

Marci Sandell, retired EMT,
demonstrates bandaging
techniques during WVHA
disaster first aid program.



Westside Village News & Views

2016 Annual Meeting

By Brian Considine, President of the WVHA

The WVHA's Annual Meeting was held at St. John's Church on February 25, 2016. As always, we are deeply indebted and grateful to the Rev. Steven Craig and the members of the congregation for their ongoing hospitality and welcome.

Elections

The first order of business was the election of officers and members of the board. This year, Brian Considine, President, Scott McCausland, Ken Alpert, Greg Severson, Valerie Fontaine, and Christine Stemar—a new member of our Board—were (re)elected.

Preparedness

Valerie Fontaine updated the membership on our efforts to be prepared for emergencies: "Are you ready for the Big One?" Valerie asked. She reported that two disaster first aid courses have recently been held, including bandaging and splinting techniques taught by EMTs. She reminded everyone that Board member Scott McCausland will show you your emergency utility shut offs for free just for paying your WVHA dues. PEPC (Palms Emergency Preparedness Coalition) placed emergency supplies at Adat Shalom that are available to Westside Village residents during an emergency. These are to supplement, NOT replace, home earthquake kits! There are CERT training courses held regularly; go to their website at www.cert-la.com to find open classes or contact Valerie at westsidevillagentp@gmail.com.

Neighborhood Watch

Guita Farin spoke about Neighborhood Watch activities: She thanked the active block captains and

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

noted that some blocks are missing captains. Guita described www.Nextdoor.com as a tool to update residents about crimes and more. She said that in case of emergency, call 1877askLAPD, or 911, not Juan Ceja. If you see suspicious activity, please report it. Security Services' captain, Sam, attended the meeting and is on Neighborhood Watch alerts. Security Services responds very quickly. Brian thanked our Neighborhood Watch Captains Guita Farin and David Grau for their service. He also urged residents to volunteer as block captains which is an important, but not onerous, commitment.

MVCC

Bill Koontz, chair of the Mar Vista Community Council, reported that elections for the MVCC Board are June 5th, and that Ken Alpern is running for the representative from Zone 1 (Westside Village). A member of the audience asked why we are part of the MVCC, and Bill answered that the zones represent approximately 50,000 people, selected by the city. MVCC includes slices of West LA, Venice, Westdale, etc., as politicians drew some lines on a map 10 or 12 years ago. Bill suggested visiting the website: www.Marvista.org to find more information about the neighborhood.

Bill described issues that MVCC is working on:

- The Project on Palms and Sepulveda where a developer is planning a grocery store with 300 apartments on top. The process will take a few years and MVCC's planning land use team will engage Westside Village.
- The Martin Expo Center (Bundy & Olympic) plan to build one 10-story and one 7-story building there because it is close to an Expo station.

Councilmember Koretz's report

Certificates of Recognition: LA City Councilmember Paul Koretz first awarded several certificates recognizing a few people who have contributed to Westside Village. First, for her outstanding contributions as a Board member and for orchestrating the Emergency Preparedness Fair, Councilman Koretz congratulated Valerie Fontaine. Then he recognized the Neighborhood Watch team for contributing to public safety: Dave Grau and Guita Farin. David's wife, Suzanne Manchurian accepted on his behalf. Lastly, Koretz recognized "trail blazer, former HOA president and treasurer" Richard Saltsman. Councilmember Koretz introduced his staff: Field Deputy Joseph Galloway, and Chief Field and Transportation Deputy, Jay Greenstein.

Homelessness:

- Councilmember Koretz thanked the volunteers who helped with the homeless count. Previously, few communities had a count and, without one, it was hard to push for funding. The count revealed that we have more homeless than we thought, but now there is a greater commitment to put money towards this problem.
- An ad hoc committee on homeless proposed 70 recommendations. The committee's first priority is re-engaging homeless with their families. "It is possible that relatives would be happy to take homeless in. It won't work for everybody and not all will be welcomed back, but if it works 10% of the time, it is better and would save money." The city could pay for transportation to reunite families. This is largely the Councilmember's focus.
- He helped create the PATH program which picks up, houses, trains, helps solve drug problems, helps them save money for rent, and moves them back into apartments. PATH helps 1,000-2,000 homeless a year. The federal government is responsible for veterans and the VA will have 12,000 units for housing.
- It is difficult to move homeless encampments. Letting the Sanitation Department know is important; it is more effective to call Sanitation using the 311 system with a problem of "illegal dumping" rather than "homeless." Sometimes the city can move them and sometimes they come back. Lead Officer Juan Ceja was a great help with the Sepulveda encampments.

Expo Line: It is nearly finished and should be better for the riders and, hopefully, not a big problem for drivers. There will be live cameras to watch its effectiveness. The Overland and Westwood tracks should not have been at grade, but he had had little support on that objection. The "line to nowhere" has carried 31,000 passengers in Culver City. Any questions should be directed to Jay Rubenstein in his office.

Airbnb: Some apartments have been replaced by Airbnb's. In fact, some building owners have used the Ellis Act to evict tenants. Owners are not supposed to rent for two years following such evictions. To file a complaint, a city employee must witness the tenants. The Councilman said that "If I could, I would wipe them all out... only allowing Airbnb's where the home owner is present." He also opined that no multi-family apartments should be Airbnb's except for legitimate family vacations of up to four weeks in duration. The LA council will suggest up to 90-day

vacations but he will fight to have as short a rental time as possible.

A robust question and answer session followed.

LAPD

Senior Lead Officer Juan Ceja reported that, despite residents' concerns, statistics show that our neighborhood had less crime during the past year than it did the previous year, although we have a high number of vehicle break-ins and grand theft autos. Officer Ceja reminded residents not to leave anything in their cars because many auto crimes in our neighborhood involve people "shopping" in cars at night with flashlights. There also was a rash of thefts of catalytic convertors from Toyota Priuses. He then recapped the burglaries in the neighborhood: Palms and WV had 16 burglaries year to date, four in Westside Village. Of the four, two were unsecured/unlocked homes; others were pried or smashed. The Pacific division cars now have cameras and all officers are being trained on their use.

Brian Considine ended the meeting by thanking the speakers and the members for attending.

Westside Village Transportation/Development/Planning Update

By Ken Alpern

Westside Village, for those unfamiliar with our history, has played an extraordinary role in the development and planning of the Expo Line, and in local developments. Similarly, we have a strong role in the future of our region, so long as we choose to stay engaged.

Expo Line. After over a decade of Westside Village advocacy, the Westside Extension of the Expo Line is here! Since it opened the weekend of May 20-22, extending the light rail line from its former Westside terminus in Culver City to a new terminus near the Santa Monica pier, ridership of the Exposition Light Rail Line is approximately 58,000 riders per day—a virtual doubling of ridership, and making it one of the most heavily-ridden lines in the nation.

It was an army of Westside Village residents who helped ensure that the light rail line routing wasn't diverted to Venice and Sepulveda Blvds (which was a route more suited to buses than a light rail line), and it was Westside Village who helped ensure that a large parking lot wasn't built near the Rancho Park/Westwood Blvd. station (thereby protecting local neighborhoods from spillover parking).

Further efforts to encourage parking construction availability near the Exposition/Sepulveda Blvd. station, which is more suited for regional access, has also been encouraged by the Westside Village Homeowners Association (WVHA). Alternatives for bicycling, walking, and bus access are being encouraged by Metro:

<http://thesource.metro.net/2016/05/11/new-expo-no-driving/> and usage of the Expo Bikeway to either Santa Monica or to points east is strongly encouraged.

Newly-reelected Mar Vista Community Council (MVCC) Zone 1/Westside Village representative Ken Alpern is also the MVCC Transportation/Infrastructure Committee co-chair, and has sought to expedite funding of sidewalk repair on our major thoroughfares (particularly near the Expo Line) as well as planning and funding high-quality bus shelters with electronic signage at National/Sepulveda and Palms/Sepulveda.

Overdevelopment has been a huge problem in the Westside, and while true transit-oriented development, affordable housing, and "smart growth" are noble aspirations, these terms have been inappropriately thrown about to support inappropriate and neighborhood-transforming developments which would do nothing to further these otherwise-favorable efforts.

The most grievous of these types of overdevelopment was the Casden/Sepulveda project, which was (with the strong role of the WVHA) overwhelmingly opposed and downsized from its original commercial and residential blockbuster plans by the Exposition/Sepulveda Expo Line station. It is now being built according to an agreement with the City Council, but the WVHA will continue to monitor its progress.

Affordable housing and transit-oriented development are needed as the ability for middle-class individuals and families to afford housing becomes more difficult than ever in our region. However, new growth must be smart, favorable and sustainable, with our neighborhood not transformed from the desirable place to live that it now is.

There are tentative plans by developers to build in the Big Lots land parcel on the west side of Sepulveda/Queensland, and in the parcel in the old Albertson's store at the northwest corner of Sepulveda/Palms. As before, the WVHA and MVCC will be closely monitoring the planning and progress of these proposed developments, which are ideal for development—but not for overdevelopment.

Ballot Initiatives. Similarly, there is an effort by many neighborhood/ community leaders throughout the City of Los Angeles, led by former L.A. Weekly

editor Jill Stewart, to pass a Neighborhood Integrity Initiative for the City that would require updates and adherence to legal Community Plans, ban overdevelopments, and require developers to pay for impartial traffic/environmental consultants not directly on their payroll.

The Neighborhood Integrity Initiative is scheduled for a vote next March, when the ballot will be less busy than this November's ballot...and when several City Councilmembers will be up for re-election.

However, this November there will be a ballot initiative to extend and increase the formerly-passed Measure R (half-cent transportation sales tax) another half-cent. Such an increase was consistent with the wishes of the late L.A. City Councilmember Bill Rosendahl, who recently lost a long battle with prostate cancer.

Bill Rosendahl had originally wanted Measure R (passed in 2008) to be a full-cent, not a half-cent, sales tax to fund rail, freeway, road and other projects in an expedited manner. For example, most Angelenos probably want the Wilshire subway project completed closer to 2025 than the currently-planned 2035.

Similarly, most Angelenos probably want a proposed subway to connect the Valley and the Westside and LAX built sooner than 2040 or later. Yet we have the need to also repair our sidewalks, roads, and other infrastructure sooner, and not later. We will have the chance to address these issues in November.

The battle to fund the construction and repair of our infrastructure, and the need to fight overdevelopment while promoting sustainable development, is an on-going and complicated struggle. Yet we have shown that we can—more often than not—win that struggle if we stay focused and engaged.

We have also shown that one person can make a difference...and maybe that one person is you.

What's New with PepC?

By Valerie Fontaine

PepC, or Palms Emergency Preparedness Coalition, of which WVHA is a part, was very busy this spring. The Coalition presented two CPR/First Aid certification classes in our area, resulting in approximately 50 newly trained or recertified neighbors ready to spring into action in the event of a medical emergency. The first class, taught by the Red Cross, was held on Saturday, May 14, at St. Mary in Palms Church. The second, co-sponsored by the WVHA, was at the Palms Rancho Library on Saturday, June 4, and was taught by Vital Training and

Response. These classes were so popular that they filled up within two days of their announcement—with waiting lists!

To spread the word about emergency preparedness and the various training opportunities available, PepC staffed informational tables at several community celebrations and fairs, handing out brochures and signing up interested citizens for the mailing list. On May 21, PepC was at the new Metro station at Palms and National Blvds. celebrating with the community the opening of the Metro line to Santa Monica. On June 5, PepC had an outreach table at the annual SORO (South Robertson) Festival.

To get on the mailing list for notification for training opportunities such as the CPR/First Aid classes mentioned above, please email westsidevillageNTP@gmail.com or like the Palms Emergency Preparedness Coalition page on Facebook.

Big Blue Bus Rapid 12 UCLA/Westwood to Expo changes route in Westside Village

Major route changes:

- *Route 12 and Rapid 12 combined into one high-frequency route.*
- *Serves the Westwood Station.*
- *Extended south of Overland Ave. and Palms Blvd. to Washington Blvd. and Motor Ave.*
- *No longer serve Palms Blvd. east of Overland Ave., National Blvd., and the Culver City Station.*
This portion of the Rapid 12 will be replaced by the NEW Route 17 from UCLA to the Culver City Station.

Increased service: Significant service increases. Now operates 7 days per week.

- *Weekdays*
- *Service every 10 minutes or less during peak hours.*
- *Service every 12 minutes midday.*
- *Service every 20 to 30 minutes early morning and late evening.*
- *In August, service will improve to every 7 to 8 minutes during peak hours and every 10 minutes midday.*
- *Weekends*
- *Service every 30 minutes from 6am to 10pm.*
- *Service between Westwood Station and UCLA runs approximately every 15 minutes when considering both Route 8 and Rapid 12 service.*



A Timepoint/Punto de Tiempo
M Metro Rail Station/ Estación de Metro Rail

Barking Dog Nuisance

By Brian Considine

Dogs are man's best friends, but that usually refers to our own dog. We have a wonderful dog culture in Westside Village. It brings us out during the day to walk our canine friends and that leads to making many acquaintances. So we benefit enormously from the company our dogs provide and from the social contacts that they lead us into. Unfortunately, however, the dog news is not good for everyone in the neighborhood all the time. I know that we have all been bothered, or even annoyed by having to listen to neighbors' dogs barking. An added frustration is that most often, we cannot even identify the house where the barking dog lives. Barking dogs can interrupt your thinking or reading, they can ruin a nap or even keep you up at night. Most often the reason the dog is barking is not other dogs or an intruder, it's due to anxiety and loneliness. It is a problem on every block in the Westside Village, so I would like to bring some information on the topic to bear.

If you have this problem, the first thing to do obviously, is to speak to your neighbor, the dog owner. However, many people who have gone through this recommend that you remain anonymous through this process. The reason being that, if it escalates, relations can become very strained.

LAMC53.63 states that "It shall be unlawful for any person to permit any dog or dogs under his or her charge, care, custody or control to emit any excessive noise after the Department has issued a written notice advising the owner or custodian of the alleged noise and the procedures as set forth below have been followed. For purposes of this section, the term "excessive noise" shall mean noise which is unreasonably annoying, disturbing, offensive, or which unreasonably interferes with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property of one or more persons occupying property in the community or neighborhood, within reasonable proximity to the property where the dog or dogs are kept. The noise must be continuously audible for ten (10) minutes or intermittently audible for thirty (30) minutes within a three (3) hour period. However, the provisions of this section shall not apply to any commercial animal establishment permitted by zoning law where located (LAMC 53.63).

If you are the victim of nuisance dog barking, the official procedure is to file a written complaint to the Animal Shelter that serves our area. It is the West LA Animal Shelter at 11361 West Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90064, 888-4LAPET1 (888-452-7381).

A written complaint must have the following information:

Your Name

Your Address

Your Phone Number

Address of the barking dog

Description of the Problem

Your Signature

Following the first complaint, the Animal Services Department will issue a letter to the owner of the dog saying that a complaint has been filed and requesting immediate abatement of any excessive noise. If the problem is not resolved within 15 days, a complainant can make a second complaint. This will require the dog owner to appear before an official at the Animal Shelter to discuss a plan for mitigating the situation. If the problem continues, the matter is declared unresolved and a hearing will be scheduled. Ultimately, the dog's license can be revoked and the owner will not be able to get a dog license for one year. All of these steps are described in LAMC 53.18.5

We hope that Westside Villagers with dogs who tend to bark incessantly will realize that their dog's barking is really impacting their neighbors' peace and quiet and will take measures to ensure that it doesn't happen. We love our pets for the companionship they provide so warmly, but we owe it to our neighbors to be sure that it's not at their expense.



A World Above Our Phones

From a point unseen far east of Motor Avenue, across Cheviot Hills; west to Sepulveda Boulevard. North to Century City; south to the edge of Sony Studios—we call it urban sprawl—they call it home.

And so it has been for nearly a decade for a mated pair of Red-Tailed Hawks; and so it has been for me for the five years since I first made the acquaintance of this, our only pair of Red-Tails successfully breeding in this area.

Hawks will defend a breeding and hunting range—the closest competitors for our birds are in Century City, Culver City, and the VA. And they are urban birds; through close association with our urban areas, they have learned to be used to us, and to feed on



Photo by H.S. Walter

what many consider pest species – pigeons, rats, squirrels, and crows. This pair has been seen here for more than seven years; since Red Tails don't usually breed before age three or four, these birds may be ten to fifteen years old. If we help them, they can live longer—and they mate for life.

Those who live in this miraculously green quadrant near Overland Avenue know these birds, and they know me. I'm the one on the street in all kinds of weather, looking up – guardian of sorts to these magnificent birds above our heads – guardian of trees I do not own, and do not govern. For it is the trees, many of them tall and majestic and all of them old—that have defined this area for some time. It is the trees that support four species of hawk, and many dozen species of other birds that migrate, breed, and feed in and around this area.

This is changing—and quickly. Traffic has grown worse; the scenery has shifted and in many cases

vanished. Corporate poaching snatches up property, and houses are flipped repeatedly. This is what rampant development looks like. The trees are often the first to go, the same trees that our native hawks and birds—so inoffensive, so tolerant of our abuses, so vital to the quality of life for homeowners and their families need, in order to continue to call this area 'home'.

Why is this important?

Daily we see the scars of uncontrolled square-footage priorities. Neighborhoods are now little more than investment prospects. The very things that make this tract so beautiful—so desirable—are threatened more than ever. And the woman on the street, who doesn't live here, the one with the binoculars, with the frown on her face because of what she sees – can no longer be the guardian – not alone. The time is fast approaching when the children who play on these streets will lose the chance to experience the Eden in their own yards, and the wonder of wild hawks sharing that habitat – sharing that home. As we build and destroy habitat outside the City, we are leaving our birds with no place to go if they lose habitat here, with us.

What can be done?

Learn who your neighbors are. Realize that, due to the large setback/City easements in the tract, those trees that most homeowners think they 'own' as property trees, are in fact City parkway trees. Understand that parkway trees cannot be cut or removed or even trimmed without a City permit—understand and make your neighbors understand that you will not stand idle and watch as habitat is destroyed. Organize tree watches, be vigilant over and above when it's convenient – when a home is up for sale, inform the contractors that you are watching what they do, and that ignorance of the law will not stop a fine. Teach your family and friends that the world above our cell phones is worthy of preservation and active protection.

There are dark wings against the sky; there is new life in the tallest trees. The 'island of one' mentality is no longer a viable perspective option, not for those who really care. And they must care—I have no stake here—I live elsewhere.

But I do have family here—they live in a tree on your street and look down on you—their neighbors.

This place is their home—it's your home, too.

V.J. WAKS, Author/Writer/Producer
Raptor and Habitat Preservationist
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Save the date

Third Annual WVA Preparedness Fair

Quakeproofing Your Home

Thursday, October 6, 2016, 6:30-9pm
St. John's Presbyterian Church,
National Blvd and Military Ave

Get to know your neighbors and learn how to protect yourself, your family, your home, and your neighborhood!



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.

Stay Safe!

Learn how to keep you and your loved ones safe!

Wednesday, July 27 – 6 to 8 pm

Palms-Rancho Library, 2920 Overland Avenue

Westside Village Homeowners Association, with the aid of our LAPD Senior Lead Officer Juan Ceja, will present **“Run-Hide-Fight: Surviving an Active Shooter Event”**.

Join us on Wednesday, July 27, 2016 from 6:00-8:00 pm in the community room at the Palms-Rancho Library, 2920 Overland Avenue, LA 90064. There is free parking but seating is limited.

Sergeant Stephen Showler and Officer James Weigh, LAPD Active Shooter/Terrorism Preparedness Training Instructors, will teach us:

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?

For more information about this program or to reserve space, email Westsidevillagentp@gmail.com

Pet Preparedness

Disaster planning, animal first aid and CPR

Tuesday, August 16 – 6 to 7:45 pm

Palms-Rancho Library, 2920 Overland Avenue

When you put together your family's earthquake kit and emergency plan, don't forget your furry, scaly, or feathery friends. There are steps you can take before, during and after a disaster to increase their comfort and safety and to keep your human and animal family together.

Learn how to prepare and care for these special family members in an emergency situation whether you need to evacuate or shelter at home. Discover what documents and items you need in your pet preparedness kit, how to train your pet to make evacuation easier, where to go when the

local shelter doesn't accept animals, and how to help your pet adjust to changed circumstances after a disaster. We'll also learn how to handle pet first aid and CPR.

Our speakers are: Dr. Alexandra Swanson, DVM, Veterinary Public Health, from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health; and Denise Fleck, Pet Safety Crusader, from Sunny-dog Ink: Helping YOU to Help YOUR Pet. Free parking; light refreshments served.

For more information contact: westsidevillagentp@gmail.com.

Bike Fair

Saturday, Sept. 24 – 10 am to 2 pm

**St. John's Presbyterian Church
at National Blvd. and Military Ave.**

On Saturday, September 24, the Westside Village Homeowners Association will host a Bike Fair for both adults and children at St. John's Church at the corner of Military Ave. and National Blvd. The Fair is planned to run from 10:00 until 2:00. The goal of the Fair is to help inform residents of our neighborhood on various aspects of bike transportation. We will cover issues

such as the rules of the road, bikes sharing the road with motor vehicles, personal bike protection such as helmets, gloves and lights, bike mechanics and do-it-yourself repairs and some fun events for children. We will send you more details later in the Summer, but we look forward to seeing you there!