

# North Westdale News

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## North Westdale Diners Have A Lot of Questions Next Dining Club Meeting at The Curious Palate

If you were not at last month's dining club meeting at Chan Dara, you missed out on some delicious food, not to mention lively conversation and the very latest neighborhood news. One thing we learned ... don't get between Lilia and her Crispy Mango Chicken!

Join us this month as we continue our quest to support our local restaurants while building good neighbor relations. This



month's dinner is scheduled for:

**Monday, February 2  
The Curious Palate**

**12034 Venice Blvd  
(between Grand View & Inglewood)**

To RSVP or join the club mailing list, email Lilia at [bellagardendesign@att.net](mailto:bellagardendesign@att.net). Suggestions for future restaurants are always welcome!

## A Primo Neighbor An Interview with Ralph Primo

By: Tony Sanelli

Ralph Primo is one of the founding members of the North Westdale Neighborhood Association. An active local businessman he is best known for the donut shop he and his wife Celia own and operate at National and Sawtelle. He has been an active and successful real estate broker and stock broker in his career as well. Ralph graciously sat down with me at his donut shop to answer a few questions. *Note: responses may be paraphrased due to space constraints.*

### When did you move here, and what attracted you to this area?

Business is a focal point. I had a delivery to a dear friend Sam Brown at the VA. I offered to drop off at his house on Butler. As I made a U-turn an owner was putting

up a For Sale sign. I went and talked to him and made an offer. This was in 1959.

### Did the neighborhood in '59 look much different than today?

The trees were smaller! There were many more children in those days.

### What's the best part about North Westdale?

It's convenient and has everything I need in the area.

### You bought the shop at the drop of hat. How did your lovely wife Celia let you do that?

God bless Celia she has always backed

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## SAVE THE DATE!

**Next Meeting:  
Monday,  
February 9**

**7:00pm**

**St. Andrew's  
Lutheran Church  
on Federal &  
Clarkson**

**Upcoming  
Meetings:  
March 9  
April 13  
May 11**

### Agenda for Feb 9

1. Subcommittee Reports (Airport, Beautification, Crime, Outreach, Schools)
2. New Business
3. Open Floor

# A Primo Neighbor (cont.)

## Profile: Ralph Primo

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my hair-brained schemes.

### Why donuts, and not car parts, lumber or some other crazy thing?

The opportunity presented itself and was matter of finance. It all came together at the right time. I presented a business plan to the Santa Monica Co-Op for a \$2,000 loan. That was the biggest loan they ever made at the time and they still talk about it today!

### How do you get your donuts to taste so good?

You have to be creative. Fresh ingredients and tweaking the recipes to give them our distinct flavor. We buy top of the line and make them fresh, and of course give good service. Primarily it's the freshness.

### Besides donuts you have been involved in real estate. To what extent?

After 15 years of donuts I wanted to do more and was always fascinated by real estate. Westdale Properties used to be next to the donut shop and I got my license there. Then I opened my own office at Pico and Barrington and easily sold 25% of the houses in the Westdale area. I prefer the income properties to residential because I am more analytical than emotional. I bought my house for \$27,000 and I remember when the first \$100,000 property sold in Trousdale our office went wild, the 100K barrier had been broken.

### What was crime like back in then?

That was the reason we started the



homeowner organization. Because crime had gotten out of control. On Butler we had 8 break-ins on my block alone. A Neighbor was robbed, raped in broad daylight where the Washington Mutual is and that was the breaking point. There was only one patrol car from Lincoln all the way over here and there was no way that was going to work so we started the neighborhood watch and association.

### Is the neighborhood watch in your area now?

No, things have settled down tremendously. That spike we had as I recall was during rough economic times and we had a lot of 24 hour businesses in area which drew bad people and gangs from all over plus the 405 freeway

access allowed for bad people to do mischief and get away quickly. One thing we have now that is a big problem is the internet café over here on National is drawing young people, underage drinking, and body language of drug dealing. Otherwise our area is in pretty good shape.

### Should we start a neighborhood watch again?

I haven't seen any crime statistics, but I don't think we should be 'get off my lawn' but we should be aware of what's going on. Get to know our neighbors more. Back then we all knew each other and everyone had little kids. Now

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## Monthly Farmers Market Report

Fresno Evergreen Farm has a wide selection of greens of the season. You'll find mustard greens (gai choy), dandelion greens, kale, red and green chard, collard greens, napa cabbage, baby bok choy and rapini (Thai broccoli). Gonzaga Farms is carrying gold and pink pomelos (Asian grapefruit). Their Meyer lemons are great for their juice and when your recipe calls for grated lemon rind. Be sure to look for their tangelos this month. Also seen at the market are pea shoots, sugar snap peas and daikon. Spring may still be a few months away but Gloria's Fruits & Vegetables has three types of strawberries: Camarosas,

Gaviotas and Albians. Find out which one is your favorite and take a few baskets home.



### Mar Vista Farmers Market

Every Sunday 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM  
Grand View at Venice Blvd.

# The School Report: Upcoming Events at Richland Avenue Elementary

## Donate to the Silent Auction, Volunteer in the Garden, There's So Many Ways to Help!

### SCHOOL CENTS BLOOD DRIVE FEB 17-18, 10AM-3:30PM

Do two good deeds for the price of one! The Westside Pavilion will be holding a blood drive on Feb 17 & 18. Donate for Richland Avenue Elementary School and earn the school 10,000 points in the School Cents program. Meanwhile, your blood donation can save the lives of up to THREE people!



### VOLUNTEERS WANTED! LEARNING GARDEN LANDSCAPING DAY FEB 21, 10AM-4:30PM

Join your neighbors and the Disney VolunteERS on Saturday, February 21 as they help to do landscaping around the school garden! The recent rains we've had have things sprouting all over and there's no time to waste keeping things under control. Plus, refreshments will be served!

### KINDER ROUND UPS FOR 2009

If you're getting read to send a little one off to kindergarten, be sure to attend one of Richland Avenue Elementary School's upcoming Kinder Round Ups! The round ups will take place on:

Thursday, February 26, 2009  
Thursday, March 19, 2009

All round ups are held at 9am in the library of Richland Avenue Elementary School. For more information, contact the school at (310) 473-0467.



### SAVE THE DATE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL AND SILENT AUCTION MARCH 21

Richland Avenue's annual spring event, the International Festival and Silent Auction has been scheduled for Saturday, March 21! If you would like to donate an item or service to the silent

auction, please contact Kami Turrou at [turrschreib@earthlink.net](mailto:turrschreib@earthlink.net) or (310) 575-0058.

### REMINDER!

**SCHOOL SUPPORT PROGRAMS**  
Don't forget there are many everyday ways you can support our local school:

- Turn in receipts for Westside Pavilion purchases at the Customer Service Desk (2nd Floor) for the School Cents Program.
- Save Campbell's Soup labels and General Mills Box Tops for Education
- Sign up your grocery store club cards or WAMU debit card (follow procedures on their websites)
- Volunteer for the Wonder of Reading program. Just one hour a week can make a huge difference for a child! Contact school librarian Susie Moreno at (310) 473-0467 for more information.

## St. Andrew's Happenings

11555 National Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90064



### Valentine's Dinner

Friday, February 13  
7pm in Nolte Hall

Get an early start to Valentine's Day! Come over to St. Andrew's for a big, affordable, tasty Italian dinner and great music. Celebrate Valentine's Day in style right here in North Westdale.

### Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 25  
12:00pm in the Sanctuary  
7:00pm at St. Bede's Episcopal Church  
3590 Grand View



Is life hectic right now? Would some quiet time for reflection and contemplation be helpful in the midst of life's busyness? Please feel welcome to the Ash Wednesday liturgy for a spiritual recharge. Child care is available.

For more information, contact the St. Andrew's Lutheran Church office at (310) 477-0257.

## The Good Neighbor When Dog Barking Goes Wrong

Dogs can be a great alarm system. A sharp bark alerts you and your neighbors to the possible presence of strangers in the area (or in my dog's case, possums cutting across the yard). Sometimes though, dogs bark ... and bark and bark and bark ... for other reasons, such as boredom. In these cases, the barking becomes a nuisance. What can you do if your neighbor's dog barks for hours on end?

Hopefully you know your neighbor well enough to talk to him or her about the dog barking. The chances are very good that your neighbor is not aware of the problem as it is very likely to only happen when they are not at home. However, if you don't feel comfortable addressing the problem directly with your neighbor, Los Angeles also has barking dog complaint process.

To file a complaint, write a letter including your name, address and phone number; the address of the barking dog; and a description of the problem. Be sure to sign the letter. Send the letter to:

West Los Angeles Animal Care Center  
11361 West Pico Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90064

The Department of Animal Service will then send a letter to the dog owner. If after 15 days a second complaint is received, the owner will be required to meet with a Dept representative. If the owner fails to appear, an administrative hearing will be set.

## North Westdale Neighborhood Association

President	Tony Sanelli
Vice President	Bahaa Mikhail
Secretary	Amy Levy
Treasurer	Lillia Singer
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 Tony Sanelli at (310) 694-0228 or [tsanelli@acpartners.com](mailto:tsanelli@acpartners.com).

Have a story idea or event that might be of interest to the neighborhood? Please email Victoria Sanelli at [bunigrrl@gmail.com](mailto:bunigrrl@gmail.com).

*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](http://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 and follow the online instructions.

## A Primo Neighbor (cont.) An Interview with Ralph Primo

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it isn't like that as much. Our schools are mostly bused in and there isn't as much neighborhood involvement.

**You live near Daniel Webster and Richland Elementary. Do you have any problems with the schools?**  
None.

**You credit Celia with much of your success.**  
All my success.

**What is it about her that is so special?**  
She's smart. It sneaks up on you. She really truly likes people, especially children. They sense it and love her back.

**Do you have any active hobbies?**  
I was a stock broker at Dean Witter for 15 years. Now I play the market.

**Have you been smart and/or lucky with your investments?**  
You don't need brains you only need a bull market.

**What are the top things we should do to**



### Police Report

*Updated crime statistics were not available at the time this newsletter went to print.*

However, have you noticed that the parking lot of the Ralph's/Staples/Rite Aid shopping center at National and Sawtelle has been void of loiterers recently? Special thanks are owed to Officer Steve Strull of the CHP and Officer Tom Wicks of the LAPD Pacific Division for working together with store management to get remove RVs parking overnight and for cleaning up an encampment of homeless under the freeway who had been hanging out in the parking lot and was a source of crime in the shopping center. Details were shared with us by Officer Strull at the NWN meeting on January 12.

### improve or change in our neighborhood?

One thing I think is a problem is cut down on all the short cut traffic that comes through our neighborhood. There should be a little more policing of these people. The y don't even stop at stop signs anymore. Even the school police are the worst offenders of not coming to a stop at a stop sign. Last thing, pet peeve of mine, is all the busing in down Brookhaven and all the diesel gas fumes. There are literally clouds of toxic fumes going over the houses. Obviously the jets coming in are also a big problem, coming in.

As we concluded the interview an elderly customer waves goodbye. He's been coming in 53 years. He was here the first week we opened.

### Final question: what do you think of the direction of the United States?

(Laughs) I'm more conservative than most. It's the same old story. If everyone pulls together and no one is trying to take advantage of anyone else, we'll get through this and be stronger



## BLOCK CAPTAIN OPENINGS

2600, 2800 Armacost  
2700-2800 Berkshire  
2700-2800 Barrington  
12100 Clarkson  
2400 Bundy  
2400-2800 Stoner  
2400-2800 Granville  
2700-2800 Coolidge

Time commitment is just 15-30 minutes a month to make a difference to our neighborhood! If you, or someone you know, would make a good block captain, please let us know! Call Tony Sanelli at (310) 694-0228 or [tsanelli@acpartners.com](mailto:tsanelli@acpartners.com).