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Westdale VILLAGER

Quarterly Newsletter of the Westdale Homeowners Association
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+ INSIDE +

CITY SERVICE

+

THE HISTORY OF GRANDVIEW BLVD.

+

UNSOLICITED OPINIONS

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BLOCK PARTY IS BACK

+

ECO-FRIENDLY HOME IMPROVEMENTS

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PARK REPORT

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WESTDALE ADS

President's Message

Westdale Block Party Celebration

•Jerry Hornof

The theme for this year is "Westdale Connecting People and Places". On that note, October will be an exciting month for the residents of Westdale. On Sunday September 30, the Westdale Homeowners Association will celebrate its annual Block Party. Last year was a "reset" year, but this year the families on Colby Avenue between Kingsland Street and Stanwood Drive are preparing to welcome their neighbors. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to make this happen. Please see the Block Party article later in this issue.

On Saturday, October 6, from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm at the Mar Vista Recreation Center will be the Fall FUN Festival and Silent Auction. The Mar Vista Community Council, Councilmember Mike Bonin, and many community members endorse this event. Everyone is invited to be a part of the festival. Opportunities exist as a Festival Partner, an Honored Sponsor, a Booth Vendor, or a Silent Auction donor. For additional information visit: www.CommunityFun.org or at http://marvistafallfestival.blogspot.com

The Los Angeles City Planning Department has officially launched a three-year effort to update four Community Plans for the Westside region of Los Angeles: Palms-Mar Vista-Del Rey, Venice, West Los Angeles, and Westchester-Playa Del Rey. These plans shape the environment around us by defining how land is used in a neighborhood: for parks, housing, jobs, or manufacturing. An updated Community Plan is "the foundation for future generations". A Community Plan is the blueprint that guides growth in our neighborhoods by establishing the community's vision for the future, laying out policies, and designating land use. During the Fall of 2018, the City Planning Department will conduct two Planning 101: Community Planning sessions, a webinar, and four Kick-off events in each Community Plan Area. They are looking for our participation. Visit www.planningthewestside.org/ for additional information and ways to become more involved in this important exercise.

Have you attended one of the Mar Vista Art Walk events? Created as a means of improving the walkability of our neighborhood, The Mar Vista Art Walk is a fun, FREE celebration of all the arts." A one-mile stretch of Venice Blvd between Inglewood Blvd and Beethoven St. is transformed for the event. The schedule for remaining 2018 Mar Vista Art Walks is:

- Thurs. September 6, 6-10 p.m.
  Theme: SCIENCE + ART
- Saturday, November 24, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.
  All day event for Small Business Saturday
  Theme: INNER GIVING

Finally, as summer gives way to fall, enjoy and participate in our Westdale community. Be sure to mark your calendar for September 30th when we gather for the 2018 Annual Block party.

City Services Available

•Leah Oye/Liaison to Pacific Police Division

Los Angeles offers many services which you may not know about. Who do you call and what can the city do to help? Here are a few helpful sites from the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office.

Have you ever wondered what to do about disputes between neighbor and neighbor, landlord and tenant, or employer and employee? What about family issues? The Dispute Resolution Program is a FREE service to help residents and businesses who want to settle without going to court. A neutral third party facilitates discussions. It is confidential, quick and FREE. The facilitator does not decide, but rather helps the parties come to a settlement. Here is the link to LA City Attorney's Dispute Resolution Program: www.lacityattorney.org/drp .

Have you been a victim of a crime? This is a stressful, emotional and confusing time. The Victims Assistance Program will help you through the system. What is the court process? What happens before a trial? How do you contact law enforcement to make sure you have services? The VAP also provides information about restraining orders, emergency protection and support for elderly, handicapped or child victims. For more information, visit the website: www.helplacrimevictims.org.

If you are a victim of a crime, you could be eligible for financial compensation for out-of-pocket expenses for medical, therapy, job rehabilitation, funeral expenses, income loss and more. There is a three year deadline for the application to the California Victim Compensation Board, (800) 777-9229.

LA has several Good Neighbor laws. One covers construction. Our neighborhood has many construction projects ongoing. The working hours must not exceed 7 AM to 9 PM on weekdays, 8 AM to 6 PM on Saturdays, and no work on Sundays. Another covers sidewalks. Homeowners must keep the sidewalks in front of their home or business free of trash and overgrown vegetation. These are just two of LA City's Good Neighbor Laws. Please go to our website: www.westdalehoa.org . Go to the Crime and Safety menu and scroll down to Good Neighbor Laws for a complete list.

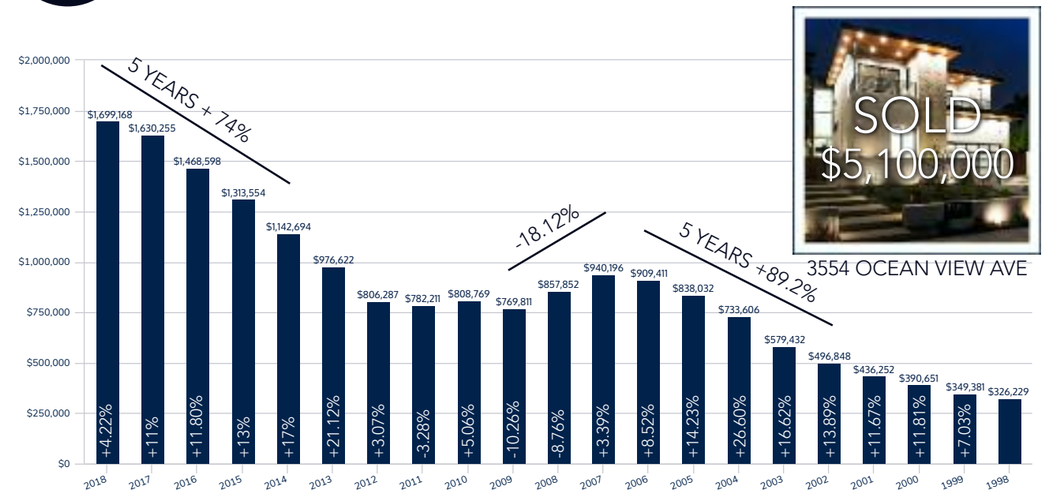
The LAPD is now hiring civilian employees to take the place of officers doing clerical work. This will free up officers to be out in the community doing police work. Right now, there is also a need for 911 Operators (Police Service Representatives). Additional LA City jobs can be found at www.governmentjobs.com/careers/lacity .

If you have any non-emergency questions, please contact our Senior Lead Officer:

Adrian D. Acosta, #37285 • Police Officer III+1
Pacific Area Senior Lead Officer • L.A. P. D.
37285@lapd.lacity.org • 310.622.3973
www.facebook.com/14SLO25

Remember: If you see something suspicious, say something. For emergency 911, for non-emergency calls 1-877-ASK-LAPD.

MAR VISTA/ PALMS
AVERAGE SOLD PRICE YEARLY RECAP



3554 OCEAN VIEW AVE

This chart illustrates the average sold price of single family homes in Mar Vista/Palms from 1999 to the present date. All information has been gathered from themls.com.

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Owner of The Noël Team

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August 2018

We're reprinting this article on the history of Grand View Boulevard from the Mar Vista Historical Society web site. If you want to read more about our neighborhood's history go to www.marvistahistoricalsociety.net.

Grandview Boulevard

•Glen Howell

The year 2007, marks the 80th anniversary of Mar Vista being a Los Angeles community, and much of Mar Vista's history is connected with Grand View Blvd.

Here is some of Grand View Blvd.'s history:

1. When Grand View Boulevard was named, Centinela Avenue was called La Ballona Rd.

2. Grand View Blvd., between Venice Blvd. and Palms Blvd. (originally Ocean Park Ave.) was the first gated community in Los Angeles County. A mammoth wrought iron gate spanning Grand View Blvd. at Venice Blvd., with "Ocean Park Heights" across the top was quite impressive.

3. For the upscale people who built homes on Grand View Blvd., it's very wide street made it easy for a team of horses pulling a carriage to make a U-turn to head back down the hill to Venice Blvd. In 1910, Grand View Blvd. ended at Palms Blvd.

4. Busby Drug Store on the southwest corner of Venice and Grand View was the first commercial building in Mar Vista.

5. A summer home built on Grand View in 1901, by a wealthy East Coast family may be the oldest house built in Mar Vista that is still standing. The oldest house in Mar Vista was built in 1892, in Pasadena, and relocated to a La Ballona ranch east of Grand View Blvd.

6. Grand View Blvd. predates both names for the community developed on the rail line built in 1902, connecting Los Angeles to Ocean Park, Ocean Park Heights and Mar Vista. The City of Ocean Park was renamed the City of Venice in 1907. In 1924, the name of the community known as Ocean Park Heights since 1904, was changed to Mar Vista.

7. Until the late 1940's, Grand View Blvd. north of Palms was a narrow dirt road through a dump site. Large trash pits on the top of the hill were used by local teenagers with model T Fords (the first off road vehicle) to see if they could get through the pits during a rain. It was not unusual to see a stuck car being rescued by a team of horses.

8. During the 1930's, on the area that is now Ocean View Farms, were twelve truck farms, with Japanese tenant farmers doing the farming.

9. During WWII, on top of Mar Vista Hill at the end of Rose Ave., an Army anti-aircraft installation provided protection from Japanese bombers for the camouflaged Douglas Aircraft plant. In 1942, these guns were fired during the "Battle of Los Angeles".

10. During the mid 1940's, the Los Angeles Dept. of Water and Power was looking for a Westside reservoir site. At 200 ft. above sea level, the top of Mar Vista Hill was an ideal location. Grand View Blvd. was still a dirt road across a dump site. DWP bought the truck farms west on Grand View, providing a 15 acre site for a reservoir. By the 1960's, with the availability of Colorado River water from the Metropolitan Water District, the reservoir was no longer needed. Recreation and farming returned to the land on top of Mar Vista Hill, west of Grand View Blvd. The DWP's "Venice Reservoir Site, located in Ocean Park Heights" became the home of the North Venice Little League in 1966, and the home of Ocean View Farms in 1977.

11. Because of its commanding ocean view, in the 1930's, the Mormon Church considered building their Los Angeles Temple on top of Mar Vista Hill. The Mormons however, selected Route 66 in Westwood for their temple. In the 1960's St. Bede's Episcopal Church was built on the corner of Grandview and Charnock. The Mormon Mar Vista Ward Chapel on Centinela was built in 1928.

12. "Centinela", comes from the Spanish word for sentinel, or lookout. In the early 1860's, Union Army troops from nearby Camp Latham (Culver City) used Mar Vista Hill to watch for an anticipated Confederate attack by the sea, from Catalina Island. Camels from the U.S. Army Camel Corp. were located at Camp Latham. The Army had determined that camels would be a better choice for desert travel than mules. Can you imagine seeing camels and uniformed soldiers on Grand View Blvd. in 1862?

Unsolicited Opinions™

•Dick Henkel

I think I know how Tippi Hedren felt. And if you know who Tippi Hedren is you probably agree. If you live on the westside you are, of course, aware of the latest annoying fad in L.A., the electric scooters called Bird. Cockroaches would have been a better name. I know they're being championed as an ecological alternative to cars but I don't think that's really what they are. Most of the people I see whipping down sidewalks on these things wouldn't be driving cars if they weren't on a scooter. They'd be skateboarding, riding a bike or even, gasp!, walking. I know they say nobody walks in L.A. but it's just not true. About a month ago I almost got into a fight with Birdster when he whipped up behind my wife and I as we were walking home on Barrington. He didn't like me giving him attitude and twice got off his Bird to confront me. I told him if he got off one more time we'd have a problem. He didn't.

If I was a twenty-something I'd probably love them but as a 60 year old curmudgeon I'm not a fan. And as you can see from these photos neither are a lot of other people. Lately it seems as if users are being a little more curteous. They know they're being watched.

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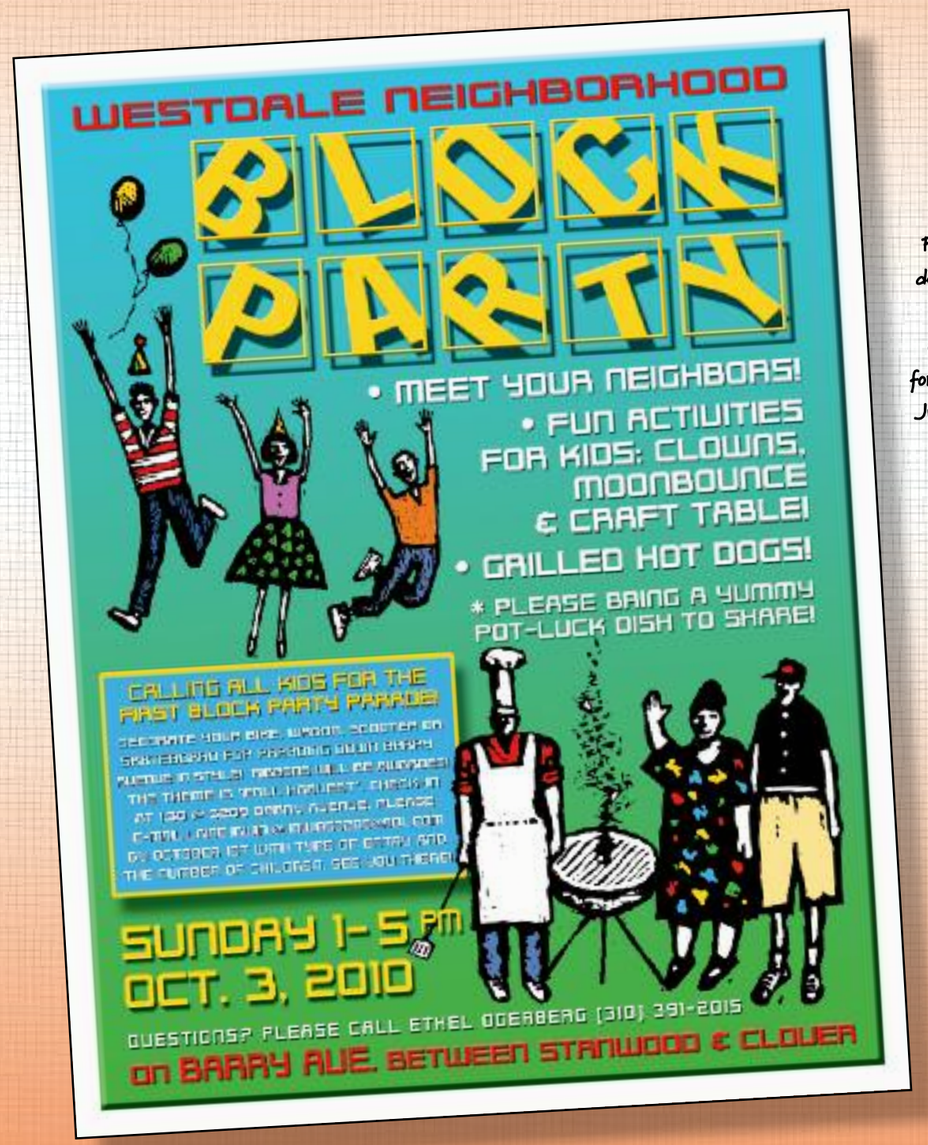
Westdale Neighborhood Block Party Returns

Good news for all of our neighbors! The Westdale Neighborhood Block Party is BACK!
You are cordially invited to our annual Westdale Homeowner's Association Block Party.
It will be held this year on Sunday, September 30th between 1:00pm – 5:00PM, on Colby Avenue between Stanwood and Kingsland. Bring a delicious potluck dish to share. We will be grilling hot dogs. There will be activities and a bounce house for kids. Meet our Councilman Mike Bonin, police lead officer Adrian Acosta, and our local fire department. Representatives from the Mar Vista Community Council will be present as well! Learn about the work of the Westdale Homeowner's Association and CERT. Any budding local musicians who would like to perform are welcome to add to the festive street party (feel free to contact me directly if interested). Come out and meet your neighbors! We look forward to seeing you all there!

For any questions, feel free to contact Lauren Mickelson Altman @ 917-757-3126



FYI: This was my original design for my first Block Party flyer when I took over as graphic designer for the Villager in 2010. Just a little too weird at the time. C'est la vie...

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.

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Eco-Friendly Home Improvements

• Colin Wellman

The Need for Eco-Friendly Home Improvements

We live in an amazing world. The longer we enjoy it, however, the more it needs our help. Energy and water are resources we rely on, but they're not infinite. It is important to be aware of the impact we are making and understand how we can be more eco-friendly. Be the change you wish to see in the world...right at home.

The Financial Value of Eco-friendly Homes

Not only are eco-friendly home improvements kind to the environment, they're also beneficial for homeowners. Limiting energy and water use means lower bills for you. And as more and more people understand the importance of sustainable living, eco-friendly homes are on the rise in value. Many of the improvements you make will add greatly to the value of your home by being both environmentally smart and cost effective for future residents.

Home Improvements in Southern California

California has always been on the forefront of progress initiatives, from groundbreaking technology to powerful political action. When it comes to protecting our Earth, we should keep up that forward-thinking mentality. We live in a beautiful state, so let's keep it that way.

Here are a few ways you can improve your home in an environmentally conscious way:

• Double-glazing •

When it comes to eco-friendly renovations, one of the most effective ways may surprise you. Double-glazing your windows means better home insulation and can cut down on energy use immensely. Using low emissivity glass (Low-E), you can replace your old glass with two sheets, allowing for a space between them. This method helps you trap heat, so you'll be less likely to reach for that heater on cold California nights.

• Better Bulbs •

If you haven't made the switch to energy efficient light bulbs yet, you're missing out. LED and CFL bulbs last way longer than regular bulbs, and they use around 80% less energy.

• Solar Panels •

Solar paneling is perhaps the most well-known eco-friendly home improvement. When you see solar panels on someone's house, it's immediately clear they're doing their part to help our planet. Solar paneling collects the sun's clean and renewable energy and allows it to be used by the members of your household. And in sunny Southern California, it won't be hard to come by.

• Permeable Paving •

Permeable paving is an excellent way to eliminate water waste and support the environment. Permeable paving can be used for gardens and driveways, just like regular paving, but there are larger gaps in between each block. This small difference has a big impact. By creating that gap between each cement block, it allows for rainwater to drain slowly and be naturally recycled by the Earth. You may think we don't get much rain, but the amount we do get can really add up. That water, when it is collected via permeable paving, forms a sizable amount of this important resource.

• Low or No-VOC Paint •

When it comes to that room in need of a fresh paint job, pause before you turn to the same old brands you're used to. Many of the paints out there today are filled with toxins that don't decompose and are harmful to the earth as well as the people living on it. Paint that has little to no VOC (volatile organic compounds) are more accessible than ever and will be a much better choice for your eco-friendly home.

• Wildflower Gardens to Save Water •

We use an immense amount of water trying to keep our yards green and our flowers in bloom. The reason it's so hard to keep them alive is because they're not meant to be in this climate. Southern California has harsh, dry, heat at times, and many of the flowers you buy are not well suited for the climate. Instead of opting for the same sensitive roses and peonies, why not consider wildflowers native to the area? Many California wildflowers require almost no care and can easily survive without being drenched with water every day.

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Park Report

•Jerry Hornof

As we transition into Fall and Back to School for many families, it is important to remember the wide variety of sports programs available at our local park. It is a real advantage to have the wide variety of sports opportunities in our back yard. Fall is a startup period for many sports and a sampling of what is available is often helpful.

- Girls' Volleyball begins September 22nd for ages 9 thru 15
- Coed Flag Football begins September 8th for ages 7 thru 11
- Coed Soccer begins September 8th for ages 5 thru 13
- Girls' Soccer begins September 8th for ages 7 thru 11
- Coed Roller hockey begins September 8th for ages 5 thru 15

For additional information, please see www.laparks.org. Enjoy your park!

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