

North Westdale News

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MARCH 2011

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Next NWNA Meeting:
Monday, March 14 at 7pm
St. Andrew's Church (National & Federal)



Special Guest Speaker:

KARINA SALAZAR

Principal, Richland Avenue Elementary

Whether or not you have school-age children, Richland Avenue Elementary School can have a major impact on you and your home. According to the National Association of Realtors®, "Of all the local neighborhood amenities that can influence a buyer's decision to purchase a home, proximity to good quality schools is one of the most influential." Richland's scores have been on the rise which is good news for NWNA neighbors. Join us for an informative chat with Richland principal, Karina Salazar and find out what plans the school has for the future and what you can do help improve this neighborhood asset. See you there!

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Mar 14: Monthly NWNA Meeting. 7pm at St. Andrew's Church.

Mar 15: NWNA Book Club meets to discuss *The Hitch Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams.

Mar 20: Neighborhood Play Date at Richland Avenue Elementary. 11 am on the playground.

Mar 23: Mar Vista WISE Connections Open House. St. Andrews Church, 4 pm.

Mar 30: NWNA Fundraiser - El Torito Night. See page 3!

Apr 3: NWNA Fundraiser - Bowling at Mar Vista Lanes. 1pm-3pm. 12125 Venice Blvd.

Apr 14: MVCC Education Summit. 5pm, Mar Vista Rec Center.

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

Monthly Farmers Market Report

How has our recent very cold and rainy weather affected produce at the Mar Vista Farmers Market? Gloria of Gloria's Fruits and Vegetables said that the rains have mostly affected vegetables such as lettuces. The frost destroyed some of her strawberry crop, but she was able to save the strawberry blossoms which will bear fruit in about a month. Gloria also indicated that colder weather does affect the quality of even the hardier vegetables such as broccoli and celery.

This time of year Arnett Farms showcases its wide varieties of citrus. It recently added Golden Nugget tangerines which are sweet, seedless and relatively easy to peel. You'll also find Nova, Murcott and Daisy tangerines among their many other varieties. Their always popular blood oranges should be available through March and tangerines for a couple more months. Arnett Farms generously offers samples so you can choose your favorites.

With orchards in Bakersfield for over 30 years, Fat Uncle Farms is everything almonds: almond butters, fresh raw almond milk, marzipan cookies and blistered almonds. Blistered almonds are soaked in water, baked in the oven and flavored (honey roasted, Chinese blend, rosemary, Cajun, garlic and herb to name a few). No oils are used and the resulting blistered almonds have a wonderful crunch. Their almonds butters include roasted salted and unsalted butters and a raw unpasteurized butter. Use the almond butters as a substitute for peanut butter with less fat and more protein.



Mar Vista Farmers Market

Every Sunday 9 AM to 2 PM
 Grand View at Venice Blvd.

3/14/11 MEETING AGENDA

- | | | |
|------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| 1. Call to Order and Welcome | c. Treasurer | b. Safety |
| 2. Reports | 3. Guest: Richland Avenue School Principal Salazar | c. Outreach |
| a. President | 4. Committee Reports | d. Airport |
| b. Vice-President | a. Budget | 5. New Business |
| | | 6. Adjournment |

The Richland Avenue Elementary School Report

Congratulations to Richland Avenue Elementary which has recently been recognized for being distinguished in the arts for its theater, dance, visual arts and music programs. Take a bow!

PLAY DATE!
SUNDAY, MARCH 20 AT 11AM
ALL CHILDREN WELCOME!

Play on the playground at Richland Avenue Elementary, meet neighborhood families and talk a little bit about our neighborhood school!

KINDERGARTEN
ROUND UP MARCH 25 AT 9AM
 Looking for a kindergarten? Come



check out the wonderful program right here at Richland Avenue Elementary!

ENROLL NOW FOR 2011-2012
 Richland is now accepting enrollments for the 2011-2012 school year in its kindergarten through 6th grade and transitional kindergarten programs.

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.

Mar Vista WISE Connections Schedules Open House

By: Lori Gilder

Come celebrate our launch! As some of you know, a group of your neighbors has been volunteering to develop an exciting new service for our community—Mar Vista WISE Connections. Modeled after a successful grassroots community effort in Boston's Beacon Hill neighborhood, Mar Vista

WISE Connections is a membership program for residents age 50 and older that supports safe, healthy and quality living in your own home.

Meet our network of professionals from the legal, financial and medical communities, including UCLA Geriatricians, Legal, Longterm Care, Financial Planner and other experts

at a free Open House.

Wednesday, March 23, 2011,
 4:00-6:00 pm, St. Andrew's Lutheran Church at 11555 National Blvd. (by Whole Foods Market)

There will be refreshments, music and a raffle.

Please RSVP by March 18th to: (310) 829-5699

NWNA To Hold Fundraisers at El Torito and Mar Vista Lanes

By: Lillia Singer, Outreach Committee Chair

Last year the Budget Committee set out guidelines to what we called the "emergency funds". This would ensure that the association will have cash reserves of 2 years for non-discretionary funds or \$3,000 whichever is greater.

The dues collection in 2010 and, so far, this year were too low to allow our association to spend more on any discretionary program. At the January 19th Outreach Committee meeting we discussed ways to raise money for discretionary expenditures and to be "used for the beautification of the neighborhood, neighborhood

security; support for Richland Avenue Elementary School, and airport and other issues affecting the quality of our lives."

I would like to announce two events! First, March 30th at El Torito Restaurant, 3360 Ocean Park Blvd. See flyer on page 3!

Second, is the bowling event at Mar Vista Lanes, 12125 Venice Blvd. on Sunday, April 3rd between 1pm-3pm.

Each lane allows 6 players, so bring your kids and friends. The cost is \$11.00 per person for 2 hours of play and includes bowling shoe rental. For an additional \$2.00 per person you can have a bottomless

soda.

NWNA must provide a deposit for the expected number of players/lanes 5 days before the actual event.

YOU NEED TO PURCHASE TICKETS IN ADVANCE OF THE EVENT, BUT NO LATER THAN MARCH 28 BY CALLING LILLIA @310.339.3365.



Fiesta Fund Raiser

For

North Westdale Neighborhood Association

El Torito will donate 25% of total food sales generated
by our supporters at this event.

Valid on Take-out and Dine In

Not valid on Happy Hour or Alcoholic Drinks

Place: El Torito Restaurant
3360 Ocean Park Blvd., Santa Monica
310-450-8665

Date: March 20, 2011

Time: 11:30am – 9:00pm

Just present this flyer when you pay your check, and 15% of your food purchase will be donated to NWN.

Your support is appreciated!



NWNA Upcoming Reading Selections:

- March 15, 2011-*The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams
- April 19, 2011-*The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet* by David Mitchell
- May 17, 2011-*Blood, Bones & Butter: The Inadvertent Education of a Reluctant Chef* by Gabrielle Hamilton

Join your fellow book lovers for a lively exchange of ideas and opinions! For more information, email Lillia Singer at bellagardendesign@att.net.



Safety First! **Bill's Safety Corner**

By: Bill Koontz

As some of you have seen, one of the big Italian Stone Pines on National came down during the recent wind storm and struck an apartment building. Please check for any dead or leaning trees near your house and if they look at all dangerous call 311.



You are cordially invited to the

**MVCC 2011 Education Summit
Thursday, April 14, 2011, 5-8 PM
Mar Vista Recreation Center Auditorium**

Following last year's successful summit, the Mar Vista Community Council Education, Arts and Culture Committee is proud to once more bring together parents, students, teachers, elected officials and the community as a whole at the 2011 Education Summit to help improve our community's access to quality education for our kids.



P.S. Save The Date
The Mar Vista Green Garden Showcase will be held on April 30!



Police Report

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

Basic Car Coordinator
Sergeant Merlo
310-482-6334

Crime Trends

The following are the crime statistics representing 1/1/11 - 1/31/11:

Aggravated Assaults 5
Burglary (Vehicle) 15
Robbery 2

Burglary (Res/Biz) 8
Grand Theft Auto 7
Homicide 0
Sex 0
Theft 13

During this rating period Burglary/Theft from Motor Vehicle (BFMV) has continued to be a major problem in 14A25 area. Crime in several categories increased this period with the biggest spike in BFMV. We MUST stop leaving items of value in plain sight inside

your vehicle. GPS, iPods, cell phones, etc. are all items that typically left in vehicles which BFMV suspects thrive on. Place all items in your trunk and at the end of the day take all items out of your vehicle. Do not use your glove-box as a traveling safe; it is the first place a BFMV suspect looks. 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 bnigrr1@gmail.com.

**Deadline for the April issue is
Monday, March 28, 2011.**

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