



# Westdale VILLAGER

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE  
WESTDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION  
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## + WESTDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION +



*Join me in paradise  
jostled loose from my dreams,  
Jacaranda-kissed breeze  
jogs memories of love.*

*Rhonda Johnson-Saunders*

## + WESTDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION +



SUMMER 2018 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### WESTDALE - SUMMER IS HERE

•Jerry Hornof



The theme for this year is Westdale: Connecting People and Places. On that note, I thought it would be fun to connect our spring and emerging summer with baseball. I grew up in a great baseball city, Chicago. Like New York, the Bay Area, and Los Angeles it is blessed (some might say cursed) with two baseball teams: the Cubs and the Sox's. Unlike the majority of Chicagoans, I was a Sox's fan. I was a Sox's fan because of my father's job. He was a refrigeration engineer and worked almost every day in the summer. Day games at Wrigley Field were never an option so he would take me to night games at Comisky Park. I love baseball. As a kid I played every day in the summer.

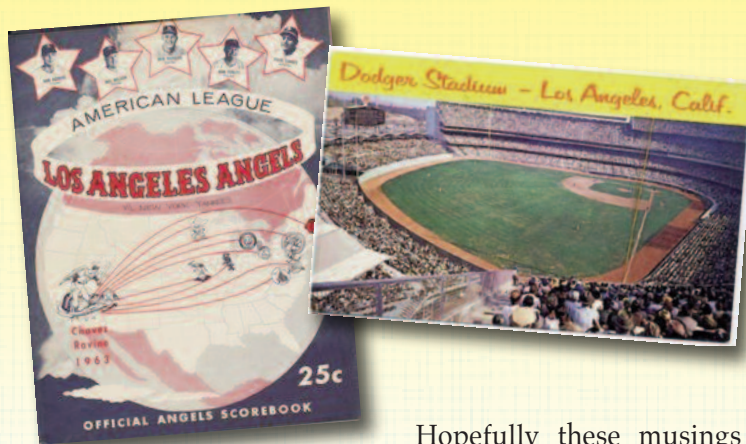
I also loved to read about baseball. One of my favorite authors is Roger Angell. Born in 1920, Angell is the son of Katharine Sergeant Angell White, The New Yorker's first fiction editor, and the stepson of renowned essayist E. B. White. His father, Ernest Angell, was an attorney who became head of the American Civil Liberties Union. Roger wrote his first article for The New Yorker in March, 1944. He continued writing into 2018. His first professional baseball article was about Florida spring training in 1962. Angell has been called the "Poet Laureate of baseball", a title he never liked. Two of my favorite Roger Angell quotes capture the beauty and timelessness of baseball:

"Every player in every game is subjected to a cold and ceaseless accounting; no ball is thrown and no base is gained without an instant responding judgment—ball or strike, hit or error, yea or nay—and an ensuing statistic. This encompassing neatness permits the baseball fan, aided by experience and memory, to extract from a box score the same joy, the same hallucinatory reality that prickles the scalp of a musician when he glances at a page of his score of Don Giovanni and actually hears bassos and sopranos, woodwinds and violins."

"Baseball's time is seamless and invisible, a bubble within which players move at exactly the same pace and rhythms as all their predecessors. This is the way the game was played in our youth and in our fathers' youth, and even



back then—back in the country days—there must have been the same feeling that time could be stopped. Since baseball time is measured only in outs, all you have to do is succeed utterly; keep hitting, keep the rally alive, and you have defeated time. You remain forever young.”



Hopefully these musings enhance your next visit to the Dodgers or Angels.

Regarding local politics, it should be noted that a zoning bill in California that was intended to alleviate the state’s acute housing shortage did not come out of the committee hearing. The bill would have allowed the construction of apartment buildings up to five stories tall near every high-frequency mass transit stop in the state. There was an intense debate surrounding SB 827 and how, at the state level, to address the housing crisis. Its lead sponsor, State Senator Scott Wiener, argued that taking zoning decisions away from local municipalities and forcing communities to build more densely near transit was the best way to both ease housing affordability in cities like San Francisco and to help the state hit its ambitious environmental goals. “The status quo isn’t working and we need to do things differently,” said Wiener. “We need an enormous amount of new housing at all income levels.”

Opponents argued that the bill imperiled neighborhood character and would lead to more traffic and parking woes. The bill’s author, State Senator Scott Wiener, acknowledged that this was an ambitious bill and said he was “heartened by the conversation it has started.”

Housing and development issues are very important to Mar Vista and Westdale. I encourage everyone to stay informed and stay attuned to local issues. An excellent forum is the Mar Vista Community Council. Local solutions are always best, but in the absence of local (Los Angeles and its community organizations) planning, we risk these types of statewide initiatives being passed.

In closing, please look for ways to better connect people and places. Your involvement and encouraging others to be involved is essential in keeping Westdale wonderful.

## BEWARE OF SCAMS!

•*Leah Oye/Liaison to Pacific Police Division*

All of us have been subjected to robocalls, door-to-door solicitors, and “too good to be true” offers through the mail or email. Unfortunately, the new scams are becoming more sophisticated as the criminals have become “professionals” at this type of activity. Threats and complicated or heart-felt stories can deceive even the most skeptical person. Here are some examples from our neighbors...

### IRS

Many of us have gotten an official-sounding call from someone claiming to be with the IRS saying that we owe money. The scammer asks for personal information, driver’s license, and bank information to verify your identity. You may be threatened with arrest or a lien on your home. Do not be fooled. The IRS does not call people.

### GRANDPARENTS WITH GRANDCHILD IN TROUBLE

A resident received a call from someone who said that her grandson was in an accident in Italy and he needed money for the hospital bill. She remembered that he had talked about possible travel for school. She and her husband quickly went to the bank to withdraw money then waited for further instructions. They were just about to go to the location to “wire” money when they decided to call their son. The grandson was not overseas but safely at college; there was no accident. Thank goodness they checked.

### PIGEON DROP SCAM

A resident was approached in the Rite Aid parking lot by a 50-60 year old woman asking for directions to the nearest post office. This woman claimed that she had found a box with a priority sticker. Rite Aid would not take responsibility for any items found outside their store. The resident and woman opened the box to find, what looked like, a stack of \$100 bills and a note. The note indicated that the money was from illegal gambling. The woman called her “boss” who supposedly is an attorney who was at Ross doing an audit. He asked them to bring the box to him at Ross. They would then decide what to do with the money. The resident agreed to take the woman to Ross; fortunately, the car’s battery was dead. That



ended the interaction. When thinking back, the resident realized that she could have been a victim of a scam. What would have happened if she had given a ride to this woman and met with this “boss”?

### UTILITY BILLS

A local beauty salon owner got a call from someone who told her, “Your water and power will be shut off in 2 hours for non-payment.” The owner tried to remember when she had paid her bill. There are clients coming; what to do? She was instructed to get the money and wait for further instructions. Getting suspicious, the owner called DWP. Her bill was NOT late. The recent bills had not yet been sent.

### COURT APPEARANCE

A resident got a call from someone claiming to be a lieutenant from the Sheriff’s Department. The resident was told that he was scheduled to be in court that day. The caller claimed that the resident had been sent a notice. Since he had not appeared, there would be warrant sent for his arrest unless fees were paid. The resident thought, “Is this a joke? Has my identity been stolen? How can I clear this?” The “lieutenant” gave a name as well as a badge number. The resident was also given the name of the judge who would sign the warrant. The “lieutenant” was well spoken and had answers to all questions without hesitation. It wasn’t until he received instructions for the payment of fees that the resident became suspicious. No further action was taken by the resident, but he did check with a retired Sheriff to confirm that it was a scam.

### HIGH SCHOOL SOLICITORS

Venice High and Culver High Schools do not send students door-to-door to collect funds to help their

athletic programs. I KNOW that we are in Venice High School’s area, but the Principal confirmed that this is NOT done.

### EXTERMINATORS

An elderly resident was told by an exterminator that they were working on the house behind her which had rats, so she must also have the exterminators clear her property. The resident became alarmed and signed up for the service without talking with the rear neighbors. She gave the exterminator her credit card, and now has a contract for continuing service. Was this needed?

Unfortunately, there are so many scams. The criminals create new ones daily. Please be very careful about the information you share with others. Always check the story



## CRIME AND SAFETY REPORT

•*Adrian Acosta/Pacific Police Division*

Good day Westdale Residents. LAPD Senior Lead Officer Adrian Acosta here with summer safety tips.

Money, purses, brief cases, computers, cell phones, sports equipment and parking passes are items that we’ve all kept or continue to keep in our vehicles. But these are the most common items being stolen from cars, especially when the cars are left unlocked. We’ve talked about these items on our neighborhood security walks as well as other vulnerabilities related to the home.

If you haven’t participated with your neighbors in a neighborhood security walk, please email me at 37285@lapd.online so that we can schedule one for your block. Thanks and have a wonderful summer!

**Adrian D. Acosta, #37285**  
**Pacific Area Senior Lead Officer**  
**Los Angeles Police Department**  
**310.622.3973 • [www.facebook.com/14SLO25](https://www.facebook.com/14SLO25)**





## DOUGLAS AIRCRAFT COMPANY AND WESTDALE TROUSDALE

•Kent Ugoretz

**Editor's Note: An earlier version of this article appeared in the 2011 Villager. Since the former Douglas property just sold again, we thought that it would be good to remember the history.**

The aviation industry represented a major contributor to the stability and growth of the Los Angeles area from 1920 through the end of the 20th century. The major companies included Douglas Aircraft, Hughes Aircraft, North American Aviation, Northrup and Lockheed. Other engineering and research companies such as Rand, SDC, TRW and Aerospace Corporation supported these companies and various government agencies. Countless smaller companies supplied parts and services to these aircraft manufacturers. Many of the people who worked at these companies lived in westside communities such as our Westdale.

Douglas Aircraft Company was a major presence in Santa Monica, Mar Vista, West Los Angeles and Culver City from the early 1920's until 1973. Around 1930 Douglas Aircraft outgrew their original facility, which was located at Wilshire Boulevard and 24th Street in Santa Monica, now Douglas Park. They moved to the property between Ocean Park Boulevard and Clover Field. We now know Clover Field as the Santa Monica Airport. Douglas grew to employ thousands of people at their Santa Monica location designing, building and testing aircraft, and later missiles, spacecraft and launch vehicles, and

performing related research and development. Douglas also maintained a significant work force at its Culver City satellite plant, known as A2, for many of these years. After World War II, Douglas Aircraft remained the major employer in the area through the 1950s and 1960s as the defense demands of the Cold War, the United States' entry into the space race, and the increasing demand for bigger and better commercial aircraft sustained a high level of employment in the aerospace industry.

This picture of the Douglas Aircraft Santa Monica facility, taken in the 1950s, gives a feel for the immensity of their operation. The picture looks south, with Ocean Park Boulevard in the foreground and the Santa Monica Airport runway in the background. The facility extended from 25th Street on the west to Centinela Avenue on the east. It's interesting to note that during World War II, with fear of attacks from the Japanese Navy, Warner Bros. Studios designed camouflage netting to cover this entire facility to make it appear as a housing development from the air. The camouflage story and picture can be found on the web at [www.steizreide.com/ms/html/mshwdoug.htm](http://www.steizreide.com/ms/html/mshwdoug.htm).

The Santa Monica plant included research, design, development, manufacturing and test facilities. Aircraft, missiles and space vehicles traveled from inception to delivery to the end user at this facility. This included thousands of civilian and military aircraft such as the DC-3, C-47, DC-4, C-54, A-26, DC-6 and DC-7, defensive weapon systems such as the NIKE Ajax, Hercules and Zeus, and the Spartan Missile System, offensive weapon systems such as Thor, Genie, and Skybolt, space launch vehicles such as Delta and Saturn S-IVB, and manned space stations

such as SkyLab. Portions of the DC-8 aircraft were built in Santa Monica but assembled and tested in the Douglas Long Beach facility.

Many of the Douglas employees chose to live close to the plant, making their homes in Santa Monica north of Ocean Park or west of the facility, or south and east of the airport in Mar Vista. Our Westdale/Trousdale development, completed in 1947 through 1949, became a convenient and affordable home for many Douglas employees, as well as many returning World War II veterans.

When I arrived at Douglas Aircraft Company as a young engineer fresh from the University of Michigan in September of 1959, I reported to the Santa Monica facility (referred to as A-Plant) for my medical check-up, introductory interviews and assignment. I was assigned to an engineering department at their satellite location in Culver City that was designated A2. I still frequently visit this Culver City location to shop and get gasoline because it is now occupied by Costco. My first desk was situated just about where the Costco warehouse entrance is now located.

From 1959 until 1973 I worked at either the Santa Monica or Culver City facility, depending on the project that I was working on. I had offices near where the Bank of America now stands on Ocean Park Blvd. and I conducted wind tunnel tests where Coco's Restaurant was recently located. I worked out in a Douglas gym and had my hair cut by a Douglas barber where Clover Park is now located. As I walked through the plant, I would see a line of DC-7 aircraft and Thor missile/Delta launch vehicles being assembled. In other areas there were parts being fabricated, assembled or tested and new materials and products being researched and developed. Wherever you were in the plant, there was constant, frenetic activity. It's hard for me to drive down Ocean Park



Boulevard without having old memories surface amid thoughts of what used to be.

In summer of 1969, my wife Nancy, daughter Randy and I ceased being apartment dwellers and bought a home on Federal Avenue in Westdale. We bought our house from the original owners, Arthur and Mandy Carmel. We had discovered the area when visiting our good friends (and the best man at our wedding) Bob and Lorraine Sasner who lived in the 3200 block of Coolidge. We liked the homes, the neighborhood, the neighbors and the proximity to the Douglas facilities. For me, it was an easy bicycle ride to and from work.

Douglas Aircraft made the decision to move out of Santa Monica because of their need to modernize and expand. Because they needed a longer runway for the DC-8, and Santa Monica would not permit lengthening the existing runway, aircraft production moved to Long Beach. They also wanted the City of Santa Monica to allow expansion of their office space north of Ocean Park Boulevard including building pedestrian bridges across Ocean Park Boulevard. Santa Monica also said "no" to this plan. As a consequence, Douglas developed a new facility in Huntington Beach and moved some missile and space operations to that location. Douglas Aircraft became McDonnell Douglas in 1968 and shortly thereafter decided to move the remaining aircraft operations to Long Beach and the missile and space operations to Huntington Beach.

As McDonnell Douglas employees, we each had to decide whether to relocate or to endure a long commute. I was one of a few employees who decided to stay in Westdale and endure the long commute from 1973 until I retired in 1999. For a while, the commute was made easier by carpooling with two fellow employees who lived in the 3100 and 3200 blocks of Barry Avenue and another who lived in the 3400 block of Federal Avenue. Our decision to stay was based on a number of factors, but one of them was that Westdale was a great place for our family to live. We still feel that we made the right decision and look back at our 49 years on Federal Avenue with no regrets.





OFFBEAT SHOPPING FOR A  
GOOD CAUSE

•Margie Templeton

Are you looking for dinosaur eggs or “elixir of life” or a manual typewriter? All these can be found at the Time Travel Mart at 12515 Venice Boulevard. It is the storefront for 826LA, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting students ages 6 –18 with their creative and expository-writing skills. Sales from the Time Travel Mart help to run the tutoring center, which provides writing and homework support for students. 826 has offices in several cities including one in Mar Vista and one in Echo Park. Foundations fund the centers so that all programs are free.

The Time Travel Mart specializes in merchandise that cannot be found anywhere else, with some of it even made by the staff. Two doors in the wall lead to “forever” or “the past”. The staircase with a trap door at the top supposedly leads to Mr. and Mrs. Barnacle’s apartment. Students are told that the Barnacles are 103 years old and run the publishing house where elementary school students come to publish their books.

I have volunteered at 826LA for several years, helping students after school with their homework, participating with morning field trips at the center, and assisting with summer workshops. I spent 6 sessions at Animo Venice Charter School helping students to write essays that they could use for



college applications. It was inspiring listening to stories written by students who overcame severe handicaps to make it to AP English. Their book of essays, Each Little Leaf, is available at the Time Travel Mart.

Elementary school students come to the center after school for homework help, and middle school students come in the evening. Volunteers work with a group of students on their homework. The center also has a library with books for all ages and students can spend time there reading for pleasure.

The field trips bring students to 826LA from elementary and middle schools to write a book in 3 hours during their visit. Younger students collaborate on an original and imaginative story. Older students may write poems or memoirs. High school students can work on a personal statement for a college application.

Several 826LA programs take place outside of the Venice location. High school teachers may request volunteers for short-term projects in the classroom. Manual Arts High School has a permanent writers’ room where volunteers come to help students with writing projects.

Come to the Time Travel Mart to shop for unique gifts. If you are looking for an interesting volunteer job working with students, look at the web site 826la.org. All volunteers take a training class and then have access to the volunteer calendar. One of the strengths of the program, as far as I am concerned, is the flexibility of volunteer commitments. As a volunteer I can come in several times a week or not at all. Contact me if you would like more information at mpt@rwtia.com.



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REAL ESTATE REPORT

• Debbie Kaplan

Once again, Great News!  
As your long-term Realtor in the neighborhood, I am pleased to say that Westdale/Trousdale is breaking all records! A lovely smaller 3br/2ba house recently went on the market for \$1,258 per square foot! The house had only 1,577 sq. ft, and the lot was 5,880 sq. ft. The asking price was \$1,985. The house had been updated and had nice curb appeal. It is in escrow. A house on the 3100 block of Purdue is in escrow as well.  
Currently, there is only one house on the market, on Coolidge Ave. It has 4br/3ba, and it has a salt-water pool. The asking price is \$1,895,000. Twelve houses have sold since the beginning of 2018. The average price per square foot is almost \$1,000. In 2010, the average sales price per square foot was \$500. It has doubled in 8 years!

Jumbo interest rates are currently 4.65% for 30-yr loans. 15-year loans are at 4.375%. These are almost the same rates as 5 years ago. These days, rates are trending upwards. If you are thinking of refinancing or buying, this is a good time to lock in a good rate. As the economy grows, the interest rates will rise. Right now the economy is growing.  
If you are planning to sell your house in the coming months, this is a good time to update your house. Some suggestions: paint the outside, paint the inside, water the lawn, remodel the kitchen and/or baths, fix the windows, driveway, and fences. If you do all of those things, you'll love your house again and not move! Try just one or two projects!



You may have seen the smoke or heard the fire engines. On April 21, my garage burned down. The cause was electrical. We were lucky that the house was not affected. The garage was not attached. I had recently had a new garage door installed. The other electrical item was an older refrigerator. The police and fire departments responded in minutes. We had 6 fire trucks from both the Venice and Pico stations. I am in the process of signing a contract to have it rebuilt. It is recommended that you clean under your refrigerator. Check your insurance policies regarding garage coverage. Generally, it is 10% of the amount for which the house is insured.

Westdale's Own Debbie Kaplan



I have lived in Westdale Trousdale for over 40 years. I was treasurer of the Westdale Homeowners for 15 years, and am still an active member of the Board of Directors. The Board sponsors the Villager, the quarterly newsletter, it monitors and influences such matters as adherence to building and property restrictions, graffiti controls, earthquake preparedness and response, and traffic control, and also sponsors block parties. It also runs a website; Westdalehoa.org. I am proud to continue serving on the Board.

I have been a Realtor for for almost 40 years. I have first hand knowledge of neighborhood trends. No one knows your neighborhood better than your neighbor! If you were to list with a larger name company, your listing would be turned over to many different people throughout the process.

My company, DK Properties provides the individual attention and service your deserve when selling a home. You would get my total attention. I also represent buyers of properties in other counties; I know the Riverside market very well, and can help you with investments and purchases there.

Contact me for a FREE Market Analysis.  
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3230 Stoner Ave



Ron Wynn

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8

9



PARK REPORT

•Jerry Hornof

The Mar Vista Park Director, Caroline Lammers, continues to advance both programs and facility upgrades at the park. Earlier this spring there was a Junior Clipper workshop headed by Odon Polinis and run by Clippers staff. Sixty kids attended and it went very well. The park is active every spring weekday and weekend with volleyball, soccer, baseball and softball. Girls’ softball currently has 36 kids with a waiting list of 20. They will play games with Stoner and Barrington Parks, using our field as a home field. Soccer has 700 kids. The park is also conducting coach’s clinics to help ensure the coaching is good and everyone is on the same page.

The park again has a tennis teacher with classes scheduled on Thursday and Friday evenings for a variety of ages.



Due to high demand, there are now additional guitar, voice and piano classes. The class schedule can be found at [www.laparks.org/](http://www.laparks.org/) and search for Facility Name Mar Vista.



Camp Mar Vista will begin on June 11th. This daily summer camp experience includes a uniquely designed weekly theme that includes sports, crafts, cooking and a Friday field trip. Both my sons participated in the camp every summer and enjoyed the friends, activities and field trips. If you are looking for a convenient and enjoyable summer camp experience for your children, I encourage you to check out Camp Mar Vista.

The park continues to work with the construction division to design and install a gate to enclose the patio space between the gymnasium and the auditorium. This gate will allow for storage of the chairs and tables and provide additional safety in the patio space.

The Park Advisory Board (PAB) is considering new park projects. Current ideas include the planting of new trees to complement our aging park forest, completion of a jogging trail around the entire perimeter of the park, a new scoreboard for the hockey rink, and investigating the requirements needed to have a year round swimming pool. If you are interested in becoming more involved with the park, please consider participating on the PAB. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month at 7pm. Please contact Caroline if you are interested.

As always, enjoy your park.



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