

Philip Jantaas, Marci Sandell, and Christine Stemar distribute emergency preparedness information at CERT/ PepC booth during Palms Community Day.



Westside Village News & Views

2017 Annual Meeting

By Brian Considine, President of the WVHA

I think that one of the main things to mention in this Newsletter is the candidates evening for City Council candidates Paul Koretz, who was standing for re-election, Jess Creed and Mark Herd. WVHA Vice-President Roberta Schiller lead the conversation and the consensus is that it was both informative and well-organized. Everyone there heard statements by the candidates followed by ample time for questions and answers. Another very positive outcome of the meeting was that three Westside Village residents answered our call for volunteers and new Board members. They are Stacy Shure, Laura Laser Galperson and Philip Accas. All three were enthusiastically welcomed onto the Board and have already started making very significant contributions to our work.

The focus of a great deal of our attention since the Annual Meeting has been working with Councilmember Koretz' staff to understand some of the changes to the zoning regulations. Probably the most impactful of these regulations is known as the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance which reduces the buildable footprint of houses relative to the size of the lot. Laura Galperson has written an article for this Newsletter that explains this in detail. There has also been movement in the Planning Department's restrictions on Accessory Dwelling Units or ADU's. The Planning Department's website: <http://planning.lacity.org> has their regulations, meeting schedules and a great deal more. If you are considering construction, it is a great place to start. Our contact in CM Koretz's office for planning issues is Faisal Alserri, Senior Planning Deputy, Office of City Councilmember Paul Koretz, email: Faisal.Alserrri@lacity.org, tel: 213-473-7005.

I also wanted to bring your attention to a map that the LAPD has created showing their restrictions on vehicle dwellings in the city. The link is: <https://www.lacity.org/for-residents/popular-services/comprehensive-homeless-strategy-implementation/los-angeles-municipal>. We are on map #13, Pacific Area Community Police Station.



We have also posted the contact information for our Senators, Representative for the 37th District, CM Koretz, the Governor and the Mar Vista Community Council (we are zone 1) on the WVHA's website: <http://www.westsidevillage.org/local-contacts.htm>.

Finally, I would like to call your attention to a few events that we are hosting in the upcoming months. The first is a creative first aid and disaster preparedness training that we are calling McGyver. It will be held at the Palms-Rancho Library on July 6 from 6:00 – 8:00. There will also be a CERT training for teens in mid-July, more details shortly.

I know I speak for my fellow Board members in pointing out that there is tremendous pressure to build a great deal more housing on the Westside. It is called densification and it is supported by various members of the City Council. We work hard to follow developments so that we can weigh in on issues that threaten the village atmosphere that we all enjoy so much. We are also continuing with a varied program of Emergency Preparedness programs under Valarie Fontaine's able leadership. But if any of you have topics that you think we should address, please let us know through the website.

Thank you very much and have a pleasant summer.

Will L.A.'s Measures Actually Measure Up to Our Expectations?

By Ken Alpern

The voters and taxpayers of Los Angeles just voted in new sales taxes, bonds and fees to pay for transportation and the homeless. We passed the 2/3 voter threshold to vote in more sales tax revenue for transportation, and there is a large financial resource now set up to help our homeless.

But will we see these Measures (Measure M, Measure HHH, and Measure H) actually “measure up”?

The Expo Line is a success, with ridership much higher than hoped, and its counterpart in the San Fernando Valley, the Orange Line Busway, is already in the works to upgrade to the light rail as it should have been in the first place.

Thanks to the passage of Measure M, we will have a Wilshire Subway that might be completed to the 405 freeway as early as 2024. Furthermore, the year 2024 is the current deadline for a potential Summer Olympics in Los Angeles, so the LAX/Metro Rail Connector and the Downtown Light Rail Connector are also scheduled for completion by that year (probably 2022 is a better guess).

Our roads, however, and our sidewalks also cry out for repair, and both city/county and state funds are being sought to fix our infrastructure. The 405 freeway widening is over, and alternative methods of transportation, ranging from DASH buses, bicycles, and facilitated Uber/Lyft access, are also being pursued by all city and county transportation agencies.

However, our sidewalks are not only broken based on construction—they are also covered with numerous and growing numbers of the homeless. Furthermore, as we are focusing and spending more on the homeless, their numbers are growing...which calls into question whether more spending (or the “right” type of spending) is being done in our city and county.

The West Los Angeles VA Medical Center has new leadership, and our veterans are finally getting a long overdue place to stay.

Yet the veterans and the non-veterans among the growing numbers of the homeless need not only help but also the ability to both enjoy their rights and confront their responsibilities (ditto for those of us who have a home to call our own).

The taxpayers have spoken, and it's up to our city to respond in kind.

Meanwhile, the Mar Vista Community Council and the Westside Village Homeowners Association are both working hard to identify the needs of our constituents and our neighbors...all of our neighbors.

New volunteers are always needed to make our neighborhood better. One person can make a difference...and maybe that 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. 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. To get on the mailing list for notification for CERT classes, CPR/First Aid Certification training, and other learning opportunities, please email westsidevillageNTP@gmail.com or like the Palms Emergency Preparedness Coalition page on Facebook.

Murder Case Solved

By Valerie Fontaine

Shots rang out just before 8pm on Friday, April 14, 2017, in the CVS shopping center parking lot at National and Sepulveda, leaving 23-year-old Antonio Cornwell dead at the scene. Naturally, Westside Village residents were shocked and concerned.

We can breathe easier, however, our LAPD Senior Lead Officer, Juan Ceja, reassures us, since the incident was not gang-related, and should not recur. Apparently, the murder was a drug deal gone bad. The victim and alleged perpetrators were not from around here. Rather, they chose the CVS parking lot as a convenient meeting spot between their home bases, and with easy freeway access.

The crime was caught on camera and, within days, the suspects turned themselves in to police custody.

New Building Ordinance Affects Westside Village, But It's Not Too Late

By Laura Galperson Laser

On March 17, 2017, the Los Angeles City Council amended the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance. This ordinance was intended to regulate the size of single-family homes in Lower Council District 5. The new BMO scales back the square footage allowed for houses to 45% of the overall lot, down from 50%.

Prior to passing the new ordinance, Paul Koretz's office held several town hall meetings with HOAs in Lower Council District 5. Unfortunately, our Westside Village HOA was not invited to or included in any of those meetings. Many nearby HOAs petitioned the ordinance and were rezoned as R1V2, including Mar Vista, Beverlywood, North Beverlywood, Crestview, East Venice, Kentwood, Inner Council District 5 (California Country Club Estates area of Cheviot Hills). Note that Westside Village is part of the Mar Vista Neighborhood Council, but MVCC did not advise our HOA of their plans to petition the ordinance.

Upon learning of this, Brian Considine and Laura Galperson met with Faisal Alserri, Senior Planning Deputy and Joseph Galloway, Senior Field Deputy, from Paul Koretz's office. A few weeks later, Mr. Alserri and Mr. Galloway met the entire Westside Village HOA Board.

We learned that several neighborhoods are in the process of petitioning the ordinance, including Cheviot Hills and Westwood South of Santa Monica

Blvd. Councilman Paul Koretz is open to giving us the same fair rule of R1V2 if our HOA offers proof that we have a consensus vote. If you are interested in signing a petition to rezone Westside Village as R1V2, please sign the petition at <http://tinyurl.com/westsidevillagezoning>. Be sure to include your address and full name.

Note: Both the BMO and R1V2 zones enforce strict building guidelines that will prevent mansionization. The BMO and the R1V2 zoning requirements both prevent huge ugly boxes. The rules for height, setbacks from neighbor properties, etc., are almost identical. The key difference is living area, which is important for the inhabitants of the house while hardly affecting the neighbors. Allowances are as follows:

- BMO: for home additions and new construction, the living area (also known as Floor Area Ratio or FAR) has been reduced to .45 of the property's lot size, regardless of the size of a lot. Taking the property's lot size and multiplying it by .45 to calculate the potential maximum SF area of the home.
- R1V2 zoning allows the following lot size and residential floor area ratios
 - Up to 6,000 SF = .55
 - 6,001 to 7,000 SF = .53
 - 7,001 to 8,000 SF = .51
 - 8,001 to 9,000 SF = .49
 - 9,001 to 10,000 SF = .47
 - Over 10,000 SF = .45

The properties that will be most affected by the BMO are those properties with lots that are between 5,000 and 8,000 SF.

Regardless of BMO or R1V2, a 400 SF garage can be added 55 feet behind the house. However, most lots in Westside Village are sloped so that might not be an option. If you add a 400 SF attached garage in front of the house, you must decrease the SF of the home by 200 SF.

The Los Angeles city website has complete details: <https://planning.lacity.org/>

If you have any questions about this, please contact Laura Galperson at lauralaser@gmail.com.

Neighborhood Watch Update

By Stacy Shure

On May 11 a quarterly meeting of Block Captains and the LAPD occurred at the Pacific Division. In that

meeting residents of Westside Village were updated on crime statistics for the most recent quarter: violent crimes have seen a noticeable decrease, however “soft” crime which includes car break in, theft and burglary have seen an increase.

Most crimes involving car theft and burglaries have occurred because of cars being left unlocked and homes with open windows and easy entry to the property. LAPD wants to also remind neighbors that the best deterrent against the crimes we are experiencing is good lighting and good lighting practices. Everyone is encouraged to keep an exterior light on at night, especially on streets that are dark and not well lit. This will discourage loitering and nighttime curb activities that may invite outsiders to the area.

It is also important that whenever you see suspicious activity (like someone trying car handles or peering into cars), notify our Lead Officer Ceja and call the

non emergency number to alert LAPD. It was noted that response time has been slow in our area and Lead Officer Ceja is working to improve that. However, additional manpower is not currently scheduled for our area since extra units on the Westside have been moved to Venice for the summer which has a spike in activity seasonally.

LAPD also wanted to alert residents to be aware of the new “trend” in home burglaries: a pattern is emerging whereby burglars are renting expensive model cars in an effort to fit in and then casing and burglarizing neighborhoods in these cars. So stay vigilante and aware. Lock cars and keep your home secure, turn on exterior lights and contact Officer Ceja if you see something suspicious. Please take note of the phone numbers in the Points of Contact, which are available on our website. Don’t be afraid to reach out to the LAPD Pacific Division if you have specific concerns.

Upcoming Disaster Preparedness Events—Save the dates!

“MacGyver” It! Creative Disaster Preparedness and Response Thursday, July 6, 2107, 6:30-7:45pm

**Palms-Rancho Branch, LA Library, 2920 Overland Ave., LA 90064, just north of National Blvd. • Free parking!
Light Refreshments!**

Learn how to use what you have on hand, at home, or in your car, purse, or pockets to help you survive. Disaster preparedness does not have to be complicated or cost a fortune. See how you can convert everyday items such as cardboard, shoe laces, tin cans, and other simple stuff into what you need for sheltering or providing first aid in an emergency. Our guest speaker, Lorraine Curry, is CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Coordinator for Battalion 13 and serves on LAPD’s Crisis Response Team.

Saturday October 7, 2017, 10:00am-5:00pm

**West Angeles Church, 3405 Crenshaw Boulevard, LA, CA 90016, Across from Metro/Crenshaw Station • Plenty of
Free Parking! Food trucks!**

A host of emergency response and disaster agencies, vendors, and others will converge to put on a great event in the heart of the city. Get up close and personal with our First Responders—CERT, LAFD, LAPD and more—in the Demonstration Pavilion. Check out emergency response vehicles and the latest gear. Get hands-on training in disaster preparedness and response techniques while having fun for the whole family.

Westside Village Homeowners Association Fourth Annual Preparedness Fair Thursday, October 12, 2017, 6:30-9pm

St. John’s Presbyterian Church, National Boulevard and Military Avenue • Free parking! Light refreshments!

For the fourth year in a row, WVHA will present the popular and practical Preparedness Fair. This year’s theme is 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. Learn how to plan and prepare so you can communicate with members of your immediate and extended family, neighbors, and disaster responders.

For more information contact: westsidevillagentp@gmail.com