

# Westside Village News & Views

**The 7th Annual Westside Village  
Fall Festival is coming up!!**

**Saturday, October 2, 2010**

**New extended hours  
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**St. John's Presbyterian Church  
at 11000 National Blvd.  
(corner of Military)**

With the waning of summer, Westside Village will welcome the change of seasons with our 7th Annual Fall Festival. The Festival will take place a week earlier this year, so please make a note of the date and extended hours: Saturday, October 2nd, from 11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Our food lines will be open from noon to 3:00 P.M.

As usual we will gather on the grounds of St. John's Church (11000 National Blvd at Military Ave.) The admission fee, including a lunch ticket, will remain at \$3/person for paid WVHA members and \$6/person for non-members; children under 3 enter at no charge. If you've forgotten to pay your WVHA dues, now would be the perfect time to send \$10 to our Treasurer, Joyce Purcell at 3316 Kelton Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90034.

The festival just keeps getting better and better. Last year over five hundred folks caught up with old friends, met new neighbors, and generally had a blast. We expect nothing less this year.

This year's activities will once again include the ever-popular and wacky bounce house, pony rides and petting zoo, face painting and loads of other arts and crafts fun, plus music performances by children studying at both the Cornerstone Music Conservancy and the Hollywood Academy of Rock. Of course, our local elementary schools will send representatives to field any and all of your questions. We hope and expect Eco Station, the environmental education and wildlife rescue facility, will return with komodo dragons, snakes, and other slimy creatures for only the bravest to confront and hold!



Our table exhibits will continue to focus on environmental issues and green living. Those expected to join us include the Ballona Creek Renaissance, Tree People, Heal the Bay, California Sun Systems Inc., Christy Wilhelmi (affectionately known on the web as the Gardenerd), home design experts from the retail store Living Green, and more.

New and exciting this year... we are having a "Bake-Off" and are soliciting entries. The entries will be judged at approximately 1:30 P.M. In addition, information about our WVHA cookbook, comprised of residents' favorite recipes, will be available.

And, our first-ever Westside Village talent search, for those with an array of artistic and related talents, should produce some interesting new exhibitors. Join in, there's something for everyone!

The good folks who coordinate our Neighborhood Watch program and reach out to all our terrific Block Captains will update us about their on-going efforts to ensure our community's safety; and our Senior Lead Officer, Juan Ceja, from LAPD's Pacific Division, as well as local L.A. City Council members will surely be glad to address your problems and concerns. And, make sure the kids keep an eye out for those brave men and women of the LAFD with their ever so-cool fire trucks!

Of course the kids' favorite, our perennial Water Balloon Toss, will close out the afternoon. All winners will receive either complimentary movie tickets from Landmark Theaters or gift certificates from Barnes and Noble.

The Annual Fall Festival represents an opportunity to meet and make new friends and network with neighbors. Your kids can hang with their buds and even meet someone new. So, please come and enjoy a wonderful early fall day with your Westside Village neighbors.

See you there!

## Library Book Sale

The Friends of the Palms-Rancho Park Library will be holding their semi-annual book sale on Saturday, October 16th, 2010, from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. Proceeds from the sale will be used to support library programs and additional books and DVDs for the collection.

The books being sold are donated. If you want to clear off your bookshelves and contribute popular books in good condition to the sale, contact Maggie Johnson, Senior Librarian, at (310) 840-2142.

For more information, and to become a member of the Friends, visit their web site at <http://www.palmslibraryfriends.org>.

## What's Happening – Local Updates

By Ken Alpern

While the economic downturn has caused certain changes in local planning and development, the effort to continue transportation and other infrastructure construction continues, and the WVHA Board will continue to play a role in representing Westside Village whenever it can.

To their credit, the Metro, Caltrans and LADOT project leaders conducting the Expo Line, the last phase of the I-405 widening project between the I-10 and SR-101 freeways, and the Overland Ave. widening project are sending out regular e-mail updates to the neighborhood councils, neighborhood associations and to individuals wishing to receive these updates. However, there will be unavoidable traffic impacts during their construction.

At this time, it appears that the Overland Ave. widening project and the DWP substation projects will be completed roughly in fall-winter 2010-11, with most of the remaining work done at night. The I-405 widening project and Sunset Blvd. Bridge reconstruction is also being done mainly at night, and local businesses are reporting good cooperation between the contractors, Metro and local neighborhoods to minimize the traffic impacts—the full project will require approximately two years to complete.

The Exposition Light Rail Line has recently completed some major technical, financial and legal hurdles and is estimated to open Phase 1 operations from Staples/Metro Center to La Cienega sometime in 2011, with operations extended to Venice/Robertson in 2012. A recently-opened Rapid Bus on Venice Blvd. is anticipated to shuttle many transit riders to/from the Expo Line to the beach when Venice/Robertson station is completed and ready for operations.

The Final EIR of Phase 2 of the Exposition Light Rail Line from Culver City to Santa Monica was recently passed, with four West L.A. stations planned at Palms/National, Exposition/Westwood, Exposition/Sepulveda and Olympic/Bundy. It is scheduled to be completed and operational in 2015-16.

However, there are certain options that the Exposition Line Construction Authority is evaluating during the next phase of construction, which is Preliminary Engineering. The WVHA Board recently voted to support a no-parking option with other mitigations for the Exposition/Westwood station in order to avoid traffic, parking and overzoning at that station (which would potentially lead to overdevelopment in adjacent Westside Village). The WVHA Board also voted to support an expedited and coordinated construction of the Expo Line with a long-planned Expo Bikeway to connect our region with both Downtown and the beach, and also voted to support an elevated rail bridge instead of a ground level

("at-grade") crossing for the Expo Line at Sepulveda Blvd. in order to reduce local traffic impacts for Westside Villagers.

After years of trying to limit the 3115 Sepulveda Blvd. (old Circuit City/Shoe Pavilion) developers to create a 3-4 story project at that site, and after successfully pushing the developers into an agreed-to development there complete with a traffic light at Sepulveda/Clover (near the old Baskin Robbins), the developers ran out of funds and the bank has taken back that site. It is indeed a pity that the developers hadn't agreed to work with us earlier, after two years of wasting everyone's time pushing for a 5-6-story, oversized project that would have led to overdevelopment on Sepulveda Boulevard!

Right now, no development is planned for the 3115 Sepulveda Blvd. site, which remains empty and problematic for our community. To make matters worse, the family-friendly Baskin Robbins has been replaced with a Cigarette Store, complete with hookahs, tobacco products and, arguably, other products that are anything but family-friendly such as knives and brass knuckles.

This turn of events speaks volumes about our economic downturn, and of the need to develop something favorable to Westside Village on Sepulveda Blvd. and prevent unwanted developments and businesses to change our neighborhood into a less family-friendly one that it now is. It also speaks volumes about our need to patronize our local restaurants, sandwich shops and yogurt shops. We do not want to lose any more stores like Baskin Robbins and Hamburger Hamlet!

On a final note, the local, state and federal political leadership is favoring a "30/10 Plan" to allow the federal government to give L.A. county a bridge loan of the next 30 years of sales tax receipts to pay for and construct projects such as the Wilshire Subway, the Expo Line and light rail to LAX in the next 10 years. Our infrastructure is continuing, but it is planning and community input that will make the final determination as to the character of Westside Village and adjacent neighborhoods for the next 20-40 years.

The Westside Village Homeowners Association and our neighborhood council, the Mar Vista Community Council, will continue to weigh in whenever it can to bring about the best possible results for our neighborhood, both for ourselves and for future generations.

## Westside Village Green-gardening Contest Winners !

Congratulations to Yvonne Shapiro and Cindy Holdorff for their green-gardening tips. We were unable to decide between these two terrific submissions, so both gardeners each won a \$25.00 gift

certificate to Anawalt! Our contest was held on our website, [www.WestsideVillage.org](http://www.WestsideVillage.org) – please go there to check out Yvonne and Cindy's great gardening ideas. And, look for upcoming contests; we want our website to be your neighborhood resource.

## Special Thanks

Long-time Westside Village resident and community activist Jeanne Parker did the impossible. Through her determination and perseverance, Jeanne secured the money pledged to Westside Village Homeowners Association from Councilman Rosendahl's Office for the Fall Festival in 2009. When all other efforts failed, Jeanne took on the cause. Thank you, Jeanne! And, thank you, Councilman Rosendahl!

## Bake-Off at the WVA Annual Fall Festival



**The Bake-Off contest** is the event

**October 2nd** is the date

**St John's Church** is the place

**By 1:00 p.m.** don't be late

**Judging at 1:30** will be done

**Don't miss out,** bring your specialty

**Join the fun!**

Email Carolyn Saltsman at [crsaltsman@ca.rr.com](mailto:crsaltsman@ca.rr.com) to reserve a space for your entry.





**Come to  
The 7th Annual  
Westside Village  
Fall Festival  
Saturday  
October 2  
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.**



*Banquet tables graciously donated  
for the Annual Festival by:*

## **Hillcrest Party Rentals**

**Bernie Sanshuck, Vice President**  
3507 Motor Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90034  
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