



Westdale VILLAGER

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
WESTDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
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FALL 2019 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SUMMER TRANSITION TO FALL

• Jerry Hornof



The theme for 2019 is Westdale – Planning is Essential. For families with school age children or grandchildren, planning this time of year is all about school. Los Angeles Unified School District classes began the week of August 19th. As a parent, I still remember the hectic lead up to the first day of classes and the list of items students needed to acquire in the first week. I am sure that trips to Staples, Office Depot, and online shopping sites were a part of these parents and students week. Hopefully a routine has set in and it will be a rewarding school year.

In the Summer issue of the Villager, I had a lengthy discussion of Senate Bill 50 (H.O.M.E.S.) sponsored by Senator Scott Weiner. I also noted that there were over 200 housing bills in development in the California legislature. Since that writing, many of the proposed bills did not make it through the session. Of note, Assembly Bill 36 would have expanded rent control throughout the state. It died in committee. Assembly Bill 1481 would have extended “just cause” protections preventing frivolous evictions to all California renters. It never made it to the floor. Notably, Senate Bill 50, which would have done away with zoning limits to allow for taller, denser housing near mass transit and job centers, was designated as ineligible for a vote until 2020. Bills that made it through the session primarily focused on providing moderate to low income housing solutions. Columnist Tom Elias wrote an interesting article in the Santa Monica Mirror on the challenges of SB 50. In the article he highlights the cultural history and financial investment single-family housing represents in California. The link to the article is www.smmirror.com/2019/06/no-to-sb50-not-enough-there-are-other-solutions.

I recently registered and enrolled in classes at the Santa Monica College Emeritus Program. My choices included a class on Shakespeare and a Music Concert Series. The Emeritus program “offers a broad range of non-credit classes that cater to the older adult community. Perhaps you are interested in

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TIME I WAS ON MY WAY
Now ITS TIME FOR ME TO GO
THE AUTUMN MOON LIGHTS MY WAY

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acquiring a new skill, learning healthy living strategies, expressing your artistic side, or meeting others who share your interests.

Most classes take place at the SMC Emeritus campus, located at 1227 2nd Street in Santa Monica”. For more information please visit www.smc.edu/AcademicAffairs/Emeritus/Pages/default.aspx.

On July 27th I attended the Los Angeles Metro public meeting on the Sepulveda Transit Corridor. The meeting attracted over 100 participants, and Metro did an excellent job in discussing the project and some of the options. The most likely option will be a subway tunnel connecting the San Fernando Valley to the Expo Line at either the Sepulveda or the Bundy station. The below ground subway will continue to the LAX Transit Center. There are currently two planned phases: the Valley-Westside segment (proposed completion 2033) and the Westside-LAX segment (proposed completion 2057). There is the hope that additional funding might accelerate the completion dates. For more information visit www.metro.net/projects/sepulvedacorridor/.

I encourage you to read the articles on Our Mar Vista Tree Canopy, Historic Fire Station 62, and our 2019 Block Party (September 22 on Colby Avenue) found in this issue.

In closing, please remember that your involvement, and encouraging others to be involved, is essential to keeping Westdale wonderful.

CRIME AND SAFETY REPORT

•Leah Oye

Have you heard of the My 311 App? This app is very useful for contacting city services about graffiti removal, trash pick-up, animal complaints and homeless encampments. Please provide details about the incident and location as well as photos.

The LAPD Pacific Division is now on Facebook and Twitter. You can find the latest crime news, events, and announcements from LAPD. Replying to social media sites or posting on Nextdoor does not take the place of filing an official police report if you have an incident. To see the official crime reports/incidents in our neighborhood, go to: www.crimemapping.com.

Are you ready for the “BIG ONE”? The previous Disaster Awareness Course was a lecture to get you to think about what supplies you need in your home, work and car. The Mar Vista Community Council is sponsoring a new Disaster Survival Seminar and Workshop which provides hands-on experience.

You will learn about equipment and supplies to prepare your home, basic lifesaving procedures, how to free victims trapped under toppled furniture, how to suppress a small fire, and much more. Join us on Sunday, September 15th from 3-6 PM at Mar Vista Park for this FREE seminar.

CHANGING OUR SENIOR LEAD OFFICER

•Officer Acosta/Officer Muther

Officer Acosta wrote to notify our neighborhood that he will be turning the job over to Jennifer Muther.

“Effective immediately, I will no longer be your Senior Lead Officer as I'm moving to another basic car assignment still within Pacific Area. Senior Lead Officer Jennifer Muther will handle the area going forward. I can't even begin to express my gratitude to all of you for your ideas in making your neighborhoods a safer place to live. Over the last six years your participation in implementing those ideas as well as your attendance at the many community events and meetings has helped create a blueprint for other areas to emulate.”

Officer Muther introduced herself:

“My name is Jennifer Muther and I will be the new Senior Lead Officer for Basic A Car 25. I have been with the Department for 18 years and have worked an array of assignments throughout my career. I was raised in Pacific Division and during my younger years I spent many weekends at Mar Vista park with family/friends and frequented many locations in A25s area. I have worked in Pacific Division since 2012, with a brief 2 year hiatus. For the last year, I was the Senior Lead Officer for Basic A Car 11 (Venice Beach, Marina Peninsula, Abbot Kinney) and have worked relentlessly to improve Quality of Life issues in that area. I am very excited in getting to know the community members of A25's area and working with you all.

If you have any questions/concerns that you would like to make me aware of, you can email me at 36051@lapd.online or reach me via phone, 424-622-3973. The phone number may look/sound familiar as it is Officer Acosta's old number and it is actually the phone number assigned to A25s area.

Please do not hesitate to contact me and if you see me driving around feel free to wave me down and I look forward to working with you.

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HISTORIC FIRE STATION 62

•Jerry Hornof

Historic Fire Station 62 is the original fire station located at 3631 Centinela Avenue. The organization, Friends of Historic Fire Station 62 (FOHFS62), is dedicated to the transformation of the fire station into a multipurpose community center for all of Mar Vista. The vision is that this will become a place where community members of all ages can come for enrichment, assistance, education, and recreation.

There will be after-school classes and tutoring alongside senior citizens activities; weekend and evening programming for the community; and a place for teens, young adults, and groups like Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to meet and interact. The space will provide a forum for learning and community meetings including the Mar Vista Community Council and neighborhood associations.

It will have a kitchen that creates opportunities for everything from cooking classes to lunch programs for homebound elderly community members. It will have space for exercise and recreational activities, art exhibitions, theatre and music programs, and a place to exhibit the history of Mar Vista.

Additionally, the center will be a resource to assist Mar Vista residents in preparation for a major earthquake or other disaster and the aftermath. To

achieve this, the center would raise community awareness, publicize residential and commercial guidelines, train residents in Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), develop neighborhood leadership and strong social networks, and serve as a storage location for emergency supplies and equipment.

The FOHFS62 recognizes the challenge of bringing this vision to reality. The City of Los Angeles has agreed to lease the building to the FOHFS62 with the provision that they renovate the building including the removal of asbestos and other hazardous material. FOHFS62 has worked with an architect to develop a design concept and commissioned a detailed report which includes a budget estimate for restoration of the building. The bottom line is that it will cost approximately \$1.6 million to fully renovate the building. FOHFS62 is seeking support from foundations and corporations for a significant portion of the building restoration costs. There will also be a community campaign to raise matching funds for restoration as well as for programs and staffing.

The community center will be an important feature in maintaining and enhancing the vibrant spirit of our wonderful Mar Vista Community. Your support of this project is critical to its success. If you have any questions, suggestions, or recommendations please do not hesitate to reach out to Fohfs62@gmail.com .



EARTHQUAKE PREPARATION?

•Carl Ginsberg

Well it seems like Mother Nature has decided to send another reminder that we live in earthquake country. The 7.1 magnitude quake that struck Ridgecrest on July 4th sent some good shaking down to Los Angeles. We can't write it off just because it hit over 150 miles away and caused no damage here. 7.1 is a serious quake which fortunately only caused property damage and only one fatality (in Nevada). Had that magnitude quake hit Los Angeles, due to our density, we would have suffered significant damage and likely loss of life.

- So, each of us must ask ourselves these questions:
- Am I and my family sufficiently ready to survive the quake?
 - Am I and my family sufficiently ready to live without access to cash, groceries, water, our prescriptions, etc. for maybe two weeks?
 - Do I know how to get information on what is happening in the City?
 - Will my cell phone work? My internet? My home phones?
- If you've answered NO to any of these questions, then let's consider these questions:
- What supplies do I need to be self sufficient for perhaps up to 2 weeks?
 - What to do when the house starts shaking?
 - What do I do after the shaking stops?
 - If the power goes out, do I have emergency lighting? Flashlights, battery powered lanterns...

- Do I have a way to get information from the government as to what is happening in the City? AM radio?
- Do I have a gas leak? How do I know? What do I do? Should I turn off the gas? How do I turn off the gas?

Maybe you should consider taking CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training from the Los Angeles Fire Department. This is a free course which is taught in various parts of the city throughout the year. See www.cert-la.com for more information.

Below are some web sites where you can get this information. The trick is to get the information before the next quake or other disaster hits LA.

Sources of Preparedness Information:

- Los Angeles Emergency Management Division - AMD https://emergency.lacity.org/sites/g/files/wph496/f/Family_Prep_Brochure_April%202016_7.pdf Includes creating a family plan, survival supplies, go bags and more
- US Government – Ready.gov Plan Ahead for Disasters <https://www.ready.gov/> Build a Kit <https://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit>
- FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Administration Earthquake Safety at Home <https://www.fema.gov/earthquake-safety-home>

The time to get prepared is now. There could be a major quake or other disaster tomorrow.

Questions or concerns: cginsberg17@gmail.com

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It's Party Time!

**WESTDALE NEIGHBORHOOD'S
BLOCK
PARTY**

SUNDAY, SEPT. 22ND, 2019

12:00^{PM} UNTIL 4:00^{PM}

ON COLBY AVENUE
(BETWEEN KINGSLAND & STANWOOD)

- MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS! •
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**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT
LAUREN MICKELSON ALTMAN @ 917-757-3126**

WITH THE GRACIOUS SUPPORT OF THE MAR VISTA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

WESTDALE BLOCK PARTY

• *Lauren Mickelson*

It's time to get excited about our annual Westdale Block Party! This beloved Westdale tradition will take place on Sunday, September 22, from 12-4pm on Colby between Kingsland and Stanwood. After last year's success, we are returning to the same block for 2019. There will be bouncy houses, slides, face painting, food and more. Whether you are a long-time resident of the neighborhood or a new arrival, this is a wonderful time to catch up with neighbors and to get to know families in our community. This is a potluck event, so please bring any special dishes you'd like to share! Musicians are welcome to come and jam.

The Homeowners' Association will be there to answer questions and to collect our neighborhood dues. Check with staff at the WHOA tent to see if you have paid. See you on Colby!

HELP SAVE OUR WESTDALE TREES

• *Molly Selvin & George Oswald*

The glorious city trees that line our streets are one of this neighborhood's truly special features. In spring and summer, they provide a beautiful, leafy canopy that shades our homes. In autumn, they put on a colorful display. Throughout the year our trees help improve air quality and reduce traffic noise.

Westdale's original developers thoughtfully planted each street with a different tree species, making each street unique and special. As a result, our trees remain the one constant amidst so much recent change, as new, larger home designs replace the original homes.

But as you have noticed, not all is well with our trees. Most were planted when our tract was built meaning these trees are over 70 years old and are approaching the end of their natural lifespans. Some are slowly succumbing to fungus, others have simply toppled over or lost major limbs, weakened by the recent drought and the rush to replace lawns with gravel. Due to chronically inadequate city funding, nearly all are poorly and irregularly pruned.

City crews have responded quickly to emergency situations, removing fallen limbs and, if necessary, cutting a tree down to the stump. But getting crews to grind those stumps and replace trees lost to age or disease has been difficult.

We'd like to step in before more trees are lost. With the support of Jerry Hornof and the Westdale Homeowners Association (WHOA), Councilman

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 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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Mike Bonin's office has offered to help get city crews to more expeditiously remove the parkway stumps and replace lost trees with new, healthy ones that will preserve the neighborhood's unique street-by-street planting pattern. We hope you'll agree that this effort is worth undertaking.

If so, our first step is to conduct a neighborhood tree survey, identifying where parkway trees are missing or irreparably diseased. With that information, Mr. Bonin's office promises to lobby the city to schedule crews to grind the stumps from downed trees and to link us with city agencies and local non-profits to provide replacement trees, all at no cost to the homeowner.

We are two neighbors who have offered to lead this neighborhood survey initiative and we welcome additional volunteers, particularly those with a knowledge of trees. We will work with city arborists, the WHOA, and with Councilman Bonin's office to establish guidelines to identify and acquire replacement saplings that will preserve Westdale's unique parkway trees for generations to come.

Please let us know if you would like to join this important effort by contacting:

Molly Selvin at mollyselvin@yahoo.com

George Oswald at george.oswald@me.com

Jerry Hornof at jerry.hornof@noaa.gov

NEIGHBORHOOD EDUCATORS

• Dena Kaplan

When we think of schools, many of us picture a bunch of students in a classroom. Did you know that there are many adults who work in education other than teachers? It might be surprising to learn that there are as many non-teaching positions as there are teachers. LA report, produced by the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, found that the number of non-teachers on U.S. school payrolls has soared. Since 1970, non-teaching staff grew by 130%, while the number of teachers only grew 54%. So what exactly do they do? What ignites their passion for working in education for decades? What keeps them motivated? I was curious as it surprised me that I am connected to so many long time Mar Vista residents who work in education, but most don't actually teach in the classroom.

Pam Marton and her family have lived on Purdue Avenue for over twenty years. She is currently the Principal of Fairburn Elementary School in Westwood. What drew her to live in Mar Vista was the beautiful trees in the neighborhood. Although she has been an elementary school principal for over twenty-three years, it might surprise you how she got into education. At UCLA she majored in art design and always thought she was going to be an artist. It wasn't until she started teaching children's art classes at LACMA that she realized how much she loved working with kids. The most rewarding part for her about being an elementary school principal is helping teachers improve their work.

From 1992-2012 she served as the Principal of Community Magnet Charter School where my oldest daughter was lucky enough to start Kindergarten under her leadership. Pam feels so blessed to have found Mar Vista; she referred to it as a "perfect little oasis". Her children were very active in both Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts. Andrew, her husband, was a block captain for several years on their street. As she enters her last year before retirement, you can see her around the neighborhood riding her bike on the beautiful tree lined streets.

Next is Chelsea Magdaleno who everyone knows as Nurse Magdaleno at WNS. Chelsea grew up in Mar Vista on Barry and has lived with her family on Keeshen Drive for over fifteen years. Her son attended Mar Vista Elementary, Paul Revere Middle School and Venice High School. She has been the Nurse at Westside Neighborhood School for 5 years, and we have worked together for the past 4 years.

Chelsea has been very active in the Mar Vista Community, specifically at North Venice Little League. She not only ran the snack bar, but she introduced healthy snack options such as fresh salads to the menu. You might wonder as a nurse, why did she get into education? Chelsea says, "I do love kids and being a nurse at a school, I get to care for kids when they might be at their worst." Chelsea enjoys taking her son to nostalgic places like Pacos Tacos as well as trying all the new eateries in the community.

Craig Honda was connected to me by Chelsea Magdaleno as they have been neighbors for years on Keeshen Drive. Craig seemed so familiar to me that it wasn't until we started chatting that we realized our daughters play for the same softball league on the all star teams (just in different age divisions). Craig has lived in Mar Vista for over fifty years. He grew up on McConnell Street since he was 10 years old. He later moved to Keeshan Drive and started a family.

Craig is not only a 7th grade science teacher at Paul Revere Middle School; he started and runs the infamous farm! He taught at Emerson Middle School in the 90's and, as we talked more, we realized he was probably one of my junior high science teachers. I have yet to find my report card to prove it. In 1996 Paul Revere was in need of a science teacher and, when Craig arrived, he noticed the farm was abandoned and used for storage. He thought, "what a great space for animals and kids". The campus is twenty six acres spread out, and Craig decided to keep the farm open during lunch and nutrition so there was a place where kids could come to interact with animals and make new friends. Craig appreciates that Mar Vista still feels like a little community.

Tyrone Powell and I recently connected as our daughters are playing basketball together this summer at Mar Vista Recreation Center. He grew up in Santa Monica and moved to Rose Avenue in Mar Vista fourteen years ago. His kids attend Mar Vista Elementary, and he is currently the Director of Athletics and Operations and Co-Director of Diversity and Inclusivity at Windward School. Tyrone got involved in education over thirty years ago when he was an aid to students in Kinder, 1st and 2nd grade classrooms. It was then he fell in love with working with kids. Recently Tyrone has been teaching leadership classes to high school seniors covering core values and public speaking. What he loves most about working with kids is to watch them grow and really learn about themselves.

Tyrone has been very active with District 25 Little League for years. He and his wife Susan love living in Mar Vista for its close proximity to everything, and it's a really great place to raise kids. You might catch a glimpse of the Powell family at the local farmer's market!

Doug Lynn is the Associate Executive Director and Executive Director of Camps at Wilshire Boulevard Temple. Doug and his wife Jamie moved to Purdue Avenue about 7 years ago. They fell in love with the streets, tress and families in the community.

Doug has worked in the field of informal Jewish education since 1995, and most of us on the Westside know him as the Director at Wilshire Boulevard Temple Camps. Doug loves watching kids grow up at summer camp in such an informal way, instilling values about history and culture. He loves the Mar Vista neighborhood feel and, with so many families on the block, he often comes home to find his kids playing at a neighbor's house. You might run into Doug and his family at Primo's Donuts as it's a favorite local spot for them.

Betty Augenblick has been active at Mar Vista Elementary for over thirty-four years. After teaching preschool for fifteen years, she spent 8 years as an instructional aid and then moved to Mar Vista STAR full time. She is currently the Assistant Director of Mar Vista STAR. Seeing the kids smile is probably her favorite thing about working in a school! Betty loves seeing the growth in children and is always excited when graduates of the program come back and visit.

Betty's has a house on Appleton Way, and her grandchildren grew up in Mar Vista. They attended Mar Vista Elementary and Webster Middle School. In fact, some of Betty's children teach at Webster, and her husband has been with the district for 43 years. As you can see all these great educators are connected by their love of kids. Not just working with them, but seeing them succeed in all aspects of life. So, the next time you are at your local school campus, say hello to someone who works there who isn't your child's teacher. You might be surprised who you meet!

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PARK REPORT

•Jerry Hornof

Mar Vista Park’s Acting-Director, Jose Aviles continues to serve in both the Park Director and the Sports Program Director roles at Mar Vista Park. Los Angeles Recreation and Parks (LA RAP) has begun the recruitment process for a new Park Director. I, along with Park Advisory Board President (Pamela Jackson), have been communicating with LA RAP to encourage expediting the process. Mar Vista Park is a very popular, dynamic, and important part of our community, and we would like to return to full employment as soon as possible. This is important to the staff and the community.

The Mar Vista Pool has been open since June 8th. The pool is operated by the LA RAP Citywide Aquatics

Division. If you have been walking through the park this summer, you have seen swim activities occurring from 10am to 7pm daily. Lessons are available for preschool through adults. There is also a Junior Life Guard program for youth 10-17 years old. Public swim times are available every afternoon during the summer. Hopefully, you have taken advantage of the pool and classes this summer. If not, be sure to put it on your schedule for next year. The last day of swim activities this year is September 2nd.

The park has completed the installation of the new scoreboard for the inline hockey rink. Check out the scoreboard and the adult inline hockey games which occur Sunday through Wednesday evenings.

The Mar Vista Recreation Center’s fall schedule of classes can be found at www.laparks.org. It includes a variety of programs for toddlers to adults. As always, enjoy your park.



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