

Westside Village News & Views



Valerie Fontaine speaking at our
Second Annual Preparedness Fair

You are invited to the Westside Village Homeowners Association 2016 Annual Meeting

**Thursday, February 25, 2016
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,
and our Neighborhood Watch team

8:30 Closing remarks

President's Message

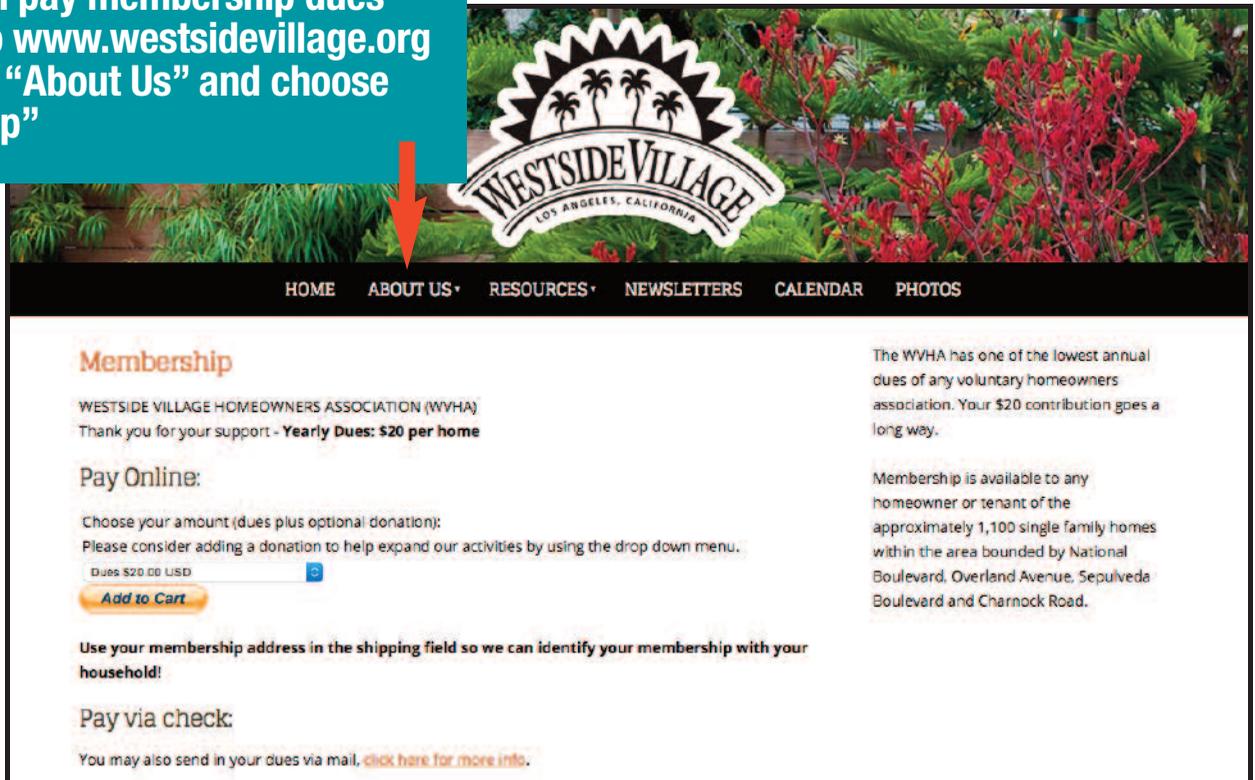
By Brian Considine, President of the WVHA

Once again, I am pleased to invite members of our community to the WVHA's Annual Meeting, which will take place on Thursday, February 25 in the Community Hall at St. John's Church at the corner of Military Ave. and National Blvd. We will have coffee and cookies as usual at 6:00 p.m. followed by the meeting at 6:30. As in past years, I want to thank Rev. Steven Craig and the 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 continuing warm welcome.

We will once again make a concerted effort to move the meeting along expeditiously so that we can cover all of the agenda and leave some time for questions. I will give you an overview of what we have been doing since last year's meeting and our Treasurer, Bill Pyne will review our finances before introducing the speakers. 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 attend for questions.

We will also discuss some new topics to which we are

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



WESTSIDE VILLAGE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION (WVHA)
Thank you for your support - **Yearly Dues: \$20 per home**

Pay Online:

Choose your amount (dues plus optional donation):
Please consider adding a donation to help expand our activities by using the drop down menu.

Dues \$20.00 USD

Add to Cart

Use your membership address in the shipping field so we can identify your membership with your household!

Pay via check:
You may also send in your dues via mail, [click here for more info.](#)

The WVHA has one of the lowest annual dues of any voluntary homeowners association. Your \$20 contribution goes a long way.

Membership is available to any homeowner or tenant of the approximately 1,100 single family homes within the area bounded by National Boulevard, Overland Avenue, Sepulveda Boulevard and Charnock Road.

westsidevillage.org

Don't like writing checks? You can pay your annual dues by credit or debit card on our website at <http://www.westsidevillage.org>

turning our attention, such as Bike Safety, upcoming changes at the Westside Pavilion, the imminent addition of the Expo Line to our neighborhood and possible changes at 3115 South Sepulveda and the Hagens Market at the corner of Sepulveda and Palms.

I want to remind you, the members that, at each Annual meeting, the Board of the Association is looking for members to help further the mission of the Association. There are several ways in which you could lend your support to our efforts to make the Westside Village a safer and better place to live. We always have a number of projects going, such as Emergency Preparedness, so we would be grateful for volunteers to help with this work. We also need new Board members. The term is two years and it involves approximately ten meetings per year with some additional work on our initiatives. Our Newsletters are distributed to your homes by Block Captains and ideally, there should be one for each block. Block Captains distribute several newsletters per year on their blocks only, so the commitment is not onerous.

We are currently lacking Block Captains for the following blocks:

3000-3100 Bentley

11101 Clover

**3000 – 3100 Greenfield &
10949 & 10969 Queensland**

3400 Kelton

**10800 Kingsland, 3200 Ellenda and
1 on Ellenda Place**

10800 Lawler

10800 Westminster

3500 Veteran

I look very forward to seeing all our members at the meeting on February 25 so that, together, we can uphold and even improve the quality of life in the Westside Village.

Bike Safety

By Brian Considine

The newest initiative of the Board of the WVHA is to disseminate information and training on the issue of bike safety for both children and adults. As the traffic in West LA becomes more and more congested, many of us are making an effort to leave our cars at home in favor of alternative transportation such as the Expo Line, buses, walking and biking. It is our intention to organize one or more short courses on bike safety during 2016, but in the meantime, we want to disseminate some helpful information on transportation by bicycle in Los Angeles. Happily, the city government has made a commitment to creating more bike lanes and paths and to increasing motorists' awareness of the need to share the road with cyclists so that their safety is not compromised.

The following are a few of the many websites that have valuable information for cyclists:

From the LADOT:

http://www.bicyclela.org/maps_main.htm

This is an encyclopedic collection of information for cyclists that includes, maps, cycling resources, cycle parking, cycling and transport, the city's cycling program including current and future bike-friendly projects and perhaps most important: Safety, Etiquette and the Law. This last section is an in-depth treatment of motor vehicle code and other laws that apply to cyclists:

The following is an abbreviated summary of both the California Vehicle Code and the Los Angeles Municipal Code:

- *Bicyclist Rights (CVC 21200)* Bicyclists have all the rights and responsibilities of vehicle drivers.
- *Equipment (CVC 21202 and 21204)* Bicycles must be equipped with at least a brake which allows operators to execute to a wheelskid on dry, level, clean pavement. Handlebars must not be higher than the rider's shoulders. Bicycles must be small enough for the rider to stop, support it with one foot on the ground, and restart safely. At night bicycles must be equipped with a white headlight or white light attached to the rider and visible from the front. Bicycles must also have a rear red reflector and white or yellow pedal reflectors.

- *Use of the Roadway (CVC 21202)* Bicycles traveling slower than the normal speed of traffic must ride as close to the right side of the road as practicable except: when passing, preparing for a left turn, to avoid hazards and dangerous conditions or if the lane is too narrow.
- *Motorized Bicycles (CVC 21207.5)* Motorized bicycles may not be used on trails, bike paths, or lanes.
- *Bicycle Lane Use (CVC 21208)* Bicyclists traveling slower than traffic must use bike lanes except when making a left turn, passing, or avoiding hazardous conditions.
- *Helmets (CVC 21212)* Bicyclists and passengers under age 18 must wear an ANSI or Snell approved helmet when a passenger or riding upon a bicycle.
- *Direction of Travel (CVC 21650)* Bicyclist must travel on the right side of the roadway in the direction of traffic.
- *Head Phones (CVC 27400)* Bicyclists may not wear earplugs in both ears or a headset covering both ears, except hearing aids.

City of Los Angeles Code References

Applicable to Bicycles:

- *Bicycle Licenses Required (LAMC 26.01)* Ordinance repealed on June 2, 2009. Bicycle licenses are no longer required in the City of Los Angeles. Please carry identification when riding a bicycle and be sure children have identification as well in the form of an identification bracelet, sticker in their helmet, or bicycle registration with a private firm.
- *Off-Street Parking and Shower Requirement (LAMC 12.221A16)* Provides for the inclusion of bicycle parking and employee showers in the new buildings 10,000 square feet or more.
- *Sidewalk Riding (LAMC 56.15)* Prohibits the riding of bicycles (or other human power devices) on sidewalks (bikeways or boardwalks) with a willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property.

Bike Safety for children:

<http://penfieldbuildingblocks.org/2013/10/bike-safety/>

This site, posted by the Los Angeles Bicycle Coalition has a great deal of information about bike related courses, initiatives, and tips for requesting that unsafe situations be corrected by the city.

Another great site that has a great deal of information is: <http://la-bike.org/about> Here you will find biking classes, safety tips <http://la-bike.org/resources/safe-biking-tips> and a great deal more. There are local sub-groups and the nearest to us is: <http://la-bike.org/SantaMonicaSpoke> This site is well worth a visit.

These are just a few of the many resources available to us on the internet. Of particular interest is that each of them gives advice and an address for those who want to report problems or propose initiatives to make biking in West LA safer. We are just beginning this project, so we will be bringing you more information as the year progresses.

2016 – A Big Year For Transportation and Planning

By Ken Alpern

This has been many years in the planning, but the Expo Line will be coming to the Westside! We will have three Expo Line stations to serve Westside Villagers: Exposition/Sepulveda, Exposition/Westwood, and National/Palms. There will be



*The entrance to the Palms Expo Line station.
Photo from Metro.*

parking at Exposition/Sepulveda, but there are enough buses, bicycle and even pedestrian access that cars may not be needed to reach the Expo Line.

On January 15th, 2016 the Expo Line Authority

handed over control over Phase II of the Expo Line (from Culver City to Santa Monica) to Metro. An opening ceremony will occur within the next few weeks, and “pre-revenue service” (which is when trains are run to operate tests and to troubleshoot problems, but passengers will not ride them yet) will occur shortly thereafter.

So expect to see trains, but don't expect to ride them until the late spring/early summer. When they open for revenue service, you will have the option to access Santa Monica, Long Beach, Downtown, and Pasadena (and pretty much the whole county) by rail and transit....and a Metro Rail access to LAX is planned to occur in 2022-2024.

Your Westside Village Homeowners Association helped fight against parking at the Westwood station because we didn't want overflow commuters parking and clogging our neighborhood, but is still fighting for more parking at the Exposition station because it is adjacent to a commercial corridor. We will fight to keep our neighborhood preserved while encouraging safe and easy access to the Expo Line.

Changes will occur over the next 2-3 years at Westside Pavilion Mall, which will create a parking structure in the currently open parking lot east of Westwood Blvd. and change the mall to an roofless, open mall with big retail stores to serve the neighbors and region. Contrary to any past rumors or plans, there is NO Target planned for that mall. Macy's will stay, and owns the parcel at the east end of the mall, as will the Landmark Theater.

The proposed Casden Sepulveda project adjacent to the Exposition/Sepulveda Expo Line station is now on hold, as the landowner plans to sell the property to a new developer. The WVHA and the entire Westside vigorously fought that project, and it's hoped that the next developer will work more with the neighbors.

The LADOT and City Planning will hold open houses to address transportation and planning policies and zoning for the Coastal Transportation Corridor Specific Plan and West Los Angeles Improvement and Mitigation Specific Plan. Translated into English, this will determine the size, layout, and mobility of the Westside for years to come. Please e-mail



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westside2@fehrandpeers.com if you have any input or questions.

Part of this process will be to determine the nature, size, and height of buildings on Pico and Sepulveda Blvds. as the City grapples with issues of Neighborhood Preservation, Affordable Housing, and Transit-Oriented Development. The Expo Line and a lack of affordable housing might increase residential construction, but we don't want our neighborhood and region transformed and destroyed.

There will two ballot measures potentially on the November 2016 ballot:

- 1) *Metro is weighing a measure which would extend and expand sales tax hikes to pay for transportation projects (roads, a Metro/LAX connection, a Sepulveda Pass Subway to connect the Westside to the Valley).*
- 2) *The AIDS Healthcare Foundation and Neighborhood Councils are teaming up with Budget and Planning advocates to get enough signatures to qualify a Neighborhood Integrity Initiative for the ballot. This initiative, if passed, would establish a moratorium of up to two years for any development project large enough to require a City Council vote, and to make it more difficult for projects to be built without conforming to the City's General Plan.*

The Westside Village Homeowners Association and the Mar Vista Community Council (our neighborhood council) will fight for better mobility, an improved environment, and a neighborhood we can all be proud of and continue to call our cherished home.

Second Annual Preparedness Fair

By Valerie Fontaine

Westside Village's Second Annual Preparedness Fair, held October 1, 2015 at St. John's Presbyterian Church, was another great success. Several speakers presented the specifics of what to have and do before, during, and after an earthquake.

Each of the approximately 100 attendees received the "Los Angeles County Emergency Survival Guide" <http://lacoa.org/pdf/emergencysurvivalguide-lowres.pdf> packed with usable information, worksheets, and checklists. In addition, they could pick up a variety of educational materials at resource tables staffed by representatives from LA Department of Public Safety; Palms Emergency Preparedness Coalition (PepC), Palms Middle School Student Emergency Preparedness Leaders; and Community Emergency Response Team/Neighborhood Team Program (CERT/NTP) volunteers.

Attendees also had the opportunity to add to their disaster preparedness kits by purchasing supplies brought by The Surplus Store, a great source of readiness products located at Venice and Motor.

Following an overview by WVHA board member and preparedness advocate Valerie Fontaine, CERT Battalion Coordinator Larry Bogatz spoke about readiness training and participation opportunities on a community level. Lisa Gillette, Sue Hannan, and Andy Moss, neighbors from the 3200-3300 block of Greenfield, shared how they used the 5 Steps LA Toolkit <http://5steps.la/5-step-toolkit/> to organize their block for disaster response and offered to assist residents on other blocks to do the same. Contact westsidevillagentp@gmail.com for more information and to get in touch with them.

Ricky Galan, who grew up in Westside Village and is a long time employee of Sempra Utilities (Gas Company), and David Hanson and John “Blondey” Blondeel-Timmerman from the DWP led a lively discussion and answered many of our questions about utilities safety in disaster. We learned to how to turn off gas, water, and electricity if necessary following an earthquake and to stay away from ANY down power line so as not to have “a very bad day”, as David Hanson put it.

Fabulous door prizes—earthquake preparedness kits and supplies—were donated by PepC, Palms Emergency Preparedness Coalition of which WVHA is a part. Our LAPD Senior Lead Officer, Juan Ceja, drew tickets for the winners so, as he joked, there wouldn't be a riot since everyone wanted to win!

When disaster strikes, police, fire, and ambulance services most likely won't be available to respond immediately to emergencies in Westside Village. So, WE must be ready to respond. Continuing preparedness education and skills training are important steps in our community's preparation efforts.

As a service to our neighborhood, your Westside Village Homeowner's Association will continue to provide disaster preparedness programs. Check out our website at <http://www.westsidevillage.org/> for upcoming events.

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
310-815-9899 office
mccauslandconstruction.com

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!

Hands-On First Aid Training

Did you know that cuts and broken bones are the most common injuries suffered during an earthquake? Since first responders will be overwhelmed in a disaster situation, are you ready to handle these wounds on your own?

In the evening of February 4, 2016, WVHA presented a practical training session as a follow-up to last August's Disaster First Aid program. Westside Village residents gathered in the meeting room at the Palms-Rancho branch of the Los Angeles Public Library where Marci Sandell, a retired EMT

(Emergency Medical Technician) reviewed a few first aid basics and led us in a hands-on bandaging and splinting workshop.

We practiced on each other, and took turns being both patient and care-giver, so everyone had a chance to apply these skills. We also learned how we can use materials close at hand to bandage and splint during an emergency as well as which supplies to add to our disaster preparedness gear and our home or office first aid kits.

If you want to receive information about upcoming preparedness programs, email Westsidevillagentp@gmail.com to be added to the mailing list. Or, log onto the WVHA website at www.westsidevillage.org for updates.

PepC Update

As reported in a previous newsletter, Westside Village Homeowners Association joined forces with other community and faith-based organizations to form the Palms Emergency Preparedness Coalition (PepC). PepC's mission is to assist with emergency preparedness in Palms through public awareness, public education, and disaster planning. Last year, PepC offered preparedness courses and distributed educational materials at several community fairs and gatherings.

With funding supplied by a grant from the United States Centers for Disease Control, administered by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health through the Los Angeles County Disaster Resilience Project, PepC purchased emergency supplies and water. These supplies are stored at "Refuge Centers" at the IMAN Cultural Center on Motor Avenue, Adat Shalom at National and Westwood, Sikh Dharma near Pico and Robertson, and St. Mary in Palms Episcopal Church on Watsetka. They will be made available to the public at each of these locations during an emergency. Please note that these supplies are intended to supplement, not substitute for, individual household preparedness kits!

In Westside Village, PepC located seven rolling refuse-type bins full of supplies at Adat Shalom in November 2014, and added emergency water in August 2016. We plan to buy an outdoor storage shed

large enough for those plus additional supplies paid for by the WVHA.

PepC meets monthly at the IMAN Center in Palms, 3376 Motor Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90034, at 7PM. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. You also can "like" and follow PepC on Facebook: facebook.com/PepC90034.

To receive updates on PepC meetings, programs and activities, e-mail: pepc034@gmail.com or contact westsidevillagentp@gmail.com.



Please let us know what you think.

If you wish to contribute to News and Views, please email us at board@westsidevillage.org
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 board@westsidevillage.org
All articles are subject to acceptance and editing.*

Free Disaster Preparedness Training

In a disaster situation, police, fire, and ambulance services will be overwhelmed and won't be available immediately to respond to emergencies in Westside Village. We must be ready to help ourselves. CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training prepares you to help yourself, your family and your neighborhood in the event of an emergency.

CERT classes, taught by the LA Fire Department, are FREE. They are open to everyone over 18, including those who took the course previously and want to refresh their skills.

You will learn to:

- prepare your home and family for emergencies;
- manage utilities and put out small fires;
- provide basic medical aid;
- search for and rescue victims safely;
- effectively organize volunteers;
- and collect disaster intelligence to support first responder efforts.

The training consists of seven weekly 2-1/2 hour evening classes. If you miss a class, you can go to any other location or a future session to make it up. See: www.cert-la.com

CERT CLASSES ARE COMING TO OUR AREA SOON!

**Wednesdays
March 2-April 13, 2016,
6:30-9PM**

Los Angeles City Fire Station #59
11505 Olympic Blvd., Los Angeles CA 90064

Free Parking!

SIGN UP:

www.eventbrite.com/o/lafd-cert-program-7803155391

MORE INFORMATION:

westsidevillagentp@gmail.com