

# North Westdale News

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

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MARCH 2012

## Message From the President:

Happy March fellow neighbors,

I'm looking forward to our next meeting this second Monday at St. Andrews. There should be plenty to talk about. I'll have our Senior Lead Officer Drake Madison speak on some of the recent crime trends. I'll also have Deputy Len Nguyen from Bill Rosendahl's office there to answer any questions you may have about what the city is doing for us.

Additionally I'm excited about the Mar Vista Green Garden Tour held on April 21st. This year 90 homes in Mar Vista will be opening their doors and back yards for every one to visit their sustainable/edible/drought tolerant/solar powered/rain water fed/native/chicken coop having/truly "green" gardens. It really is the talk of the west side and this year several North

Westdale homes are on the tour. Please visit [www.marvista.org](http://www.marvista.org) to get all the info on this once a year spectacle.



Finally, elections are right around the corner. I'm not talking about who's duking it out in D.C. I'm thinking a little closer to home. Our general elections will be held at the May meeting so if you are at all interested in helping out your fellow neighbors by throwing your hat into the ring, please do so. We could really use a vice-president and secretary at this point.

Your friend and neighbor,

*Bill*

Bill Koontz  
President, NWNA

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## ITEMS OF INTEREST

**Mar 12:** NWNA Monthly Meeting, 7pm at St. Andrew's Church.

**Mar 20:** North Westdale Book Club Meeting, 7pm at Casa Sanelli.

**Mar 21:** Santa Monica Airport Subcommittee Meeting, 6pm at 12016 Clarkson Rd.

**Mar 29:** Kinder Round Up Tour, 9am at Richland Avenue Elementary School (library).

**Mar 31:** Galina Barskaya Piano Concert presented by St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, 4pm.

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

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

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

**Apr 21:** MVCC Green Garden Tour

**Apr 29:** Alley Cats Alley Party, 2pm-4pm in the alley.

## Volunteer(s) Needed: Help Out a Pregnant Lady!

Yours truly, the editor of this newsletter, is looking for 1-2 people to take over distribution of the newsletters to 18 block captains on the east side of Barrington for the next three months. I am expecting a baby (yay!), but my belly's increased size is making it difficult for me to physically deliver newsletters. I am looking for one or two people to take this over until I get back to normal size (no jokes pls). Please contact me at (310) 694-0228 or Block Captain Leader Marty Rubin at (310) 479-2529, if you can help out. Thank you!!

### St. Andrew's Lutheran Church

11555 National Blvd

PRESENTS:

## Galina Barskaya Piano Concert



Bach, Brahms, Beethoven and more!

Saturday, March 31 at 4pm

Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door  
(\$10 student discount)

For more information (310)477-0257 or  
[standrewswestla@gmail.com](mailto:standrewswestla@gmail.com)

Next NWNA Meeting Will Be

MONDAY,  
MARCH 12

7pm

St. Andrew's Church  
(National & Federal)

Please join us and help keep this a great neighborhood!

## Santa Monica Airport Subcommittee: Petition Against Lead in Aviation Gasoline



By: Natalie McAdams, NWNA  
Airport Committee Vice Chair

My family has lived in North Westdale for about seven years. We have two young children and recently remodeled to take advantage of Southern California's outdoor lifestyle. Since remodeling, we have become aware and greatly concerned about the pollution from Santa Monica Airport. Noise aside, we have become aware of yet another toxin to our families added to the jet exhaust we very often smell. Did you know that piston prop planes are still flying with leaded gas?

Lead has been linked to a range of health effects, from behavioral problems and learning disabilities, to seizures and death. Children six years old and under are most at risk. Lead has been banned in paint and other products found in and around our homes. Lead in automobile gasoline was completely phased out of use in the United States by 1995. Aviation gasoline (avgas) was exempted. Today, aircraft are the

largest source of lead in the United States, constituting about 50% of lead emissions in the 2005 National Emissions Inventory (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 2010).

Recent research indicates that children's blood lead levels increase near airports. Studies at the Santa Monica Airport found lead levels to be significantly higher in our North Westdale neighborhood close to the airport runway than background levels. Thus, the combustion of leaded avgas by small airplane engines may pose a health risk to children who live or attend school near airports. The lead in air surrounding airports can be inhaled directly, or the lead may be ingested by children after it settles into soil or dust (U.S. EPA 2010).

Marty Rubin and I created a petition on Change.org that calls for action from the EPA. Studies estimate that people living within 1 km of airports are at risk of being exposed to lead from avgas. The

EPA further notes that about 16 million people live and 3 million children attend school within 1 km of these airports with planes using avgas, (U.S. EPA 2010). Please take a few minutes of your time to sign our petition and tell the EPA to get the lead out of their pants and the planes and to do their job. The petition can be found online at: <http://www.change.org/petitions/us-epa-director-ban-the-use-of-lead-in-aviation-gas-avgas>

To learn more about these or other airport issues, come to the next NWNA Airport Committee meeting at our home, 12016 Clarkson Road on Wed, March 21st at 6pm. Children are welcome. We had an age range from 2 years to 90 years at our Feb meeting! Please get involved, we need a powerful voice to tell legislators that it is not okay for private plane and jet owners to pollute at the expense of our health.

Thank you and I look forward to meeting you at our next meeting.

To support the Airport Subcommittee's petition to ban lead in aviation gasoline go to:  
<http://www.change.org/petitions/us-epa-director-ban-the-use-of-lead-in-aviation-gas-avgas>

## “The Alley Cats” Watch Meeting Report (Feb 15, 2012)

By: Sue Funkhouser

**Next Alley Meeting: April 11, 7 pm.**

**Next Alley Party: April 29th 2-4 pm.**

Our 2012 goals: 1/ Continue to get to know and watch out for each other; 2/ Increase number of households on Next Door, an on-line community for immediate neighbors; 3/ Implement preventative safety actions; 4/ Address Emergency Preparedness. Please note: we are looking for a neighbor to spearhead our alley's emergency preparedness.

To get involved, contact [sue@pinwheelperformance.com](mailto:sue@pinwheelperformance.com) or [lekast@ca.rr.com](mailto:lekast@ca.rr.com)

Officer Drake Madison attended our meeting and reported that crime has been reduced in our area due to quality arrests, our vigilance as neighbors, and increased communication with the police. Folks are still to be on the alert for the following: a white female driving a car with an invisible passenger headrest (guy will lie down low so he can't be seen); well dressed white female with black males 17 – 27 years old watching houses or selling subscriptions. He gave us a lot of helpful information which is applicable to all. Some of this info is summarized below (additional tips will be published next month). Or

come to the March 12 NWNA meeting to talk to Officer Madison in person.

**OFFICER DRAKE MADISON:  
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH  
“SHOULD”**

1. Get to know each other. Especially the people who are next, behind or in front of your house.
2. Be on alert for suspicious activity. If suspicious ask, “May I help you?”
3. Implement Safety actions (see don't be a victim).

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

# The Richland Avenue Elementary School Report

## 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)!



## LAST KINDER ROUND UP!

If you haven't yet made it to a school tours for Pre-K, Transitional Kinder and Kindergarten, stop by Thursday, March 29! Tour start at 9am at the

Richland Avenue Elementary School library.

## NOW ENROLLING PRE-K THROUGH 6TH GRADE

Richland is now accepting enrollment for pre-K through 6th grade for the 2012-2013 school year.

## 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 your gift cards through Shop With Scrip at [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com), Richland Group ID #LL43451C26655. Questions, contact Letty at [Iviescaramos@gmail.com](mailto:Iviescaramos@gmail.com) or Meggie at

[meggie\\_yildrim@yahoo.com](mailto:meggie_yildrim@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.
- 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 NWN 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.

## "The Alley Cats" Report cont.

4. Post house numbers at the rear of your house (especially on an alley).
5. Post Neighborhood Watch signs. - Officer Madison will see if MVCC has any signs left and find out if there are any restrictions on number of signs and location. -The neighborhood can also choose to purchase signs at [www.nnwi.org](http://www.nnwi.org). - Ted Lekas volunteered to be on-point for this.
6. Emergency Preparedness should be part of Neighborhood Watch. Have neighbor contact information; know who is a doctor, a carpenter, a nurse, who has supplies etc. Again, we need a neighbor to step forward to spearhead this.



## OFFICER DRAKE MADISON: MAIN POINTS OF CONTACT

1. For suspicious activity and non-emergencies 877.ASK.LAPD or 818.734.2223.
2. Anything in progress 911
3. Quality-of-life issues, neighborhood watch issues (i.e. transient standing for two hours several times a week outside house; noticing van camped out a lot etc.) Senior Lead Officer, Drake Madison (he is responsible for our area) Email: [33997@lapd.lacity.org](mailto:33997@lapd.lacity.org) Cell: 310.622.3973
4. Graffiti removal (important to remove right away b/c graffiti breeds). Take picture first and email to Officer Madison : [33997@lapd.lacity.org](mailto:33997@lapd.lacity.org). Graffiti removal: 310.204.2749 or [graffiti@www.pgs.net](mailto:graffiti@www.pgs.net)

## NWNA Book Club

### Next Selection:

### *The Year of the Hare* by Arto Paasilinna

Join us on Tuesday, March 20, for a discussion of this internationally bestselling comic novel from Finland! For meeting location or to join the book club email list, please contact Lillia Singer at [bellagardendesign@att.net](mailto:bellagardendesign@att.net).

## Safety First! Bill's Safety Corner



By: Bill Koontz

As the weather begins to warm up and we start to crack our windows to get a little fresh air in to cool down our houses just remember to lock them up when you leave as we are still a very desirable neighborhood for the day time "knock-knock" burglars.

## Monthly Farmers Market Report

Smart Simple Gourmet sells prepared foods for those who want a home-made meal. Whether you're too busy to cook or just want a break from the kitchen, you'll find foods made with organic produce and ingredients, pasture-raised chickens and grass-fed beef. The menu changes every week and with the seasons. Some recent offerings were water cress & potato soup, hearty chicken stew with wild rice, beef stew with Belgian ale. Also available are chicken bone broth and vegetable stock. [www.smartsimplegourmet.com](http://www.smartsimplegourmet.com)

Wild Alaskan salmon is now available year round from Janae's Fillets. July and August are the fishing season for wild Alaskan salmon where it is caught, flash frozen and vacuum packed. Be sure to ask for defrosting instruction to have your salmon ready for lunch or dinner preparation.

The spring crop of strawberries is now available including Camarosas, San Andreas, Albion and Gaviota varieties. Gloria of Tamai Farms is expecting sweeter berries this spring due to the warmer weather and lack of rain. She indicated that too much moisture can give strawberries a slight sour taste. Sample and select your favorite variety of the week.



### Mar Vista Farmers Market

Every Sunday 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM  
Grand View at Venice Blvd.  
[marvistafarmersmarket.org](http://marvistafarmersmarket.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 1/1/12 - 1/31/12:

Aggravated Assaults 3  
Burglary (Vehicle) 17  
Robbery 5  
Burglary (Res/Biz) 24  
Grand Theft Auto 14  
Homicide 0  
Sex 0

### Theft 12

During this rating period Burglary (Residential/Business) has become a problem in our area. Crime this period has begun to rise across the board with the largest gain in residential burglaries. Remember, most burglary suspects seek easy targets, thus the harder you make your home to break into, the less likely you 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.

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Safety Tip: Do not be tempted to keep a key to your home or vehicle in a "secret" hiding place, as burglars know where to look and could easily find them.

### 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](mailto:billk@marvista.org).

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).

Deadline for the April issue is  
Monday, March 26, 2012.

*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