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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CONNECTING

• Jerry Hornof



Our theme for 2022 is “Reimagining Westdale”. One aspect of reimagining is how we move forward from the last two years of dealing with the pandemic. It is important to recognize that Covid-19 is still with us, and many epidemiologists assess that it will continue as a predictable endemic disease with its severity reduced through vaccination. We will need to continue to be aware and practice safe protocols, but we will also begin to return to activities we routinely enjoyed before the pandemic. A year ago I read an article written by Adam Grant entitled There’s a Name for the Blah You’re Feeling: It’s Called Languishing. In the article, Grant described the emotional state as “It wasn’t burnout — we still had energy. It wasn’t depression — we didn’t feel hopeless. We just felt somewhat joyless and aimless. It turns out there’s a name for that: languishing. Languishing is a sense of stagnation and emptiness.” Grant provides some suggestive antidotes including: giving yourself uninterrupted blocks of time; enjoyable experiences; interesting projects; and meaningful conversations. As we emerge from the pandemic, I encourage everyone to be confident and comfortable in the pace of your reengaging and pursue activities that are most rewarding for you.

Over the last few months, we have been highlighting the curbside tree plantings organized and directed by George Oswald and Molly Selvin. George and Molly, working with block captains and our neighbors on Butler and Coolidge Avenues, have identified and scheduled replacement of trees that have died. The tree replacements took place in late March and early April. We have noticed that many of the newly planted parkway trees on Coolidge Ave look extremely dried-out and distressed. The city arborist and our district representative have noted that a few days before the trees arrived we had high winds so when they arrived and were planted, they appeared “wind whipped”.

PRESIDENT
JERRY HORNOF
JERRY.HORNOF@NOAA.GOV

EDITOR
MARJORIE TEMPLETON
MPT@RWTIA.COM

NATURALIST
M. UMAR

MV REPORTER
HEATHER BARROWS
HJJBURRO@HOTMAIL.COM

ADVERTISING
INA LEE
INA_LEE_M@YAHOO.COM.

EDITOR/GRAPHIC DESIGNER
DICK HENKEL
DICK@DKDICK.COM

Westdale VILLAGER

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
WESTDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
P.O.Box 66504
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90066
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+ WESTDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION +

Summer's here! Another year of school is at an end.
We've learned a lot and grown a lot and made a lot of friends.

We'll say goodbye now summer's here, it's time for us to part.
But we'll remember all our friends and keep them in our hearts...

by Helen H. Moore

+ SUMMER 2022 WESTDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER +

Later that week, we had a torrential cloudburst of rain that lasted about 10 minutes very late at night. Thereafter the trees continued to look worse, even though we were diligent and watered them per instructions. We are hopeful that with the proper care the trees will all bounce back.

I want to make sure that the Westdale community is aware of a request by Whole Foods Market (National and Barrington) for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) change. Conditional Use Permits (CUP) are provided as a privilege and not a right. The City seeks the input from the local communities that will be affected by the CUP. Whole Foods is seeking a change that will affect their liquor license, operating hours, and delivery hours. The changes are as follows:

- 1) Liquor license from Type 20 to 21: Adds the sale of distilled spirits to beer & wine for consumption off premises.
2) Operation hours change: Current: 7am to 10pm daily with requested change: 6am to 12am daily
3) Loading & delivery hours change: Current (Monday through Friday): 7am to 8pm & Current (Saturday, Sunday): 10am to 4pm with requested change (every day): 7am to 9pm

My primary concern is the change in operating hours and loading & delivery hours and the impacts for the immediate neighbors. The Mar Vista Community Council has voted to recommend approving the changes. The Los Angeles City case number is ZA-2022-745-CUB. At this time there is not a scheduled hearing date. I encourage concerned parties to monitor this action.

The Westdale Homeowners Association Block Party is back in the neighborhood. Please plan on joining us for the 2022 Westdale Homeowners Association Annual Block Party on Saturday, October 8th. This year's location will be on Colby Avenue. Activities include food (you are welcome to add your own favorite potluck item or dessert), visits by community leaders, LAPD & LAFD, bounce house and more. Looking forward to seeing everyone.

In closing, please participate and engage in making our neighborhood more connected, welcoming, and supportive of each other.

CRIME AND SAFETY REPORT

•Leah Oye

With the relaxing of the COVID restrictions and the coming of summer, the crime statistics are changing. Throughout the Pacific Division, there has been an 6.4% increase in property crimes. Our area of Mar Vista (north 10 fwy, south Palms Blvd, west Lincoln, east Sawtelle) had a 9.5% decrease in property crimes.

The 27.3% decrease in BTFV (burglar /theft from vehicles) is due to the residents taking care to lock their vehicles, to park in lighted areas, and to not leave valuables in plain sight. Unfortunately, there is an 11% increase in residential burglaries.

Many of the residential burglaries occur during the day-time. More people are out and about: going shopping, going to lunch or picking up children from school. It appears that the residents were being watched, as the window of opportunity for these burglaries is rather short. Ladders in the backyard have been used to access the house through a second story window. Also, keep your side gates locked and do not put a trash can in front of the fence/gate. Trash cans easily be used to vault a fence.

Most people aren’t looking for suspicious persons when leaving home. Please report any suspicious persons or activity to the police which will allow them to at least stop and question that person(s). Posting on Facebook or Nextdoor does not replace a call to the police. Do not take it upon yourself to follow suspects who are criminals, potentially dangerous people.

Bicycles and electric bicycles continue to be targeted by thieves. Once stolen, most are never returned. There isn’t a way for the LAPD to return a bike if it isn’t marked in some way. You may register your bicycle on bikeindex.org. All the officers have this app. Some bikes were found and returned using the Apple GPS tracker.

Gasoline prices have increased in recent months. Gasoline was siphoned from vehicles years ago during a previous gas crisis, and it is happening again. Recently, gasoline was siphoned from a van at night. It may have been targeted due to its larger tank.

Catalytic converters continue to be stolen city wide. These thieves are very efficient; a suspicious car was seen entering and leaving a crowded parking lot in 5 minutes. Vehicles can be fitted with shields to protect the catalytic converter. LAPD held a recent free event etching the VIN on the catalytic converter. If possible, park your vehicle in the garage or behind a gate.

Scams are increasing, especially the “Grandparent Scam”. The grandparent(s) are told their grandchild is in trouble (accident, hospitalization, school tuition). They are asked to transfer money or to buy money cards. Please check with your family first before sending any money. Have you ever gotten a call from the IRS for back taxes or the courts for missed jury duty? All Scams. Contact the Franchise Tax Board directly to verify your account.

During this unsettled time, hate crimes have increased 34% in our city. LAPD is looking to hire more officers with language skills. Volunteers are currently helping the police with communication with non-English speaking residents.

Our Senior Lead Officer is Kawron Villery, his contact information is 38717@lapd.online or 310 622-3973 for non-emergency questions.

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- Michael F.”



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MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We still have only 237 out of 907 addresses paid. If you enjoy the Villager and the work on the Homeowner's association, please send in your 2022 dues. The web site www.westdalehoa.org has a link to a list of addresses of those who have already paid.

Please make checks payable to Westdale Homeowners' 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
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or mail to:

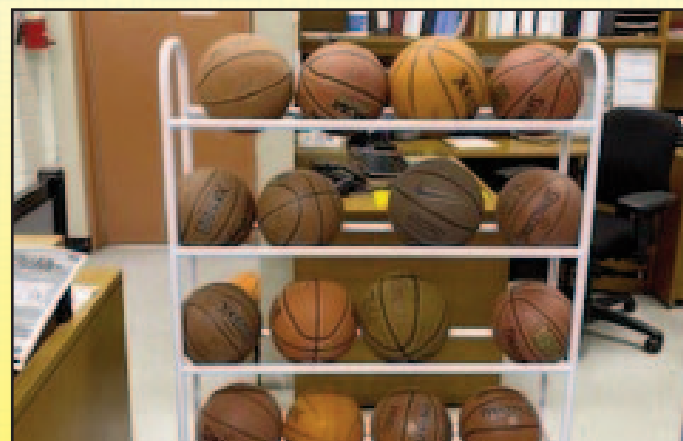
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MAR VISTA REC CENTER ACTIVITIES

• Heather Burrows

Spring sports are booming, from volleyball, soccer, adult roller hockey to youth baseball clinics. Our neighborhood center also offered an array of classes from Clay Creations to private guitar lessons. This summer they will offer a basketball camp.

I recently spoke to Elisa, the Mar Vista Recreation Center Coordinator, and she filled me in on the April Easter egg hunt which was so well attended that they went through



1,000 eggs! Besides the egg hunt, there was a tattoo booth, arts & crafts table, and five different booths with games. When you finished a game, you could pick a candy to enjoy. This wonderful tradition was free, thanks to the generous donation from our City Council. The Council covered the costs for all the decorations, eggs, and candy.

The Center is up and running for their amazing summer camp. They offer 9 weeks of theme-based and sports-based fun, and every Friday they have a field trip. The week of August 8 the theme will be Luau. They practice all sports, and go to Raging Waters on Friday.

Outdoor movies are back this summer! Elisa said the 20-foot screen is slated to be up mid-June for family movie night. Thank you to the Mar Vista Committee Council for donating the wonderful screen. Our generous neighbor, The Windward School, has donated candy bags and popcorn in past years. The pool is going to re-open soon. For any questions about the pool, please contact the City at 323-906-7953.

If you would like to reserve a picnic spot, moon bounce, etc. you will need to request a permit. To guarantee your area in the park, you need to request the permit three weeks in advance. Please visit www.laparks.org/reccenter/mar-vista for any additional information about summer camp, summer basketball, movie night, and all that our local park offers.



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8 Things I Keep Getting Phone Calls About

1. Where do you see the market in a year from now? Will interest rate increases will cause a price decline?
2. How much value would an ADU add and is it worth the build an ADU, or maybe just a garage conversion if that makes sense?
3. How easy is it to get a reverse mortgage and do you know someone I can talk with?
4. We would like to add another bedroom and remodel but we don't have a lot of cash... do you have any thoughts?
5. Do you know a good mortgage broker who can get us a cash out loan even though we're retired and on a fixed income?
6. We need a one-story home with less land and that doesn't need fixing - Do you have any affordable listings coming up?
7. We want to move into a good rental that is close to things. Do you have any suggestions?
8. We own a rental property that's becoming a pain to deal with but we also don't want to be stuck with paying a huge capital gains tax. What are our alternatives?

Please know I am always here for you and will always do my best to answer to your concerns. I am not a CPA or Lawyer and cannot answer tax and legal questions but I do have the appropriate people I can refer you to. As for other referrals, I've got painters and plumbers and most other trades and great real estate agent referrals for specific neighborhoods in most of the states.

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AND NOW, HERE'S ANOTHER PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE WESTDALE VILLAGER'S VERY OWN NATURALIST...

SHADE IN THE SUMMER: WESTDALE TREES

• M. Umar

Summer has arrived, and our neighborhood's majestic trees are becoming lush and leafy. Many people have moved to Westdale because of the abundance of trees: along streets, planted in yards, looming over the Mar Vista Recreation Center. There are many species here in the Westside, such as Italian cypresses, olive trees, coast live oak, sweetgum, Canary Island pines, and Hong Kong orchid trees. Some, like the first two, hail from the Mediterranean. Others, such as coast live oak, are native plants. There are many more trees: from Australia, Brazil, Nepal, and more! With all these trees from all over the world, one Los Angeles street can seem like a verdant botanical garden.

One tree in particular that makes Westdale stand out is the jacaranda. Jacarandas are large trees that are native to South America. They have grayish bark and fernlike leaves, but their cylindrical, vibrant purple flowers make them stand out. Every year, from April to June, they turn our streets into an Impressionist painting. The flowers grow in puffy purple profusions, with a distinctive scent that permeates the air. Streets are shrouded in beautiful amethyst blossoms. However, there's a downside to all those flowers. Jacarandas infamously shower their blooms over streets, sidewalks, and cars. This carpet of purple can prove annoying; it's sticky when crushed underfoot due to aphids. The fallen blossoms attract many bees, and they're maddeningly difficult to clean up. Still, the effect on Westdale streets is magical. I recommend spotting this year's last jacaranda flowers on Colby Avenue, Barry Avenue, Colbert Avenue, and Mountain View Avenue.



Another tree common to Westdale is the magnolia, one of the world's oldest flowering plants. Magnolias existed as long ago as the Cretaceous Period (they may have been food for Triceratopses), and they line our streets today. While there are many varieties, they share broad, oval leaves that can be leathery and dull green, or glossy and colorful. Magnolia flowers are large and bowl-shaped, with floppy petals, and are blush-pink or creamy white. On close inspection, they're simple in shape and, unlike most modern-day flowers, a primal, nearly unchanged part of the era of the dinosaurs.

Nearly all street trees are non-native. They were brought here from around the world, by various people throughout history. One of these people was Katherine Olivia "Kate" Sessions, a legendary horticulturalist, to whom we owe our breathtaking jacarandas. Defying 1880s expectations of women, she studied science at modern-day UC Berkeley. When she moved to San Diego, she taught for a while, then she opened a plant nursery. At the time, San Diego, especially what is now Balboa Park, had very few trees. Kate wanted to change that, and she did. Thanks to her, hundreds of trees were planted all over San Diego! Nowadays, she is referred to as the "Mother of Balboa Park." Kate is said to have introduced jacarandas, the bird-of-paradise (now the city flower of LA), bougainvilleas, orchid trees, and many more species of plants to Southern California. Nowadays, the streets of San Diego and Los Angeles are thriving, thanks to the work of Kate Sessions.

Our street trees make Mar Vista special. They provide shade, colors, and scents. Unfortunately, many of these trees are around 70 years old and are reaching the end of their lives, whether due to drought, fungi, disease, neglect, or mere age. The Westdale Arbor Group is trying to conserve our trees. You can help, too. Consider planting a sapling in your yard, and be sure to water the trees in the boulevard. Or simply take a walk and appreciate the different sizes, shapes, and textures of trees. Observe how they create homes for animals and shelter houses with their branches. Looking down one local street, you can see trees from around the world, brought here throughout history.

MAR VISTA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

• Andrea Lowerre

We are thrilled to be hosting events for our Mar Vista community again after 2+ years away. Our annual Spring Show was an incredible showcase of the TK (transitional kindergarten), 1, 3, and 4th grade students performing songs they've been learning with our fabulous music teacher, Katherine Williamson, who is retiring this year.

We recently held PTA Founders' Night, honoring teachers, staff and parents who contribute to our school. It was a fun evening with refreshments, lots of laughs, and a few tears as we celebrated some of the many people that make Mar Vista so amazing!

Coming up June 3rd is our Family Fun Night – a chance for parents and students to socialize and spend time together before we head into summer. It's one of the best nights of the year, and a great way to wind down the school year.

Many have asked about the construction at the school. We are undergoing work to ensure we are ADA compliant. Much of this work can't be done during the day when students are on campus, which is why you have seen lights and workers at night.

Come fall we'll share some easy ways for the community to support the school, including our Tasty Tuesday restaurant nights!!



SHIRLEY ROSS TURNS 102!

• Ron Wynn

It was a heartwarming event in Westdale. When Shirley called me just to check on how I was doing and to let me know that she was getting ready to release her latest children’s book, I was blown away as always. Her youthful positive sounding voice was cheerful and totally up-beat. Interestingly, I had just minutes before finished a call with someone far younger, but fearful, negative and pessimistic. It was amazing to feel the contrast!



Shirley is a Westdale homeowner on Purdue Avenue who has an awesome attitude toward life, amazing enthusiasm, a positive outlook, and a sense of calmness in her voice. She has tremendous wisdom and a great sense of humor.

Shirley called me to extend a personal invitation to attend the book signing of her most recent release which will be available through Amazon. When I immediately accepted her invitation, I asked for the particulars including

the location and date for her signing event. This is the best part... She said, “Well I thought I would hold the event the week of my one hundred and second birthday just because I would love to have people around me to celebrate.”

I’ve been following Shirley’s birthdays for about 10 years and hope I’ll be able to for another 10 years. This year Shirley turned 102 on May 29, 2022. You would think that she is no older than 82 and probably even younger after speaking with her in person. She is amazing! Attending the event was absolutely priceless. I can’t put into words how beautiful it was to see Shirley signing over 100 books for dozens of people while sharing her wisdom with people who repeatedly asked, “How do you do it?” You would think she would have needed a break, but her energy and enthusiasm was just as strong as people were heading off 3 hours later as it was when she took her seat to greet the first eager attendee. Not hesitating for a minute to celebrate with Shirley, and feeling so honored by her personal invitation several weeks ago, I asked Shirley “what can I bring?” When she told me that she hadn’t yet thought about it, I volunteered to bring food and drinks for everyone. This was the least I could do for a friend turning 102.

As with many of the guests, I too am intrigued by Shirley’s longevity. I met Shirley over 10 years ago. She loves my newsletters and called me once for some real estate advice which I always encourage people to do. She had me over, and I was mesmerized by her incredible poise, wisdom and intelligence. I learned so much from Shirley that day about life’s priorities that I have not forgotten and have since been able to share with many others.

Now flashback to 6 years from the day that Shirley first called me. Shirley, who had recently lost her only son and many of her dearest friends, and who was 99 years old heading to 100, decided that she still has the time and the passion to begin a writing career. This was something that

she had often thought of. At just less than 100 years old, Shirley contracted Amazon to release her first of 4 children’s books which, out the gate, were a phenomenal success.



The success of her first book further fueled her incentive to keep on going. So again I said to myself, what keeps this remarkable lady going, like she’s a woman half her age? Today, at her event I spoke with many of her friends, including husband and wife, Mark and Denise. Denise told me that Shirley loves people, has an incredibly clear mind, avoids stress by always keeping positive, and that her kind heart and sense of humor keeps her the life of the party. She was absolutely right. I spoke with Shirley after

the signing and asked her to share a few of her secrets for people who might be interested. Here are the quotes from Shirley unedited:

1. I love to be sociable and to be among people.
2. I live in the moment and look forward to tomorrow, but I’m always grateful to my past.
3. I take nothing for granted. I appreciate my friends and what the universe has given me.
4. I’ve never smoked and I’ve never found the need for alcohol.
5. I love to laugh. I try to not take myself too seriously.
6. I keep active and get dressed even when I don’t have somewhere I need to be.
7. Even though I don’t have an exercise routine, I walk and keep my legs moving.
8. I don’t take unnecessary medications, just eat healthy and take my daily multi-vitamin.
9. I’m thankful for my genes, but not just for my genes.
10. I don’t live in fear or worry about things. I trust my intuition and keep a positive mindset, believing that everything will be OK.

It’s pretty remarkable to live to 102 and to start a career writing children’s books at age 99. What’s really remarkable is “Shirley’s spirit and attitude.” I love this neighbor of ours; her spirit and her inspiration will not be forgotten.



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MAR VISTA PARK REPORT

• Jerry Hornof

Mar Vista Recreation Center (MVRC) Senior Director Andres De La Hoya in mid-March informed the Mar Vista Park Advisory Board (PAB) that he has accepted the Senior Director position at Hubert H. Humphrey Memorial Park in Pacoima. The park is located in the valley and represents a much better commute for him and his work/life balance. His start date at the new facility was May 2nd.

Andres thanked all of us for allowing him to be part of our beautiful and diverse community here at Mar Vista. "I've come to know incredible people here in my time at MVRC. I'm not great at good-byes so I'll just say "see you all later". I'll miss you all and appreciate all your volunteer work in making our Mar Vista community better for everyone. Thank you again for all your guidance and support. Mar Vista has made me a better Senior Director professionally and more importantly has made me a better person. Thank you Mar Vista. I'll see you all later."

I greatly enjoyed knowing and working with Andres. It was very rewarding to have a Senior Director whose primary background was sports programming. I know that MVRC benefitted from his priority for programming both sports and other park activities. It has been a very difficult two years due to Covid-19, but his dedication and initiative allowed MVRC to continue to succeed during the period. I regret that we were not able to achieve more during his tenure due to the pandemic. It would have been fun to enjoy all the changes and improvements he would have been able to make in a "normal" two year cycle. Please welcome our new Senior Director of MVRC Keith

Rice. Keith's first day was May 2nd. He transferred from Oakwood Recreation Center.

MVRC started refurbishing the grass field on the east side of the park (east of the gym and west of the tennis courts) in late January. The work was completed on May 2nd. The work included: 1) sprinkler and irrigation repairs and improvements with water efficient heads; 2) leveling the field surface; 3) smoothing the transition zone between the dirt infield and the grass; and 4) more durable grass was planted. This refurbishment included the baseball diamonds. The decision was made to not have a baseball season. There are baseball clinics being planned.

Prior to the field closure there had been a significant increase in off-leash dog activities in the morning and evening. It is important to note that MVRC prohibits off-leash dog activities. There have been a number of incidents where off-leash dogs have frightened patrons including children. Dog owners are requested to please respect the on-leash requirement at MVRC. Los Angeles Animal Control will be notified if off-leash activities are occurring.

I am happy to report that at this time there are no homeless encampments at MVRC. This is a great accomplishment achieved through the efforts of County, City, and community based departments and organizations. This combined effort helped close to 20 people move into housing. Thank you to all our park staff, community members, Los Angeles Housing Services Administration (LAHSA), St. Joseph Center, CD11 and our PAB. It represents an excellent team accomplishment.

Please enjoy the park and its mission to provide and support the vital and enjoyable recreational opportunities for our community.

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Here is a note that I recently received:

Hi Ron,

My father built this home in 1938 and I've never lived anywhere else. I hope to stay here until I join my husband in heaven one day and then my children will decide what's next. But if they do sell, I've told them to definitely have you handle the sale or leasing. I've enjoyed your newsletters for over 25 years and your referrals of a great plumber who I've used now for years and more recently an excellent painter.

Although I've never been able to reciprocate by offering you my business or by sending you a referral which I so much would like to do, please know that your name would be the first out of my mouth as someone who I would trust and recommend. You've definitely proven yourself to be "hands-on" as you say, by coming personally to my door numerous times and rolling out the red carpet for myself and neighbors who come curiously to your open houses. And by the way, the personal attention is really appreciated as we know that your weekends are hours away from your family and personal time.

Thanks for all that you do for our community and those signs you distributed during Covid really were appreciated and noticed! I always look forward to your visits,
—Alice Frazier

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Ron Wynn Client

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