

North Westdale News

P.O. Box 642522, Los Angeles, CA 90064

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DECEMBER 2010



Message From the President: Report on Mayor Villaraigosa Meeting

Dear Neighbors,

Halloween has passed. Thanksgiving has come and gone. 2010 is nearly over!

This is my favorite time of year mainly because I always spend it with my family and dearest friends. It's one of the things I cherish the most!

On November 29th, I was invited to meet with Mayor Villaraigosa, along with several other local leaders in our community. I had an opportunity to share with him my motivations in serving our community. I told the Mayor that I cherish the character of our neighborhood and how lucky we are to have a "small town" feel in the midst of a big city. I expressed to him that my main concern is the health, safety and welfare of everyone in the neighborhood. Lastly, I told him my goal is to raise our children in the same family-oriented neighborhood I was raised in.

The Mayor understood when I explained that the Santa Monica Airport was our biggest threat to our health and welfare. His response on this issue demonstrated he is current on our concerns and the science behind it. He also understood when I explained that the proliferation of Gentlemen's Clubs in our neighborhood goes against the character of where we live. The message of preserving the character of our neighborhood was made by almost everyone at the meeting. Although the Mayor is not a Genie in a bottle, he heard

the message loud and clear.

After the meeting a few of us remembered Kelbo's, Chicago Pizza Works, Igby's, Mrs. Gooch's and Wild Oats. In the place of each one of these locations is either an empty building or an establishment that does not provide any value to our community.

What do you cherish? Email me at Bahaa@netpayservices.com and tell me what matters to you when it comes to our neighborhood.

I wish you the happiest of holidays and a prosperous 2011!

Your friend and neighbor,

Bahaa

Bahaa Mikhail
President, NWNA

MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Welcome
2. Reports
 - a. President
 - b. Vice-President
 - c. Treasurer
3. Committee Reports
 - a. Budget
 - b. Block Captains
 - c. Safety
 - d. Richland
 - e. Outreach
 - f. Airport
4. New Business
5. Adjournment

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ITEMS OF INTEREST

Dec 8: LAPD and Santa Claus come to Town. See page 4.

Dec 13: Monthly NWNA Meeting. 7pm at St. Andrew's Church.

Dec 15: Last day to drop off donations for LAPD Toy Drive at Pacific Station (Centinela & Culver)

Dec 26: Last day to drop off donations for Westside Food Bank at St. Andrew's (National & Federal)

Jan 17: NWNA Book Club meets to discuss *Twelve Sharp* by Janet Evanovich.

Jan 20: Richland Avenue Elementary Kinder Round Up. 9am at the school.

If you have a neighborhood event or club meeting to add, please send details to Vicki Sanelli at bunigrrl@gmail.com. Thanks!

Don't Miss Santa!

Wednesday, December 8 at 5pm in his only North Westdale appearance. See page 4 for details.



The Richland Avenue Elementary School Report

Come Meet the NEW Richland Avenue School!

--A high achieving Westside neighborhood school educating bright, successful students in a small school environment.

We know that choosing the right learning environment for your child is a complex decision with lots of considerations. Will he be inspired? Will she be challenged to achieve great things? Will he learn in a constructive environment? Will she get individualized attention? Will he develop the fundamentals he'll need to be successful in middle school, high school and beyond?

At the NEW Richland Avenue School, the answer is yes!

We are designed to help children succeed

- Safe, small-school environment that includes 6th grade
- Matriculated students live in the community, we do not bus-in outsiders
- Consistently rising API scores, +97 points in just three years
- Innovative, departmentalized curriculum for grades 4-6
- Transitional Kinder program for students who aren't quite ready for full Kindergarten, but need more than a Pre-K program
- GATE education for high achieving students who have been identified as gifted

We enthusiastically endorse multi-platform learning

- Dynamic arts education, with a concentration in fine art, dance,

and theater arts, including weekly music classes

- One-acre learning garden that serves as an outdoor classroom
- FREE afterschool care provided by STAR, renowned for providing high-quality programs that excite, inspire and educate

We embrace technology

- Computers in every classroom
- State-of-the-art computer lab
- Multiple SMART Board-enabled classrooms

We celebrate diversity because it enriches the learning experience

- Our student population is richly diverse and derives from multiple traditions
- 78% of our students speak English as their primary language

We value talented teachers

- Unsurpassed teacher retention levels, showing the dedication our teachers have to our children
- Aides in every classroom from Pre-K through grade 4

We enthusiastically engage parents as our partners in their child's education

- Active Booster Club that invites parents to take a leading role in their child's elementary school experience

To learn more, join us for:

- **Kinder Round Ups**, beginning January 20th at 9 a.m. (Additional tours Feb 24 at 9am and March 24 at 9am)
- **Playdates** for future Richland

attendees and their families. (Dates to be announced)

Got questions? Call the school office at (310) 473-0467 or visit the Booster Website to see what's happening: www.richlandbooster.com.



CHOCOLATE DISCOUNT!

Get 10% off at Essential Chocolate Desserts in the Westside Pavilion when you mention Richland Avenue Elementary! Belgian chocolates, ice cream, cakes, cookies and more. YUM! Plus Richland Avenue will get credit for the School Cents Program. Double yum!

OTHER SCHOOL SUPPORT PROGRAMS

And don't forget these simple ways to support our local public school:

- Richland Avenue CSA Program.
- The School Cents Program is back at the Westside Pavilion.
- Save Campbell's Soup labels, General Mills Box Tops and Capri Sun Juice Bags.
- Sign up your store club cards including Ralph's, Food4Less, Albertson's, E-scrip and Target Red Card and Office Depot.
- Volunteer for the Wonder of Reading program.

Contact the school office at (310) 473-0467 for more info on any of these programs.



NWNA BOOK CLUB'S NEXT BOOK: *Twelve Sharp* by Janet Evanovich

Join bounty hunter Stephanie Plum in another series of capers as she manages love and work in scenic Trenton, New Jersey. Fun and adventure are promised in this novel from best-selling author Janet Evanovich. Meeting will be held on January 17. For more info or to suggest a future book, email Lillia Singer at bellagardendesign@att.net.

Safety First!

Bill's Safety Corner



By: Bill Koontz

Remember during all of your holiday shopping extravaganzas to put all bags and boxes in your trunk and out of sight. The prowlers are out in the mall parking lots.

What are your neighborhood issues and concerns?

Jet fumes? Airport noise? Strip clubs? Roadside billboards? Graffiti? Pot holes?

Fill out our poll on the North Westdale Yahoo! Group or let NWN president, Bahaa Mikhail know via email at bahaa@netpayservices.com. We'll share the results in next month's newsletter.

Not a member of our Yahoo! Group? See page 4 for details on joining.



Treasurer's Note: Support Your Neighborhood!

Suggested Donation: \$10 per Household

I would like to thank all of you who sent in your contribution. The dues pay our minimal operating costs - use of a meeting hall, website hosting, newsletter printing, as well as supporting initiatives and organization's concerned to improve the neighborhood.

Suggested donation starts at \$10 per household. If you have not paid the dues, please do so this month. You can give your donation to your block captain or mail it to NWN, P.O. Box 642522, Los Angeles, CA 90064.

Thank you!

Lillia Singer, Treasurer

Holiday Food Drive To Benefit Westside Food Bank

'Tis the season! Help someone in need by bringing a donation of canned goods or baby supplies to the St. Andrew's Lutheran Church office (at Federal & National) Monday through Wednesday from 9am-1pm or on Sunday mornings.



Other St. Andrew's Activities

- Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, December 24 at 11pm
 - Christmas Day Worship, December 25 at 11am
- Everyone is welcome to celebrate this wonderful holiday with worship and traditional hymns!

Gardening Tips: Trees and Hedges

By: Lillia Singer, Bella Garden Design

Protect the tree trunk from weeds, grass and weed whackers – install a stone or plastic barrier approximately two feet or more around the tree.

If the hedge was installed less than two or three years ago, it

probably still has stakes to keep the shrubs upright. Check the green plastic ties, they are most like too tight now and prevent the shrubs from growing and staying healthy. If the stakes are still needed, simply remove and



nursery pot.

replace the existing ties leaving "room" for the plant to grow. Do not use coated or non-coated metal wires.

When planting trees and woody shrubs, make sure not to bury the plant deeper than it was planted in the

Santa Claus Is Coming To Town!

Join your local LAPD officers and Santa Claus on his tricked out sleigh this Wed, Dec. 8th in the St. Andrews parking lot at 5pm. He will be available for pictures and even a little lap time for the kiddies. Santa's schedule for the night:

- 5:00pm: St. Andrew's Church (National & Federal)
- 5:45pm: 3100 Colby Avenue (mid-block)
- 6:15pm: 3500 Federal Avenue
- 6:45pm: 11900 Victoria Avenue (mid-block)
- 7:15pm: 3343 Inglewood Blvd
- 8:00pm: 3600 Wade Street (mid-block)

Note: stop times can vary 15 to 30 minutes. Look for the sirens, music and flashing police lights!

LAPD Toy Drive

Additionally the LAPD is having a toy drive and Winter Wonderland event for needy Pacific Area families. New, unwrapped toys can be dropped off before Dec.15th at the station on the corner of Centinela and Culver. Have a great and safe holiday season.



Police Report

Senior Lead Officer
Drake Madison
33997@lapd.lacity.org
310-622-3973

Basic Car Coordinator
Sergeant Pompano
310-482-6334

Crime Trends

The following are the crime statistics representing 9/1/10 - 9/30/10:

Aggravated Assaults 2
Burglary (Vehicle) 26
Robbery 3
Burglary (Res/Biz) 9

Grand Theft Auto 9
Homicide 0
Sex 0
Theft 15

During this rating period Theft (Petty) has become a major problem in 14A25 area. Overall crime in several categories remained the same this period but one, Theft. Petty theft is the taking of a person's property without their permission. In our diverse communities we often leave all types of items all around our property that a

petty thief can pick up and keep going with little chance of being seen. Teach your family the importance of placing items in their proper secured place. Also teach them to be cognizant of their surroundings and don't leave items of value unsecured. Join your local Neighborhood Watch program. It is still our best tool against crime.

North Westdale Neighborhood Association

President	Bahaa Mikhail
Vice President	Bill Koontz
Treasurer	Lillia Singer
Secretary	Audrey O'Donnell
Webmaster	Andrew Parke
Newsletter Editor	Victoria Sanelli

If you have questions or would like to volunteer and get more involved with the neighborhood association, contact Bahaa Mikhail at 310-709-6431 or via email at bahaa@netpayservices.com.

Have a story idea or event that might be of interest to the neighborhood? Please email Victoria Sanelli at bunigr1@gmail.com.

Deadline for the January issue is Monday, December 27, 2010.

The North Westdale Neighborhood Association (NWN) serves the community bounded by the 405 Freeway to the east, National Blvd to the south, Centinela Ave/Bundy Drive (Centinela north of Ocean Park and Bundy south of Ocean Park) to the west, and the Santa Monica Freeway to the north, representing approximately 1,000 homes. All residents, both home owners and renters, are members.

There is an annual voluntary donation of \$10 per household. NWN strives to improve our neighborhood with activities ranging from crime watch to neighborhood beautification to local school support.

We're on the web!

www.northwestdale.com

Join The North Westdale E-Mail List!

Go to:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NWNA>
Click on the "Join This Group" button