



WESTWOOD HILLS

NEWS

WESTWOOD HILLS PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER |

FALL 2003

ANNUAL ELECTION MEETING

WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 5, 2003

7 P.M.

VILLAGE CHURCH
OF WESTWOOD

343 CHURCH LANE

SPEAKER
L A County
SUPERVISOR ZEV
YAROSLAVSKY

Hear what Zev has to say about VA expansion, Caltrans' plans for the 405, the MTA's fixes for our transportation system and more

Refreshments
Hosted by
WHOLE FOODS
MARKET
Westwood

VA land planning: Short-range and short-sighted

WHPOA has joined a coalition of local homeowner and environmental organizations, veterans groups, and local, state and federal elected officials to urge Veterans Administration officials to allow local input into land-use decisions at the West Los Angeles facility.

Among those speaking on behalf of the community at a recent VA hearing in Long Beach were Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, who was instrumental in overturning an earlier VA plan which would have allowed commercial and residen-

tial development at the West LA site equivalent to three Century Cities. We are honored that Zev will be the speaker at WHPOA's annual meeting on Wednesday, November 5. Others who urged VA administrators to reconsider their short-sighted plan to leave land-use decisions to a committee of six hospital administrators, only one of whom is from Southern California were our City Council member Jack Weiss, Assembly member Paul Koretz, and City Council member Cindy Miscikowski. The VA hearing panel declined to

hear from Lisa Pinto, who was representing Congressman Henry Waxman. Congressman Waxman and Senators Barbara Boxer and Diane Feinstein have written to the Veterans Administration asking for a comprehensive long-range plan for VA land use involving community input.

Flora Gil Krisiloff, chair of the Brentwood Community Council, has led the community opposition to the VA's plans. To learn more, attend the annual meeting and log on at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/westwoodhills>.

Crime in our neighborhood isn't something we like to think about. Fortunately, we don't have to think about it often. In June, two burglaries, two auto thefts and one theft from auto were reported to police, practically a crime wave for Westwood Hills. In July and August, police received reports of one stolen vehicle and two thefts from vehicles. An unknown fact is how many crimes were prevented by watchful neighbors who alerted police and nearby residents to suspicious activity.

Preventing crime in our neighborhood is a high priority among our members. Many residents subscribe to private security services and want to be sure that they are getting what they pay for. WHPOA also wants to know how to maximize the benefits of these services for the neighborhood. Russell Fine (Dalkeith) is collecting information about services offered by competing security companies. Look for the results of Russell's efforts in a forthcoming newsletter and on the e-mail network.

Security services may be helpful, but most experts rate vigilant citizens as the number one deterrent to crime. For this reason, Lori Fontanes (Dalkeith) is attempting to get a neighborhood-wide Neighborhood Watch program off the ground. In order to succeed, WE NEED YOU to volunteer to help. The most pressing need is for individuals who will volunteer to distribute information on their blocks (we call them Block Captains). If they are so inclined, they can sponsor a meeting to introduce neighbors to the program (and each other). That's all there is to it. To volunteer, send your name and address to whpoa@msn.com and we will get in touch with you.



Carole Magnuson, President

Westwood Notes

WHPOA Says Stay with Plan

WHPOA's Board of Directors has again called on Councilmember Jack Weiss to require developer Alan Casden to modify his proposed Palazzo Westwood project to make it conform to the Westwood Village Specific Plan (WVSP).

Casden wants the plan changed to conform to the project. The Board does not think that this is fair to the community or to other businesses in the Village. Community and business stakeholders agreed to the WVSP to allow the Village to grow and develop without overwhelming the available and potential roadways and parking.

The Plan, which allows 1.2 million square feet of growth in the Village, was in effect when Casden bought the project. Apparently he believes that he will be able to overcome

community opposition and win approval for his 528,490 square foot mixed-use project through the political process.

Homeowner and business organizations have met with Councilman Weiss to explain their position but, to date, he hasn't been willing to take a stand in support of the Plan.

It appears that either he doesn't understand the point of the Plan or he accepts arguments by the developer's attorneys and lobbyists who say that the project doesn't conform to the Plan because it is a mixed-use project. In fact, the WVSP provides for mixed use in the Village and on the developer's property.

WHPOA wants to see the site developed with a project that provides housing and retail, as allowed in the WVSP, and that preserves historic Glendon Manor. Glendon Avenue should be left open during the 3-year construction.

Sepulveda Project Update

Thanks to heads up work by our traffic chair, Debbie Nussbaum, and the cooperation of our Los Angeles City Councilman, our neighborhood may be spared the damaging impacts of a proposed 'reversible' traffic lane proposed for installation on Sepulveda Blvd.

Debbie's research on the project suggested that Los Angeles Department of Transportation might need to acquire right-of-way on Sepulveda Blvd. for the second phase of the project. Alarmed at the prospect of a repeat of the 405 off-ramp fiasco, the Board appealed immediately to Councilman Jack Weiss.

At WHPOA's request, Councilman Weiss has made his opposition to taking of residential property in our neighborhood known to the Los Angeles Department of Transportation.

In addition, Weiss has written to our Board reaffirming his commitment to public safety and the quality of life, noting that *"Relieving traffic congestion through projects that promote efficient use of our roadways, such as the Reversible Lane, is an important part of improving both public safety and quality of life."*

Improving traffic flow, however, should not come at the expense of the integrity of our neighborhoods. This is why I opposed the acquisition of residential property for 405 Freeway improvements at Montana Avenue. I likewise oppose any design for the Sepulveda Reversible Lane Project that would require the acquisition of residential property.

Phase I of the Sepulveda Reversible Lane Project will begin above Getty Center Drive and extend north to the Mulholland Tunnel. Traffic Experts believe that the imple-

mentation of Phase I - will significantly improve traffic conditions. As a result, Phase 2 may not be required...."

LADOT planners also said that they are studying ways to extend the Reversible Lane through the Sepulveda Tunnel and install bike lanes on both sides of the roadway.

Safety Fixes Promised

LADOT has agreed to install traffic safety measures at Cashmere and Sepulveda. The changes, requested by the WHPOA traffic committee, are designed to improve visibility for drivers turning onto Sepulveda from Cashmere and to discourage vehicles traveling north on Sepulveda from blocking the intersection during periods of heavy traffic. The committee has also asked for better enforcement of the no parking restrictions at the southeast corner of the intersection.

Speak Out.

Contact officials concerned with your issues at:

1. Congressman Henry Waxman, 8436 W. Third St., #600; LA, CA, 90048; (323)651-1040; FAX (323)655-0502; Staff contact on VA, Lisa Pinto. Email: Lisa.Pinto@mail.house.gov.
2. The Hon. Anthony Principi, Secretary of Veteran Affairs, Dept. of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Ave, NW, Washington, D.C. 20420; FAX (202)273-4880
3. Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, 821 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, LA, CA 90012; (213) 974-3333; FAX (213)625-7360; Staff contact on VA, Laura Shell. Email: Lshell@bos.co.la.ca.us
4. Councilman Jack Weiss, City Hall, Room 440, 200 N. Spring St., LA CA 90012; (213) 485-5013; FAX (213) 978-2250; Staff contact on VA and Casden, Rene Schillaci; email: Rschilla@Council.lacity.org. Staff contact for neighborhood and traffic issues: Evan Lincove, (310)289-0353.

Question:
What is the Westwood Hills e-mail network?

Answer:
It's a private, news and referral network already used by 300 neighbors in Westwood Hills to exchange information, get referrals for household workers, and keep up to date on events as they happen. To join, e-mail your name, street address, telephone number to

westwoodhills-owner@yahoogroups.com

Board of Directors Nominated

New Board of Directors members are elected each year at the Annual Meeting from a slate proposed by a nominating committee. The Board chooses officers of the Association at its first meeting of the year. Members nominated for the 2003-2004 Board are Aphrodite Banks (Veteran); Lori Fontanes (Dalkeith); Leona Heritage (Denslow); Wayne Hodges (Thurston); Martin Kaplan (Sunset); Larry Londre (Cashmere); Bayard Maybank (Bronwood); Alvin Milder (Greenfield) and Harriet Miller (Cashmere). Directors who will be serving the second year of their 2-year terms are Margot Barron (Tavistock); Barbara Dobkin (Tilden); Karen Fields (Dalkeith); Debra Gendel (Cashmere); Carole Magnuson (Ophir); Deborah Nussbaum (Cashmere Terrace); Susan Polep (Barlock); LeAnne Schwartz (Glenroy).

HELP WANTED: WHPOA needs an archivist/historian. Please call Harriet Miller, 310-472-7437 for more information.

Welcome New Members

New residents who joined this summer include:

Billy Rose; David, Nicole and Camille Clair (and Chloe Violet born 9/17/03) (Ophir);

Brian, Shelly and Amanda Leinbach; James L. and Arlene Slater (Cashmere Terrace);

Drs. Abby Moshrefi and Nazy Daneshmand (Sunset); Liza, Michael and Lily Price (Bronwood).



Westwood Hills
Property Owners
Association

Carole Magnuson
President

Alvin Milder
Debra Gendel
Bayard Maybank
Vice Presidents

Margot Barron
Treasurer

Susan Polep
Secretary

Directors
Aphrodite Banks
Karen Fields
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Leona Heritage
Wayne Hodges
Martin Kaplan
Harriet Miller
Deborah Nussbaum
LeAnne Schwartz

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Block Parties: More than 250 neighbors, pictured above, representing 90 families, enjoyed a September block party on Denslow organized by Arthur Greenberg, Leona Heritage, Debbie Nussbaum, David Nofri and others. In August, Cashmere residents Pattie and Larry Londre put together a block party that attracted about 100 residents from streets north of Montana.