



WESTWOOD HILLS PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER – FALL 2013



Dear Neighbors –

The past three years have been extremely challenging for our neighborhood, as we've had to deal with all the impacts of the 405/Sepulveda construction.

That's why, as always, **it's important that you attend this year's Annual Meeting on Tuesday, October 29!**

We need a big turnout of caring neighbors to convince our elected representatives that they must be responsive to our continuing concerns. This is your chance to ask questions and demand results from our elected representatives

Our featured speakers include **our Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky** (who also sits on the Metro Board of Directors, which is overseeing the 405 construction); **our Councilman Paul Koretz** (who can help us with City agencies that approve traffic mitigations and landscaping); **Mark Van Gessel, Metro project manager** for our segment of the 405 project; and our **LAPD Senior Lead Officer Chris Ragsdale**, who will address recent security concerns.

Our annual meeting this year marks the last time that **Zev Yaroslavsky** will be speaking to all our members as our County Supervisor, because his term expires next June. Zev has represented the Westside for nearly 40 years—first as our City Councilman (1975–1994), then since 1994 as our County Supervisor.

Zev and his staff (especially his wonderful deputy Vivian Rescalvo) have always been extremely constituent oriented. The last couple of years, they have really gone to bat for us with Metro on several 405 construction issues. It will be with great regret—and many thanks for his years of dedication—that we say goodbye to Zev as one of our elected representatives.

Remember, **we're meeting in a new venue this year: the Westwood Presbyterian Church, 10822 Wilshire Blvd. (the south side of Wilshire, next door to the old Avco movie theater which is currently under reconstruction. There is plenty of surface parking on site.**

Our Annual Meeting is always a great opportunity for us to get together in person—socialize, enjoy some delicious munchies, meet new neighbors, renew old acquaintances, and catch up on local news.

I look forward to seeing you all on October 29!

Best regards, **Terry**

TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

I-405 Construction

After more than three years of construction, Metro now promises that the I-405 HOV lane and all new ramps will be complete and open to motorists by June 2014. However, landscaping of the 405 Widening Project, new signals and lighting, and resurfacing of Sepulveda Blvd. will still need to be completed.

Great News About Landscaping!!

As a result of much prodding from WHPOA and our elected representatives, Metro, LA County, and LA City have agreed to plant and maintain trees and vines along Sepulveda from Wilshire to Sunset. The new landscaping plan is a vast improvement over the original, which provided only a few trees at Sunset and at Montana, while leaving all the retaining walls bare. We have been promised more trees and shrubs, and all new retaining walls will have vines planted at their base. It will be nice to see plants growing along Sepulveda after 4-5 years of destruction, construction trucks, dirt, lane closures, more dirt, detours, flying dust, and construction equipment pounding, drilling and beeping all night!

LA2B

City planners and LADOT's have a new concept for transportation for our city, emphasizing a "multimodal" approach. The private car will no longer be king of the road. Road space will be shared with bikes, pedestrians, and buses.

Bus-Only Lanes Will Be Added

Wilshire Blvd. will be reconfigured to accommodate a peak period (7am-9am and 4pm-7pm Monday through Friday) curbside Bus-Only Lane from the Santa Monica city line (Centinela Av.) to downtown LA (at Valencia St.), except in Beverly Hills, which has opted out of the program. The Wilshire BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) is estimated to be complete by November 2014. Bicycles will be allowed in the bus lane. Vehicles wishing to make right turns will be allowed into the bus lane near the intersection in order to turn right. Bus ridership is expected to increase 15 – 20% as the bus transit times improve 24%.

Plan Adds Westwood Bike Lanes

Cycling activists have pushed forward a 2010 Bicycle Plan that aims to make LA a bicycle-friendly community. As streets are made safer places to ride a bicycle the number and type of bicyclists is expected to increase. Over the next 35 years the City intends to expand bike lane/bike paths/bike ways from the current 334 miles to a total of 1,684 miles.

Currently of importance to the Westwood area is the initial rollout of bike lanes. A bike lane being planned for a narrow section of Westwood Blvd. between Santa Monica and National Blvd. will require removing a southbound traffic lane and eliminating all peak-period parking. Westwood Blvd. between Wilshire Blvd. and Santa Monica Blvd. is much wider and currently has striped

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IMPORTANT MEETING — LET THEM KNOW WE CARE!



Supervisor Yaroslavsky & Councilmember Koretz

to speak at WHPOA ANNUAL MEETING

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2013

6:30 p.m. Socializing

7 p.m. Meeting begins

NEW LOCATION

Westwood Presbyterian Church

10822 Wilshire Blvd. (south side of Wilshire next to old AVCO (now iPic) movie theater under construction)

Meet Daniel Tamm, Westside rep for Mayor Garcetti; Mark Van Gessel and I-405 management team reps; LAPD Officer Chris Ragsdale and more!!

Thanks to our generous sponsors

Larry Young, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices * Whole Foods Market on Gayley

WESTWOOD VILLAGE

Pop-Up Shopping



From Nov. 1-24 look for the UCLA Hammer Museum's Arts ReSTORE LA: Westwood — an initiative

aimed at bringing the resources of Los Angeles' creative community to Westwood Village revitalization by helping local artisans and craftspeople to open pop-up shops in the Village.

Fourteen projects, which include a maker of environmentally friendly skateboards, a variety of furniture, clothing and accessories designers and a letterpress print shop, have been selected to fill some of the empty storefronts throughout the struggling retail area. In addition to the shopping options, there will be performances at Open Forum, which is an event space organized by the Hammer Student Association in collaboration with a host of other organizations, and dancers and choreographers from the UCLA Department of World Arts and Cultures/Dance.

Arts ReSTORE LA: Westwood hours will be Thursdays–Saturdays 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sundays 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. A website will go live in mid-October with a full event schedule and vendor details. Follow #Westwood on the Hammer's [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) channels for updates.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

New Westside Reps

Our CD5 Council office is always a great help when we are in need of City Services and this fall we have the pleasure of two new staff

members. Joan Pelico, (213) 473-7005, took over from Rich Llewelyn as Chief of Staff this fall and Katherine Hennigan, (310) 503-0353, is the new Westside deputy. Both have years of City Hall experience and are well-poised to deliver constituent services. Joan can be reached by email at joan.pelico@lacity.org. Kate's email is katherine.hennigan@lacity.org. Daniel Tamm (213) 978-0836, daniel.tamm@lacity.org has become the Westside representative for the Mayor's office. Many city agencies are establishing websites to expedite service requests. Two agencies with useful websites are the Bureau of Street Services <http://bss.lacity.org/request.htm> and the Los Angeles Department of Transportation, <http://myladot.lacity.org>. Another civic leap into cyberspace is represented by MyLA311, an information and service request application that can be downloaded onto your mobile device.

POTHOLES

Updates

WHPOA has a several-pronged campaign going on the state of our streets. Residents are urged to use the Bureau of Street Services request form to let the City know where streets need repair. Several potholes were patched last month during a brief visit from the Mayor's Neighborhood Blitz team (thanks Daniel Tamm and the Westwood Neighborhood Council) and WHPOA Board member Frank Ponder is moving forward with the Council office. Contact Frank at ponder310@gmail.com if you want to help. And please email a copy of any response to a Bureau of Street Services online request to westwoodhills-owner@yahoo.com. We are following up on these pothole requests.

bike lanes; remember to look for bicyclists before opening your car door if parallel parking in this or other areas. Also be aware that a new bicycle safety law requires motorists to give cyclists at least 3 feet of space when passing them from behind.

Public Transportation LA's Future

Metro/LADOT/City planners envision a future where people depend on mass transit and

walk the first and last mile from home to public transportation. Construction on the Expo Light Rail seems to be on a roll in sections of West LA. Talk of streetcars connecting the Expo line to UCLA and the subway are abuzz among urban planners. LA is scheduled to take on a new look!

--Debbie Nussbaum

WHPOA Traffic Committee Chairperson

Public Art Planned for Walls 1720 and 1730

Greenmeme, the artist commissioned by the City to design art for the massive Sepulveda Blvd. retaining walls known as 1720 and 1730 (north and south of Homedale) has proposed installation of sandblasted motifs incorporating images drawn from nature, e.g. trees, and the surrounding community, e.g. Royce Hall. Metro's Community Advisory Commission endorsed the most recent design, which goes before the Cultural Arts Commission on November 7, in preference to an earlier proposal that had been opposed by the WHPOA Board. Metro estimates that installation of the art will take five to six weeks of nighttime work and will require Sepulveda Blvd. to be fully closed while work is in progress.

This photograph, taken from the Getty, shows the massive walls on which the City proposes to install public art pursuant to its program requiring 1% of construction costs to be devoted to public art. The walls, required to facilitate the City's widening of Sepulveda Blvd., are on City property although the I-405 Project paid for the widening.



**WESTWOOD HILLS
PROPERTY OWNERS
ASSOCIATION**

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This newsletter is published by the
Westwood Hills Property Owners
Association as a service to members

**NEW PUBLIC WEBSITE
for WHPOA!**

<http://westwoodhillspropertyowners.org>

Board Elections

Each year at the Annual Meeting, WHPOA elects members to serve on its Board of Directors for the coming two years. Candidates for election this year are: **Aphrodite Banks** (Veteran), **Joe Hilberman** (Bentley), **Wayne Hodges** (Thurston), **Caroline Lee** (Bentley), **Donald Lumpkin** (Montana), **Alvin Milder, Esq.** (Greenfield), **Frank Ponder** (Homedale), and **Jane Schwab** (Bronwood), **Terry Tegnazian** (Cashmere), **Carole Magnuson** (Ophir), **Margot Barron**, CPA (Tavistock), **Sue Polep** (Barlock), **Judy Brown** (Bentley), **Harry Macy** (Cashmere), **Debbie Nussbaum** (Cashmere Terrace), **Sherry West** (Montana) and **Stephen Rohde** (Montana) are serving the second year of a two-year term. The Board thanks retiring members Stacey Siegel and Russell Korobkin for their service to Westwood Hills

Not a Member Yet?

WHPOA—the Westwood Hills Property Owners Association—is a 54-year-old all-volunteer organization devoted solely to maintaining the quality of life in the Westwood Hills, a community of 607 single family homes bordered by Sunset Blvd., Veteran Ave., the Veterans Cemetery and Sepulveda Blvd. More than 85% of Westwood Hills residents are members and most of them subscribe to the WHPOA **neighborhood email network**.

Joining is easy. Unlike other homeowner organizations, there are no dues, just a one-time payment of \$100. For more information and an application, contact our Membership Chairperson at s.polep@gte.net.

Welcome New Members

We would like to welcome the following families who have joined the Westwood Hills Property Owners Association since October 2012: **Nelson and Joan SooHoo** (Bentley), **Stacey and Mardy Fish** (Dalkeith), **David Becker and Yelena Vayner** (Denslow), **Mazdak Vaezpour and Sara Hajiamiri** (Levering), **Satoko Furuta and Noel Wax** (Bronwood), **Soo Hugh and Jeff Weiser** (Glenroy), **Sarah Tolbert and Benjamin Schwartz** (Cashmere), **Eric and Shana Kaufman** (Bronwood), **Eric Wu and Allison Lin** (Bentley), **Stephanie Horvath** (Homedale), **Michelle Wang/Michael Legmann** (Bronwood), **Cambrien and Nate Snyder** (Glenroy), **Jill Gilman and Seth Klein** (Glenroy), and **Cameron Hall** (Sunset).

Join the Email Network!

Easy to do. Just email the moderators at westwoodhills-owner@yahoogroups.com with your name and address.