



WINTER 2020 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### PRISONERS OF HOPE

•Jerry Hornof



As I compose this message, our city, county, state, and country are facing the challenging surge in COVID-19 infections and deaths. Our normal fall activities of the Annual Block Party, the Mar Vista School Big Boo, and the Boo on Purdue were cancelled due to the pandemic. The 2020 theme of Sharing a Common Environment reminds us of being together in community and the importance of supporting and protecting each other. We also need to remember positive events that have happened. We are celebrating both Lakers and Dodgers championships. We have watched our country successfully launch two flights to the International Space Station. We are seeing progress toward developing an effective vaccine. I am often reminded of the Nobel Laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu's statement that we "are all prisoners of hope". I am confident that we will navigate through these troubled times.

Council Member Mike Bonin has named Vishesh Anand as our new 11th Council District Field Deputy, for Mar Vista and Del Rey. Vishesh joined the 11th Council District this fall. He is a Mar Vista resident and looks forward to serving the Mar Vista and Del Rey communities. He often exercises by walking the neighborhood and appreciates and values our Westdale community. His contact information includes vishesh.anand@lacity.org and 310-444-3508.

Over the last few months I have been contacted by neighbors concerned about the frequent unauthorized use of Mar Vista Park facilities. This includes the turf field where soccer games often occur, baseball diamonds where umpired games are occurring, and the hockey ring where both hockey and weekend skate parties are occurring. The challenge is that the public sees this occurring and are confused or frustrated since these activities are currently prohibited under state, county, and city COVID-19 guidelines. There is a sense that those breaking the rules are being rewarded. The problem for park staff is that they can request



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people to leave but are not in a position to confront individuals who refuse. They are notifying enforcement (Los Angeles Police Department and Park Rangers) but the response is infrequent and short-lived. The Park Advisory Board (PAB) is recommending that Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks either actively enforce the rules (on-site security) or change the rules to better manage the activities that are occurring.

In September, a beautiful new grove of trees was planted at Mar Vista Park as part of the LA Park Forest initiative, a joint effort by Council Member Mike Bonin, the Los Angeles Parks Foundation, Windward School, Department of Recreation and Parks, and Mayor Eric Garcetti. The new tree grove was made possible by a donation from the Windward School. Thanks to Windward School's sponsorship, the initiative adds trees to the Mar Vista Recreation Park picnic area. The new trees offer more shade to the area, allowing children and neighbors participating in recreational activities to stay out of the sun, while also improving air quality in the area.

On November 16, Mike Bonin and the 11th District Council Office hosted a virtual Town Hall meeting on Crime and Public Safety. Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Chief, Michel Moore, participated and provided an excellent overview of the challenges facing the department resulting from the pandemic and the resulting budget shortfall. Current estimates has the City of Los Angeles facing a \$600M shortfall. Chief Moore noted that only the police and fire departments currently support a 7/24 response capability. As we re-imagine police services and shift funding, he emphasized the importance of quickly bringing online a citywide 7/24 Alternative Services response capability to address 911 calls related to homelessness, mental health, drug addiction, and other non-enforcement activities. Until those Alternative Services are established, the police and fire departments will continue to be the first point of contact for concerned citizens. Mike Bonin agreed and he is advocating at the City Council level to quickly establish an Alternative Services rollout. Chief Moore also encouraged Los Angeles residents to consider participating in the LAPD Citizen Volunteer Program. Additional information can be found at [www.lapdonline.org/our\\_communities/content\\_basic\\_view/733](http://www.lapdonline.org/our_communities/content_basic_view/733).

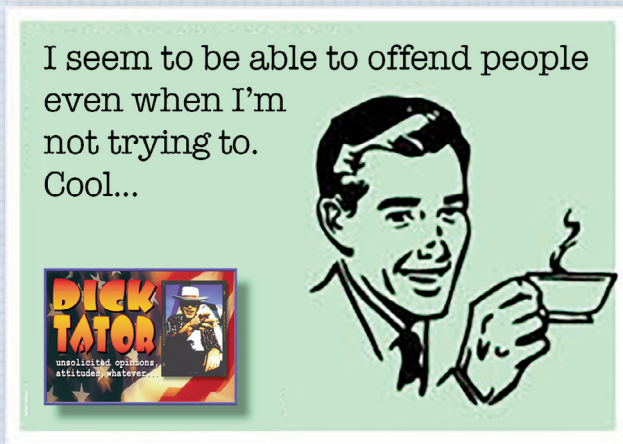
Finally, I received an email from a member who was offended with the cartoon that appeared in the Fall Issue of the Villager. The cartoon joked about the challenges of safe-at-home behavior and included the image of a noose. I communicated with the member and agreed that even though we did not intend it to be hurtful or insensitive, that in this time of social and political turmoil the cartoon was inappropriate and irreverent. I apologize to any members

who were also offended. I appreciate the feedback and encourage everyone to comment on the content of our publication. I find that hearing, acknowledging, and respecting other viewpoints is constructive and healthy. We all have different life experiences and perspectives. I believe it is what makes our lives richer and helps us grow as we connect with others.

In closing I wanted to remind everyone to visit the Westdale Homeowners Association website @ [www.westdalehoa.org](http://www.westdalehoa.org). Our Westdale Homeowners Association Annual meeting will be virtual and occur on Tuesday, January 26, at 7:00pm. Check the website for additional information as January 26th approaches. As we look to the New Year I hope that 2021 will be a wonderful year for all of our Westdale families.

## UNSOLICITED OPINIONS

• **Dick Henkel**



## CRIME & SAFETY REPORT

• **Leah Oye/Liaison to Pacific Police Division**

It has certainly been an unusual and challenging year so far; it looks to be that way for a while longer.

There are things we can do to keep ourselves safe and healthy including masks and social distancing. There are also actions that can keep our property safe. Property crimes continue to drive crimes statistics in our community. Compared to the same time last year, stolen vehicles have increased 44.8% with theft from vehicles up 36.4%. Most of these incidents are due to unlocked doors/windows or belongings left in plain sight in the vehicle. Take your valuables inside your house or lock them in the trunk.

Catalytic convertors also continue to be stolen from vehicles due to the platinum. In the past, high profile vehicles were targeted: 4 runners and SUVs. Recently the

low riding Prius has been the vehicle of choice. Try to park your car in the driveway, behind a gate, or in your garage. It's a good time to clean out that garage to make space for your car.

Stolen bicycles are also on the increase. These are crimes of opportunity. They are stolen from open garages, when locked but put in a vulnerable area, or just unlocked. The police may find a stash of bikes, but they are unable to find the owners as most bikes are not registered. You may register your bicycle at: [bikeindex.org](http://bikeindex.org).

Parking restrictions were relaxed for several months this year, but they have been in effect since October 15th. So, pay attention to the parking restriction signs and street cleaning days. You can now report abandoned vehicles which are parked more than 72 hours in one location. Call 1 800 Abandon to make a report.

I often get questions about reporting crimes or asking for City services. Non-injury crimes can be reported via the LAPD website: [lapdonline.org](http://lapdonline.org). Reporting crimes online will become more common as the City expects to have a considerable budget deficit. Right now, the front desk at the Police Division stations are open 9AM to 5PM due to the COVID crisis. Those hours are expected to continue even after the COVID restrictions are lifted.

Suspicious activity can also be reported by calling the non-emergency number 877-ASK-LAPD or 911 in case of a crime in progress. The police captains look at the crime statistics for each area to determine the assignment of patrols so be sure to make a report.

The MYLA311 app is very useful in requesting City services: animal complaints, graffiti, trees, sidewalk repairs, bulky items pick-up and more. Complete the information requested and there is usually a response in a few days.

Porch pirates continue to cruise our streets. This may become more common as the holidays approach. It's difficult to protect your packages from the thieves who follow delivery trucks, but consider delivery to another location. If you buy from Amazon, there are Amazon lockers located in the nearby Rite Aid and Whole Food stores. There is no additional charge for delivery to these lockers. Many stores offer online ordering with "touchless" pick-up.

By the way, did you know that you need a permit for your home alarm? Check out the city website: [finance.lacity.org](http://finance.lacity.org) for payment.

You may contact Officer Karwon Villery, our Senior Lead Officer, if you have any non-emergency questions, [38717@lapd.online](mailto:38717@lapd.online).

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3456 Moore St. | \$1,660,000

In lieu of my visit with you, please scan this QR code with your cell phone camera for my a concise update. With interest rates at 2.8%, buyers are jumping in and sellers are getting the best of it. Stay safe and please call if I can be helpful.

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**RON WYNN**  
310.963.9944  
[ron@ronwynn.com](mailto:ron@ronwynn.com)

Despite all that is going on, 2020 has been a great year for sellers in Mar Vista! Call me to find the value of your home.



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jump in to assist. With Zoom it is difficult to work with more than one student.

Before COVID, teachers could bring their classes on a field trip into the 826LA office for a morning to create a book. Students worked together to write a story, which ended in a “cliff-hanger”. Then they each wrote their own end to the story. The staff and volunteers printed and bound a book for each student with their own ending. The books were passed out at the end of the field trip.

This year the book making has moved to Zoom. It works amazingly well. The teacher and an 826LA technician have all of the students on

their screens. The 826LA leader and the volunteers login for some discussion and then join the students. The students are divided up among the volunteers to work on stories in breakout rooms. The teacher can visit the different groups to help. The volunteer in each room can share a screen so that their group can see the story develop. Afterward the 826LA staff makes books that are delivered to the school. There are blank pages for each student to write their own ending.

In the fall, 826LA volunteers helped high school students with their personal statements for college applications. This year I worked with students at Amino Venice Charter High School during class time via Zoom. I could see the students screen and advise them on revisions. 826LA also offers weekend workshops.

It's been depressing to see how difficult learning is outside of a classroom with so much time consumed getting students logged in and then have them disappear for technical reasons or boredom. But on the other hand, I have been impressed with how well many of the students are coping and how well their teachers are able to work with their students. What would have happened if the pandemic had occurred before our era of widespread internet and Zoom? I wonder?

**826LA is always looking for volunteers.  
Learn more about the organization at [826la.org](http://826la.org).**

## LEARNING WITH ZOOM

•*Margie Templeton*

For many years, I have volunteered with 826LA, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting students ages 6 to 18 with their creative and expository writing skills, and to helping teachers inspire their students to write.

I volunteer at their WLA office on Venice Blvd near Centinela. However the last few months have been depressing for all of us. I have observed some heroic teachers trying to help their students, but I'm not sure how much learning is actually taking place. This year the organization has attempted to continue their programs via Zoom with varying success.

My first experience was working with a first grader last May on math homework. The poor kid could barely operate a computer and I was trying to explain fractions. Recently I worked with a very motivated 6th grader, but his school computer was not working so he was using his dad's computer. However, the LAUSD web site would not accept the login so he could not pull up his homework assignments. Fortunately, most of the older students have been quite competent with their computers, and I have been able to screen share to see their work. The down side is that it is hard to help as many students. When students came to the 826LA office, one volunteer could help several students. It was easy to observe them to know when to

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*Weekly on Fridays*

Did you know the Noël Team sends out weekly newsletters giving you the scoop on all things real estate, home improvement related and fun events on the Westside?

[www.thenoelteam.net](http://www.thenoelteam.net)



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## HALLOWEEN ON BARRY AVENUE IN THE TIME OF A PANDEMIC!

• *Jan Burns*

Even the pandemic couldn't stand in the way of Scott Davis's (known to his friends as 'Pumpkins') fascination for Halloween. Preparations for his front yard graveyard, light show with musical accompaniment, began in September. Day by day, more tombstones appeared on his front lawn, more skeletons perched on his front porch, and more carved pumpkins formed an archway over his driveway. Like on a movie set, lights and music were sound



checked and tested for many nights before the big night. Meanwhile, several houses down the block on Barry Avenue, Pat Qualey could be seen working after hours and weekends in his driveway on his work table crafting coffins, signs and all assortment of Halloween décor for his and Scott's house.

I live on Barry Avenue between Scott and Pat.

I loved watching the two of them walk by my house back and forth carrying tools, wood, and supplies to each others houses as they conferred, measured and created. The result was a Halloween celebration like none other. Masks (no problem, it was



Halloween) and social distancing prevailed but didn't dampen the spirits of kids and their parents who came out of their houses for a night of spooky fun. And those who dared to place their hand below the skeleton's hand in the coffin perched against Pat's ghost driven truck were rewarded with a bag of candy from...the Qualey's ingenious Covid-friendly reverse vacuum candy delivery system.



## NATURE REPORT: WINTER BIRDS OF THE WESTSIDE

• *M. Umar*

Some people joke that Los Angeles is a concrete wasteland with no nature, but I'm sure that you've observed lots of creatures around the Westside. Think about how many plants, animals, and more you've seen in the past week. Chances are that many of them were birds.



This winter, due to Los Angeles having a warm climate and being a migratory rest stop for many birds, there are lots of them around. You can see many common, year-round birds on our roads, parks and backyards, such as inky black American crows, blue scrub jays, and mourning doves,

whom you can often hear cooing on foggy mornings. Of course, energetic black phoebes are there to amaze you with swoops, snaps, and dives all year.

Predatory birds are less common, but you can see them here in winter, too. Closer to the Ballona Wetlands, you can spot burrowing owls if you're fortunate. I was lucky this summer and saw one fly over my backyard! However, they're not very easy to spot. The same can be said of silent barn owls, which are most visible (but really, not by much) at night and early morning. The small sharp-shinned hawk, which likes to perch on rooftops and snack on small birds, mammals, and large bugs can also be found in winter. Don't confuse them with Cooper's hawks, another resident less common in the winter.

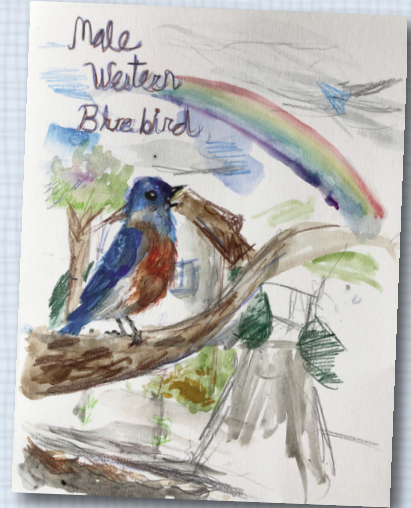


Around the Westside, there are many recent trends in bird behavior and populations, such as the hummingbird wars breaking out around West Kingsland Boulevard. The two hummingbird species you can see here any day are the Anna's and Allen's hummingbirds. The male Anna's has a completely garnet-colored head and emerald body, and the Allen's body is reddish-brown. Both have beaks that they use for nectar sipping and "sword fighting." Look out for white-crowned sparrows closer to springtime, too.

Happily, there is an increase in Western Bluebird populations, most notably around Coolidge Avenue, where the males will perch and cock their heads in typical bluebird style and fluff their blue and copper feathers. Birdhouses with an exactly 1 9/16-inch entrance hole are perfect for them to live in during the winter and early spring.

Also, the crows seem annoyed by something, and are especially raucous when they're walking on the roads! Since we can't ask them, I would appreciate it if someone could also try to figure it out.

Keep an eye out for bird nests, and see if you can find some birds mentioned here. Keep finding creatures this winter!





## 2021 HOMEOWNER DUES

Please support the Westdale Homeowner's Association (WHOA) by paying your annual dues. At \$20/year, it is a bargain. Dues are used to support publishing and distributing the Villager, our quarterly newsletter. Advertising helps to offset some of these costs. Dues also supports the neighborhood through contributions to Mar Vista School, Mar Vista Park and zoning advocacy to protect our neighborhood. They support website maintenance, communication software, the LAPD, the block captain program as well as the annual block party. Supplemental payments to Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) support our Homeowners' emergency supplies, which are stored at Mar Vista School, and the disaster awareness course.

The web site <http://www.westdalehoa.org/> has a link to a list of addresses of those who have already paid. Many of you have already paid for 2021. You may pay for up to 3 years with one payment. In spite of the name "home owners," we welcome participation of renters.

	# Years (1-3)	TOTAL
Dues \$20 per year		
CERT optional support - suggested \$10		
General fund optional donation		
	<b>TOTAL</b>	

### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

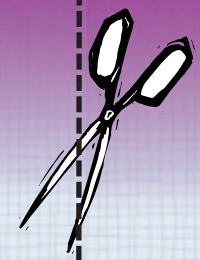
Primary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Second member's Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to "Westdale Homeowners's Association". If your check is a business check, give your house address as well in order to credit your house as paid. Return to Jami Olson at 3216 Barry or mail to:  
Westdale HOA, PO Box 66504, LA, CA, 90066.

### MEMBERSHIP INTERESTS:

Let us know if you would like to serve on the board, participate in CERT, or serve in any other capacity: \_\_\_\_\_




## MEMBERSHIP TIME

Please support the Westdale Homeowner's Association (WHOA) with your annual dues payment. Use the enclosed form and envelope to respond today. Mail your check in the enclosed envelope or, to save postage, take a walk and drop it off at Jami Olson's houses at 3216 Barry.

Those who have already paid are listed by address on our web site [www.westdalehoa.org](http://www.westdalehoa.org). Many have already paid through 2021. You may pay for up to 3 years with one payment. In spite of the name "homeowners", we hope that renters will also pay dues to WHOA as the owners of rental home seldom pay dues, and the benefit of our association comes to the renter.

While looking for the membership list on our website, be sure to check out the rest of the site for current news, crime and safety reports, links to city services, and past Villagers.





***I don't agree that...***  
***"We Are Rounding the Corner"***

***But there are lot of positive things, and things to be grateful for.***

*Here are a few:*

1. The Dodgers clinched their first World Series Title since 1988! - Go Dodgers!
2. The Lakers won the 2020 NBA Championship with 4 straight wins! - Go Lakers!
3. Interest rates are below 3%, the lowest rates in 50 years.
4. Homes are more in demand than ever, selling quickly, at all time high prices.

*I sincerely hope you are staying safe and healthy! I care about you, even when you are not selling or buying a home. My roots are here in Westdale. I grew up on Barry Avenue and still have an attachment to this amazing neighborhood. Even though you haven't seen me at your door, I'm here for you and only a phone call away. Call me. I'm always interested to offer any guidance that might be helpful (310) 963-9944.*

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*Despite all that is going on, 2020 has been a great year for sellers in Mar Vista! Call me to find the value of your home.*



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## PARK REPORT

• **Jerry Hornof**

Mar Vista Recreation Center continues to experience major changes during the COVID-19 pandemic period. Currently, Adam Smith is the Senior Program Coordinator based at Mar Vista Park. Other park staff are on reduced hours but continue to log sufficient hours to maintain their benefits including health insurance. Elisa White (our permanent Senior Program Coordinator) has completed her temporarily reassignment to Barrington Recreation Center where she ran the childcare shelter for first responders who required childcare for their families. Elisa is now helping support programming at Palms Recreation Center. Andres De La Hoya (Mar Vista Park Director) has completed his details to Granada Hills Recreation Center as a Shelter Manager for the homeless and the Balboa Park Sports Center. Andres continues as Mar Vista Park Director but is based and assisting operations at the Ritchie Valens Recreation Center in Pacoima (San Fernando Valley).

Mar Vista Park is still having limited staff coverage during daytime and evenings. 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 basketball (outdoor court baskets have been covered), baseball, soccer, and roller hockey. The

Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Department (LARAP) opened tennis courts citywide for singles play. Playgrounds are also open. The play area is being cleaned daily to maintain safety standards. There is the hope that some classes will be offered in the Winter Session for youth (ages 5-15). The focus will be on providing clinics and practices. No games will be programmed. Sports will include soccer, hockey, and outdoor volleyball. The Los Angeles City Council will decide whether these programs are funded through the Universal Play Initiative which makes use of 2028 Olympic (Los Angeles is the host city) funding. If these funds are approved, these classes would be available without fees. I encourage you to visit the LARAP COVID-19 website at [www.laparks.org/covid-19](http://www.laparks.org/covid-19) for COVID-19 status updates.

Some area parks are participating in the Alternative Learning Center (ALC) program. This program establishes learning centers for students who require additional assistance or resources related to remote learning. The Park Advisory Board (PAB) requested Council Member Mike Bonin's office to look into adding Mar Vista Park as an ALC location.

Los Angeles Recreation and Parks (LARAP) is beginning to permit some activities at the city parks. Permitted activities only include clinics. All permits are being managed by Municipal Sports. Municipal Sports has approved permit applications for Soccer Clubs and Lacrosse Clubs to use the Mar Vista turf field for clinics only.


Hopefully we will return to normal activities sooner than later. Until then, please exercise, keep well, and be safe.

## Villager Bulletin Board



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## REAL ESTATE REPORT THERE'S SOMETHING GOING ON

• **Ron Wynn**

People have been flocking to California from New York and Chicago, but they are leaving by the bushel full as well. Departure from California has ramped up for a variety of reasons, some recreational and others to satisfy financial downsizing. The entire necessity to enforce strict 5 day a week office attendance seems to have become more an "as needed" discipline with flexibility, particularly for the work force responsible for "performance" as opposed to hours invested. What an interesting time! No doubt, the world has changed.

Here are the places people are moving to due to lower cost of living, less population density, lower state tax, or perceived quality of life and the fulfillment of a dream: Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, Arizona, Texas, Florida, Washington, and Hawaii.



Not every state listed satisfies all of the reasons mentioned, but these states come up often as dream places to live for one reason or another. People longing for a brand new home, for example, can take their equity from here and buy a big brand new home for half the price or even less in Bend, Oregon or in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Another driver to people relocating is family. COVID 19 has made people think about companionship and connecting with friends and family. It's been a frustrating and lonely time for seniors who were used to routines which included exercise class, playing bridge with friends, lunches out, carefree shopping, book clubs,

traveling in groups, and volunteer work. Staying in their "4 walls" is not satisfying and very sad for many people who cannot relate to a "by zoom" life. Birthday parties and graduation celebrations by zoom are not even a possibility for someone set in their practices for the past 60 years.

It's not only seniors moving close to children and grandchildren, but it's also people in their 30's, 40's and 50's moving close to their parents who may not be able to adjust to new surroundings and a different climate or lifestyle.

Many of my recent relocation sales have been precipitated by a need to consolidate two mortgages into one or to satisfy a need for parental caring. The thought of moving a parent to a nursing home during COVID 19 feels challenging to difficult for some and perhaps unconscionable for others. When this is the case, it's often "kids or grandkids to the rescue".

Finally there are those people who are just saying "it's time". After living in the same house for 30 or more years,

it's difficult to leave the beautiful memories behind. The thought of going through closets probably had stopped the thought of moving forward on other occasions. Now, with so many other neighbors and friends taking similar action, and with family suggesting that they move closer, people are more apt to pull the trigger.

It's an amazing time... Are you a "dry weather", "cool weather", "near a lake", "near the ocean", "among the trees", or ?? type of person? What will your next chapter be? Where will you be calling home?

California is a great place, but COVID 19 has given people a reason to pause and think. Where would I feel safer, happier and more fulfilled? Safety is a huge concern, and living away from the density of the city may be an option when working from home. Many major companies are not requiring office attendance until Fall 2021.

COVID 19 has been a horrible pandemic, but it certainly has opened the mind to many creative opportunities. Given that the door is wide open, many people are simply saying, "Why not do it now... there's nothing stopping us."