

Westside Village News & Views



DWP giving demonstration on earthquake safety and downed power lines.

You are invited to the Westside Village Homeowners Association 2015 Annual Meeting

**Thursday, February 26, 2015
St. John's Presbyterian Church
Fellowship Hall**

Southwest corner of National and Military
All Westside Village Residents are welcome.

Dessert and coffee will be served

Program:

6:00 Registration, dessert and coffee

6:30 WVHA Business Meeting
Reports by President and Treasurer and
Election of Officers and Directors

Comments by
LAPD Senior Lead Officer
Juan Ceja

Questions and Answers for
Council Member Paul Koretz,
Assistant District Attorney Claudia Martin
and our Neighborhood Watch team

8:30 Closing remarks

President's Message

By Brian Considine, President of the WVHA

It gives me great pleasure to write to invite you to our Annual Meeting, which will be held in the Community Room of St. John's Church on Thursday, February 26. We will have coffee and cookies as usual at 6:00 p.m. followed by the meeting at 6:30. I can't announce this meeting without recognizing the incredible hospitality and generosity of Rev. Craig and the entire community of St. John's. They have been welcoming our group to the church for many years and its no exaggeration to say that this neighborhood would have a much more difficult time building our sense of community without their warm welcome over the years.

We know that no one likes a meeting that drags on, so we will move through the agenda with a sense of purpose. I will introduce the speakers and give you an overview of what we have been doing since our last meeting and our Treasurer, Bill Pyne will review our finances. As you all know, we have been focusing on emergency preparedness and security this year and we will continue with that theme at the Annual Meeting. As always, City Councilman Paul Koretz

will address the meeting and we have also invited Assistant District Attorney Claudia Martin, who has been working with Board member Mindy Pruitt on the very challenging and distressing issue of people living in their Recreational Vehicles both on Sepulveda Blvd., but also on the streets bordering Clover Avenue Elementary School. Both Asst. DA Martin and Mindy have devoted a great deal of time to this issue and a major step forward is just around the corner. We will also have a report from our Neighborhood Watch team of David Graue and Guita Farin. Board Member Valerie Fontaine will speak about upcoming Emergency Preparedness events and Bill Koontz, President of the Mar Vista Community Council will brief us on their activities.

It has been a busy year for all of us, most of the news very positive, but unfortunately there has been a substantial increase in crime in the neighborhood. We will cover it all in rapid succession. I very much hope that you will join us to be part of the work that we have been doing on your behalf.

Transportation & Development Update

By Ken Alpern

Westside Village is near two construction zones—the Expo Line and the 405 widening project. Some of you have been impacted by temporary road and freeway closures, but construction for both projects will be finished over the course of the next few months (believe it or not!)

Landscaping and minor construction projects will be required after the major construction for the freeway and light rail projects, but most of the major work is behind us. The carpool lanes, both north- and south-bound, on the 405 freeway are completed and available for use, but fine-tuning of the many off- and on-ramps is still ongoing (mainly at night). Occasional ramp closures or partial freeway closures will occur, but most of the components of the projects—including the bridges are 100% complete. For more details, visit <http://www.metro.net/projects/I-405/>

The Expo Line (Phase 2 from Culver City to Santa Monica) is approximately 80-90% completed. Landscaping will occur, but the Expo Line Construction Authority will transfer this line to Metro for operations in the middle of this year, with Metro then starting operational testing throughout the end of the year. It must be remembered that train testing requires several months at least, so it is anticipated that the Expo Line will open for passengers in early 2016. More information can be found at the Expo Line Construction Authority website at <http://www.buildexpo.org/>

After months of vigorous efforts to stop the over-development of the land parcel next to the Exposition/Sepulveda station (the “Casden Project”), Westside Village Homeowners Association along with other neighboring associations were successful in stopping this plan! This original plan was seen as too large and unable to achieve traffic and environmental mitigations. The Casden development team disbanded after a dramatically-reduced version was approved by the City, because the new version did not meet the approval of the project’s financial backers. The land use/zoning/property rights are up for sale to other potential developers, and at this time there is no known plan for the property.

Your Westside Village Homeowners Association will continue its ongoing efforts to represent the rights and protect the future of our neighborhood.

westsidevillage.org

By Bill Pyne

Haven’t been to the Westside Village website in a while? It’s time to take another look!

In 2014 your WVHA board updated the site to make it the go-to place for information about Westside Village.

You will find important resources like construction updates, local contacts, and preparedness information. You can read about the WVHA mission, find out about the board of directors, and even volunteer to help. All of our newsletters can be downloaded from

Now you can pay membership dues online! Go to www.westsidevillage.org and click on “About Us” and choose “Membership”



the site and now you can pay your annual dues—just \$20.00 per household—or make a contribution with your credit card (welcome to the 21st century!).

As we progress, we know that the website will contribute to the improvement of our organization and help to make the Westside Village an even better place to live!

Remembering a Treasured Treasurer

By Jeanne Parker

Cal Knecht died on January 28, 2015. A Westside Village resident for many years, Cal recently resided in Cherry Valley, California to be close to his daughter, Laura Cox and family. He spent years as a WVHA board member and treasurer. In addition, Cal was a volunteer tutor at Charnock Road School, served as a Neighborhood Watch Block Captain and delivered meals as a “Meals On Wheels” volunteer. He was an Army Air Corps veteran of World War II. Cal would have been 94 on February 11, after honorably serving his family, country and community. He was particularly active in keeping the southwest corner of Westside Village “Graffiti Free.”

Another Benefit for WVHA Members!

Do you know how to turn off your utilities in the event of an earthquake? After a big temblor, you might need to shut off your water, gas, or electricity to prevent a fire or flood.

As an added benefit of Westside Village Homeowners Association dues-paying membership, Scott McCausland, a CERT-trained resident of Westside Village and owner of McCausland Construction and Design, will visit your home and show you where your utilities shut-offs are located and how to operate them safely—free of charge.

To request this FREE benefit, contact Scott at:

C. Scott McCausland
Owner & Construction Project Manager
McCausland Construction & Design
CA License B 464627
2554 Lincoln Blvd. #1043, Marina del Rey, CA 90291
310-962-3075 mobile
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If you haven't yet paid your annual dues, an envelope is attached to this newsletter for your convenience or better yet, pay online.

A big thank you to Scott McCausland!

Earthquake

WVHA Joins Preparedness Coalition

Last Fall, Westside Village Homeowners Association joined forces with other community and faith-based organizations in the Palms Emergency Preparedness Coalition (PepC). The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health selected Palms to be part of a three-year pilot disaster response project. It designated St. Mary of Palms Church as the non-profit organization to receive \$15,000 for



Emergency supplies for Westside Village.

preparedness and recovery efforts throughout the 90034 zip code area. In addition to the WVHA, Father Vincent Shamo from the Church reached out to representatives from the IMAN (Iranian-American Muslim Association of North America) Cultural Center; Adat Shalom; representatives of Palms, Mar Vista, and South Robertson Neighborhood Councils; and other interested community members to form the coalition to spend the funds and conduct preparedness programs.

Last year, the PepC Board bought emergency supplies which were distributed to three storage locations within the 90034 area. We were very fortunate in having Rabbi Berk and the community of Adat Shalom agree to store our share of the supplies on the grounds of the synagogue at National and Westwood

Blvds. The other two thirds of these supplies are split between storage at St. Mary of Palms Church just south of Exposition on Watseka and the IMAN Center on Motor, north of Palms.

Seven refuse-type bins were moved to the synagogue in November and we plan to buy an outdoor storage shed large enough to accommodate additional supplies paid for by the WVHA. Please note that these supplies are intended to supplement, not substitute for, individual household preparedness kits! In addition to organizing training and neighborhood awareness, we are in the process of writing a memo of understanding for the use of these supplies to clarify issues such as what qualifies as an emergency.

This is a promising new initiative to which we are new members, but we are optimistic that it will evolve into a positive force within our community.

For additional information, including details of an upcoming 2-hour Disaster Awareness Course taught by the LAFD planned for this Spring, visit the WV website at www.WestsideVillage.org.

If you would like more information about PepC, email pepc034@gmail.com or westsidevillagentp@gmail.com

Westside Village Disaster Preparedness

In the event of a major earthquake or other disaster, first responders such as the fire department, police, and ambulances will be overwhelmed. We may be on our own for days or weeks, and will need to rely on ourselves and our neighbors cope with the aftermath. With that in mind, last year, the Westside Village Homeowners Association began actively promoting disaster preparedness in our neighborhood.

In early August, all Westside Village homes received a special newsletter devoted entirely to earthquake readiness. And, on August 21, 2014, approximately 140 Westside Village residents, disaster planning specialists, vendors, public utility workers, and government representatives gathered in Fellowship Hall of St. John's Presbyterian Church for the first Westside Village Disaster Preparedness Fair sponsored by the Westside Village Homeowners Association.

Preparedness

At the Preparedness Fair, both before and after the main program, attendees visited tables staffed by disaster preparedness vendors including SOS Survival Products of Van Nuys, Safe N Ready of Pasadena, and a Culver City military surplus store simply called The Surplus Store. The Department of Water & Power presented a downed power line display which was a real crowd pleaser! Additional public agency participation included the L.A. County Department of Public Health, the L.A. Emergency Management Department, and CERT/NTP (Community Emergency Response Team/Neighborhood Team Program) under the auspices of the LA Fire Department.

Program speakers included individuals from varying backgrounds with common ties to disaster preparedness.

- *David Graue, co-captain of the Westside Village Neighborhood Watch, encouraged residents to join Nextdoor.com as an additional way to connect and communicate with neighbors.*
- *John Darnell, field deputy for Councilmember Paul Koretz, spoke of the importance of disaster preparedness in the community. John is an active CERT member whose duties for the Councilmember include disaster preparedness issues.*
- *CERT Battalion 18 Coordinator Larry Bogatz explained the Community Emergency Response Team training program and encouraged participation. He also presented the Neighborhood Team Program which allows residents—CERT trained and not—to work together on teams at the local level. Several veteran members of CERT/NTP joined Larry at the event sporting their CERT gear. By the conclusion of the evening, at least 30 attendees signed up to learn more about CERT training, and more indicated interest in the Neighborhood Team Program.*
- *The final speaker, Keith Harrison from the City's Emergency Management Department, presented the "5 Steps to Neighborhood Preparedness Plan" that is aggressively rolling out around the city. Many attendees also signed up to participate in Westside Village's disaster preparedness efforts.*

Just a few days after the Westside Village Preparedness Fair, a major earthquake hit Northern

California, which further underscored the urgency of preparedness in our neighborhood. To follow up on the Preparedness Fair, on October 7th, more than 35 of Westside Village's community leaders, including Neighborhood Watch block captains, CERT-trained residents, Westside Village Homeowners Association Board members, and concerned neighbors met at the Palms-Rancho Library to learn how to implement a simple 5-step plan to organize preparedness teams on their blocks.

Keith Harrison, whose career spans over 25 years of disaster planning and response on the national, state, and local levels, showed us a short film about the planning process, and answered our questions about how to implement it in Westside Village. Larry Bogatz, CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Battalion 18 Coordinator, discussed how, once we've organized our teams, we can get further free training from the Fire Department through the CERT course or, in smaller doses, through NTP (the Neighborhood Team Program).

Since then, several attendees have held well-attended organizational meetings on their blocks—and you can, too. Below is information you can use to implement disaster organization on your block:

www.5steps.la has everything you need to host a planning meeting on your block, including a link to the video we watched during the program, an invitation template, a script for you to use at your organizational meeting, a sample disaster plan, and a template for you to create a plan for your block.

<http://www.lacounty.gov/wps/portal/alertla> to register your cell phone number, Voice over IP phone number, and e-mail address with the Alert LA County Emergency Mass Notification System.

<http://www.shakeout.org/> a comprehensive resource for disaster preparedness information.

www.cert-la.com and www.ntp-la.com for free preparedness training. The current CERT training began Tuesday, 1/6/15, for seven weeks at Fire Station 59, 11505 W. Olympic Blvd. (just west of Sawtelle). Approximately half of the 45 enrollees are Westside Village residents. For the schedule of future trainings and to sign up, see **www.cert-la.com**.

Be Prepared

www.nextdoor.com This is a great way to connect with your neighbors and your disaster preparedness team. If you haven't done so already, sign up and invite everyone on your block and all your friends in Westside Village to do so, as well. The more people participate, the more effective it is as a communication tool.

<http://www.westsidevillage.org/> Westside Village Homeowners Association website for news and information about what's happening in Westside Village.

Please let the Westside Village Homeowners Association Board how we can assist you in your neighborhood disaster preparedness efforts.

New Year's Resolution: Assembling Your Earthquake Kit in Manageable Chunks

Putting together an earthquake preparedness kit can seem like a daunting task. When you see the list of recommended items, it looks huge. There's an easier way to go about it: a little bit at a time.

The American Red Cross has put together "21 Weeks to Prepare", a weekly shopping list to help households assemble a comprehensive emergency preparedness kit. Each week you are given a short list of items to purchase or gather from your home for your kit. When it's broken down into smaller, affordable chunks, it's a manageable task. And there's no need to put it off any longer. Why not make it one of your New Year's resolutions?

Follow this easy plan printed on the next page.

NEXT PREPAREDNESS EVENT Emergency Communications: Our Phones Are Out, Now What?

In a regional emergency such as an earthquake, our communications systems—cell phones, land lines, and Internet—likely will fail. If it's a big earthquake, experts tell us communications and power could be out for 10 days or more. As we survey our homes and neighborhood for casualties and damage, how can we

communicate with members of our neighborhood disaster response team? Although they have limited range, as an addition to dispatching runners, skateboarders, and bicyclists with handwritten notes, hand-held two-way radios may help and are an important part of your family's disaster preparedness kit.

FRS (Family Radio Service) radios, which are small, portable hand-held devices that function similar to walkie-talkies, work well for short range communication. Families often use them to communicate in crowded shopping malls, theme parks, and special events, but they are useful in emergency situations, too. Anyone who uses a mobile phone can, with a little training and practice (and fresh batteries), become a good FRS radio communicator.

Westside Village Homeowners Association is planning a training session to show you how to use your FRS radio and we'll practice our skills in a simulated emergency drill. We'll walk through the neighborhood with our radios to test their range. We'll discover where we have transmission problems and where our radios work the best so we can plan accordingly.

Please purchase FRS radios and batteries for your family's earthquake kit and bring them to our

**Emergency Communications Training:
Saturday, March 14, 2015, 10:00 am to noon**

Meet near the flagpole in front of Palms Middle School, 10860 Woodbine Street, between Kelton and Glendon

Buying Your FRS radio

Most two-way radios run on standard AA or AAA batteries; others come with their own rechargeable battery packs. A few can accommodate either. Any two-way radios broadcasting on the same frequency and supporting the same channels will work together. To get full use of your radio's other features, however, you'll need another radio with the same features. Thus, it makes sense to buy in pairs, and most come packaged that way. You can get them at most hardware and sporting goods stores, disaster suppliers, and general merchandise stores, as well as online. Both Motorola and Midland have a selection of



Weeks to prepare

Weekly shopping list based on a family of 4

Week 1 Tour your home to gather items you already have. Place all items in a waterproof bag or container before packing in kit. Check off each item as you go. ___ A sturdy, easy-to-carry container to hold items (backpack, duffle bag or large tote) ___ A set of clothes and sturdy shoes for each family member ___ Copies of important papers (birth certificates, ID, insurance policies, passports, home lease/deed, etc.) ___ A 3-day supply of your medications ___ A current list of family phone numbers and e-mails including someone who can be reached if local lines are down ___ A map (mark an evacuation route on it from your local area) ___ Extra cash in small bills ___ Spare keys for house and car ___ Spare glasses or contacts and solution ___ Books or toys				
Week 2 ___ 1 gallon water ___ 1 jar peanut butter ___ 1 box crackers ___ 2 boxes energy bars ___ weather radio \$1.75*	Week 3 ___ 1 gallon water ___ 2 cans meat/fish ___ 2 cans fruit/veggies ___ manual can opener ___ weather radio \$1.75*	Week 4 ___ 1 gallon water ___ 1 bottle juice ___ 1 pkg hand sanitizer ___ 1 antibacterial soap ___ weather radio \$1.75*	Week 5 ___ 1 gallon water ___ 1 liquid dish soap ___ 2 rolls toilet paper ___ 1 box facial tissues ___ weather radio \$1.75*	Week 6 ___ 1 gallon water ___ first aid kit & guide ___ latex gloves ___ tweezers ___ weather radio \$1.75*
Week 7 ___ thermometer ___ allergy/pain reliever in childproof container ___ sunscreen ___ weather radio \$1.75*	Week 8 ___ 1 gallon water ___ feminine supplies ___ comb & brush ___ 1 potted meat ___ weather radio \$1.75*	Week 9 ___ towels & washcloths ___ toothbrushes & paste ___ shampoo, bar soap ___ deodorant ___ weather radio \$1.75*	Week 10 ___ umbrella/slicker ___ scarf ___ winter gloves ___ 1 bottle juice ___ weather radio \$1.75*	Week 11 ___ 1 gallon water ___ 1 pkg energy snacks ___ emergency blanket ___ matches ___ weather radio \$1.75*
Week 12 ___ flashlight ___ batteries ___ cotton rope ___ 1 bottle juice ___ weather radio \$1.75*	Week 13 ___ 1 gallon water ___ screwdriver ___ utility knife ___ pliers ___ weather radio \$1.75*	Week 14 ___ 2 cans fruit/veggies ___ 1 pkg eating utensils ___ 1 pkg plastic cups ___ paper towels/napkins ___ weather radio \$1.75*	Week 15 ___ pet food & dishes ___ extra water ___ leash ___ litter pan/litter ___ weather radio \$1.75*	Week 16 ___ 1 gallon water ___ 2 cans meat/fish ___ cell phone & charger ___ dried fruits and nuts ___ weather radio \$1.75*
Week 17 ___ 1 gallon water ___ extra flashlight ___ extra batteries for radio & flashlight ___ 1 bottle juice ___ weather radio \$1.75*	Week 18 ___ 1 gallon water ___ work gloves ___ dust masks ___ chlorine bleach ___ garbage bags & ties ___ weather radio \$1.75*	Week 19 ___ 1 gallon water ___ plastic sheeting ___ plastic bucket & lid ___ disinfectant ___ notepad & pen ___ weather radio \$1.75*	Week 20 ___ 2 boxes dry cereal ___ box graham crackers ___ whistle ___ duct tape ___ 1 pkg energy snacks ___ weather radio \$1.75*	Week 21 ___ comfort foods ___ scissors ___ extra blankets ___ small pillows ___ water container ___ weather radio \$1.75*

*Save \$1.75 a week and purchase your weather radio at the end of 21 weeks.

Customize your kit for your family.

For Baby: baby food, formula, bottles, diapers, extra water for formula and washing bottles

For Seniors: oxygen, walker, adult diapers, hearing aid with extra batteries and extra medications

For Pets: carrier, medicines, inoculation and health records, ID tags, photo of you with your pet(s)

For Children: toys, travel games, extra batteries, stuffed animal, cards, crayons, paper, books

Daylight Savings Time: When you change your clocks, check your kit! Replace expired food, medicine and batteries. Check clothing for fit and seasons. Also change smoke and carbon monoxide detector batteries.

For more preparedness tips, visit redcross.org.

moderately-priced models, as do several other brands.

Handheld radios claim a range of up to a few miles based on transmission in optimal conditions. This means having an unobstructed line of sight between you and another radio operator, preferably from a high vantage point in good weather. Real-world conditions, though, usually aren't optimal, and the range of a two-way radio is commonly much less than the maximum possible. FRS radios generally work well within a radius of a few blocks, and sometimes further if you're in a good area and not surrounded by metal or concrete. Under normal conditions, with line of sight blocked by some buildings or trees, FRS radios have an actual range of about one-third to one mile.

NOTE: FRS radio operators don't require a license but users of similar, more powerful, GMRS two-way radios must have an FCC (Federal Communications Commission)-issued license. Be aware of the distinction when you buy your radios. Some devices are marketed as "FRS/GMRS" or "dual-service devices" but, if you operate such a radio exclusively under FRS rules, you don't need a license.

Build Community Through Nextdoor.com

A Message from David Graue, Co-Captain of Westside Village Neighborhood Watch

Part of being prepared involves having a plan for yourself and your family. However, beyond that it involves the neighbors around you and our community as a whole as we will need to rely on each other after a disaster. This means we need to build a strong sense of community in Westside Village. We need to get to know each other and we each have something to offer!

Events like the Westside Village Disaster Preparedness Fair and follow-up meetings are a great way to get to know people in our neighborhood and reconnect with those we haven't seen in a while. But these happen too infrequently to really develop that community bond. Longtime residents have talked about the strong sense of community those who have lived in Westside Village for 25 years or more used to have. But times have changed and we don't seem to know our neighbors like we used to. So we are hoping to expand our communication opportunities for the residents of Westside Village.

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At the Preparedness Fair, I gave a presentation on a fast-growing private social networking site for the neighborhood called Nextdoor. Nextdoor is the free social networking site that is organized by neighborhood. This means only you and your neighbors that have joined can see what information is shared. This site can be used by you to meet your neighbors, borrow a ladder, find a trusted handyman, find your lost pet, neighborhood watch, get recommendations, post events, get updates from City of LA, etc. The opportunities to connect with our community are endless...it just needs people to join.

The more that join the more effective it will be. So, please click on this link below and sign up today to help us re-build that strong sense of community Westside Village once had back in the day—then invite your neighbors!

<http://nextdoor.com>



Please let us know what you think.

If you wish to contribute to News and Views, please email us at westsidevillageboard@yahoo.com. Visit us at www.westsidevillage.org

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Our newsletter is written and produced by volunteers.

Roberta Schiller – editor

Donald Elliott – design and production

Articles written by Westside Village residents.

Distribution by Westside Village Block Captains.

If you are interested in submitting an article please reply to westsidevillageboard@yahoo.com

All articles are subject to acceptance and editing.