

North Westdale News

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

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SEPTEMBER 2010

Next Meeting: Special Discussion with LAPD Senior Lead Officer Drake Madison



Monday, September 13 at 7pm
Saint Andrew's Church
Federal Ave & National Blvd

Officer Madison is our neighborhood's new Senior Lead Officer. His job is to monitor crime trends in our area and serve as the liaison between our community and the LAPD. Come to the next meeting to meet Officer Madison and learn what you can do to help combat crime and protect our neighborhood. Don't miss this opportunity to make a difference — together, we can keep North Westdale safe for everyone!

NOW TAKING SIGN UPS!

6th Annual North Westdale MEGA Garage Sale Saturday, October 30

Time to clean out those closets and reorganize the garage as we get ready for this year's MEGA Garage Sale! NWNA will organize advertising and signage. All you have to do is put your sale items out in your front yard! It's a fun way to clear out the clutter and also make a little money. To participate, contact Tony Sanelli at (310) 694-0228 or via email tony@sanellimortgage.com.



Don't have enough stuff to fill your yard? You can rent a table at St. Andrew's Church for \$25. Bonus: Easy access to the St. Andrew's Bake Sale! Contact Cathy at St. Andrew's at (310) 477-0257 to reserve a spot.

NOTE FROM THE TREASURY

NWNA offers monthly neighborhood meetings, the newsletter and a few special events. Annual dues we collect, from neighbors like you, are our only source of operating funds. Last year we received nearly 35% less than in previous years. Dues are used for meeting space, newsletters, the website and a few other miscellaneous expenses. Next month we will be asking you to contribute. The dues of \$10 are voluntary; however, I hope that you will be able to participate at some level.

Lillia Singer
NWNA Treasurer

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ITEMS OF INTEREST

- Sep 13:** Monthly NWNA Meeting. Guest Speaker: LAPD Officer Drake Madison. 7pm at St. Andrew's Church.
- Sep 21:** NWNA Bookclub Meeting. A House for Mr. Biswas by V.S. Naipaul. 7pm at Sanelli house.
- Sep 24:** Oktoberfest Dinner. 7pm at St. Andrew's Church.
- Oct 9-10:** St. Andrew's 60th Anniversary Celebration.
- Oct 11:** Monthly NWNA Meeting.
- Oct 16:** Mar Vista Community Fall Festival. 10am-4pm at Mar Vista Park.
- Oct 19:** NWNA Bookclub Meeting. Arctic Dreams by Barry Lopez.
- Oct 30:** NWNA Annual Mega Garage Sale. 8am-1pm various locations throughout North Westdale.
- Nov 8:** Monthly NWNA Meeting.
- Dec 13:** Monthly NWNA Meeting.



From The President's Desk:

Dear North Westdale Neighbors,

September 13th will be our first meeting for the 2010-2011 year. While we have not had any meetings the last two months, our neighborhood has been quite active.

First and most important, our neighborhood has experienced a rise in home robberies. These robberies have been occurring during the day while no one is home. One recent incident involved two men that entered the home with a third waiting in a getaway car. Thanks to an alert neighbor, the robbery was foiled and the suspects apprehended. There was a second such robbery in Mar Vista and that too was foiled by the quick action of neighbors and police.

The NWNA is 100% committed to defending and, more importantly, deterring such crimes in our neighborhood. On September 13th, our current Senior Lead Officer Drake Madison will be attending the meeting to address our neighborhood crime concerns. Please join us at this meeting so that you can hear his important message directly.

Also at our next meeting, we will ask for volunteers to help us create a neighborhood watch program. If you are concerned about the crime, we want your help. If you have been targeted or been robbed, we need your involvement in creating the neighborhood watch and I would like to speak with you directly (my contact information is below). The NWNA was originally created to fight off crime and with active neighbors we can do it again.

Since this is our first meeting of the new year, we will be sending out reminders to collect voluntary dues to help the NWNA cover some of the expenses we incur during the year. If you can afford to, we will appreciate your investment in our neighborhood association. This money is used to pay for our newsletter, meeting locations, the Richland Avenue Elementary Halloween House and other local events. Without your support we are not able to effectively support our neighborhood. This year is

especially critical with our need to create a neighborhood watch.

Speaking of Richland Avenue Elementary, unfortunately, the NWNA will not be able to contribute any money to the Halloween House this year due to budgetary constraints. If you would like to donate any money for this event, please contact me and I will provide you with the appropriate contact information, or you may contact Richland directly.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting. We can and will respond to our community needs! In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 310-709-6431 or email me at bahaa@netpayservices.com.

Your friend and neighbor,,

Bahaa

Bahaa Mikhail
President, NWNA

MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA 9/13/10

1. Call to Order and Welcome
2. Reports
 - a. President
 - b. Vice-President
 - c. Treasurer
3. Guest Speaker – Senior Lead Officer Drake-Madison
4. Committee Reports
 - a. Budget
 - b. Block Captains
 - c. Safety
 - d. Richland
 - e. Outreach
 - f. Airport
5. New Business
6. Adjournment

Congratulations Saint Andrew's on Your

60th Anniversary

Musical Celebration Anniversary Dinner
Saturday, October 9 Sunday, October 10

For more information on these events, call the church at (310) 477-2057.



Oktoberfest!

Friday, September 24
7:00 PM
St. Andrew's
(National & Federal)

Good food, good music and good company!
Prost! \$10 for adults, \$5 for children (age 3+)

The Richland Avenue Elementary School Report

SCARE FAIR SPONSORS WANTED!

Advertise your business while you help your neighborhood elementary school! Sponsorship opportunities are now available for Richland's annual Halloween Scare Fair. For more information, contact Kami Turrou at turrschreib@earthlink.net or (310) 575-0058.



SCHOOL SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Following is a list of the many simple ways you can support our local elementary school. Please help if you can!

- Join the Richland Avenue CSA Program. Just \$20 a box and oh-so-good for you!
- Conveniently delivered to our neighborhood every other week by the South Central Farmer's Cooperative. A portion of each box purchased benefits the school. To order contact Debi Huang at tdj2004@gmail.com or (310) 963-2344.
- The School Cents Program is back at the Westside Pavilion! For every purchase you make at the Westside Pavilion, our elementary school can earn points and possibly win up to \$3000! Take your receipts to the Customer Service Desk (2nd Floor) and ask them to credit Richland Avenue Elementary.
- Save Campbell's Soup labels, General Mills Box Tops for Education and Capri Sun Juice Bags. Turn in to the school office or bring to the next NWNA meeting.
- Sign up your grocery store club cards (follow procedures on their websites), including Ralph's, Food4Less, Albertson's, E-scrip and Target Red Card.
- Office Depot's 5% Back to School program will give Richland credit for free school supplies with qualifying purchase. Designate Richland School ID #70010450 at check out.
- Volunteer for the Wonder of Reading program. Just one hour a week can make a huge difference for a child! Contact the school office at (310) 473-0467 for more info.

Love To Read? Join The NWNA Book Club!

By: Victoria Sanelli

Calling all book worms! If you're a reader, the NWNA book club is for you.

How does it work? Each month the club reads a different book. Club members take turns selecting the books and hosting the month's meeting. The result is a diverse reading list, new friendships and great conversation!

September's book is *A House for Mr. Biswas* by V.S. Naipaul. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 21.

Please note, October's book has been changed! The book will now be *Arctic Dreams* by Barry Lopez. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 19.

To join the book club and get the latest information on books and meeting times/locations, please contact Lillia Singer at bellagardendesign@att.net or (310) 444-0687.



Above: *The July 2010 meeting of the NWNA Book Club. A lively discussion of Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston was accompanied by delicious food and drinks. Overall group verdict: Thumbs up! Thanks to the hostess of the meeting Josephine!*



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 6/1/10 - 6/30/10:

- Aggravated Assaults 3
- Burglary (Vehicle) 17
- Robbery 3
- Burglary (Res/Biz) 8
- Grand Theft Auto 8
- Homicide 0
- Sex 0
- Theft 19

During this rating period Theft (Petty) has become a problem in 14A25 area. Petty theft is the taking of property without the owner's consent. Usually petty theft suspects take small handheld items they locate unsecured. Lock and secure all yard items in a garage or storage box. Teach your children to place toys, bikes, etc. in their proper place to guard against theft. Install sensor lights around your property, it will help deter theft suspects. Lock all doors, windows and outside storage areas for additional security. Join your local Neighborhood Watch

Program (for you, that's NWNA!) it is still the best tool we have against crime. Contact your local police if you observe a crime in progress.

Motorcycle Safety Tip:
 Park your motorcycle in the garage when at home. Attempt to park in well-lit areas when out, preferably in view of a security camera. Also install an alarm and a hidden kill switch.

Bill's Safety Corner: Aug 18 Burglary Recap

For those who are not members of the North Westdale Yahoo Group/E-Mail List (see info in the lower right corner of this page), following is a reprint of the report from North Westdale Vice President Bill Koontz on the burglary incident that took place here in our neighborhood on August 18:

Just had a meeting with Lt. Jeff Bert who was the incident commander on Barrington. He reconfirmed that they did nab 2 suspects and a third fled the scene before they could seal the block off. One man was hiding in the bushes and another was holding up an

elderly woman's house. She had a broken leg and ran out when the man broke in to hide and was taken to a nearby hospital but was reported to be doing well.

Both men are known to be "Bloods" and have been suspected in several burglaries in the valley and their M.O. matches many of the latest "Burglary by Distractions" that we have had here recently. The Lt. also indicated that both of the men were "rolling over" on their buddy that got away and he seemed confident that they would have him in custody in short order.

A big thanks again to the neighbor that called 911 and to the LAPD for their quick response. Not only did Pacific Div. respond but West L.A. Div., the air unit and the special k-9 units even helped track and capture these felons. In all over 70 officers were on scene to take care of North Westdale.

Thanks again everyone for being on your toes and remember to keep those doors and windows locked.

Bill Koontz



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 October issue is Monday, September 27, 2010.

The North Westdale Neighborhood Association (NWNAA) 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. NWNAA 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.



**Mar Vista
 Community
 Fall Festival**

Saturday, October 16
 10:00AM - 4:00PM
 Mar Vista Park

Live entertainment, sports demos, giant slides and bouncers, art show, games, arts and crafts, silent auction, face painting and much, much more.