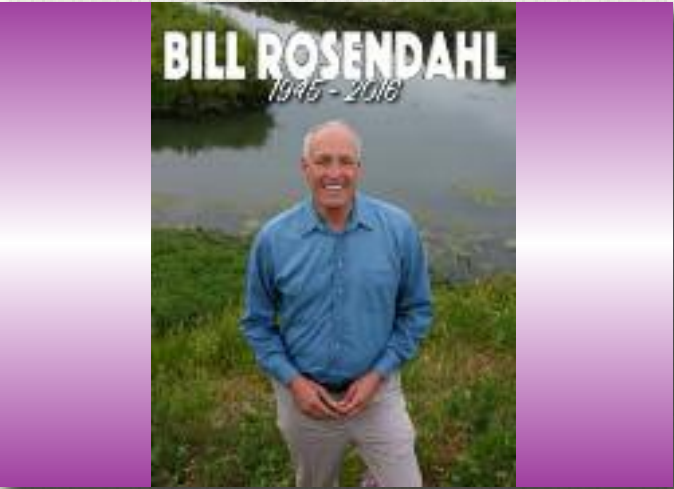
12:00 - 4:00PM

MAR VISTA PARK (NEAR HOCKEY RINK)

• POTLUCK • GRILLED HOT DOGS • KID ACTIVITIES • BOUNCE HOUSE •

+ WESTDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION +

On March 30 the City of Los Angeles, the 11th Council District, Mar Vista and the Westdale Homeowner's Association lost a neighbor and close friend with the passing of Bill Rosendahl. We will always remember his energy and passion in speaking out and supporting our community. He was always available for our block parties and annual meetings. I will remember January 2013 when Bill came to his final Westdale Homeowners Association annual meeting as the 11th District Councilman. He announced his upcoming retirement due to health reasons. He used the opportunity to reminisce about his career in public life. I especially remember the pride and satisfaction he felt as a US Army veteran. It clearly explained the passion he had for veteran issues including health care and housing and the efforts he made to address these issues throughout his political life. The Westdale Homeowners Association has made a donation to the New Directions for Veterans organization in Bill's name. This was an organization close to Bill's heart. We will remember him always.



We are planning something different for this year's block party. We will be having the party at the park. We will be reserving a picnic area and will have the regular activities including a bounce house, face painting, and food. We will be in the area near the hockey rink. We will reserve the rink, so plan on bringing roller skates and roller blades. We will solicit food and potluck items as we have done in the past. Families can bring blankets and chairs from home. The date will be October 9th from 12 – 4 p.m. Please save the date and start planning.

In closing, I hope everyone has a fun and safe summer. Although my sons are now adults, I still remember as children the excitement and anticipation they had for summer vacation. Let's all take a moment to recapture those emotions and enjoy the summer and our Westdale neighbors and neighborhood.

CRIME AND SAFETY REPORT

•Leah Oye/Liaison to Pacific Police Division

Daily news reports on TV and through the newspapers show violent crime is up in our city; fortunately, our area of Mar Vista has been spared. You can look at the map of crimes in our surrounding area for comparison. Recent crime stats are on: www.crimemapping.com. Our residents are reporting suspicious persons, cars, and activities. The best way to help prevent crime is to be a good neighbor and to keep watch over the neighborhood.

Graffiti is a constant battle. Please take a picture and send it to our senior lead officer, Adrian Acosta (37285@lapd.lacity.org). He can tell if it's a gang marker or mischief. Also, report to 311 or through the MyLA311 app for clean-up.

Granville Ave. hosted at "Walk with a Cop". It is a chance for residents to have their homes assessed for security by Officer Acosta. There were mostly minor changes needed. However, he did find an unlocked gate, an unlocked car, and several scattered toys and scooters left on the porch and front lawn. Remember, make your house a "harder target" for thieves. Lock doors and windows. Do not leave possessions unattended.

National Night Out is a nationwide day when the residents, local police, and community organizations can meet to establish better communication. The event will be held again on the front lawn of Venice High School on Tuesday, August 2nd from 6:30pm.

The Villager is a quarterly publication, so if you would like to receive timely neighborhood news about incidents and events, please join our WHOA. This way, your contact information can be placed in our database. If you want to be able to get email from the WHOA, but you do not want to get my occasional reports, please specify that on your dues form.

If you have any non-emergency questions, please contact our senior lead officer: Adrian Acosta, Police Officer III 37285@lapd.lacity.org.

Please visit our website: www.westdalehoa.com, for further information. We're trying to put helpful links flyers on our site as well as the membership form.



Mar Vista Neighborhood

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WHOA MEMBERSHIP

•Margie Templeton

As of May 23, we have collected dues for 2016 from 312 out of 896 homes. Several of you sent checks after the December insert and again in March. I have credited you with dues paid for 2017. We now have 74 paid for 2017 and 33 paid for 2018. You can check the web site (westdalehoa.org) to see if you have paid for 2016. If you would like to find out about future years, send a request to me at mpt@rwtia.com.

I especially want to thank those who contributed to CERT and/or added an extra donation. We have had 154 donations to CERT totaling \$1,735.

Palms Boulevard is currently a problem. No dues has been collected from anyone on Palms, and there is no block captain for the area. The north side of Palms is in our homeowner's association and the south side is not. If you live on Palms or close to it and would like to help, please get in touch with Leah Oye at lkoye@yahoo.com.

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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@RWTIA.COM

GETTING TO KNOW OUR NEIGHBORS

•Marjorie Templeton

Susie Leonard has lived in Westdale since 1984. She and her husband, Jim, raised three children: David, Amanda, and Josh. I knew Susie back when Josh and my son, Edward, were students at Windward. However, I had no idea that she is an educational entrepreneur! When we started this series, I heard from Beacon Midovsky that we must feature an amazing woman who started an amazing preschool, "A Kid's Place Preschool" (AKP).

Susie was always interested in early child education. She was initially a teacher and then became the director at the Temple Isaiah Preschool in Rancho Park. In 2003, Susie and her daughter, Amanda, decided to work together to start their own school. They wanted a nurturing

place that would offer programs for children from 1 to 6 and their families. It was not to be a day care center, but, rather, a preschool and community center for families with young children.

The first challenge was finding a nearby space that was located in an area that had a diverse population. A building on Venice Blvd, east of Centinela, became available. It had been a craft store, so it needed extensive remodeling. It took 2 years to obtain the licenses and to remodel the store to make it suitable as an education center. As of today, they have expanded into several adjacent buildings and have space for five classrooms, a very spacious inside gym, and two outside play yards in back of the school.

Currently, A Kid's Place enrolls 110 children in many programs. Children from 15 months to 2 years can come one day a week with a parent or subparent. Children from 2 to 2 1/2 years old can come twice a week, initially with a parent (or other caregiver), and gradually work toward separation. Preschool children (2 1/2 to 6 as of September) can enroll for



classes in the morning or extended afternoon programs from 2 to 5 days a week. There are no fixed activities. Each room has activity centers so that the children can choose activities according to their interests and abilities. The 1 to 4 teacher/student ratio allows the flexibility to adjust the program to specific needs of a child.



Susie is pleased that the school has drawn a diverse student body. Many students come from Mar Vista, but others come from transient housing for families in LA for school or temporary work. This has brought in students and teachers from around the world. However, most of the teachers have worked with Susie for many years.

Amanda, who is the co-director, saw a need to provide more support for children with special needs. She left the school for a year to get an MA in education from Harvard. She now is AKP's resident advisor on brain and overall child development.

Susie is not ready to retire. As she and I were talking, we mentioned how it gets harder to get down on the floor with children at our age, but we can still do it! Susie works at the school in the mornings and then does her administrative work at home in the afternoon.

Susie and Amanda are thrilled by the growth of A Kid's Place over the past 13 years. They are proud of their amazing staff and marvel at being able to watch their young charges thrive during their first school experience and blossom during their time at AKP.

MARNY MASLON
SPECIALIZING IN MAR VISTA HOME SALES

- Now IS a Great Time to Sell!
- Low inventory and low mortgage rates have translated into higher sale prices.

Giving Back to Our Community

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THE ART OF REAL ESTATE



W.H.A. IS LOOKING FOR A WORDPRESS WEB PAGE MASTER

We have been looking for a replacement for Richard Resnick who has been our volunteer web master for many years. We have decided that we need to have a new approach for our web site. Rather than having all maintenance go through a single person, we should host the site on Wordpress and allow designated people to update sections such as the Villagers and membership lists.

We are looking for someone who can develop a Wordpress web site and provide ongoing support as needed. This will be a paid position. If you are interested, please contact Jerry Hornof at jerry.hornof@noaa.gov.

TAI CHI IN MAR VISTA PARK

•Ina Lee

When I was a young child in Taiwan, I watched a black and white Chinese movie with people climbing the wall and walking on the roof at night like a cat without rope. My jaw dropped with admiration. My father told me that it is called “Kung-Fu” and is used for defense or offense. My father said that he was trained in the Chinese martial arts by my grandfather and great-grandfather in his youth. Well, he never performed Kung-Fu nor showed me any movement like they showed in the movie due to he worked late daily at his shop to support his family.

Another important martial art is Tai Chi. My father pointed out that Tai Chi (an abbreviation of tàijí quán 太極拳, literally “Supreme Ultimate Boxing”) is an important part of internal Chinese martial arts practiced for both its defense training and its health benefits. Today, Tai Chi has spread worldwide. Most modern styles of Tai Chi trace their development to at least one of the five traditional schools: Chen, Yang, Wu (Hao), Wu, and Sun. I was exposed to Tai Chi, due to a health issue, when I was 22 years old. I had a scholarship to attend graduate school in the United States. My parents would not let me leave Taiwan unless my health issue was resolved. I was desperate to be out of the nest, and modern medicine did not work. I went to the local park every day at 6AM to practice Tai Chi. I was cured four months later, and I was finally able to leave for the States.

Now I am retired. I found out that there are three Chinese groups that practice Tai Chi at Mar Vista park! I attend a program that runs every day from 8AM to 9:30 with Tai Chi followed by a Chinese Line dance. We use the basketball court. People come and go based on their own schedule.



The leaders offer instruction and bring recorded music. Many participants are Chinese, but other nationalities are welcome. And, it is FREE!

There are two other Tai Chi groups at Mar Vista park on Sunday morning. Mr. Guo is an experienced instructor who teaches Chen’s style. Chen’s style is the oldest and the parent form of the five traditional family styles. It is characterized by “silk reeling”, alternating fast/slow motion with bursts of power. Mr. Guo works with single students for a fee. Steve is the American master of Wu’s style and was trained in Shanghai, China. He also teaches ch’i (氣/气) that is variously defined as an inner energy or “life force” that is said to animate living beings. Steve enthusiastically shares his knowledge with anyone who shows up, and he also charges a fee.

I have benefited from my year doing Tai Chi at Mar Vista Park. I encourage everyone to come to the park to join the programs or to watch the participants.



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GIANTS AMONG US • NOW AND THEN

GIANTS AMONG US

•Dick Henkel

With Westdale part of the ever-expanding Silicon Beach Adjacent neighborhoods it's hard not to notice some of the new buildings that are replacing the original Westdale Trousdale ranch-style homes. That's because



they tend to be HUGE. Today's young family, armed with one or two well paying tech jobs, are not looking for a starter house. They want an Architectural Digest house. Massive family rooms, open kitchens, home offices and a bathroom for everyone is the norm now. Not that there's anything wrong with that. I remember sharing our only bathroom with my Mom, Dad and 3 older sisters but times have changed. Again and again. We've had a few tasteful rebuilds on Rose, one that even



resisted a second story but that is not the norm. To paraphrase Paul Simon's "Every generation throws a hero up the pop charts", well "Every generation throws their



tastes up all over their new neighborhood". It might be your old neighborhood but it's somebody else's new home. People dream big. Always did, always will. We won't mention spec houses to help this article maintain a neutral tone, unlike my house. It's still the original size, but it's anything but neutral being purple, green and orange. And we all know that people who get away with living in purple, green and orange houses shouldn't throw stones.



PARK REPORT

•Jerry Hornof

I want to welcome the new Mar Vista Park Director, Tracie Field. Tracie became director in March. Tracie has a long and successful career in the Los Angeles Recreation and Parks program. We look forward to working with Tracie to keep Mar Vista Park active, safe and fun for the Westdale families.

Mar Vista Park is getting closer to installing noise reducing tiles in the gymnasium. The funds available in the Los Angeles Park’s Foundation Mar Vista account, together with the Mar Vista Community Council Fall Festival donation, will allow for the completion of the \$32,950 project to place sound reducing tiles on the perimeter walls of the gym. The park will schedule the project to avoid any conflict with the popular youth basketball programs.

The Mar Vista All-star soccer team (Major Division) won the Los Angeles City Championship last December. A banner recognizing this wonderful accomplishment was presented to the team and coaches in a ceremony attended by Councilman Bonin. The kids were thrilled, and it was a very fun and successful event. The banner was displayed on the field fence for a couple of weekends for the kids and parents to enjoy and will be moved into the gym as a more permanent home. Congratulation to all!

The replacement of the soccer field surface is getting closer. The project, which is approved and funded by Los Angeles Recreation and Parks, is going to the Board of Commissioners in May. We continue to plan for this project to be started and completed this summer.



As many of you know, I am an avid hockey fan and player. The adult inline hockey program at Mar Vista Park is a major success. Managed by Adam Paredes, the program now has adult hockey divisions playing on three nights (Monday-Wednesday). Approximately 150 players participate in the program. The divisions are bracketed by skill level so all are welcome. If you have an interest in playing be sure to contact Adam at the park office.



Be sure to mark your calendar for Family Movie Nights this summer. On tap are Shaun the Sheep (June 25), Monster University (July 30) and Monsters, Inc. (Aug 27). Bring a blanket, chairs and refreshments (also available at the park) for a very enjoyable evening. Movies begin at 8pm.

Finally, this year’s Mar Vista Community Council Fall Festival will be held on Saturday, October 22nd. As always, please enjoy your neighborhood park.



Villager Bulletin Board




physical therapy and wellness

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