

fall 2006

newsletter

Dear Neighbors

WHPOA Annual Meeting

Wednesday, October 25, 2006
7 P.M.

WESTWOOD HILLS CHRISTIAN CHURCH
10808 Le Conte Ave
(near Ralph's)

SPEAKERS

County Supervisor
ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

RON KOSINSKI
Caltrans Deputy Director

GUESTS

Councilmember
JACK WEISS

Assemblymember
KAREN BASS

CHRIS RAGSDALE
LAPD Senior Lead Officer

REFRESHMENTS
Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf

NineThirty Restaurant at the W Hotel

GIFT BAGS
Bliss Spa at the W Hotel

Plan to attend the **WHPOA Annual Meeting on Wednesday, October 25, 2006**. This will be an important meeting with our elected officials and their representatives present. This meeting also will be our first opportunity to thank **County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky** for his outstanding leadership in the community's fight to save VA and other Federal land from commercial development. We have also invited our **Councilmember Jack Weiss** and our new **Assemblymember Karen Bass**, who represents us in the State Legislature.

Ron Kosinski, Caltrans Deputy Director for Environmental Planning and **Los Angeles Department of Transportation Engineer Ken Husting** will be there to update us on Caltrans plans to add a northbound HOV lane to the 405 and its impact on Sepulveda Blvd. **LAPD Senior Lead Officer Chris Ragsdale** will come at 6:30 p.m. to speak to our Neighborhood Watch block captains and will stay for coffee.

This year we are expanding the role of our committees and our links with the community. In that spirit we have invited community organizations such as Friends of the Library, the Los Angeles Film Festival, the Westwood Farmer's Market, and the California Butterfly Project to have tables at a our "information fair." Our WHPOA Architecture and History Committee will distribute information about how to research the history of your house.

This will be our second year at the Westwood Hills Christian Church, located at the corner of Hilgard and Le Conte avenues. The church is in the block just east of Ralph's, but **DO NOT PARK AT RALPH'S**. Instead, enter the church parking lot from Le Conte and park in the surface lot or in the parking building. We are fortunate to have as our hosts **NineThirty Restaurant** at the W Hotel and **The Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf**, which will provide refreshments and **Bliss Spa at the W Hotel**, which has a gift for each family who attends the meeting.

Stay informed. Stay Active. Support your neighborhood!



AGENDA	
7 p.m.	Sign in and conversation
7:15 p.m.	Election of new Board Members
7:20 p.m.	Introduction of new homeowners
7:25 p.m.	Remarks by guests
7:45 p.m.	Featured Speaker: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
8:15 p.m.	Caltrans Report
8:30 p.m.	Adjourn

WESTWOOD HILLS NEIGHBOR NEW UCLA CHANCELLOR



*Prof. Norman Abrams
Acting Chancellor*

Our hats are off to the University of California leadership for its selection of our Westwood Hills neighbor, Norman Abrams, to serve as Acting Chancellor for the UCLA campus while it searches for a replacement for outgoing chancellor Alfred Carnesale. Abrams, who has lived in Westwood Hills for many years, joined the UCLA law faculty in 1959 and has served the campus in several capacities, in the process becoming widely respected and admired among students, administrators and faculty. As a law professor, he taught and wrote in the areas of criminal procedure, evidence, and federal criminal law. He served as Associate Dean of the law school from 1989 to 1991. From 1991 to 2001, Professor Abrams served as UCLA's Vice-Chancellor of Academic Personnel, overseeing faculty appointments and promotions as well as the faculty grievance and disciplinary process on the campus. In 2001, he returned full time to the law school, where he served as Interim Dean from 2003 to 2004.

Not the least of his accomplishments from a neighborhood point of view was his contribution to the campaign to win a sound wall on the east side of the 405. Congratulations to UC on its excellent choice and good luck to Norm.

NOMINEES FOR 2006-2007 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Each year at our annual meeting, we elect new Directors to replace Board of Directors members whose two-year terms are expiring. New Board members also may be nominated from the floor at the Annual Meeting, so long as they are present to accept the nomination. This year nominees are **Margot Barron** (Tavistock), **Barbara Dobkin** (Tilden), **Judith Brown** (Bentley), **Harry Macy** (Cashmere), **Carole Magnuson** (Ophir), **Deborah Nussbaum** (Cashmere Terrace), **Stephen Rohde** (Montana) and **Terry Tegnazian** (Cashmere).

PROP R: CITY COUNCIL WANTS MORE TIME

Opposition to the City Council's effort to give its members more time in office has come from many quarters, including other elected city officials, neighborhood councils, and the Courts, but the City Council is continuing its efforts to put Proposition R on the ballot. They have appealed a decision by Superior Court Judge Robert H. O' Brien which denied Prop R a place on the November 7 ballot on grounds that it illegally combined the term limits proposal with another placing restrictions on lobbyists, an element added to make the Proposition more attractive to voters.

WHEN TO CALL THE POLICE

In light of some recent suspicious activity, we would like to remind everyone that if you see someone who may be about to commit a crime, it is okay to call the 1-877-ASK-LAPD number. You will be directed to your local station and then given the option to report this activity. If you see someone actually commit a crime or there is a high probability of crime, of course, call 911. But if you are unsure, rather than not calling at all, it is better to make a call to the 877 number, describe the situation and let the police themselves determine the urgency.

Immediately write down a detailed description of what you saw, especially descriptions of people and cars (including license plates). This way if they leave before the police arrive, you have something to give the officers who will continue to search adjacent neighborhood. Remember that last year we had a couple of attempts on the same night that other burglaries took place. Thieves won't necessarily give up right away. We have been told that the first call should be to the police, then to your security company if you have one. Or call them both at the same time, if you have someone in the house and a second telephone.

NEW VA PROPOSALS CAUSE CONCERN

The Brentwood Community Council has been approached recently by developers seeking to use the VA property for a variety of commercial activities including Brentwood Fisher House, a hotel type hospitality facility, a portable drive-in movie theater, and a Cirque du Soleil-type dinner show which would operate in a large tent set up on a parking lot. Additionally, the Council has been informed that the operator of the Brentwood and Wadsworth theaters on the VA grounds has been given authority to contract out all available VA property for entertainment uses. The VA apparently is moving ahead with piece-meal leasing without public involvement despite the efforts of our elected officials to delay land use decisions until a comprehensive land use plan is completed.

SMILE—YOU'RE ON TRAFFIC CAMERA

You read about the crime. Now the sequel. A Holmby-Westwood resident whose car was stolen last summer received a ticket issued to the stolen vehicle by the City of Beverly Hills, including a picture of the thief who stole the car. The picture was taken by one of their traffic enforcement cameras. With prints from the broken window and the picture taken by the Beverly Hills stoplight camera to guide them, the LAPD will soon have the culprit in custody.

Meanwhile, the City of Los Angeles is upgrading all of its existing photo-enforced signals, with better, more efficient technology, in an effort to improve traffic safety and curb the epidemic of drivers running red lights. Ten will be retrofitted to new high-resolution digital systems and 22 new systems will be activated by next fall. Previously, about half of tickets issued through photo-enforcement were invalidated because they could not clearly show the driver.

OPEN HOUSE AT WLA POLICE STATION

The West Los Angeles police station, 1663 Butler Avenue, is having an open House on October 14, 2006, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be free food and entertainment as well as numerous booths staffed by officers from all areas of the department.

Visitors will see the latest equipment that police use to fight crime and have an opportunity to talk with the Officers who patrol our neighborhood. They may also try out a tactical simulator where they will encounter the criminal.

This is a great opportunity to ask any questions you have about LAPD and how it polices our city. WLAPD invites you to bring your family and your friends. For further information, call Officer Trinidad at (310) 444-0730.

Lights Out

The City has ordered the Angeleno Hotel at Sunset and Church Lane (formerly the Holiday Inn) to stop lighting the exterior of the building and to turn off the the horizontal lights at the 16th floor except during the last three weeks of December, as provided by the original construction permit.

Signal needed

It has been years in the making, but the Department of Transportation has at last approved a demand traffic sign (controlled by a button) mid-block on Gayley between Weyburn and Kinross. Gayley is extra long, and traffic moves extra fast. The light is for the safety of the countless pedestrians who currently jaywalk mid-block and the protection of the drivers who must work not to hit them. The catch is that only one traffic signal is funded in a Council District each year. Councilman Jack Weiss is the one who decides where it will go. He may be reached by e-mail at weiss@council.lacity.org and by regular mail at Room 440, City Hall, 200 N. Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

NEIGHBOR IN WESTWOOD FILM FESTIVAL

The Second Annual Westwood International Film Festival will feature a film by WHPOA Board member Lori Fontanes. The film, which shows at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, October 7, is titled "The Day Arnold Schwarzenegger Kicked My A***". It follows Lori, a.k.a. Abner Zurd, during her quixotic run for governor in the 2003 special election won by Arnold Schwarzenegger. The film provides a humorous and insightful look at the media, campaigning, our political culture, and what Lori sees as a deplorable absence of meaningful political engagement, dialogue and action in politics. She hopes that what started as a lark and a gag can actually end up increasing participation of marginalized persons in our political culture.

Lori's film is one of a selection of independent feature films and shorts that will be shown in the Westwood Festival, which continues at the Majestic Crest Friday, October 6 through Friday, October 13, 2006. The Majestic Crest is located at 1262 Westwood Blvd., one block south of Wilshire Blvd.

WESTWOOD HILLS PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Carole Magnuson
President

Lori Fontanes
Larry Londre
Alvin Milder
Debbie Nussbaum
Vice Presidents

Margot Barron
Treasurer

Sue Polep
Secretary

Directors

Aphrodite Banks
Judy Brown
Joanna Cowitt
Barbara Dobkin
William Gubin
Leona Heritage
Wayne Hodges
Martin Kaplan
Harriet Miller
Stephen Rohde
Terry Tegnazian

Box 24515
Los Angeles, CA
90024

e-mail
westwoodhills-
owner
@yahogroups.com

BUTTERFLIES IN WESTWOOD

The Monarch Butterfly, known for it's beautiful black and gold wings, each year migrates up to 3000 miles before it returns to its resting place to "hibernate" for the winter. The most famous of these migrations is the trip made by Monarchs from Canada to Mexico where millions converge in the mountains of Michoacan. What many people don't know, is that more than a million Monarchs also winter along the California coast where conditions are ideal. Two over-winter locations are just up the coast, at Leo Carrillo Beach and Point Mugu State Park.

We could bring Monarchs to Westwood. Monarch Butterflies were surely here at one time, but their habitats have been long lost through development. Park Ranger Mia Monroe and Jane Troutman, Coordinator of the California Monarch Campaign, says our neighborhood could help recover a native habitat by planting a milkweed plant known as *Asclepias curassavica* in our gardens. One caution is that many forms of milkweed are poisonous, as is the case with oleander, heliotrope and other common garden plants. Judy Brown, who provided this information, will have more information on the California Monarch Campaign available at the Annual Meeting on October 25.



Westwood Village Traffic in
the 1950's