

North Westdale News

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

VOLUME 30, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2008

From The President's Desk:



Dear Neighbors:

We had a very informative meeting last month with Officer Tom

Wicks, our new Senior Lead Officer. Officer Wicks shared contact information and recent crime data with the neighbors in attendance. It was good to hear that North Westdale is a relatively safe neighborhood with some of the lowest crime rates in the area. However our neighborhood is not crime-free, so Officer Wicks encouraged us to stay alert and report any suspicious activity. A few of the issues discussed included distraction scams, people living in motor homes and graffiti.

Officer Wicks asked residents to be aware that there are scam artists coming through the neighborhood who will use a variety of excuses to try and bring you out of your house or get you to let them in your

house. Common tactics are asking for access to your backyard because of a neighbor's construction project, to check your meter, or to look for a lost cat.

Graffiti in our neighborhood has been on the increase. According to Officer Wicks, much of this is actually done by regular teens who are bored and is not necessarily gang territory marking. However, if gang-related graffiti (i.e. SX13) is sighted, let Officer Wicks know by phone or email.

Officer Wicks can be contact by phone at (310) 622-3973 or by email at 26522@lapd.lacity.org.

Your friend and neighbor,

Tony

Tony X. Sanelli
President, NWNA



Police Report

Senior Lead Officer
Thomas Wicks
310-622-3973

Basic Car Coordinator
Sergeant Pompano
310-482-6334

Crime Trends

The following are the crime statistics representing 12/16/07 - 1/12/08:

Aggravated Assaults 1
Burglary (Vehicle) 14
Robbery 3

Burglary (Res/Biz) 11
Grand Theft Auto 5
Homicide 0
Sex 1

During this rating period Burglary (Residential/Business) has become a problem in Basic Car 14A25 area. During this period several burglaries occurred through deception. Suspect 1 & 2 posed as apartment workers gaining entry. Suspect-1 would talk to the victim about

things that need repairing in the apartment while suspect-2 removes property from various rooms throughout the apartment. Allow no one in your resident without proper notice and identification. Confirm the identification of any employee or person that approaches your door. Join your local Neighborhood Watch Group it is still the best tool we have against

SAVE THE DATE!

Next North
Westdale
Neighborhood
Association
Meeting

Monday,
March 10

7:00pm

St. Andrew's
Lutheran Church
on Federal &
Clarkson

Meetings are
held the 2nd
Monday of the
month.

Upcoming Dates:

April 14

May 12

June 9

Small Steps Can Add Up to Make a Big Difference

North Westdale Neighbor Shares Tips For Making Yards More Environmental

Written by: Deborah Deming

We are all becoming more aware of sustainable practices through media and everyday life style choices in an effort to preserve our planet. I would like to invite you to take control of your personal environment at home by following several easy steps. These small steps will help our fight against lung disease, cancer, hearing loss, and Smog.

1. Yard Care: If you have a gardener please ask that they use a rake in place of toxic gas leaf blower and a broom in place of a hose for cleaning hardscape such as walkways, etc. These practices have been mandated in the city of Santa Monica to cut down on air pollution and conserve on water.

If you can, use an electric or manual lawn mower in place of gas powered mower. This will further reduce air pollution. The grass clippings are great natural fertilizer for the grass so leave some of the clippings behind.

(My Testimony: Several years ago I replaced my front yard with water wise plants of which 75% are California Natives. Over a year ago I asked my gardener to stop using the

leaf blower and to mow the back yard grass every other week. Now he comes every other week as the front yard doesn't require a lot of his care.)

Visit <http://www.nonoise.org/quietnet/cqs/leafblow.htm#air> to learn more about the pollution caused from leaf blowers. "A leaf blower causes as much smog as 17 cars."

2. Compost: If you are an avid gardener compost your food scraps (avoid meats and too much citrus), trimmings from outdoors, leaves, and grass clippings. This makes a rich mulch to mix into soil for raised beds for vegetables and flowers and less waste to put in the city land fill.

3. Fertilizers & Sprays: There are many organic options to the toxic chemicals that some may use to kill pests, keep weeds down, and make your lawns lush. Remember the days of DDT that contaminated water, killed off birds, etc! It is important to have beneficial insects and birds to rid you of the unwanted pests so work with nature and use only products that will not harm the water and environment. So, minimize chemical fertilizers and sprays. Pull weeds out by hand and place a 2-3"

layer of wood chips or shredded wood or gravel to keep weeds at bay and keep the soil cool and help retain moisture.

4. Yard: We love those green lawns that came about from Great Britain. These are harder to maintain in sunny California! Think about replacing your grass with water wise plants as this will save on water, cut down on pollution, and save on costs associated with maintaining a lawn. Yards with California Natives provide habitat for birds, bees, and insects that are beneficial to nature.

Visit <http://www.theodorepayne.org/> to learn more about California native plants and note their upcoming tour in April.

5. Watering: It is critical to maintain your sprinkler system so that you are not watering hardscape and/or watering too much. Also a sophisticated weather monitoring system can be intergraded into your automatic sprinkler system which will let you know when to water. Another advantage to water wise plantings is less water!

Please email your questions and comments to Deborah at deborah@demingdesign.com.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Trainings

FREE course sponsored by the L.A. Fire Department. Learn to protect yourself, family and neighbors in an emergency situation. Get trained to put out small fires, assess injuries, provide basic aid, conduct search and rescue, support police/fire department efforts and more.

Mar Vista Library
12006 Venice Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90066

Wednesdays, 5:30pm-8:00pm
March 5, 12, 19, 26
April 2, 9, 16

Contact Pat Karasick
213-494-7586

W Hotel, Westwood
930 Hilgard Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90024

Thursdays 1:00pm-3:30pm
March 6, 13, 20, 27
April 3, 10, 17

Contact Mike Bogosian
310-208-8765

The School Report

Upcoming Events and News From Richland Avenue Elementary

GIDDY UP KIDDIES!

Moms and dads, Richland Avenue Elementary will be hosting Kindergarten Round Ups for Fall 2008! Come visit and find out what a great experience your future kindergartener can have right in his/her own neighborhood. **The Kindergarten Round Ups are scheduled for Thursday, March 6 and Thursday, April 3. They will take place at 9am in the library.**



to credit Richland Avenue Elementary. For every dollar spent, Richland earns points toward school supplies. It's a great opportunity to help our local school earn new equipment and supplies.

SOUP LABEL AND BOXTOP COLLECTION

Richland is also collecting Campbell's Soup labels and General Mills Box Tops for Education. You know you're already eating that cereal and soup, so take an extra 10 seconds to save the label or box top and you'll be helping a whole school of kids. You can drop both off in the school office or bring by the NWN meeting and we will collect and drop them off for you.

MAYOR'S DAY OF SERVICE, MAR 15

Rescheduled from January! The best project of the day will of course be right here in North Westdale at Richland Avenue Elementary.

Volunteers will be working between 9am and 1pm to paint a mural and weed, level and mulch along Federal Avenue. Participants are asked to email their name to volunteer@lacity.org and specify which project they would like to help out with.

Mayor Villaraigosa and City Councilman Bill Rosendahl will host free lunch and entertainment at Mar Vista Recreation Center (11430 Woodbine Ave).

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL and SILENT AUCTION, APRIL 5

Save the date! The students at Richland will be hosting their annual **International Festival and Silent Auction on Saturday, April 5 from 11am to 2pm.** This festival is open to the neighborhood and is sure to be fun for the whole family. The festival will feature drumming with Rhythm Child and other student performances, as well as ethnic dances and festival fun and games.

A silent auction will also be held to raise money to support school activities.



SCHOOL CENTS

Don't forget to make use of the School Cents program when shopping at the Westside Pavilion. **Take all your receipts for purchases made at to the Customer Service desk (2nd Floor) and ask them**

DID YOU KNOW?!

- **TEST SCORES ARE UP!** Scores at Richland have risen every year for the past FIVE years.
- **GIFTED PROGRAM AVAILABLE!** Richland offers a Gifted Enrichment Education Program for gifted students. Special assistance for children who need extra support is also available.
- **SCIENCE PROGRAM!** Grades K-3 participate in the STAR Science Enrichment Program.
- **ENRICHED ARTS PROGRAM!** All students receive weekly lessons in fine arts, theater and dance, and music for a well-rounded education.
- **NEW LAPTOPS!** A portable laptop computer lab is the latest addition to Richland's arsenal of learning tools.
- **NO MORE BUSSING!** Other than Special Education students, only a handful of 5th and 6th graders are still bussed into Richland. Once they graduate, the school district will no longer bus in any general ed students.
- **AFTER SCHOOL CARE!** After school care is provided by STAR until 6pm. This program is free for 1-6 grades. There is a sliding scale fee for Kindergartners.
- **GREAT TEAM OF TEACHERS AND PARENTS!** Most importantly, Richland features dedicated, experienced teachers who are supported by parents who are active in promoting school spirit and organizing school events.

Need Mulch? Get FREE mulch from the City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Sanitation. Made from yard trimmings (think your green bin), mulch is great for keeping down weeds and reducing watering needs. No limit! Just bring your shovel and load up your own containers with as much mulch as you need. West L.A. location is at 6000 W. Jefferson Boulevard. Open seven days a week, 7:00 am to 5:00 pm. Questions, call James Kurz at (818) 834-5128.

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.

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

**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.

BLOCK CAPTAINS WANTED

2600, 2800 Armacost	2700-2800 (west) Butler
2600-2800 Barrington	12100 Clarkson
2400 Bundy	11400-11500 National
2700-2800 Burkshire	



Time commitment is just 15-30 minutes a month to make a difference to our neighborhood! Call Tony Sanelli at (310) 694-0228 or tsanelli@acpartners.com.

North Westdale Neighborhood Classifieds

For Neighbors — By Neighbors

PETE CASTRO
North Westdale is a special neighborhood. Thanks for letting me be your Neighborhood Specialist!
(310) 482-2100
www.petecastro.com
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Animal Care Consultant
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Beverly Hills, CA 90210
Office: 310-274-0366
Cell: 310-261-4316

Buying, selling or refinancing?
Need notary services? Call me to discuss your needs. When you are ready to go into escrow, insist on Donna Strull at Professional Escrow Services — proudly serving the Westside since 1984.

Your Classified HERE! Email Tony Sanelli at tsanelli@acpartners.com