

North Westdale News

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

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APRIL 2012

Message From the President:

Greetings Neighbors,

April is an exciting month here in North Westdale. The Mar Vista Community Council Green Committee is holding it's annual Green Gardens Tour on April 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For those of you that haven't had the pleasure yet, nearly 100 Mar Vista neighbors will be opening their back and front yards for everyone to stroll through and get some great ideas and information on everything from solar panels to rain barrels to beautiful drought tolerant California natives. Some houses will even have the solar companies that installed their panels there to answer questions. Last I checked we had 9 homes on the tour. For maps and more detailed information on every house on the tour go to www.marvista.org.

Additionally at the next meeting I will be appointing a temporary Vice-President as we get ready to have elections in May. Any able bodied resident over the age of 18 may run for any position they choose. At this time we are in need of more people to step up to the plate and get involved in making North Westdale one of the best neighborhoods on the west side.



Can't wait to see you all at this next meeting.

Sincerely,

Bill

Bill Koontz
President, NWNA

Goodbye Joe ...

North Westdale has lost a great neighbor and friend. Joe Gillerman, longtime block captain for Butler Avenue, passed away on Saturday, February 25.

Joe originally hailed from St. Louis, MO where he studied engineering at the University of Missouri and met and married his wife Roberta. In 1959, they moved to California while Joe's engineering work took him all over the world. According to the L.A. Times, Joe's proudest accomplishments arose from his work with NASA, where he developed life support



systems for Mercury, Gemini, Apollo, and Skylab.

Joe was also active in his community, not only here in North Westdale, but also with JCRLA, Kehillat Israel and Temple Isaiah.

Along with his wife, Joe is survived by his children David and Sharon, and his grandchildren Shayna, Alyssa, and Maya. In lieu of flowers, donations to Temple Isaiah would be appreciated.

Joe, thank you so much for your years of service to the community. We will miss you greatly!

Next NWNA Meeting Will Be

**MONDAY,
APRIL 9**

7pm

St. Andrew's Church

(National & Federal)

Please join us and help keep this a great neighborhood!

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ITEMS OF INTEREST

Apr 9: NWNA Monthly Meeting, 7pm at St. Andrew's Church.

Apr 11: Alley Cats Watch Meeting, 7pm at St. Andrew's Church.

Apr 17: Richland Avenue Elementary Open House, 5pm-6:30pm.

Apr 17: NWNA Book Club Meeting to discuss *A Question of Power* by Bessie Head, 7pm.

Apr 18: Santa Monica Airport Subcommittee Meeting, 6pm at 12016 Clarkson Rd.

Apr 21: Richland Rummage Sale Fundraiser, 8am-2pm at St. Andrew's.

Apr 21: MVCC Green Garden Tour, 10am-4pm all over Mar Vista. Go to www.marvista.org for tour map and details.

Apr 29: Alley Cats Alley Party, 2pm-4pm in the alley between National and Clarkson/Butler and Federal.

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



Saturday, April 21, 10am to 4pm

6 Walking Tours! 90 Gardens! www.marvista.org!

Santa Monica Airport Subcommittee Report

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 18 at 6pm



By: Martin Rubin, NWNA Airport Committee Chair

At our March 21 NWNA Airport Committee meeting, committee members reported having attended the SMO vision workshops. One thing that emerged from the workshops is that many Santa Monica residents want the airport closed and feel that the City of Santa Monica is not representing their interests in this regard. This dovetailed nicely with an idea presented by Martin Rubin, Chair of

the NWNA Airport Committee, and Director of Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution that unanimously passed at our January Airport Committee meeting. The intent of the process is to bring together representatives from every airport group and from each and every community impacted by Santa Monica Airport to establish a unified voice on specific items of consensus. At the March 12, NWNA general meeting those present unanimously approved to have NWNA

representation participate in the process.

Please sign our Change.org petition to ban the use of lead in aviation gasoline. Go to www.jetairpollution.com to find it on the PETITIONS page and please sign the Ban the Lead in Avgas petition.

Join us at our next Airport Committee Meeting - Wednesday, April 18 - 6:00 PM - 12016 Clarkson Road, Los Angeles, CA 90064. For more information call Martin Rubin - (310) 479-2529

“The Alley Cats” Neighborhood Watch Report

By: Sue Funkhouser

Next Alley Meeting: April 11, 7 pm.
Next Alley Party: April 29th 2-4 pm.

CONTINUED FROM LAST MONTH: Helpful Tips from Officer Drake Madison From the February Meeting

OFFICER DRAKE MADISON SAYS DON'T BE A VICTIM.

1. Lock your doors!
2. Lock side and rear gates! If can open with a string or spring, absolutely replace it with a lock. Some people are putting combination locks on their gates and just let their gardener (or another service provider) know the combination. Others are just leaving the gate open for that specific window.
3. Lock windows (check latches) and install window vent locks. When you install these it prevents windows from being opened more than two inches. Officer Drake reported that a house being broken into three weeks ago was thwarted by the use of window vent locks. (Ted bought some – they are \$3-5 at

- OSH.)
4. Install home security system. If they open a window and an alarm sounds, they'll leave.
5. Consider installing cameras. This helps with catching the burglars although it won't help with retrieval of stolen goods.
6. Trim and cut back trees or shrubs that cover doors or windows. This allows burglars to leisurely find a way to enter your house.
7. Join and participate in a neighborhood watch.
8. Report suspicious activity immediately. (# 877.ASK.LPD or # 818.734.2223)
9. Go to LAPDONLINE.ORG and join Nixle (put in phone # - updates sent to phone)
10. Lighting for nighttime (although recent burglaries have all been during the day). The Alley Cats have determined that lighting in our alley at night is sufficient.
11. When out of town let your neighbors know and have them collect mail/flyers.
12. When out of town, put your lights on

PREVENT THEFT FROM/OF MOTOR VEHICLES

1. Lock it. Hide it. Deter entry. Keep it.
2. Lock it. Officer Drake said if he walked down a street right now checking all the cars, he would, guaranteed, find at least two cars unlocked. That is what criminals will do. Easy access is what they look for.
3. Hide it. Don't leave anything in your car! Top items stolen from vehicles: GPS devices, cell phones/chargers, money, stereos/radios, documents, mail, check books. Don't even leave a gym bag in the back – they might think it is something valuable.
4. Deter entry. Use a club if you own an older Honda or Toyota. They are the most common target for wholesale vehicle theft in part because they are easier to steal and thieves use them to cruise around town.
5. Keep it. A positive reminder that personal responsibility can safeguard your valuables from theft.



The Richland Avenue Elementary School Report

NOW ENROLLING PRE-K THROUGH 6TH GRADE

Do you have an elementary school age child? Be sure to check out our great neighborhood gem! Richland is now accepting enrollment for pre-K through 6th grade for the 2012-2013 school year.

OPEN HOUSE, APRIL 17

You are invited to attend Richland Avenue's Open House Night on Tuesday, April 17 from 5pm-6:30pm. In addition to a peek inside the great classrooms at Richland, get a bite to eat from the In N Out Truck and shop the Scholastic Book Fair!



RUMMAGE SALE! APRIL 21 AT ST. ANDREW'S DONATIONS WANTED!!

Richland is now accepting donations for their April 21 Rummage Sale fundraiser. Donations may be dropped off at the Richland office. Contact Booster Club President, Kami Turrou at (310) 709-0109 for more information.



The sale will be held at roomy St. Andrew's Church on Federal & National, so you know there will be tons of great deals! Tell your friends and family to come out and shop on April 21 (8am-2pm)!

SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS NEEDED

Richland's annual Silent Auction will be held on May 25. All money raised goes to supporting Richland Avenue Elementary School programs. If you would like to donate any goods or services, please contact Kami Turrou at (310) 575-0058 or via email at turrschreib@earthlink.net.



SAVE THE ARTS!

Become a sponsor and help save the music program at Richland! Sponsors will have their names put on a "Save the Arts" Banner or in the Spring Performance and Silent Auction Program. Suggested donations are \$400 for a 24"x24" placement on the banner or \$250 for a 12"x12" placement on the banner. To advertise in the Spring Performance Program, suggested donation is \$100. All donations are tax deductible (receipts will be provided by the Richland Avenue Booster club). Donations can be made online via the Richland Booster Club website at www.richlandbooster.com, or checks can be made out to the Richland Booster Club.

SCHOOL SUPPORT PROGRAMS

You don't have to have school-aged children to help our neighborhood school! There are lots of simple ways our entire neighborhood can support our local public school,

including:

- Purchase gift cards through Shop With Scrip at www.shopwithscrip.com, Richland Group ID #LL43451C26655. It's a great way to give a gift and support Richland at the same time! For questions or more information, contact Karen Ritchey at acnmgk22@yahoo.com.
- The School Cents Program is back at the Westside Pavilion! Don't forget to bring your receipts to the Customer Service Desk on the 2nd Floor. Every mall purchase counts!
- Save Campbell's Soup labels, General Mills Box Tops and Capri Sun Juice Bags. Drop these off at the school office or bring it over to the NRNA meeting.
- Sign up your store club cards including Ralph's, Food4Less, E-scrip and Target Red Card and Office Depot.
- Volunteer for the Wonder of Reading program and share one of the best gifts of all, the love of reading! Contact the school office at (310) 473-0467 for more info on any of these programs.



PLEASE SCOOP YOUR DOG'S POOP!

Recently, dog droppings have become a problem in the areas surrounding Richland Avenue Elementary. If you walk your dog next to the school, be sure you keep an eye out for any pit stops! Please do not allow your dog to poop where school children play. Be a good neighbor and clean up any mess your pet might leave (after all they can't do it themselves). Thank you to all the dog walkers who have always been conscientious about scooping!



Safety First! Bill's Safety Corner



By: Bill Koontz

The other day I heard the old expression "looks like earthquake weather". I chuckled to myself but then when I got home it reminded me to check my batteries and rotate my water supply. I urge you all to do the same.

Fight Graffiti!

Request graffiti removal online quickly and easily at:

anti-graffiti.lacity.org

Become a Block Captain!

Help to energize our neighborhood! It's easy and takes very little of your time. Interested? Then don't hesitate. For details contact Block Captain Leader Marty Rubin at:

(310) 479-2529 – Thank you!

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 2/1/12 - 2/29/12:

Aggravated Assaults 3
Burglary (Vehicle) 15
Robbery 3
Burglary (Res/Biz) 12
Grand Theft Auto 9
Homicide 0
Sex 0

Theft 9

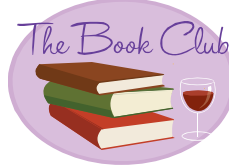
During this rating period Burglary (Residential/Business) has become a problem in our area. Crime this period has begun decrease in several categories, but we still have work to do in residential burglaries. Remember, most burglary suspects seek easy targets, thus the harder you make your home to break into, the less likely you will become a victim. Install sturdy doors with deadbolt locks for additional protection. Install window locks or pegs to prevent easy

access to your home. Install motion sensors around your property, burglars detest lights for fear of being seen. Join your local Neighborhood Watch Program, it is still the best tool against crime. If you observe any suspicious or criminal activities, call the police right away.

Safety Tip: Have adequate exterior lighting. A motion sensitive light is recommended for your entire home and landscaping.

NWNA Book Club

Next Selection:
A Question of Power
by Bessie Head



Join us on Tuesday, April 17, at 7pm for a discussion of this important novel by African writer Bessie Head. *A Question of Power*, is an autobiographical novel that describes the mind of a suffering, delusional person as it explores power relations and political-social evil. It's sure to be an interesting conversation!

For meeting location or to join the book club email list to be notified of upcoming reading selections, please contact Lillia Singer at bellagardendesign@att.net.

North Westdale Neighborhood Association

President	Bill Koontz
Vice President	vacant
Treasurer	Wayne Matsuyama
Secretary	vacant
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 Bill Koontz at billk@marvista.org.

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

Deadline for the May issue is Monday, April 23, 2012.

The North Westdale Neighborhood Association (NWNA) 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. NWNA 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