



Westdale VILLAGER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HOME IS AN OASIS

• Jerry Hornof

At the January annual meeting, I stated the 2024 theme Home is an Oasis. I wanted to capture the concept that home is like an oasis in that it provides refuge, relief, and a pleasant escape for our often very hectic life. Speaking of hectic, I recently attended a meeting with Mayor Karen Bass, and she outlined her very hectic six week schedule. Besides the normal duties and responsibilities of the Los Angeles mayor, she would be making three trips to Paris representing Los Angeles, the site of the 2028 Olympics and Paralympics. She attended the opening of the Paris 2024 Olympics on July 26th. She returned to Paris on August 11th to take part in the closing ceremony which included the handing off of the Olympic flag from the mayor of Paris to Mayor Bass symbolizing the transition of the Olympics to the next host city. Mayor Bass is returning again to Paris on September 8th for a similar flag exchange at the closing of the Paralympics. Finally, she was in Chicago from August 19-22 to attend the Democratic National Convention. Hopefully she is a person who can sleep on airplanes.

It should also be noted that Los Angeles will be showcased over the next four years. Besides the Olympics and Paralympics in 2028, we will be hosting the National Basketball Association All Star game in February of 2026 at Intuit Dome (the new home of the Los Angeles Clippers in Inglewood) and FIFA World Cup in June and July of 2026 at Sofi Stadium. This will be the largest World Cup with a 104-game tournament featuring 48 teams across 16 host cities in three countries: Canada, Mexico and the United States. Los Angeles



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will open the USA's tournament in what will be the nation's 12th World Cup (1994 at the Rose Bowl was the last edition). Be prepared for friends and family requests to visit in the next few years.

Mayor Bass also talked about homelessness in light of the recent Supreme Court ruling. In June, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that cities can ban people from sleeping and camping in public places. The justices, in a 6-3 decision along ideological lines, overturned lower court rulings that deemed it cruel and unusual under the Eighth Amendment to punish people for sleeping outside if they had nowhere else to go. Following the Supreme Court decision Governor Newsome stated "Today's ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court provides state and local officials the definitive authority to implement and enforce policies to clear unsafe encampments from our streets. This decision removes the legal ambiguities that have tied the hands of local officials for years and limited their ability to deliver on common-sense measures to protect the safety and well-being of our communities. California remains committed to respecting the dignity and fundamental human needs of all people and the state will continue to work with compassion to provide individuals experiencing homelessness with the resources they need to better their lives." In trying to address homelessness with dignity and compassion, Mayor Bass is striving to develop a regional approach. She acknowledged that Los Angeles County is made up of 88 cities with over 75,000 unhoused individuals, and it is critical that all these communities work in concert to avoid further disparity of outcomes for both the unhoused and our communities.

The Westdale Homeowners Association Block Party is still in the planning phase. The last few years the block party has been on Colby and benefited from the significant efforts of select Board members and Colby Avenue neighbors. This year we are looking for a new block and some neighbors who would lend their assistance. Please contact me at jerryhornof@gmail.com with ideas and suggestions.

Our neighbors on Purdue Avenue between Stanwood Drive and Kingsland Street are again organizing The "Boo on Purdue", a fun Halloween event (October 31st). The street will be closed to car traffic with planned activities occurring between 6pm and 8pm. Families are invited to show off their costumes and enjoy trick or treating in a fun and safe environment.

As we look to the beginning of fall, I hope that everyone will have fun, remain safe, and enjoy our Westdale oasis.

CRIME & SAFETY REPORT

• Soham Patel



Hi neighbors, I hope you've all had a wonderful and safe Summer!

• Mar Vista Crime Stats •

2024	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY
HOMICIDE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RAPE	1	1	0	0	2	0	1
ROBBERY	6	0	9	3	3	3	4
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	6	10	6	8	6	5	4
VIOLENT	13	11	15	9	11	8	9
BURGLARY	31	21	29	19	12	17	16
GRAND THEFT AUTO	37	19	14	22	19	17	21
BURGLARY THEFT FROM VEHICLE	22	31	31	27	24	27	36
THEFT	19	17	17	18	16	18	22
PROPERTY	109	88	91	86	71	79	95
PART I CRIMES	122	99	106	95	83	87	104

For the month of July, there were slightly more crimes than usual;

Property: July had 26 vehicles broken into with property taken, whereas the annual average is 27. 12 of the 36 BTFVs (Burglary Thefts from vehicles) were catalytic converters removed from vehicles.

Rape: On 7/10/24, one juvenile raped another juvenile at a middle school during summer school.

Robberies: There were four robberies in Mar Vista:

1) Three suspects followed home a 69 year old female victim from the bank and took her purse near Centinela Ave & Venice Blvd.

2) Two suspects struck a 61 year old male with a golf club and took his phone near National Blvd. & Sawtelle.

3) A female suspect attempted to take the victim's phone and backpack and dropped it then fled near Charnock Road & Mountain View Ave.

4) Three suspects took the victim's phone and cash after the victim rented out his apartment to suspects for a week near Centinela Ave. & Palms Blvd.

Aggravated assaults:

1) A homeless suspect stabbed a homeless victim four times near Venice Blvd. & Beethoven St.

2) A homeless suspect swung a bat at a victim after the victim refused to give the suspect money near Sepulveda Blvd & National Blvd.

3) A female suspect struck a female victim with a vehicle in the parking lot when the suspect wanted to leave a traffic collision in the parking lot.

4) Suspect struck his homeless boyfriend in an RV on Overland Ave. & Palms Blvd.

Quick safety tips:

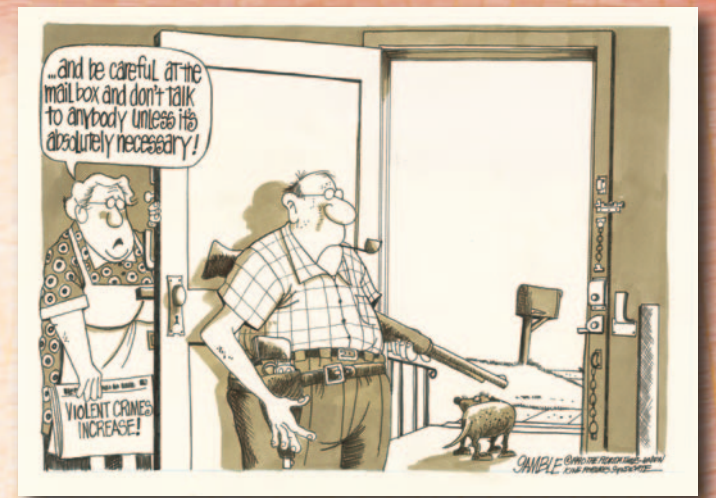
Let your neighbors know you will be gone and have them keep an eye out while you are gone.

Place a hold with the United States Postal Service (USPS) at their website so mail will not be delivered at your home. Do not let piles of mail or packages gather.

Put timers on interior lights in the evening so your house will not be dark for multiple days in a row.

Rear glass doors or rear sliding glass doors is the number one entry in residential burglaries. Having secure fencing and locks on side gates is helpful.

Consider investing in an inexpensive jewelry box with costume jewelry that appears real to use as a decoy. Place it in an easy to view area on a dresser. In case



burglars enter your residence, they will easily find that and leave quickly.

Homeless encampments:

If you are growing increasingly frustrated with homeless encampments in our neighborhood please download the "my311 app (LA version)" and create a service request under "public right of way - homeless encampments". Submissions can be anonymous.

Be well, and take care of each other.

I Care About You, Even When You're NOT Selling.

The Sweetest Review I've Ever Received!

Dear Ron,

I'm sending this to you, to my attorney, and also posting it online. Over the past 22 years I've received your newsletter, talked with you at my door, seen you at open houses and run into you at my favorite restaurant where you introduced me to your family. Besides that, I've called you for advice, and for numerous referrals, all of whom were courteous, prompt and honest.

Fortunately I'm in pretty good health and hope to have some good years still left but you never know what's ahead. I've noted you in my "after death wishes" and told both my daughters and my attorney, that when the house gets sold, you will be the agent. I've told you this previously but now you have it in writing.

With admiration for your commitment to our community and specifically to seniors.

-Alison Fairchild



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THE DOGGY DIARIES OF WESTDALE-TROUSDALE

•Melissa Stoller

If dogs could vote, they'd elect Barbara Kobrin queen of Westdale Dogdom. Sadly, Barbara passed away June 20th, taking a treasured neighborhood tradition with her. She fed chicken to dogs in her front yard at 4:00 PST, 5:00 PDT. No one knows exactly for how many years she did this, but it's at least 10, maybe 12 or 14. Scampi, who's 14, was a regular since she was a puppy; regulars Morgan and Riley are long gone.

Some days, only one dog showed up. Frequently there were 4-5 dogs. There were sometimes as many as nine. Barbara invited any dog walking by to join. No matter how many dogs there were, Barbara always seemed to have enough.

Each dog got three helpings of chicken on a "plate" (a lid). Then they jumped to catch a fourth piece of chicken. After that there were dog treats for dessert, and a parade down to the corner of Butler and Stanwood for more treats and talk.

Dog birthdays were celebrated with a cake from the Dog Bakery on Venice—sadly, now gone. The humans sang Happy Birthday and sometimes the dogs howled.

Meetups continued through Covid, often providing the only masked face to masked face contact during the day. The doggie parents grew close despite a very wide age range, sometimes going to a restaurant without the dogs. In July, dogs gathered to eat her chicken on her "plates" as their people and other neighbors remembered Barbara. Her house is still a stop for many Westdale dogs.



Petey can stand and beg forever

MEET RUFUS

•Nikki Coburn



If you have ever walked down the 3300 block of McLaughlin Avenue, you might have been greeted by a friendly beagle! Introducing, Rufus! Next time you see Rufus, make sure to stop and give him a nice pat on the head and maybe even a treat.

Rufus is a four-year-old beagle who enjoys the outdoors and going on lots of walks. His family lets him sit outside in the sun in his fenced-in front yard multiple times a day. If Rufus barks enthusiastically at you, it is his way of saying, "hi!" On his walks, Rufus enjoys meeting new humans and new furry friends. After his long walk, Rufus loves to snack on small chunks of watermelon to cool off. He also enjoys car rides and, of course, sticking his head out the car window. Rufus can also do a few tricks such as handshaking (with the help of a treat), sitting on command, and catching a treat mid-air.

Rufus is a very social dog. On his walks, he and his companion, Ken, like to walk by Mar Vista Elementary School to say hi to all the kids during recess. And a couple of years ago, a UPS driver would stop at Rufus' house whenever he drove down the street. The UPS driver liked to pet and play with Rufus because he, too, had a beagle of his own.

Finally, when Rufus sits outside, he sees a lot of fast-moving objects: bikers, skaters, runners, and walkers. When he sees them, Rufus may bark aggressively. But not to worry! He is just a little scared and it is his way of protecting his house and family. So just stop and say hello so he knows you mean no harm. And do not forget that treat!

PECULIAR PALM TREES

•M. Umar

It's fall in Westdale, which means a fair amount of trees turn vaguely orange and shed some leaves. But the next time you go outside, look around. Do a 360-degree turn. Which tree seems to be everywhere, so your mind doesn't register it as unique? That's right - the palm tree. Of course, palms are emblematic of Los Angeles. Their iconic silhouettes convey

Hollywood glamor, doubly so against a sunset. You might live on Palms Boulevard, or send your kids to Palms Middle School. They loom over oaks and jacarandas, their fronds arrayed like fireworks. No matter where you look, there are palm trees.

It's surprising, then, that only one species is native. The California Fan Palm didn't grow in modern-day Los Angeles; before the 1800s, this area was mainly dry scrubland and chaparral. Then Spanish missionaries brought Mexican fan palms here, probably because of their biblical significance. After all, they needed palm leaves for a proper Palm Sunday.

More palms trickled in as the city grew... then, in 1932, their population exploded. Thousands and thousands of palm trees were planted. (Los Angeles was hosting the Olympics that year.) Many of the palms you see around you were planted during that time.

A commonly seen palm tree is the California Fan Palm- the only species native to the US. California Fan Palms are tall and shaggy, with fan-shaped leaves. A beard of dead fronds hangs around the trunk, at least if it isn't trimmed off. These dead leaves are a triple threat: flammable, a falling hazard, and often teeming with rats, hence the trimming.

The California Fan Palm is a SoCal staple, but it isn't as common as the taller, skinnier

Mexican Fan Palm. These spindly trees have shinier leaves than their California counterparts, but it's often tricky to tell the two apart. Their pervasiveness has landed them the title of invasive species. There's an incredibly tall Mexican Fan Palm a few blocks away from my house. Whenever I pass by, I can't help but crane my neck to squint at its distant crown of leaves. It is just that tall.

Completing the triumvirate is the Canary Island Date Palm, which is chunkier and more prehistoric-looking than the other two. Its scaly trunk gives way to a burst of feather-shaped fronds. These are the three most common palm trees in our neighborhood, but you may see others when walking around. I've seen the Queen Palm, which has small greenish fruits; the banana palm, which is not actually a palm tree; and the King Palm, which should always be planted next to a Queen Palm. These are harder to find, though.

There's no doubt that palm trees are an intrinsic part of how Los Angeles is viewed. They sell the narrative of L.A. as a luxurious paradise. But that's their only real benefit. Fan palm trees are entirely ornamental. They produce no fruit, they provide absolutely no shade, and they guzzle water like the green lawns they're paired with. They're not even trees (palms are monocots, making them

more closely related to corn). Finally, most palms here are approaching the end of their lives. Should more be planted in their place? I'm of the opinion that a lot of them should be replaced with hardier trees that can make shade.

Love them or hate them, these plants are practically celebrities in their own right. The next time you take a walk, see whether you can distinguish the various palms you spot. Palm trees may be superficial, but it wouldn't be the same without them.

Keep looking for nature this fall in our neighborhood!



IS THE THOUGHT OF RELOCATING MAKING YOU FEEL SICK?

• Ron Wynn

Moving is never easy, but for many seniors, the idea of relocating can feel downright overwhelming. It's more than just packing up boxes; it's the emotional and mental weight that can make the whole process feel paralyzing. You've spent decades building a home, making connections with neighbors, and establishing familiar routines. The thought of leaving all of that behind can bring on a wave of anxiety, leaving you feeling stuck.

The Emotional Toll

Relocating stirs up a whirlwind of emotions—fear, anxiety, and even sadness. You might worry about leaving behind a place where you've built countless memories, from family gatherings to peaceful mornings in your favorite chair. Moving feels like giving up a piece of your identity. After all, this home has been your anchor, providing stability and a sense of belonging.

Beyond the emotions tied to your home, there's also the fear of losing your independence. Familiar surroundings offer comfort. You know your way around, where to get groceries, how to navigate the streets, and the faces of your neighbors who have been a part of your life for years. Moving introduces the unknown, and that can be terrifying. Will the new neighborhood be as welcoming? How will you adjust to different routines?

Health and Energy Concerns

As we age, health and energy become increasingly important factors when considering a move. The mere thought of packing, sorting, and physically moving items can feel exhausting. And beyond the physical aspects, the mental fatigue of making decisions, sorting through decades of memories, and managing the logistics can be equally draining.

You may also worry about how the move will impact your health. Will the stress and anxiety take a toll on your well-being? Can you manage the change in environment and adjust to a new place? These are legitimate concerns, and it's natural to feel overwhelmed by them.

Feeling Overwhelmed by the Unknown

One of the biggest challenges is the fear of the unknown. You may be asking yourself questions like:

- How will I adjust to a new home?
- Will I find new friends or feel isolated?
- What if the move doesn't turn out to be what I expected?

This uncertainty can make you feel stuck, unable to make decisions or move forward. It's easy to feel overwhelmed when the future feels so unclear. The comfort of the familiar becomes even more precious, and the thought of leaving it all behind can feel like too much to bear.

Letting Go of "Stuff"—The Hardest Part

For many seniors, there's also the emotional hurdle of parting with belongings that have been collected over a lifetime. We've spent years gathering these things, often attaching deep sentimental value to them. But here's the hard truth: today's generation doesn't want clutter. While your children love you, they likely don't have space or the need for your furniture, antiques, or collectibles. It's heartbreaking to accept, but your stuff—however cherished—might not hold the same value to others.

Holding onto these items can feel like holding onto memories, but it's also keeping you from moving forward. It's time to face reality: your stuff might not be as valuable as you think, and it could be standing in the way of your freedom.

Breaking Through the Overwhelm

If this sounds familiar, don't worry—you're not alone. I've helped many seniors in your position, feeling stuck and unsure of how to move forward. The good news is that you don't have to do this alone.

I can help guide you through every step of the process, from finding the right movers and packers to cleaning crews and even estate sale professionals. Whether you need to donate items, sell what you can, or simply need someone to help ease the burden, I can make sure it's all handled so you can focus on the next chapter of your life.

It's time to let go of the things that are holding you back and embrace the comfort and freedom you've been envisioning. Let me help you get past the struggle and into the peace of mind you deserve.

Call me—Ron Wynn, your local realtor and "go-to guy"—and let's start the conversation.

It Took Them 50 Years To Collect All Of This Stuff...

What Makes People Think They Can Magically Relocate, Sort, Sell And Donate In Just A Few Weeks?



MAR VISTA STREET NAMES

• Margie Templeton

Jan Altemus sent me an article about our street names. You can check it out at <https://sawtelle1897to1950.wordpress.com/about/gen-patrick-h-barry-and-barry-avenue/> In the meantime, here are some highlights.

In 1921, our area had street names that were primarily named for Civil War battlefields. Butler was originally Chickamauga Avenue, Cotner was originally Antietam,

Granville was originally Vicksburg, Colby was originally Gettysburg, and Stoner was originally Carthage. Barry was one of the streets that kept its name which was that of General Patrick Barry who fought in the Civil War and became governor of the Soldiers Home on Sawtelle.



General Patrick Barry

The article does not say why the street names were changed, but we can give thanks that they were changed.



Villager Bulletin Board

MAR VISTA PARK REPORT

• Jerry Hornof

Mar Vista Recreation Center continues to be a very active and enjoyed oasis in our community. This summer the park experienced a very popular camp program. I remember when my sons (now 36 and 34) enjoyed participating in the camp program. This summer there were 80 slots available per week and all weeks had a waiting list. Field trips included Knott's Berry Farm, Six Flags Magic Mountain, and Wild Rivers. The park summer camp is a great opportunity for kids five to 13 years old to enjoy their summer vacation close to home. The park also had a very popular coed soccer camp (ages 9 to 14) and skateboarding 101 for ages 5 to 16. I continue to encourage everyone to visit the Los Angeles Recreation and Parks website <https://www.laparks.org/reccenter/mar-vista> to see the wide variety of programs and activities offered at the park.


The tennis court fencing project has been completed and they have begun resurfacing the tennis courts. To minimize the impact on the tennis community, they are only working on two courts at a time. The contractor is well regarded and has performed resurfacing at many facilities in the Los Angeles park system. They will not be striping courts for pickleball at this time pending a citywide Recreation and Parks decision on how to move forward with pickleball programming. Mar Vista Park will be offering/scheduling pickleball hours and programming in the basketball court. Please contact the park office for more information on the pickleball program. There are still plans for a Tennis Live-Ball Tournament at MVRC.



The Mar Vista Park Advisory Board (PAB) has been discussing the health of the trees in the park, especially noting the recent tree removed at Palms and McLaughlin. Researching the tree issues at the park, it is clear that the Los Angeles City Forestry Department is aware of tree loss at Mar Vista Park and identified plans for replacement and maintenance as early as 2019. The pandemic clearly impacted some of those plans. The Park Advisory Board will be meeting with the Los Angeles City Forestry Department arborist Steve Dunlap to discuss their current plan and our concerns.

As always, please enjoy the park and its mission to provide and support vital and enjoyable recreational opportunities in our community.

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