

See inside for more photos
from the Fall Festival



Westside Village Homeowners Association
www.westsidevillage.org
February 2012

Westside Village News & Views

You are invited to the Westside Village Homeowners Association 2012 Annual Meeting

Thursday, March 1, 2012
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:

6:30 Registration, dessert and coffee

7:00 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 Members (or their deputies)
from Districts 5 and 11

8:30 Closing remarks

President's Message

By Richard Saltsman

The Westside Village Homeowners Association Annual Meeting and Election is going to be held on Thursday, March 1st at St. John's Presbyterian Church. After reviewing many comments following the meeting last year, we have decided to have a different format this year. Our business meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. We will not provide a dinner; however, we will serve dessert and coffee beginning at 6:30 p.m. There will be no charge for refreshments.

Our brief business meeting and election will be followed by discussions with our L.A.P.D. Senior Lead Officer, Juan Ceja, and our two City Council Members Paul Koretz, and Bill Rosendahl and/or their staff. If you have any questions for Officer Ceja, or either City Councilmember, please email your questions, or concerns to Westsidevillageboard@yahoo.com.

Also, we have two open positions on our Board of Directors. Anyone interested in serving on the Board, please send an email to the WVHA or contact any Board member.

This is a great opportunity to meet your neighbors, express your views and question your city representatives. We look forward to seeing you on March 1st.

The Expo Line is Coming! The Expo Line is Coming!

By Ken Alpern

Mass transit is finally reaching the Westside in 2012! Construction of the first phase of the Expo Line will finish this year, and will connect Downtown L.A. (Staples Center, the Wilshire Subway, and the Downtown Convention Center) to an interim terminus of Venice/Robertson in Culver City.

Ultimately, the Expo Line will have a total of 19 stations to serve the Downtown Flower/Figueroa Corridor, USC, Exposition Park, the Mid-City Communities, the Crenshaw District, Culver City, West L.A. and Santa Monica. The eastern terminus will share tracks with the Blue Line, and the final western terminus will be at the old Sears automotive center at 4th and Colorado (easy walking distance to the Third Street Promenade and the Santa Monica Pier).

The project was not without its share of problems—it is two years late and hundreds of millions of dollars over budget, but this project is the first major passenger rail project to the Westside in over half a century and was bound to have its share of engineering, legal and contractual challenges. The Expo Line Construction Authority is trying to make construction of both the first phase to Culver City and the second phase to Santa Monica as seamless as possible.

The Expo Line was chosen to be routed on the old Exposition Rail Right of Way near Cheviot Hills and through Rancho Park, and removal of old rail ties and tracks will occur over the next six months. Construction of the Expo Line will certainly affect us locally, although because the line will be at-grade (ground level) at Westwood and Overland, it is hoped the impacts will be that much more tolerable.

However, there will be an overhead rail bridge of the line at Sepulveda Blvd, with an accompanying elevated rail station at Sepulveda/Exposition. Sawtelle will have to be lowered by six feet so that an overhead Expo Line can fit under the freeway, and the rail line will be elevated over Sawtelle/Pico and over Centinela.

There will be three other West L.A. stations at National/Palms, Westwood/Exposition and Bundy/Olympic. Station design, bicycle and pedestrian and parking amenities are being planned (and, at times, hotly debated) as the final touches of this major piece of infrastructure are being planned.

There will be a parking structure at the Exposition/Sepulveda, but no parking lot at Exposition/Westwood. There is an effort to have “Parks, not Parking” adjacent to the Westwood station in order to create a Greenway with a Bikeway along the rail right of way from Sepulveda to Overland.

The final completion date of the second phase of this line is 2015-16, and you can learn more about the planning process (and being part of it!) at <http://www.buildexpo.org/>.

WVHA Annual Festival 2011 Bake-Off

By Carolyn Saltsman

The bake-off was held at the Annual Fall Festival on October 1st, 2011.

We had nine entries of various pies, cakes, and cookies.

There were two divisions – adults and children -- judged by our LAPD Senior Lead Officer Juan Ceja.

Congratulations to all of our winners and participants! First Prize Winner in the adult division was Jim Alley. Second place went to Paul Glen. And, winner for the children division was Ernest Glen. Jim and Paul won gift cards to Bed Bath and Beyond and Ernest received a movie gift card!

Next year we look forward to more divisions and more awards will be included.



The 8th Annual Westside Village Fall Festival

By Andy Comins

Crazy 8th? Yes, crazy fun!

Blessed once again with glorious early fall weather, our Eighth Annual event, a perennial community favorite, was extremely well-attended and enjoyed by all.

All the kids' favorites were on hand: a gentle pony ride and adorable petting zoo; artistic face painting; slimy, wild critters from the Eco Station; fun in the bounce house and, of course, the annual water balloon toss and catch contest. Joining us for the first time were the folks from Super Gym; they provided a basketball hoop and a semi-pro player who gladly took on all takers. Musical performances were

provided by local youth rockers “Detoor”, “Stop Motion Cinema”, and the ukulele strumming “Ooks of Hazard”. And, the biggest hit of all this year? The King Kone ice cream truck; what a delicious surprise!

Kudos to all of the following for their presence and continued support—Tree People, Ballona Creek Renaissance, CERT, and WISE. Several local artisans offered their goods for sale, and representatives from our local elementary and middle schools were on hand to answer parents’ questions. Local City Council members Bill Rosendahl and Paul Koretz strolled through the crowd, chatted with residents and honored our Board President, Richard Saltsman, for

his unselfish dedication to the community. The LAFD dropped by with a gleaming red fire engine, and Juan Ceja, our Senior Lead Officer from the LAPD, joined our active and generous folks from Neighborhood Watch to address residents’ concerns and share his insights about maintaining community safety.

All in all, it was yet another enjoyable Saturday spent with family and friends in our beloved Village. We thank everyone for their participation and support, especially our crew of volunteers, and we look forward not only to seeing all of you next year, but also to your ideas and suggestions for making the 9th Annual Festival even better.



Time To Cruise Green

By Ken Williams

In April 2010 my wife 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.

TRANSPORTATION

“Round, round get around, I get around!” The Beach Boys exclaimed back in the 60’s. For decades we car loving Southern Californians have cruised carefree wherever and whenever we’ve desired. Even today with daily gridlock and gas prices hovering around \$4 per gallon, many of us commute alone an hour or more each day in gas guzzling cars. Closer to home, a two block trip to Trader Joe’s for milk is almost always done by car. All these years of carefree car behavior is catching up to us and we’re paying a steep price for the convenience.

For starters, one half of all the energy consumed in California is used for transportation while cars cause at least 60% of the pollution in the Southland. Nationally the U.S. burns more gasoline than the next 20 nations combined – including Japan, China, Russia, Germany and Brazil. Considering that auto exhaust (Co2) is a major component of global warming (which has been on a meteoric rise the last 20 years) now is the time to green our auto behavior here at home. Carpool anyone?

If you have never tried carpooling now is a great time to give it a shot. The Internet has revolutionized ride-sharing. Finding rides or riders is literally a click away. Here are a few websites worth exploring that will get you in the “Diamond Lane” pronto: www.icarpool.com, www.carpoolconnect.com, and www.erideshare.com.

Of course one of the most economic ways to get around swiftly and on schedule is by train or bus. And later this year, another public transit option joins these tried and true methods. The arrival of the Light Rail Expo (Culver City station) is one of the most exciting automobile alternatives to come down the pike. Please see Ken Alpern’s excellent article in this newsletter for all the latest Expo news. Until the Expo is up and running, check out other mass transit options at www.bigbluebus.com or www.mta.net. Hop a bus to the Pier, LACMA, or the Getty, leave the driving to a professional, and enjoy the ride (and that chapter of a favorite novel you never had time to squeeze in while stuck behind the wheel in gridlock).

Speaking of riding, the greenest and healthiest way to travel is on a bike. There are more street lanes, paths, and services dedicated to cyclists than ever before. Check out <http://LA-Bike.org> for suggested bike routes, tips, and other helpful information. One day maybe we could be like the Netherlands where roughly 30% of all urban trips are on a bicycle

compared to 1% in the US.

For those of you already bus riding, carpooling, and getting everywhere else on bike, thank you for leading by example. Yet there’s one more, simple thing we can do to ease our transportation challenges—shop locally.

Supporting local manufacturers and farmers keeps long distance trucking to a minimum, thereby cutting back on diesel exhaust and road wear while promoting job stability. Every Sunday you’ll see my wife Kate, little boy Ryland, and me milling around the Mar Vista Farmers Market (Grandview and Venice Blvd.) www.marvistafarmersmarket.org.

It’s truly a great, small market with a friendly community feel. And for the record, we do drive our Prius there!

Getting our motoring habits in shape doesn’t have to be just a new year’s resolution—we can resolve to get around the “green way” all year long.

For more information on transportation alternatives, sustainability or to take a “solar tour” of our home, please feel free to drop me a line at kalanwill@aol.com.



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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Our newsletter is written and produced by volunteers.

Roberta Schiller – editor

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Articles written by Westside Village residents.

Distribution by Westside Village Block Captains.

If you are interested in submitting an article please reply to Westsidevillageboard@yahoo.com

All articles are subject to acceptance and editing.