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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### TRULY A SHARED ENVIRONMENT

•Jerry Hornof



At the Annual Meeting in January I announced that the 2020 theme would be *Sharing a Common Environment*, emphasizing that we are all in this community together. Little did I know how real that would be for our Westdale community, the city, the state, the country and the world. January seems like a life time ago. I hope you and your family are healthy, safe, and successfully managing the challenges the last few months have brought. I appreciate Mayor Garcetti's *safer-at-home* guidance ([corona-virus.la/](https://corona-virus.la/)) which has helped to manage the impacts of Covid-19 on our community. I am thankful and grateful for workers willing to sacrifice their own safety and well-being in this crisis. That includes the medical community, store employees, janitors, drivers, deliverers, food providers, and many more. I hope every one of those individuals finds safety and health as they work to get us to the other side of this pandemic. Their contributions are appreciated each and every day.

There has been much discussion about the use of face masks. The Atlantic magazine article entitled *The Real Reason to Wear a Mask* discusses how a mask can be a valuable tool for reducing virus spread ([www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2020/04/dont-wear-mask-yourself/610336/](https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2020/04/dont-wear-mask-yourself/610336/)). For me, the most important reason to wear a mask in public is out of safety, respect, and compassion for others. As Governor Cuomo stated "wear it (a face mask) out of respect for that young woman at the check-out counter. Wear one out of respect for the employees who keep the shelves stocked". Wearing a mask will reduce the risk of infecting someone else and placing more stress on the medical services that are required to treat Covid-19 patients. I encourage you to wear a mask because you care about your friends and neighbors, and recognize that



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★ SUMMER 2020 WESTDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER ★



we share a common responsibility for each other.

On Friday (May 15), U.S. District Court Judge David O. Carter issued a preliminary injunction ordering officials in Los Angeles and Los Angeles County to find alternative shelter for thousands of homeless people living near freeways amid the coronavirus outbreak. The Los Angeles Times reported that “officials will be required to provide space in shelters or alternative housing. In his ruling, Judge Carter cited the outbreak of the novel coronavirus as a reason for urgency, adding that officials should come up with a plan for "humane" housing for homeless people by May 22. The opinion stated that "with-



out adequate access to shelter, hygiene products, and sanitation facilities, individuals experiencing homelessness face a greater risk of contracting the novel coronavirus, and an outbreak in the homeless community would threaten the general public as well". The ruling was in response to the LA Alliance for Human Rights complaint that accused government officials of insufficiently addressing problems related to homelessness. Daniel Conway, an LA Alliance for Human Rights policy adviser, indicated that "this legal analysis could easily be applied to other jurisdictions and other unsheltered individuals living in similarly harmful locations". I feel this represents a major shift in the challenge of addressing homelessness. Until this ruling, the courts have generally identified what Los Angeles cannot do with regard establishes a frame work for the city to develop a housing plan and the authority to humanely relocate homeless individuals to shelters that provide adequate hygiene options, medical care, and security. Hopefully Los Angeles City and County officials will develop a housing and relocation plan that will fairly and compassionately resolve homelessness in our community.

The November election is less than six months away. Gov. Gavin Newsom has announced that due to Covid-19 concerns the state will send every voter a mail-in ballot for the November contest. There is the potential for a legal challenge to this announcement

over concerns that this would be a pathway to possible large-scale abuse. Many of us in the Westdale community already subscribe to mail-in ballots. I would encourage those who do not already subscribe to take a moment to proactively register for mail-in ballot status. I know we all want to exercise our right to vote, but also want to protect our health if Covid-19 continues as a major concern in November. It is easy to check your ballot status and subscribe to mail-in ballot. The website ([www.lavote.net/home/voting-elections/voter-registration/register-to-vote/register](http://www.lavote.net/home/voting-elections/voter-registration/register-to-vote/register)) provides all the required information. In closing, I wanted to acknowledge the many positive activities I have seen over the last few months in our Westdale Community. It has been rewarding to see all the families who are taking walks or biking together. It has been fun to see neighbors enjoying each other's company through conversation and drinks while observing physical distancing. Many of us have become Zoom experts as we connect with co-workers, family, friends, classes, and many other social groups. We are re-connecting with longtime friends. Finally, we are reaching out to each other and making sure folks are healthy and safe. This Covid-19 crisis will end, but the appreciation and gratitude for our kindness and support of each other will endure forever. Thank you to everyone!

## CRIME AND SAFETY REPORT

•Leah Oye

Our world has changed. There more people are at home, either working or safe at home. Residential burglaries are down. However stolen vehicles and thefts from vehicles are on the rise. Did you bring work home, but leave some things in your car? Is it that a gym bag of clothes? What about the parking permits, transponders, or disabled placards? These are tempting for a thief. Did you forget to lock your car? Did you leave your windows open? There are people casing the neighborhood looking into vehicles and checking door handles. This is considered a crime “in progress” so call 911.

There was a recent incident where the residents heard some noise on their front porch around 9 PM. They found a man on their porch so they called 911. The man was gone before the officers arrived. Is this someone looking for packages, drunk, or looking for entry into the house? Please be careful; you can answer the door by talking to someone through the door.

Here is something I got through the grapevine... You walk to your car in the parking lot, start your engine, and shift into reverse. In your review mirror you notice a paper sticker on your rear window. You get out to remove the paper that is obstructing your rear view. When you reach the rear window, the carjackers suddenly appear and get in your car and take off with the keys in the car and your purse on the front seat. Your ID, phone, credit cards plus your house keys are gone in a blink. Please be aware of your surroundings; desperate people do brazen things.



## INTRODUCING OUR NEW SENIOR LEAD OFFICER


•Karwon Villery



I'm Officer Karwon Villery of Pacific Division. I'm currently the new Senior Lead Officer for the area of 14A25 also known as Mar Vista/East Venice and Penmar park areas. I've been a Police Officer for 13 years in which 10 1/2 years have been spent at Pacific Division with the exception of some brief stints at other divisions. Although I'm the new Senior Lead Officer of the area, I'm not new to the area. I've also worked at North Hollywood, Hollywood, Mission, and 77th divisions. I was previously an acting senior Lead Officer for the area of 1467 also know as East Westchester. I was also a Senior Lead Officer at 77th Division assigned to Harvard Park. I've worked several specialized units outside of patrol such as: Safer Cities Initiative, Mission Division Bike Detail, Vice PED team, Pacific Beach Unit, Pacific Gangs, Hollywood Entertainment Detail, and CSP Harvard Park unit.

I grew up in West LA, graduated from Sherman Oaks CES, and went to College at Morris Brown College in Atlanta, Georgia where I majored in criminal justice. Prior to law enforcement, I worked for Northwest Airlines for 10 1/2 years. I started as a ramp (loading and unloading) supervisor and then eventually became an aircraft mechanic.

Pacific Division is home, and I am blessed to be part of such an amazing group of community members as your new Senior Lead Officer. Let's work together to keep our community viewed as the best place in the city to live in.



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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

This is an important time to take care of yourself, your family and your neighbors. What's going on in the world is no joke and "this distancing thing" is not something to take less than 100%. I really like seeing our neighborhood working together to stay healthy and strong without a single severe case or casualty. We can do this by reminding each other, and more to the point by setting a good example.

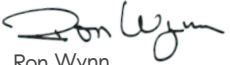
Believe me when I say, I'm not one to ever be negative or pessimistic, and certainly not one who encourages catastrophizing or exaggerating anything, ever. Fear is also something not to encourage as it only causes stress and additional pointless pain. Lets be smart and strategize to whatever degree we personally can.

While its sad not to be able to exchange hugs and hand shakes, reaching out to each other frequently with kind words, short notes, texts, emails and phone calls will mean a lot to people who are lonely, frustrated, financially damaged and scared. I know I'm not a homeowner president, the mayor or a member of city council, but I still do have a connection to this neighborhood, and have tremendous pride for how this community has worked collaboratively over the years.

Among the many concerns that people have, one of much lessor importance than health, is real estate values. Please know, this is not the death of real estate - merely a pause. The market will definitely be back. It always does. Real estate is an amazing investment and a worldwide source of wealth. The United States is and will continue to be the strongest and safest country in the world. Even though our area is just a dot on the map, it is a most unique and special place to live, which is now recognized even in many other continents around the world.


As a special last thought, I welcome anyone alone with fear and nowhere to go with it to call me for comforting. I'm not a therapist, but I'm very willing to listen. Please stay safe and keep positive. Wear gloves and keep your social distances until this crisis ends.


Sincerely yours,

  
Ron Wynn

*How are we marketing homes with Covid-19? Are homes selling? Are prices dropping? For answers to these questions and more, check my blog at [www.RonWynn.com](http://www.RonWynn.com).*

**RON WYNN 310.963.9944**

  
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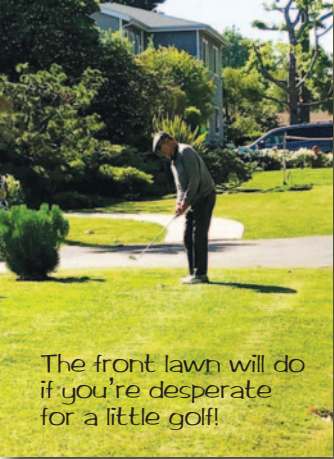


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# KEEPING BUSY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

•Margie Templeton



Rainbows cover our sidewalks and our windows.



Remote graduations complete w/cap & gown & drive-by birthday parties have become the norm.



Watching the Thunderbird flyover & socially-distanced.

# COVID EXPERIENCES

•Margie Templeton

Should I be happy or sad that I'm now in the "expendable" age group? The good news is that it means that I don't have to go to work or worry about child care. For us, this period is better than the polio epidemic in 1949 or Northridge earthquake of 1994. This will change all of us, but let it not crush us.

In 1949, the fear of polio was much like the fear of COVID-19 today. There was no treatment and no cure. I was eight years old and confined to my neighborhood block. Children could play outside, but only with the children living on the same block. We lived in Minneapolis just a half mile from a public beach on a lake. Ordinarily all of the kids spent their summer days at the beach. However, that summer the beach was empty. Until the vaccine was developed in 1952,

we could not go to the beach in August. The "good" thing about polio is that it seemed to stop infecting people in the fall and winter so we did not miss school.

My next disaster memory was the Northridge earthquake in 1994. That is when we needed the bottled water! Why are people hoarding it today? Perhaps they are reliving their earthquake fears? We had no clean water, the electricity was out for two days, and our house was a mess. We still had to go to work! I worked close to home, but my husband worked downtown and the 10 freeway was down and blocking Venice Blvd, his alternate route.

Our neighbors are making the best of it. Enjoy the pictures of "social distance" gatherings. Hopefully, we can all look back on this year with an "I remember when" and get on with normal life. The best thing that has happened is that we have almost no robocalls! May they all stay unemployed.

# Giving Back

## HOME SALE REBATE

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Dear Neighbors,

We understand that many families have been negatively impacted by COVID-19. Our business and family life has also shifted dramatically! Despite it all, we feel blessed and would like to continue to support our community. Let our 20 years of experience and high level of professionalism work for you while we adapt to our new normal. We are up-to-date on all of the laws as they change daily. We know how to protect you and guide you through this new way of selling homes.

We are in this together!

Warmly,  
Sherri Noël



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# WESTDALE COPEs WITH CONFINEMENT & SOCIAL DISTANCING DURING THE 2020 COVID PANDEMIC

•Photos by Jan Burns



Connie Sommer



Karen Graham



Jonah & Emmy



Jackie Gottlieb



Ethel & David



Ken



Jim



Josetta & Seth



Doug & Lynn



ALLASEBA ORCHESTRA

•Connie Sommer

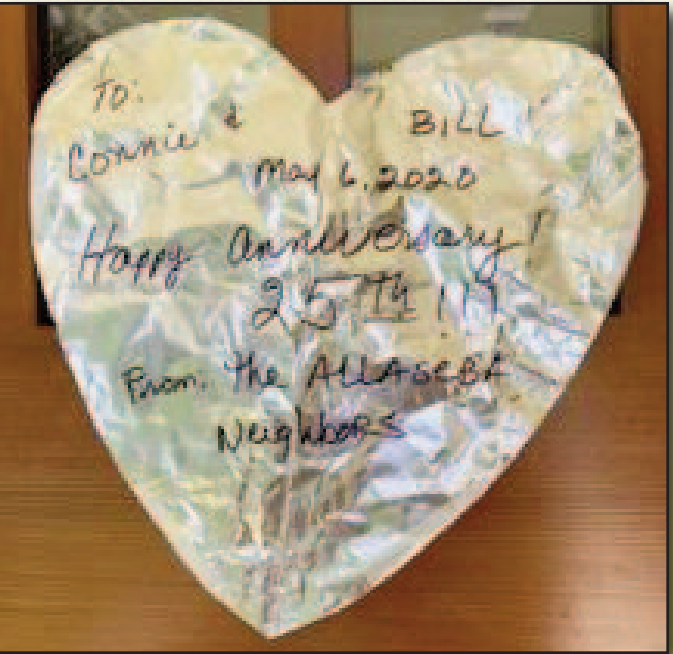
The people on Allaseba Dr (between Stoner and Inglewood, Stanwood and Rose, north of the school) have a new tradition, a serenading group, that our organizer, Patti Nagy, calls our “viral orchestra.” It started on April 4, after I sent this email to neighbors on our street, plus some on nearby Stoner:

*“Our son Eli turns 19 tomorrow. I was wondering who would be up for helping us celebrate tomorrow night at 8 pm?... I thought, what if you guys banged pots and pans? That would get him outside, and then we could all sing him Happy Birthday (no handwashing involved!) Is this nuts?”*

Turns out, it was not nuts at all. He loved it, and so did the rest of us. Standing six feet apart, wearing masks as we banged spatulas against pan lids, we saw each other in person for the first time in weeks, even though we live only yards away from each other. Now it’s become a tradition. We celebrated an 8-year-old birthday later that month, and a 44-year-old birthday on May 6 – which also happened to be my husband and my 25th wedding anniversary. Once we finished serenading newly-44-year-old Ken, the group of a dozen or so adults and children decided it was our turn.

“What shall we sing?” my friend Anne asked. “The viral orchestra only knows one song,” Patti replied.

And so they sang us “Happy Anniversary” to the tune of “Happy Birthday.” Here is what Patti posted on our door that night:



Our fame is spreading. We had two engagements – one on Stoner, and then a travel gig to Granville!



The picture shows the orchestra singing on Stoner to Abby Rison, who turned 8 on May 14. The family pictured is our next door neighbors: Janet Lin and her husband Eric Sommerfeld, and their boys Freddy and Danny Sommerfeld.

I’ve been keeping a blog about this and other things that have come up during the quarantine. You can find it at [www.conniescoronadiary.com](http://www.conniescoronadiary.com)



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

•Jamie Olson - Membership Chair

Dues for 2020 are ahead of this same time last year, but we still have a lower percentage of members than we would like to have. We would appreciate having more residents pay for this year and possibly another year or two. If you are unsure about your payment status, you can check the current year on the web site. Go to the Membership pulldown menu to access dues paid.

We have 232 paid for 2020 dues, and 77 also paying for 2021 and 22 for 2022. Our CERT program has had 99 donations for 2020, and we also have received \$550 donated to our general fund this year.

Thank you to all who have donated to our voluntary dues! I would also like to thank our great crew of block captains. A special recognition to Federal with 34 paid members and Butler with 29. Others with counts in the 20’s are Stoner, Purdue, Corinth, Coolidge and Colby. THANK You so much for your work encouraging our homeowners and renters!

THE REAL ESTATE REPORT

•Debbie Kaplan

This article is being written while we are still in quarantine. By the time this article is printed, Corona restrictions may be lessened.

We are in unprecedented times brought upon us by the Corona virus. It has affected all of our lives. It has also affected the real estate market. The California Association of Realtors (C.A.R) has published guidelines that will enable realtors to demonstrate care for the health and well being of clients, and the public. These guidelines will reduce the exposure and spread of COVID-19. The C.A.R. has released two new forms for clients to sign: the Corona virus Addendum and the Property Viewing Advisory.



To comply, showings of houses are to be done virtually, if possible. This has created an industry niche for photographers. Offers, listing agreements and other documents will be generated and executed electronically. If a house has to be shown in person, only a single agent and no more than two others are to be present at the same time. Sellers are not to be in the house while agents, buyers, inspectors or others are viewing it. If you are allowed to be in the house, you must adhere to the social distancing six foot guidelines. Open Houses are not permitted, nor are Broker tours. If clients must see the interior of a house, they must sign a declaration regarding being asymptomatic and must refrain from touching any surface during a showing. Of course, masks and

gloves must be worn. In spite of the restrictions, houses are still selling. Two large houses in the area that are under construction have sold before being completed. Presumably, the new buyers will have input on the plans, appliances, rooms, landscaping, amenities, etc.

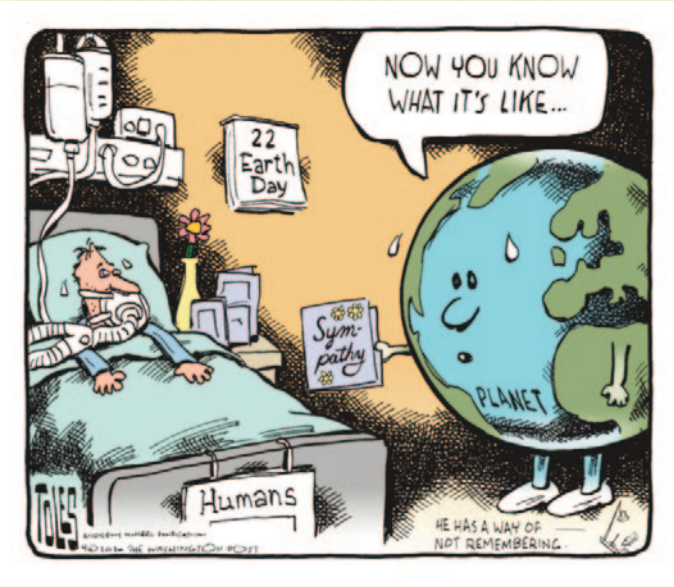
Being quarantined, you might use some of this time to improve your property. Many people are walking in the neighborhood. Take a look at your plants and bushes that may be growing over sidewalks. Low hanging branches over the sidewalks should be addressed as well. In some cases, it could be dangerous. Uneven sidewalks pose an additional hazard that should be addressed. Please notify the City if your sidewalk presents a hazard.

The number of sales are lower this spring due to the limits on viewing properties posed by the Corona virus. There have been three home sales since the beginning of 2020. A home on Barry Avenue sold for \$2,355,000. A home on Clover Avenue west of Sawtelle Blvd. sold for \$2,080,000. And a 2 br/1ba home on Federal Avenue just west of McLaughlin, was sold to an investor for \$1,325,000. There is one house for lease on Barry Avenue for \$5,300. The two large houses that are in escrow are not on public records at this time. I would expect more inventory once restrictions are lifted.

Stay safe.

UNSOLICITED OPINIONS™

•Dick Henkel





MAR VISTA PARK REPORT

•Jerry Hornof

Mar Vista Recreation Center has experienced major changes during the Covid-19 pandemic period. At the time of this writing (May 19), most park facilities remain closed to discourage activities that would not comply with physical distancing requirements. This includes: 1) classes and programs; 2) indoor sports such as basketball, volleyball, and badminton; and 3) outdoor sports and facilities such as playground, basketball (outdoor court baskets have been covered), baseball, soccer, and roller hockey. Earlier this week the Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Department (LARAP) opened tennis courts citywide for single use play. To remain current on LARAP status I would encourage you to visit the LARAP Covid-19 website at [www.laparks.org/covid-19](http://www.laparks.org/covid-19). The city parks have been available to support walking with the recognition that we need to maintain physical distancing and use face covering.

The Mar Vista Recreation Center Covid-19 changes have also impacted park staff assignments. Most park employees are on a reduced work hour schedule but are maintaining their benefits including health. These employees are providing park coverage, reporting non-Covid-19 compliant activities, and reporting park attendance. Of special note, our Park Director Andres De La Hoya and Program Coordinator Elisa White

have been temporarily reassigned to city shelters during this period. Elisa is at Barrington Recreation Center running the childcare shelter for first responders who need childcare. Andres is working at Granada Hills Recreation Center as a Shelter Manager for the homeless. Approximately 20 Recreation Centers throughout the city have been operating as homeless shelters to provide a safer environment for homeless during the pandemic. We are all grateful to Andres and Elisa for their support of first responders and the homeless during this period.

As many of you have probably observed, the homeless encampment at the park has increased in size and has deteriorated. The Park Advisory Board, the Park Office, and the Council Office have been working with the city resources (Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, Los Angeles City Sanitation, Park Rangers) to get this addressed. Addressing homeless encampment issues throughout the city has become even more challenging during the pandemic. Sanitation workers, for example, have had to change operations related to handling and disposing of bulk trash items. This has created a large backlog in the cleanup response. We continue to report and pressure for cleanup and response, and I hope this will have been addressed and corrected at the time you read this article. As the *Who to Call* flyer (that is available on our website under the Annual Meeting 2020) indicates, logging reports on MyLA311 is always helpful.



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