

Westside Village News & Views

Board member Carolyn Saltsman spoke about an idea that she and Westside Village resident Caroline Alley have about creating, publishing and selling a community cookbook. Anyone wishing to share recipes was asked to send them to her (see Cookbook article). The intent is to sell the book at the Fall Festival.

Westside Village resident Kristin Killey presented her idea for a community-wide garage sale to raise money for the relief effort in Haiti. This event was held on May 1st. Pictures and an article from this terrific event follow in this newsletter – the neighborhood spirit of the event was felt by everyone who participated.

Our Neighborhood Watch Coordinators Guita Farin and David Grau were introduced and thanked for the outstanding job they do maintaining the “Watch” which keeps our neighborhood informed about recent crimes. They in turn thanked the Block Captains who are such an integral part of the Neighborhood Watch. There are still three blocks in need of Captains, please go to WestsideVillage.org if you would like to volunteer. Guita and David reported that crime had been under control—until a few weeks prior to the annual meeting—when two particularly frightening crimes occurred, including the home invasion of WVHA secretary Brian Considine which took place on March 3rd.

Brian Considine spoke movingly about his ordeal. He reported that an intruder entered his house while he and a house guest were home, threatened them, handcuffed them, and forced them, along with Brian's wife (who came home after the intruder was in the house) into their car to drive to the ATM to get money. Fortunately, the police intervened and the intruder was taken into custody. However, this followed a horrific car accident in which Brian was hurt and from which he continues to recover. Brian said that although he was terrorized and physically injured, he was happy to be alive.

Officer Ceja spoke briefly about activities within the Pacific Division. He reminded people to pay attention to their surroundings, leave lights on, and he urged people to get to know their neighbors. He also reminded people to never leave anything visible in their parked cars. Also, he urged people to keep the windows, doors and gates of their homes locked. Regarding the intruder from the Considine home



From the President's Desk

By Richard Saltsman, President

The Annual Meeting and governing board election of the Westside Village Homeowners Association was held on March 18th – and was a great success. Over 100 homeowners of Westside Village were in attendance. It was terrific to see young families as well as long-time residents participate. We thank St. John's Presbyterian Church for their hospitality, and our thanks also go to Baja Bud's for catering a delicious dinner.

This year we were again fortunate to have our LAPD Senior Lead Officer, Juan Ceja, in attendance along with newly elected city Councilmember Paul Koretz from Council District 5 and his deputy Eric Weiser. Also present were Len Nguyen, deputy of Councilmember Bill Rosendahl, Council District 11, and Albert Olsen, Chair of the Mar Vista Community Council.

invasion, Officer Ceja said that the suspect had just been released from prison five days before the incident and that this was his third strike.

City Councilman, Paul Koretz was introduced as the new Councilmember for City Council District 5. He spoke about the budget crisis within the city of Los Angeles and how services will have to be cut.

Two outgoing WVHA Board members were recognized and thanked for their service: Kristen Baldrige and Stephanie Johnson. Kristen served on the Board for two years. She graciously hosted a “thank you” party for the Block Captains at her home earlier this year. Stephanie Johnson served on the Board for many years and was a Past President. Additionally, she was in charge of the Fall Festival for several years. She also was the contact person for emails to the Board, and she helped edit the newsletters. When Stephanie, her husband and daughter moved out of Westside Village she could no longer serve on our board. Both Stephanie and Kristen will be greatly missed from our WVHA leadership.

Elections were held. The following Officers and Directors were elected to a new term: Richard Saltsman –President, John Moyer–Vice President, Brian Considine–Secretary, Joyce Purcell–Treasurer and Ken Alpern–Director. Ken Williams was elected as a new Director. Andy Comins, Donald Elliott Jr., Carolyn Saltsman, Roberta Schiller and Greg Severson are completing the second year of their term as Directors.

Recently, the Board voted to appoint two new people to

Neighborhood Watch organizers, David Grau & Guita Farin with Senior Lead Officer Juan Ceja in the center.



serve as Directors—Kristin Killey and Patrick Walker.

Please mark your calendars and save the date of October 2, 2010 for the Westside Village Annual Fall Festival. Spend an afternoon outdoors and socialize with your neighbors. We are always looking for volunteers to lend a hand; it is a great way to get involved in our community. If you are interested, please email us at westsidevillageboard@yahoo.com. For those of you who participated in our recent community garage sales, here is another opportunity to build neighborhood spirit.

Finally, please note that another dues slip is attached. If you have already paid your \$10.00 dues for 2010,

Thank You. If you have not sent in your dues (or if you would like to make a donation), please do so as soon as possible. It is very important that we represent all of our residents and the best way of doing this is by having your membership. We cannot run our organization, including our vibrant Neighborhood Watch without your participation. Please join us.

Expo Line/Sepulveda Developments Update

By Ken Alpern

The Expo Light Line has had its Final Environmental Report approved by the Expo Construction Authority, and is now beginning the Preliminary Engineering Phase prior to possibly breaking ground by the end of 2010. There are two Expo Line rail stations planned near Westside Village, at Exposition/Sepulveda and at Exposition/Westwood. While the routing questions have been resolved—and the Expo Line will proceed west from Culver City to West L.A. via the Exposition Rail Right of Way by Cheviot Hills and through Rancho Park—other questions will be determined over the next few months.

The Expo Line will be at ground level (at-grade) at Overland Avenue and Westwood Boulevard but the decision on whether to build a more expensive elevated rail bridge over Sepulveda is yet to be decided. The decision on whether or not to have parking at the Exposition/ Westwood station will also be decided over the rest of the year as Preliminary Engineering proceeds.

Although the first phase of the Expo Line to Culver City (Venice/Robertson) was supposed to open this year (2010), engineering and contractor and legal delays will prevent it from opening until 2012. It is anticipated that the second phase of the Expo Line to Santa Monica will open in either 2015 or 2016.

In addition to monitoring the Expo Line, the WVHA Board has also monitored and weighed in on Sepulveda Boulevard developments such as the Casden Development at Exposition/Sepulveda and the 3115 Sepulveda development (the old Circuit City/Shoe Pavilion). At the time of this newsletter, the Casden Development is working its way through the LADOT/Planning permit system or working on traffic studies, but the bank has reclaimed the 3115 Sepulveda site from the developers.

While there is concern that commercial and/or residential overdevelopment could occur at either site, the recent closure of our local Baskin Robbins (after having been open for many years), as well as the failed attempt to redevelop the 3115 Sepulveda site, provides equal cause for concern. Both sites now remain shuttered into the foreseeable future. We want to keep our local businesses busy and vibrant.

“Garages 4 Good,” Great 4 Community!

By Kristin Killey

The days are getting longer, the trees are green, and day after day the walkers of Westside Village are out in force. Clearly, spring is in the air and nowhere was this more evident than at the Westside Village’s “Garages4Good” event held May 1st. Along the 3200 blocks of Veteran Avenue and Greenfield Avenue, neighbors came together to raise money for Haiti while reaping the personal benefits of spring-cleaning. In all, \$2,444.67 was raised for the American Red Cross marked for Haiti relief. After the sale, all unsold items were picked up by a Vietnam Veteran’s Association truck for their thrift stores.

The event involved over 40 donors, 30 volunteers, 8 host homes and countless shoppers. Puppies played in a Veteran front yard where advice on pet adoption and pet fostering was being dispersed. Another neighbor donated and handed out ‘Help Haiti 2010’ t-shirts to volunteers. The sunshine and warmth was complemented by lemonade being sold at stands on each block by neighborhood kids. There was a real sense of community and enthusiasm for the event involving participants of all ages. Ideas for future community events were being thrown around. Sale hosts Lynn and Joe on Veteran Avenue are interested in putting together a “community shred” to rid residents of unwanted documents through a secure method of disposal. They started to put together a list of interested “shredders.” If you would like to participate in the Westside Village Community shred or if you have ideas for other community building events and would like to get involved, contact us at www.westsidevillage.org. Suggestions for events to



raise funds for our neighborhood schools were also a topic of conversation throughout the day.

The original inspiration for the event came when, during a garage sale I held earlier this year, I found the best part of the day was having an opportunity to meet people in the neighborhood. Having lived on Veteran since 2004, I realized I knew relatively few people on my block. I knew I couldn’t be the only

resident interested in building a sense of community. Based on the level of participation this past May first, my suspicions were confirmed. A strong community adds to quality of life for all involved. I would like to thank everyone who supported this event, and encourage all residents to consider how, as individuals, you can bring our community closer together.

Time To Save Water

By Ken Williams

Recently my fiancée Kate and I attended a six-part sustainable living workshop and I thought it would be helpful to pass along some of the highlights as we all move towards a “greener” and healthier community. Each week the workshop covered a different environmental emphasis, including: Water, Energy, Waste, Chemicals, Transportation and Shopping/Food. For the next six newsletters, I will combine and share information/tips that many neighbors might find useful and, in some cases, surprising.

Water

Water, our most precious commodity. Even though water covers more than two thirds of our planet, the freshwater in rivers, lakes and streams represent only 1/10 of 1 percent of the earth’s total water. Every year there is more and more strain put on the earth’s fresh water sources from increased population and its demand for clothing and food.

Here in arid LA, where the water reserve levels are always challenged and tier prices increasing, water conservation is the law. It’s only legal to sprinkle lawns on Mondays and Thursdays, after 4:00 PM and before 9:00 AM.

Most likely 70% of your water bill is from sprinkling, so cutting back on lawn watering will have an enormous savings impact. Another thing to think about is replacing your lawn with a drought resistant landscape. There are many fun ways to create new, lush “eco-yards” without having to waste dollars and water.

The LADWP rain barrel program—where the city installs rain capturing barrels from home downspouts—has been so popular that no more barrels are currently available. I hear the program will be back by next year so stay tuned.

In addition to smart yard watering, here are a few water saving tips that are easy to try and maintain at your house:

- *Take shorter showers. Cutting 5 minutes off your shower time can reduce your water bill.*
- *Fix leaky faucets/toilets. Many hidden gallons go to waste with leaks.*
- *When running a sink faucet, use a narrow stream of water – no larger than the diameter of a pencil. Keep water off when lathering hands or brushing teeth.*

- *Scrape, rather than rinse, dishes before loading into dishwasher. They'll be just as clean.*
- *Here's a good one...flush your toilet only when absolutely necessary. "When the water's yellow, be mellow, when it's brown flush it down."*

Try these simple tips and see how big your smile is when your next water bill arrives.

Please visit www.bewaterwise.com for more on local water conservation, www.larainwaterharvesting.org for info on rain barrel program and www.sustainableworks.org for eco-living workshops in our area.

Or feel free to contact me anytime with questions about water or our home solar system or learn how to go green in our neighborhood:

Ken Williams – kalanwill@aol.com – 310-480-5504.



Calling All Cooks

This is a neighborhood project to raise funds for our association, and create a common bond among the cooks in Westside Village. There is no cost to anyone who wants to be included, just your recipes! We plan to have the cookbook ready for sale at our Fall Festival on October 2, 2010.

If you would like to be included in a neighborhood project for a community cookbook please send a typed recipe. Please give your recipe a name.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Email to: crsaltsman@ca.rr.com

or mail to:
WV Cookbook
c/o C Saltsman
3569 Veteran Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90034

Drive to "Daycations" in the LA Area

By Patrick Walker

Calabasas – 28.5 miles from downtown, Old Town Calabasas is located at the southwestern edge of the San Fernando Valley and boasts a day of activities for your family or yourself. Fins Creekside is a great place to star the day with a nice brunch. There's a kitchen store called Little Blue with a nice assortment of tea towels and picnic baskets. There's also the Little Red Barn where you'll find mahogany cradles, baby size chandeliers and custom bedding. For a quick lunch head over to Blue Table and have delectable sandwiches on Italian bread. Then check out the Leonis Adobe, dates from 1844, and is one of the oldest adobes in LA. Check out the Calabasas Saddlery for a pair of boots before you head over to the artists and writers community of Park Moderne. End your journey at the Sagebrush Cantina and drink blended margaritas and listen to a live country band. Head home and rest for your next adventure.

More "Daycations" coming up in future issues.



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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