



# Westside Village News & Views

just about big community disasters—it's about knowing what to do in a home emergency.

Our Annual Meeting also featured our two councilmen, Paul Koretz and Bill Rosendahl, who took questions on a wide range of neighborhood concerns—from resurfacing the streets, speeding, bringing more businesses to Westside Village, etc. Although the Councilmen tried answering all of our questions, the bottom line here is really the City's bottom line: there is just not enough money to pave our streets or trim our trees or do the extra things we would like to see. We are hopeful that as the economy of the region improves, so will our City's coffers. In the meantime, the City is filling potholes—please dial the 3-1-1 number to report them. 15,000 potholes were filled in a two day period so if there's a problem, please call 3-1-1 to let them know!

Of course, there was good news as well. "Supergraphics" are down—no longer are we seeing our buildings "wrapped in signage"! There's a five-year plan to make our City more bicycle-friendly. And, LAPD Senior Lead Officer Juan Ceja reported that there have been no homicides in WV and robberies are down 22%. We thank our two Neighborhood Watch leaders, Guita Farin and David Graue for their help in making WV a safer place – and thanks as well to our Block Captains for getting important safety information out to our community.

In the Business portion of the meeting five Directors (Andy Comins, Don Elliott, Carolyn Saltzman, Roberta Schiller and Greg Severson) were reelected to a new two year term. It was announced that Patrick Walker is unable to finish his term, because he is planning to relocate outside of Westside Village. Therefore, we have two open positions on the Board. If anyone is interested in serving on the Board, please contact me or any board member.

If you didn't attend this year's Annual Meeting—please plan to attend next year—it's a great way to learn about your Westside Village Homeowners Association, see your neighbors and get involved! We need your help and support. And speaking of support—attached to this newsletter is a reminder to pay your yearly dues of \$10.00. If you have already paid for 2011, we thank you, and please disregard this

## From The President

*By Richard Saltzman*

This is a terrific time of the year, the days are longer, the flowers are blossoming, the Jacaranda trees are in bloom, so many families are walking in the mornings and evenings—a great time to enjoy all the beauty of Westside Village—and drive slowly to take in the experience. It's also a good time to make plans. This issue of the WVHA Newsletter is all about plans—whether planning for our next disaster through CERT training (sorry, but we all know it will happen one day), or the Expo Line planning that Ken Alpern reports on, or planning to keep your home safe—or helping us plan the Fall Festival—now is the time to plan!

As the main speaker at our Westside Village Annual Meeting in March, Valerie Fontaine discussed the need for us to organize a cadre of trained CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) volunteers to help us through the next disaster. Preparedness through planning is really the way to help yourselves and your community. In addition to her talk at the annual meeting, we have invited Valerie to write an article for the newsletter and I hope you will consider undergoing the CERT training. CERT training is not

notice. If you have not yet paid (or if you would like to send a donation to the WVHA), please do so as soon as possible.

Back to planning... The next big event for our neighborhood is the Fall Festival, led again by the terrific Andy Comins and your volunteer board members. Please read the article on the Festival and see how you and your family can participate. There's something for everyone. Plan to be at the event on October 1st on the grounds of St. Johns Church—it will be a blast!

Finally, last year WVHA boardmember Kristin Killey planned and organized a neighborhood-wide yard sale called "Garages for Good" with the proceeds going to help earthquake victims in Haiti. It was a great success and we donated more than \$2,400 to the Red Cross. This year there have been tragedies in our own country, including tornadoes in Missouri, fires in Arizona, and flooding in several states. If you would like to help plan another event, please let us know at [www.WestsideVillage.org](http://www.WestsideVillage.org). We have been very fortunate but others have not so let us hear about your suggestions.

I plan to have a terrific summer – and I hope you all do as well.

## Protect Your Home

By Carolyn Saltsmann

There are several ways to help protect your property with minimal cost and effort. Remember, most of the intruders DO NOT want to run into residents so creating the impression of being at home—even when you are not—may be helpful.

### Nighttime

- 1. Add some outside lighting to your property. Sensor lights can be installed which only come on when an object approaches. They should be put in a place not easily accessible for anyone to manipulate. Our Police department has said many times that intruders will tend to avoid properties that are well lit and expose their presence.**
- 2. Another method of lighting is to have your inside lights, or a substantial light on a timer, and on all night until dawn. This truly does not cause a large expense if you use low wattage bulbs. Intruders tend to think that someone is awake, in the nighttime, if there is a light on that shows from the outside.**

### Daytime

- 1. Barking dogs are good at preventing intruders when lights are not an issue. However, not everyone has or wants to have a dog.**

- 2. Music from a radio, etc, can be left on as a sign someone is home.**
- 3. If family members all work and there is an absence of cars in the driveway, sometimes people ask their neighbors to park a car in their driveway to give the appearance that someone is home.**
- 4. "Fake" video cameras are inexpensive and can be installed – they look real and yet will intimidate unwanted intruders.**
- 5. The most important step is keep all doors and windows closed and locked when no one is home. No intruder wants to spend time trying to open a substantial lock or bolt. If there is an accessible gate to a backyard, this should also be kept locked.**
- 6. Home alarms are excellent protection; but of course not for everyone's life style or budget.**

There is no method that provides 100% protection from home invasion robberies; but we all need to give this our best effort to deter this from happening.

## Expo Line Update

By Ken Alpern

The Exposition Light Rail Line, or Expo Line, to connect the Westside with the Mid-City and Downtown regions is continuing with respect to construction and planning, and some critical hurdles towards the completion of this major infrastructure project have been overcome. However, as with the 405 freeway project, there are temporary sacrifices that will be unavoidable during construction.

The Expo Line is in two phases, with the first phase to Culver City (with a Venice/Robertson western terminus) being completed and in operation in 2012. There is a possibility that most of the line will be opened late this year to La Cienega on an interim basis, but the full first phase will be in operation by next year.

The second phase of the Expo Line is tentatively scheduled to be in operation 2015-16, and will extend the line westward to Colorado/4th in Santa Monica (near the Third Street Promenade). A contractor was chosen to construct the line (Skanska/Rados), and soil sampling will occur along the rail right of way over the next year with actual construction scheduled to begin in 2012.

Two critical issues were addressed, for which the Westside Village Homeowners Association Board and other local grassroots organizations weighed in with the goal of reducing local impacts on parking and traffic.

First, the Exposition/Westwood station was approved

for a no-parking option instead of the planned parking lot at that site. There are a large number of bus/train transfers to and from Westwood and UCLA anticipated at that site but no actual parking spaces. Instead, a parkway is being planned that will add green space to our neighborhood.

Second, the Sepulveda Blvd. rail crossing will be elevated with a rail bridge so as to not impact north-south traffic flow on Sepulveda Blvd. Councilmembers Rosendahl and Koretz worked with the LADOT to come up with approximately \$5.3 million to pay for this betterment, and it is hoped that more parking can be built at or adjacent to the future Exposition/Sepulveda station because that freeway-adjacent location is expected to be one that attracts more car commuters from West L.A., the Valley or the South Bay.

Updates and inclusion of e-mail correspondence with the Expo Line Construction Authority can be obtained at <http://www.buildexpo.org/>

## Finally! Two New Restaurants In Our Neighborhood

By Roberta Schiller

For those of you who have waited for and wondered what would replace the former Hamburger Hamlet—the wait is over and two new restaurants are welcomed to our neighborhood. We are thrilled to have “Bubba Diego’s Mexican Restaurant and Bar” and “Crossroads Barbeque” now open. This is not an ad for the eateries nor is it a food review—but it is a request to support our local businesses.

Both restaurants are owned by the same company and one that’s definitely not a newcomer to the WLA scene: they are owned by Dinah’s Restaurant! But, the food is clearly its own style. Bubba’s has delicious Mexican food in a lovely setting and Crossroads has upscale barbeque. On my visits to each of them, I’ve run into Westside Villagers so it’s great to see that folks are already supporting these two new businesses.

They are now open for lunch from 11:30 to 2:30 and then they re-open for happy hour/dinner from 4:00 to 10:00 Monday through Wednesday and 4:00 to 11:00 the rest of the week.

Supporting our local businesses is important to the vibrancy of our neighborhood. It is painful to see “For Rent” signs on the old Shoe Pavillion building on Sepulveda or Farm Boy on Overland. So, if you are dining out, consider these new restaurants or the others in and around Westside Village. And, if you go to Bubba’s or Crossroads, please let them know you are a member of WVHA.

## Sign Up For Cert Training Right Here In Westside Village!

By Valerie Fontaine

CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training, like having car insurance, means you’re as ready as you can be to help yourself, your family and your neighborhood in the event of an emergency.

The Los Angeles Fire Department will present this FREE training with a minimum enrollment of 20 people. St. John’s Presbyterian Church at Military and National has generously offered the use of their community room on Thursday evenings. As soon as we have enough confirmed attendees, we can schedule the training.

CERT classes are open to everyone over 18, including those who took the course previously and want to refresh their disaster preparedness skills.

You will learn to:

- **Prepare for emergencies;**
- **Manage utilities and put out small fires;**
- **Treat the three medical killers by opening airways, controlling bleeding, and treating for shock;**
- **Provide basic medical aid;**
- **Search for and rescue victims safely;**
- **Effectively organize volunteers;**
- **And collect disaster intelligence to support first responder efforts.**

The training consists of seven weekly 2-1/2 hour evening classes. If you miss a class, you can go to any other location to make it up. For more information see [www.cert-la.com](http://www.cert-la.com).

Interested? Contact Valerie Fontaine at [vfontaine@sfbsearch.com](mailto:vfontaine@sfbsearch.com) as soon as possible so we can bring CERT training to Westside Village—the training will help you, your family and your community!

## Flag Flies Over Charnock

By Walter Renzi

Thanks to the dedicated service of Chief Petty Officer Scott Kassemeyer, a flag that previously flew over the Afghanistan war zone has found a new home at Charnock Road Elementary School. Kassemeyer, a former member of the Westside Village Homeowners Association board, whose extensive military service began in 1984 and continued when he was mobilized in April of 2010 for Operation Enduring Freedom, has been awarded many decorations and awards but his recent participation with the elementary school adds a local light on his distinguished service.



*Scott Kassemeyer, Councilmember Bill Rosendahl and the students of Charnock Road Elementary School.*

During Scott's stay in Afghanistan, he took the time to communicate with three classes of students: Ms. McLaren's 1st grade class and Ms. Taylor and Ms. Carpenter's 3rd grade classes. Three classes at the school wrote holiday letters to Scott. About 70 letters were sent and Scott responded to each class with a letter telling them a little about Afghanistan and included photos of him in duty.

Recently, on April 10th, Chief Petty Officer Scott Kassemeyer brought that flag to the school to be raised in the presence of the students who wrote words of encouragement and gratitude for his military service. Teachers, Principal Germaine England and Councilmember Bill Rosendahl expressed their appreciation to Scott for his service and thoughtful responses to the children's well wishes.

Now back home, Scott continues his Reserve duty and, along with his wife, they continue their volunteer work with service personnel.

Scott has resumed his civilian career as an Ophthalmologic Technician and looks forward to one day becoming a history teacher.

Check out that flag the next time you pass the school!

## Hold The Date!!! 8th Annual Westside Village Fall Festival

**Saturday October 1st, 2011 – 11am-4pm at St. John's Church – 11000 National Blvd.**

*By Andy Comins*

The date has been set and extensive planning is underway. The usual terrific activities will be on hand, including a petting zoo and pony ride, live music, a bounce house, Eco Station's creepy crawly reptiles, art activities, face painters, and, of course, fire and police vehicles. Plus, we are looking for new and exciting exhibits . . . anyone who would like to bring the results of their gardening or recipes made from their gardens should contact Andy. And free-lancers or businesses based in Westside Village, from web designers, architects, and caterers to plumbers and electricians—you name it—will be able to leave their business cards. All contributors will be wearing name tags so they can connect with others with similar interests or needs. Many thanks to

Anne-Marie Schaaf, one of our block captains, for the terrific idea!

Many more specifics will be decided over the course of the next three months, so stay tuned for a detailed update in September. In addition, we invite any and all artisans to contact Andy Comins at [amcomins@yahoo.com](mailto:amcomins@yahoo.com) to discuss their possible participation and the exhibition of their wares.

We are soliciting entries for two baking competitions; one for adult entrants and one for children. If you're interested in participating, please contact Carolyn Saltsman at [Carolyn.Saltsman@mcgladrey.com](mailto:Carolyn.Saltsman@mcgladrey.com).

Organizing the festival is truly a labor of love and is done so by our very busy volunteer Board members. We need additional volunteers to help in numerous ways, from registering attendees to monitoring the safety of our kids at various activities. If you can give us even one hour of your time the day of the event or if you have any ideas you would like to share, please contact Andy at [amcomins@yahoo.com](mailto:amcomins@yahoo.com).

Our festival represents a unique opportunity to meet your neighbors, make new friends and contacts, and just have a blast. We hope to see you all there!



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

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

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