

2017 Westside Village Homeowners Association Annual Meeting

# Meet Your City Council Candidates

Paul  
Koretz

Jesse  
Creed

Mark  
Herd

You are invited to the  
Westside Village Homeowners Association  
2017 Annual Meeting



**Thursday, February 16, 2017**  
**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

**7:15** Meet and talk to your City Council  
candidates running in the March 7 election

**8:30** Close meeting



# Westside Village News & Views

## President's Message

By Brian Considine, President of the WVHA

The Annual Meeting of the WVHA will be held on Thursday, February 16 in the Community Hall of St. John's Presbyterian Church at the corner of National Blvd. and Military Ave. As always, we are deeply indebted to Rev. Craig and the community of St. John's for sharing their beautiful facility with us. It is hard to imagine the WVHA's events without the generous hospitality of St. John's.

This year's meeting will be a bit different from our typical format because we will be offering our members to hear from and to speak informally to the three candidates for the position of City Councilmember from CD 5. Before we turn our attention to the three candidates however, we will conduct our usual business meeting with the President's Report, the Treasurer's Report and our annual report from CM Koretz followed by a few written questions. We will also re-elect the following Board members: Carolyn Saltsman, Don Elliott, Roberta Schiller and Bill Pyne, our Treasurer. We will keep this part of the meeting as brief as possible so that we can give as much time as possible to the presentations by the candidates.

They are:

Our sitting City Councilmember, **Paul Koretz**

(<http://www.councilmemberpaulkoretz.com/>),

**Jesse Creed** (<http://www.creedforcouncil.com/>)

**Mark Matthew Herd** (<https://sites.google.com/site/electmarkmatthewherd/>).

We will introduce each of the candidates and then invite them to make a brief statement again followed by a few written questions. After that, we will invite the members to speak to each of the candidates informally at the back of the room. This will not however, be a debate between the candidates since there are several of those already scheduled.

As a reminder, the election will take place on March 7.

## The WVHA Bike Fair

By Brian Considine,

The Westside Village Homeowners Association held a Bike Fair for both adults and children at St. John's Presbyterian Church on the morning of September 24. We were lucky to have instructors Colin Bogart, Education Director of the LA County Bike Coalition ([www.la-bike.org](http://www.la-bike.org)) and Jared Wayne Woods from Bikerowave (<https://bikerowave.org>). The Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition (LACBC) "is a membership-based nonprofit organization that works to make all communities in L.A. County healthy, safe, and fun places to ride a bike through advocacy, education, and

outreach. Bikerowave is a local DIY bike repair collective located at 12255 Venice Blvd, near the corner of Grandview, (tel: 310-230-5236). Their mission is "to empower the cycling public by providing affordable hands-on education about bicycle repair and maintenance. We aim to provide the space and tools necessary to assist cyclists in repairing and maintaining their own bicycles. We also seek to serve as a community center for Westside cyclists by providing a venue for gatherings and events. We are a not-for-profit, all-volunteer organization that strives to be eco-friendly in all aspects of its operation."

Unfortunately, because of a number of other local events, the turnout was disappointing, so if we do this again, we will have to gauge the level of interest first.

## From Measure M (Mobility) to Measure S (Save Our Neighborhoods), L.A. Voters Shape Their Futures

By Ken Alpern

The last few months have been extraordinary in the high-fevered pitch of our democratic process and electoral cycle...and yet this cycle is (surprise!) NOT over!

While many view last November's elections as focused in Washington, D.C., with the election of Donald J. Trump as our 45th President, much closer to home, the city and county of Los Angeles voted in favor of more transportation, parks, and school funding.

In particular, Measure M, the half-cent sales tax initiative, expedites the planning, funding, and construction of major transportation projects while ensuring a budget for operational costs of past and ongoing transit lines and road repairs.

Measure M, which by law had to pass with over 2/3 of voter approval, funds both new rail and road/freeway projects, but (unlike the past three half-cent sales tax measures passed since the 1990's) Measure M funds a predominantly rail-dominated agenda.

In large part, this is because the ability for Los Angeles County to create new freeways is virtually impossible because of land use issues, expense, and the inability to create new freeway corridors through what is either overbuilt neighborhoods or preserved open space. The exceptions to this rule lie in the suburbs and rural regions, where freeways can still be expanded.

The opening of the Expo Light Rail Line from Culver City to Santa Monica, for which the Westside Village community has been a major supporter since it was approved by Metro in 2001, occurred on May 20, 2016 with much fanfare and

with a large jump in ridership of this line.

As of December 2016, the Expo Line had approximately 54,000 riders per day and had exceeded ridership projections predicted for 2020. Metro's entire weekday ridership is approximately 360,000 riders/day.

In the far-flung San Gabriel Valley, the Foothill Gold Line (an eastern extension of the Pasadena Gold Line) had a similarly-popular opening. With the clamor of speeding up construction of the Wilshire Subway (a.k.a., the Purple Line), and the desire to have a countywide Metro Rail network connecting to LAX and to Downtown by a potential 2024 Olympics, the time was ripe for Measure M.

Measure M establishes both an ongoing funding source from the previous half-cent sales tax (Measure R, passed in 2008 and expiring in 2040), as well as an additional ongoing half-cent sales tax. Each city will acquire annual funding for operation of its buses, vans, and road/sidewalk repair as a result of Measure M.

The ability of Metro to both borrow off of future sales tax revenues and acquire matching federal funds is now enhanced more than virtually any other county in the nation with respect to transportation funding.

However, many of those who advocated for more transportation funding have noted that an unwanted and unforeseen explosion in overdevelopment (which already has been a Los Angeles problem for decades) was indirectly "fed" by the new transportation funding and construction, and many transportation advocates have been forced into a defensive posture with respect to Planning.

Measure S, previously called the Neighborhood Integrity Initiative (NII), was drafted by neighborhood councils and community groups to rein in what is deemed to be overspending and to establish a land use and planning process that is more transparent and which prevents more overdevelopment.

Funded by the AIDS Healthcare Foundation and backed by the Coalition to Preserve L.A., its proponents claim Measure S/the NII would prevent the impacts of political contributions by developers to city officials, while its opponents argue that it would put a stop to most developments, aggravate our city's housing shortage, and affect thousands of jobs.

Measure S would create a two-year moratorium on all developments requiring zoning that lifts land-use restrictions, allows for extra height, or increases the density/height of individual buildings, as well as put a two-year moratorium of development that would allow for a net loss of open space, agriculture, or industry.

If an updated General Plan Framework, and the decades-overdue Community Plans are updated (that establish height and density restrictions for each neighborhood, which among other things, protect and preserve single-family neighborhoods such as Westside Village), then the moratorium would be lifted.

Developments that were restricted entirely to affordable housing, or which had height/density changes consistent with the City's General Plan, would still be allowed for development.

Measure S will be voted on in a mere two months (March

7, 2017), along with a slew of City Council and Mayoral races. Measure S is supported by former Mayor Richard Riordan, homeless advocate Rev. Alice Callaghan, Richard Close of the Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association, and many other citizens groups.

Measure S is opposed by the Central City Association, VICA (the Valley Industry and Commerce Association) and the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, as well as the majority of the sitting Los Angeles City Council.

In short, these past few months have been exciting and exhilarating (and perhaps exhausting, to boot) for Angelenos—including Westside Villagers. However, our civic obligations are NOT over for this current election cycle.

Please study and make your own opinion be known on March 7, 2017, when both the Measure S ballot initiative and the City Council/Mayoral races will be decided upon by the voters.

The results of the March 7, 2017 ballot may affect our daily lives in ways that are by far greater than any laws or policies passed in Washington, D.C., so please take the time and effort to vote.

## Quakeproof Your Home

By Valerie Fontaine,

There was another packed house for Westside Village's third annual Earthquake Preparedness Fair, held on October 6, 2016 at St. John's Church. This year's topic was how to quakeproof your home.

Vendors including The Surplus Store and SOS Disaster Supplies presented their wares for the attendees to inspect and purchase. Organizations such as CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) and PepC (Palms Emergency Preparedness Coalition) offered educational materials and sign-ups for training opportunities. Students from Palms Middle School showed off their preparedness posters and a sample home earthquake kit plus, as part of a class assignment, surveyed residents regarding preparedness efforts.

The roster of speakers included:

- WVHA Board Member Valerie Fontaine who summarized non-structural steps residents can take before an earthquake to protect their homes and apartments, and remain safe in them during and after the disaster;
- Dr. Rais Ahmad, engineer and Cal State Northridge professor, who discussed structural issues of concern with our homes, including "Soft Story Buildings" and why, if not retrofitted, they can be dangerous. The most famous "Soft Story Building" in Los Angeles history is Northridge Meadows Apartments which was the site of many deaths during the 1994 Northridge Quake;
- Peter Partyka, local architect and Registered Disaster Service Worker specializing in building damage assessment, who clarified the myths and misinformation surrounding the "tagging" process which takes place after a major disaster such as a quake;
- Thalia Polychronis, Executive Officer of the Mayor's

Office of Public Safety, who spoke about the new soft story retrofitting laws and how they affect landlords and tenants; and

- Finally, representatives from the Southern California Gas Company and the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power who demonstrated how to prepare and deal with utilities in the event of disaster.

Several lucky residents won supplies to supplement their earthquake preparedness kits, donated by PepC, and every attendee received handouts on conducting a home hazard hunt and FEMA booklets about preparing and protecting their homes. Along with the words of the expert speakers, by the end of the night, we had a lot of useful information to take home with us.

## Stay Safe During an Active Shooter Event

By Valerie Fontaine,

Though it is a sad indicator of the times we live in, the community room at the Palms Rancho Library was filled when the Westside Village Homeowners Association, with the aid of our LAPD Senior Lead Officer Juan Ceja, presented “Run–Hide–Fight: Surviving an Active Shooter Event” on July 27, 2016. Sergeant Stephen Showler and Officer James Weigh, LAPD Active Shooter/Terrorism Preparedness Training Instructors, used a combination of lecture, Q&A, and video to show us what we should do when faced with such a situation. They addressed the following questions: What is an Active Shooter incident? What have we learned from past incidents? What is the First Responders’ role? What are law enforcement’s expectations of the public? How can we prepare for an Active Shooter Incident? And, what do we do during the event? The current recommendation of “**Run, Hide, and Fight**” was extensively discussed. Additionally, the officers took the time to really explain the “whys” of how they operate in such a situation and the added stresses the police face. The event drew members of the community from all over the area, not just Westside Village.



**Now you can pay membership dues online!**

**Go to [www.westsidevillage.org](http://www.westsidevillage.org) and click on “About Us” and choose “Membership”**

**Please let us know what you think.**

If you wish to contribute to News and Views, please email us at [board@westsidevillage.org](mailto:board@westsidevillage.org)  
Visit us at [www.westsidevillage.org](http://www.westsidevillage.org)

## Teen CERT Program Coming in April 2017

A unique program directed toward teens living or attending school in the Palms area is coming this spring: TEEN CERT.

In the city of Los Angeles, over 60,000 residents have been trained to be part of the CERT Team (Community Emergency Response Team) to respond during disasters during which professional responders like the police and fire departments are overwhelmed. The training includes basic fire suppression, building size-up, disaster first aid, and disaster psychology, and more.

The five-day Teen CERT program coming to Palms offers all of the above and is directed to a teen audience aged 13 to 17 years. As an added value, participating students also earn their First Aid/CPR/AED certification. Every student who completes the course receives a “CERT Pack” consisting of a CERT backpack, vest, and helmet.

The benefits of this program are numerous, including:

- **Students gain disaster preparedness skills which can save their lives and the lives of others at home or away.**
- **College-bound students can apply these skills as part of a college CERT unit (locally USC and UCLA have them on campus).**
- **First Aid/CPR/AED skills provide an advantage in employment such as babysitting where a cool head and these skills CAN save a life.**
- **Finally, this program can count toward the volunteer hours required for high school graduation and will enhance a college application.**

This TEEN CERT program is brought to you by the Palms Emergency Preparedness Coalition (PepC), LA Fire Department CERT Battalion 18, and the Los Angeles County Department of Health.

**Teen CERT is scheduled for the week of April 10-14, 2017 (Spring Break) from 9:30-3pm at Hamilton High School on Robertson Blvd.**

Lunch and snacks provided. For more information and updates, or to join the planning team, send an email to PepC at: [pepc034@gmail.com](mailto:pepc034@gmail.com)