



✦ QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION ✦ SPRING 2026 ✦



✦ *INSIDE* ✦

CRIME & SAFETY
REPORT

✦

MEMBERSHIP
TIME AGAIN

✦

NATURE REPORT

✦

MAR VISTA
BOMB SHELTERS

✦

PROPERTIES
THAT NEED HELP

✦

PARK REPORT

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

TOGETHER SUPPORTING WESTDALE

• Jerry Hornof



This year's theme is Going Together. I am again beginning this message with an appeal to please help support our Westdale Homeowners Association. I want to thank those who stepped up and paid. We request a small annual dues which allows us to communicate with, and in small ways, take care of our small pocket of homeowners and renters. The membership dues pays for our communications (this newsletter and website primarily), the annual block party and support a variety of community programs and events. So far we have received contributions from a small percentage of our 907 homes. Please consider paying your dues of \$30 per year so we can continue our communication and support. You can check to see if you have paid for 2025, 2026 or 2027 on our website westdalehoa.org or using this Quick Response (QR) code:



If you find you have not paid, navigate to the Membership section of the website or use the following QR code:



You can pay by mail, drop off a check, or submit electronically and pay via Zelle. We also welcome you to be a part of the community by filling a board position, writing an article for the newsletter, or helping to plan our annual block party. Send us a note at westdalehoa@yahoo.com. Thank you in advance for your support.

In the past year, copper wire theft has surged in Los Angeles, resulting in millions of dollars in damages, widespread streetlight outages, and significant disruptions to telecommunications. In our Westdale commu-



PRESIDENT
JERRY HORNOF
JERRY.HORNOF@NOAA.GOV

EDITOR/ADVERTISING
MARJORIE TEMPLETON
MPT@RWTIA.COM

LAPD LIAISON
SOHAM PATEL

NATURALIST
M. UMAR

**GRAPHIC DESIGNER
& COMIC RELIEF**
DICK HENKEL
DICK@SOULPRO.US



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



✦ QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION ✦ SPRING 2026 ✦

nity neighbors on Purdue Ave and other streets have experienced streetlight outages. The city logged 14,328 electronic streetlight service requests in 2018. Requests have soared since then, reaching an all-time high of 46,079 in 2024, the last full year of available data. In the early months of 2025, L.A. neighborhoods reported unprecedented streetlight failures, primarily due to theft and vandalism. Both the state and city governments are addressing the issue. On the state level the legislature has passed AB 476. Signed by Governor Newsom in late 2025, this law tightens regulations on scrap metal recyclers by requiring detailed seller identification and increasing penalties for those who purchase stolen public infrastructure. Los Angeles has enacted the Heavy Metal Task Force. This task force established by LAPD and local officials is a dedicated task force to crack down on metal theft, leading to high-profile arrests and the seizure of thousands of pounds of stolen wire. There is also a reward program approved by the Los Angeles City Council offering \$5,000 rewards for information leading to felony grand theft convictions and \$1,000 for misdemeanors related to metal theft. Locally, our Councilwoman Traci Park (11th District) and Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky (5th District) are dedicating \$500,000 of their district funds to create a new street light repair crew that is going to significantly focus on repairing and addressing the backlog of light outages in both CD 11 and CD 5. You can report wire theft by: 1) Emergency: Call 911 for crimes in progress; 2) Anonymous Tips: Contact LA Regional Crime Stoppers at (800) 222-TIPS (8477); 3) Streetlight Repairs: Report outages through the L.A. Bureau of Street Lighting or the city's MyLA311 app.

Finally, a reminder that the primary elections for California will be held on June 2nd. Besides the federal and state elections, local offices to be filled in the 2026 Primary Nominating Election include: Mayor, City Controller, City Attorney, Council Districts 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, and 15; Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Board of Education Districts 2, 4, and 6; and any measures that may be adopted by the City Council. There are a number of candidate forums being offered now to find out more about the candidates. Please take research and take advantage of these information opportunities.

The essence of community is being, learning, supporting, and doing things together. Going Together is how Westdale HOA thrives

CRIME & SAFETY REPORT

•Soham Patel

As we settle into 2026, I wanted to share some encouraging news along with a few reminders about keeping our corner of Mar Vista safe and well-lit.

The Good News: Crime is Trending Down

If you've been following the numbers, you'll be glad to hear that property crime in our Mar Vista Community Council area has dropped noticeably over the past several months. Where we were seeing 95 to 105 crimes per month during the first quarter of 2025, the final five months of the year held steady at 71 to 79 crimes monthly. January 2026 continued that positive trajectory with 75 property crimes and just five violent crimes reported across the entire MVCC area.

Residential burglaries have also declined. We're now seeing 13 to 14 burglaries per month compared to 17 to 22 per month during the first half of last year. That's meaningful progress, and it reflects both improved police presence and the vigilance of neighbors like you who look out for each other.

What We're Still Watching

Even with the overall decline, a few patterns are worth noting. The so-called "ninja-like" burglary crews that made headlines last fall are still active on the Westside, though LAPD Pacific Division has made arrests. These crews tend to target specific high-value items like jewelry and designer handbags, often bypassing electronics entirely. They've been known to disable electrical panels in backyards to knock out security cameras and alarm systems, so if your panel is accessible from outside, consider placing something in front of it or installing a protective enclosure.

Most burglaries in our area are occurring between 5:00 PM and 9:00 PM, when homes may appear unoccupied during the early evening hours. A simple step like leaving lights on, keeping the TV volume up, and closing your blinds can make your home look occupied and deter would-be intruders.

Catalytic converter theft also remains an issue across the Westside. Thieves are primarily targeting older vehicles from 2008 to 2012, including Honda Civics, Toyota Priuses, and Toyota Corollas. If you park on the street, a car cover can be surprisingly effective since thieves won't know what vehicle is underneath.

Good News: The Encampment Under the 10 Freeway Has Been Cleared

Many of you have asked about the homeless encampments in our neighborhood and on Sepulveda Boulevard under the 10 Freeway, which had persistent concerns. Personnel from both West Los Angeles and Pacific Area stations, along with the Department of Sanitation and Department of Social Services, have cleared and cleaned both areas.

Lights Are Coming Back: Traci Park's Streetlight Initiative

If you've noticed entire blocks going dark over the past few months, you're not imagining it. Copper wire thieves have been systematically stripping wiring from streetlight conduits across the Westside, and the problem hit our neighborhood hard, particularly since just before Christmas. One in ten streetlights across Los Angeles is currently out of service, and nearly half of all service requests citywide are due to wire theft.

The frustrating reality is that the average repair time has stretched to about 12 months. One Mar Vista resident, Andrew Marton, reported his outage to the city and was told it would take 270 days to fix.

But there's real progress happening. Last Friday, Council Members Traci Park and Katy Yaroslavsky held a press conference right here in our neighborhood, standing in Andrew's driveway to announce a joint initiative allocating \$500,000 in discretionary funds to accelerate streetlight repairs across their districts. The funding will support a dedicated repair crew and, critically, the installation of solar-powered streetlights that don't rely on copper wiring at all. The idea is simple: eliminate the target, eliminate the theft.

"This is about restoring light. It's about restoring safety," Councilwoman Park said. "It's about making sure our neighborhoods don't sit in the dark while the bureaucracy catches up. Our residents deserve better."

The broader initiative involves converting at least 12 percent of the city's streetlights to solar, roughly 500 in each council district, at an estimated cost of \$65 million citywide. Council Members Monica Rodriguez, Hugo Soto-Martinez, and Eunisses Hernandez have also signed on to support the effort.

If you see copper wire theft in progress, please do not approach. Call 911 immediately. Any information or photos you can safely capture will help LAPD track these organized crews.

License Plate Readers Are Now Active

You may have noticed new equipment appearing on light poles around the neighborhood. Councilwoman Park's office invested \$450,000 in license plate reader cameras, which are now installed at 39 locations across Council District 11. Twenty-five of these are solar-powered, and 14 are hardwired. The system is designed to help LAPD identify vehicles connected to criminal activity and is fully compliant with California privacy law. Images that don't match an active investigation are automatically deleted and never accessed.

Resources:

- Report streetlight outages: LA311 (dial 311 or visit lacity.gov/myla311)
- LAPD Pacific Division: (310) 482-6334
- Councilwoman Traci Park's Office: CD11@lacity.org
- Mar Vista Community Council: marvista.org

Be well, and take care of each other.



DAVIS + BURNS
PROPERTIES

HONORED TO BE NAMED
Los Angeles
Real Estate All Stars

NO ONE KNOWS 90066 BETTER

Our Recent Neighborhood Successes

3241 Federal Avenue, Mar Vista
SOLD | Represented Seller

3021 Barry Avenue, Mar Vista
SOLD OVER-ASKING | Represented Seller

3580 Mountain View Avenue, Mar Vista
SOLD OVER-ASKING | Represented Seller

12713 Stanwood Drive, Mar Vista
SOLD | Represented Seller

3612 Maplewood Avenue, Mar Vista
SOLD | Represented Seller

3628 Butler Avenue, Mar Vista
LEASED | Represented Landlord

Rebecca Davis • Claire Burns
310.418.8091 | davisandburns.com

COMPASS

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01991628. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footages are approximate. This is not intended to solicit property already listed. [DRE 0467541/01381495]

ONE OF YOU IS READY... THE OTHER ISN'T

—And That's Perfectly Normal

Are you and your spouse having the same conversation over and over about your home? You love it. It's been the center of your life for years. You don't need to sell, but lately you find yourselves circling the same thoughts...

And then comes the push-and-pull between you: one spouse thinking, "It's time, let's move forward," while the other holds on, saying, "Not yet, I'm not ready." Add in the kids—especially the daughter away at college who insists you keep the home—and suddenly the decision feels impossible.

I've met with homeowners who have said, "It feels like you've been overhearing our private conversations." That's because these feelings are so common—loving the home deeply, yet wrestling with the very same back-and-forth, the emotional ties, and the practical realities. Please know this: it's completely normal for spouses to be on different timelines.

One sees the practical side, the other feels the emotional weight. Both perspectives matter.

I'm Ron Wynn, and for decades I've helped families living on the Westside through this exact stage of life. My role is not to push, but to listen, guide, and bring clarity—so both of you feel respected and confident in the path forward. It's perfectly natural for two people to not have totally aligned thoughts. That's the time to call me and for all of us to have a conversation.

Westdale's Best!
11500 KINGS LAND ST. | WESTDALE
5 BED | 6 BATH | 4,479 SQ. FT. | \$5,375,000

Ron WYNN
310.963.9944
email: ron@ronwynn.com
online: www.ronwynn.com

DRE#00420587

W S A
Wynn Sawicki Altman
Solutions by Collaboration

COMPASS

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01991628. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. If your property is currently listed this is not meant as a solicitation.

Please renew your Westdale Homeowner's Association membership!!

\$30. FROM 900 HOMES?

• Sharri Dunn

In a neighborhood of nearly 900 homes, our annual dues are just \$30 per household — a modest amount that goes a long way toward keeping Westdale informed, prepared, and neighborly.

So far, just 100 households have paid their 2026 dues.

Because the amount is small, it's easy to overlook. But these dues support the very things that make this more than a collection of houses. They sustain the newsletter you're reading, community gatherings that bring people together, modest improvements that support Mar Vista School and Mar Vista Park, and the preparedness efforts that allow us to take care of our neighbors in an emergency.

Where Your \$30 Goes:

- Printing and distribution of this neighborhood newsletter
- Website hosting and neighborhood communications
- Annual block party and Boo on Purdue
- Contributions and improvements benefiting Mar Vista School and Mar Vista Park

- CERT support and maintenance of the emergency supply container

If even half of our neighborhood participated, the impact would multiply — our all-volunteer board, writers, graphic designers and neighborhood liaisons could continue to produce thoughtful local stories, strengthen communication block by block, plan gatherings that bring new neighbors into the fold, and maintain the emergency resources that help us look out for one another.

Membership can be paid online by visiting our website westdalehoa.org/membership/membership-support/ or use the codes in the President's article. If you prefer to pay by check, please make payable to "Westdale Homeowner'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 Shari Dunn, 11841 Stanwood Drive or mail to Westdale HOA, PO Box 66504, LA, CA 90066.

If you've already paid — thank you. Your participation truly matters.

If you haven't yet contributed for 2026, we hope you'll consider doing so. When more of us step in — even in a small way — it helps us live, above all, as neighbors.

<http://westdalehoa.org/membership/membership-support>

Westdale VILLAGER
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION • WINTER 2023 •

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
WESTDALE PARTIES
• Jerry Hornof

These vehicles, loaded with multiple sensors, are part of Waymo's fleet of driverless cars being tested in greater Los Angeles. Waymo is headquartered in Mountain View, CA. Its mission statement is "to make it safe and easy for people and things to get where they're going. From moving people to moving goods, we're using autonomous driving technology to get to new places. Our mission is big and our work has the potential to transform lives." Waymo is on tour across Los Angeles. Starting in October, Waymo is giving Los Angeles residents a one week early access ticket to try their fully autonomous ride-hailing service, Waymo One, for free. Their schedule is Santa Monica: October 11 to November 18, Century City: November 20 to December 17, West Hollywood: December 17 to January 7, Mid City: January 8 to January 23, Korea-Town: January 24 to February 8, and Downtown LA (DTLA): February 9 to March 3 (<https://waymo.com/tour/>). I encourage you to give it a try and think about the possibilities this technology will offer in enhancing your continued mobility.

INSIDE •
MAR VISTA SCHOOL REPORT
• CRIME & SAFETY REPORT
• MEMBERSHIP TIME
• BLOCK PARTY
• REAL ESTATE REPORT
• PARK REPORT
• BULLETIN BOARD

NATURE REPORT: INTRIGUING INTERACTIONS

•M.Umar

Springtime in Westdale means another season of animals behaving strangely—at least by human standards. Squirrels chase each other across roads, mockingbirds mimic car alarms, and crows incessantly scream at each other. (I have also seen middle schoolers do these things, but that’s beside the point.) Westdale is by no means a quiet residential neighborhood for the animals that live here.

Much of the strange behavior exhibited by animals in the spring is part of courtship patterns. One cannot assume that they feel the emotions we associate with human romance, but their social connections are fascinating nonetheless. Many animals form bonds with one or more partners. Others clone themselves, thus forgoing mates. Some rarely interact with their own

species. West Los Angeles is a microcosm of these interactions.

Past Westdale, in Marina del Rey, western grebes’ interactions seem closely aligned with romance. These water birds have bright red eyes, sleek black-and-white feathers, and a complex courtship system. Their most prominent display involves two grebes quickly running across the surface of the water together, after which they form a pair bond. It’s an impressive feat, though it may be difficult to observe.

Praying mantises sometimes take courtship to deadly levels. These solitary insects are common in Westdale backyards, remaining incredibly still before lashing out to capture prey. Female mantises can use their relative size and strength to decapitate approaching males, or to remove their limbs and devour them. This doesn’t happen every time, but it makes sense that a female mantis would want to be well-fed before having young. And despite being headless, a male mantis is still able to move around before its partner finishes it off.

Southern alligator lizards don’t go as far as cannibalism, but it may look that way. These reptiles are gray and fairly large, and are often found in cool, dark places. As part of mating, the male alligator lizard clamps onto the female’s head with its jaws in a position called the bite hold. They may also wrestle with each other. While this looks violent, the female is unharmed. If you see alligator lizards doing this, have no qualms about taking a picture and uploading it to citizen science projects like iNaturalist.

Northern mock- ingbirds, a common

sight around Butler Avenue and the Westwood Neighborhood Greenway, can be identified by their gray plumage and the white flash of their wings when they fly. Both male and female mocking- birds sing, but it’s more common for single males to do so. They’re remarkably good at imitating other species of birds, and can even sound like dogs or car alarms. This is largely used to defend their territory or attract other birds. Mockingbirds are alone for much of the year, but in the spring, they chase each other around and do aerial dances as part of mating.

Finally, you might see more coyotes in your neigh- borhood than usual this spring. Coyotes travel long distances to find companionship, and they mate for life. As always, it’s a good idea to keep pets indoors, because coyotes are generally not picky. If you see one from a distance, remain calm and slowly walk away. If the coyote is too close, scare it away by making noise or waving your arms around.

While projecting human emotions onto animals is generally not advised, the similarities between them



and us are at times undeniable. Some social strate- gies used by these animals, like dancing or traveling long distances, may work for humans too! (By con- trast, cannibalism and biting are generally bad ways to get someone’s attention.) The next time you see squirrels chasing each other as a form of play, or hear a bird loudly trying to ward off other birds, you might be reminded of a time you did the same.

Keep looking for nature this spring!



BGG

BELLET / GRAKAL / GLICK
REAL ESTATE GROUP



JUST LISTED IN MAR VISTA
2649 BARRY AVENUE 4 BED | 4.5 BATH | with ADU | 2,683 SQFT | 5,903 LOT

SELL IT QUICK WITH ADAM GLICK
310.488.4410 AdamRGlick@gmail.com DRE #01982917

kw | KELLER WILLIAMS BEVERLY HILLS



MAR VISTA BOMB SHELTERS

•Margie Templeton

A few years ago I wrote about our bomb shelter. Recently I had some quesitons about the pipes in our front yard, so I am writing about it again for newer members of our neighborhood.

We had many people working in the defense industry and living in Mar Vista. What they learned about the Cuban missile crisis scared them. We have heard that there were other bomb shelters built about that time in Mar Vista.

When we bought the house, there was nothing in the listing about “3br, 2 ba, + bomb shelter”. We only learned about it when we made an offer. The previous owner worked for TRW and got scared by the Cuban Missile crisis. It was definitely not a good addition to the house. The bomb shelter is accessed from a trap door in the kitchen. One has to climb down a long ladder to a passage that goes to the tank under the front yard. This picture shows Ina Lee thinking about decending.



When we moved in, the shelter contained multi-purpose food, water, water recycling equipment, and a bicycle that had to be ridden non-stop to circulate air. You can still see the air pipes hidden by bushes in our front yard. There was even electricity and a ceiling light.



This picture shows the air pump today. Currently, everything is hopelessly damp and rusty. We had the electricity cut off, because it was causing shorts in the kitchen. One could not survive even a short stay down there now. Maybe it was not even possible in 1963. It would not be possilble to stand on the ladder and get the top open, especially if the floor had fallen across the top. There is round covered hole that could be opened to dug up to the surface, but it would take power tools with all of the roots in the front yard, and the amount of dirt would almost fill the tank.

SOME MOVES ARE QUIET FOR A REASON

THE RIGHT MOVE, AT THE RIGHT TIME —YOUR WAY

Life changes fast. What once felt like the perfect home might now feel too big, too expensive, or just not quite right. You might be wondering: "Should we just stay put or is it time to rethink things? We love our home, but we're working overtime to pay the mortgage!" I've helped many families navigate this exact moment discreetly and strategically. They didn't want pressure. They don't need to sell. They just wanted to make a smart move that fits their life now without chaos, confusion, or unsettling their kids. Several walked away with a significant gain. All walked away with clarity, confidence, and a better fit for their future.

"We Had No Idea They Were Moving Out!"

"Could be a job relocation, might be a family situation, a financial setback or a choice to downsize. Whatever the reason is, when your confidentiality matters, I respect it." —Ron Wynn

COMPASS Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01991628. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. If your property is currently listed this in not meant as a solicitation.

Ron WYNN
310.963.9944
email: ron@ronwynn.com
online: www.ronwynn.com

Always Confidential. Always Able To Assist You.

W S A
Solutions by Collaboration

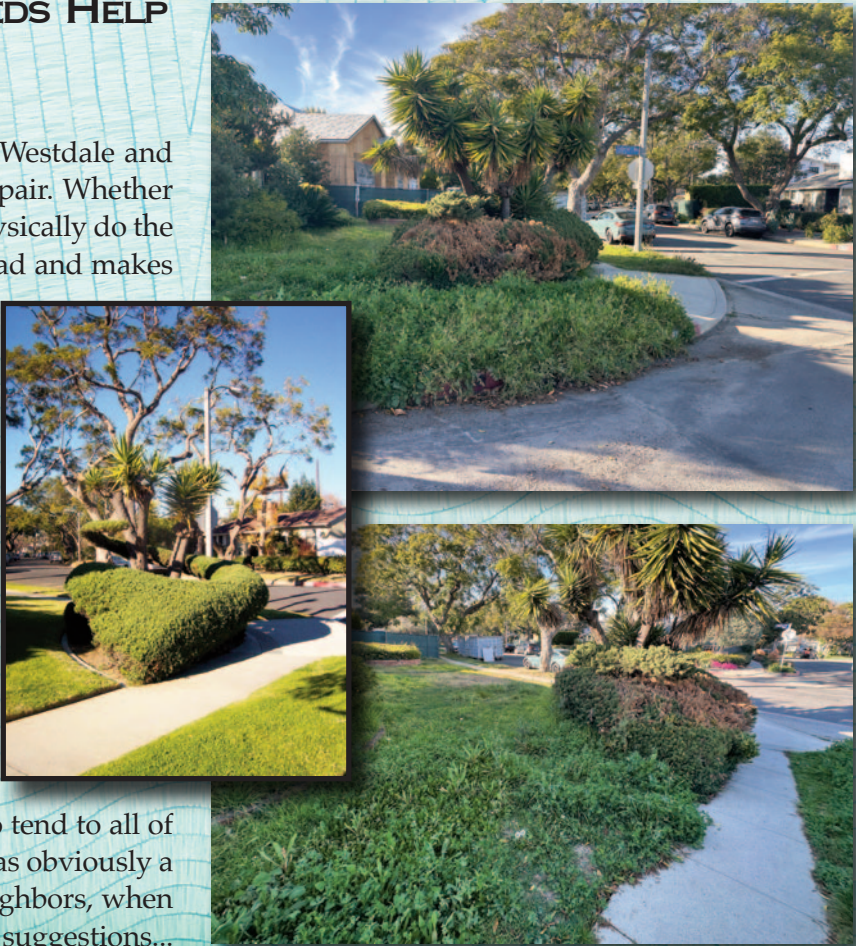
BEAUTIFUL PROPERTY NEEDS HELP

•Dick Henkel

There are quite a few iconic homes in Westdale and it's very sad to see some fall into disrepair. Whether it's due to elderly owners who can't physically do the work or a property in escrow it's just sad and makes the neighborhood look like it just doesn't care. But we do.

When my wife and I moved to Mar Vista 30-plus years ago one of the first things we noticed was the "Star Trek" bush, as we called it, on the corner of Federal and Colbert. It was a welcoming sign to our new life in Westdale. I loved it so much that when I took over designing the Westdale Villager I made it integral part of our front page. To the bush I say, "Live long and prosper".

I can still remember the Japanese gentleman who lived there and used to tend to all of bushes and plants on the property. It was obviously a labor of love. So what do we do, as neighbors, when we see this situation? Happy to hear all suggestions...



Villager Bulletin Board

MAR VISTA PARK REPORT

• Jerry Hornof

Mar Vista Recreation Center (MVRC) is a very active and enjoyed "gathering" space in our community. The fall sports programs were very successful in regional and citywide tournaments. In volleyball, the women's minor (ages 9-10), major (11-12), and junior (13-16) categories were Regional champions. The women's junior category went on to be the city-wide champions. In soccer, MVRC minor and major teams won regional championships. Congratulations to all the participants.

Maintaining park facilities is always a challenge. In recent weeks the barbeques throughout the park have been repaired/replaced. The portable field lighting has been approved and funded to support youth programs especially in the winter when we have extremely short daylight due to transition to standard time. Repairs on the hockey rink and storage shed are also scheduled. If you are interested in helping support the park please consider a tax deductible donation to the LA Park Foundation (laparksfoundation.org) and specify funds going to Mar Vista Recreation Center.

Unfortunately, there has been a significant return of camping and graffiti at the park. MVRC staff are coordinating with city resources to address the issue. The previous city led cleanup was held on January 27th. Park Director Keith Rice reported that several of the encampments has been cleared out several times but they continue to return. He has personally approached the groups multiple times. Each time they are addressed, they relocate to another area of the park—only to eventually move back to the same location. While they may shift from one spot to another, they ultimately do not leave the park. As for the graffiti, Keith reports that the park consistently removes it when it appears. However, in many instances, it reappears the very next day. We typically see the highest volume of graffiti activity during holiday weekends. Finally Keith notes that increased patrols during late evening and early morning hours would certainly be helpful, particularly over holiday weekends when activity tends to spike. Continued coordination and enforcement presence will be important to deter both encampment reestablishment and vandalism. The park and the Park Advisory Board has provided notification to 11th District Council Office, LAPD, and Park Rangers to assist in addressing these issues.

Finally, for families who enjoy the children's playground area, the park is scheduled to receive a new shipment of sand. The sand level in the area is low and the new sand will definitely enhance the enjoyment of the play area and using the play structures.

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

Sylvan's & Phillip's
Drapes & Blinds
Family Owned and Operated Since 1965
ROMAN SHADES • MINI & WOOD BLINDS
VERTICAL BLINDS • CORNICE BOXES
BAMBOOS • DUETTES
STEVE SENIT
Owner
(310) 391-0414
Fax (310) 391-9617 www.sylvansdrapesandblinds.com
12623 W. Washington Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90066

Little Red Truck
Plumbing

Dennis Smith
Lic. #798285
Main 310 392 5062
Cell 310 995 5062



Westdale Villager Ads

Advertise in the Westdale Villager

Business card for \$45
1/4 Page ad for \$125
1/2 Page ad for \$250
*Run ads in 4 issues
and the 4th is free!

Contact Margie at:
MPT@RWTIA.COM

Support Our Advertisers!
Tell them you saw their ad
in the villager