

## *North Westdale Neighborhood Association* *P.O. Box 642522, Los Angeles, CA 90064*

[www.northwestdale.com](http://www.northwestdale.com)



North Westdale

[groups.yahoo.com/group/NWNA](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NWNA)

### **NWNA meeting: January 22, 2020 - 7 PM**



Saint Andrew's - Fellowship Hall

11555 National Blvd., 90064

(Park in the lot or, if full, on the street)

**MEET OUR NEW  
LAPD SENIOR LEAD  
OFFICER JENNIFER MUTHER**

#### *Plus*

**Bill Pope**, who conducted the **Disaster Survival Seminar and Workshop** back in October, will be returning to demonstrate the **BASICS Life Saving Procedure** he taught us. And for those who want to stay a little after our meeting, he will give you some personal coaching as you practice the procedure on each other. Bring a long-sleeve shirt, a pen or pencil, a blanket, two towels and three old ties or sashes.

### **Welcome, Beautiful Winter Views Of Los Angeles From Mar Vista**

*Photos by Martin Rubin—December 27, 2019*



View toward the north



View toward the east



# PETE CASTRO SELLS NORTH WESTDALE

42 homes sold in North Westdale in 2019. Pete represented 7 of those sellers. The numbers speak for themselves. Look at the difference your agent makes.\*

January 1, 2019 - December 20th, 2019	Everyone Else	PETE CASTRO
Days on the Market	45 Days	20 Days
Avg SOLD Price	\$1,359,365	\$1,400,714
Avg SOLD Price per Sq Ft	\$835	\$926
Avg SOLD Price/Avg Original List Price	99%	104%

Pete Castro gets his North Westdale clients **MORE MONEY** in **LESS TIME**, earning them an average of **\$41,348** more than the competition in 2019. The agent you choose matters!  
If you want the most money for your home in 2020, call Pete today.

\*According to the MLS statistics as of December 23rd 2019

 <b>SOLD</b> \$1,610,000 2712 Colby Ave   West Los Angeles	 <b>SOLD</b> \$1,255,000 2740 Burkshire Ave   West Los Angeles	 <b>SOLD</b> \$1,905,000 12006 Clarkson Rd   West Los Angeles	 <b>SOLD</b> \$1,360,000 2727 Coolidge Ave   West Los Angeles
 <b>SOLD</b> \$1,225,000 2760 Federal Ave   West Los Angeles	 <b>SOLD</b> \$610,000 2560 S Centinela Ave #16   West Los Angeles	 <b>SOLD</b> \$1,200,000 2727 Colby Ave   West Los Angeles	 <b>SOLD</b> \$1,250,000 2571 S Westgate Ave   West Los Angeles
 <b>IN ESCROW</b> \$1,625,000 2564 S Westgate Ave   West Los Angeles		 <b>IN ESCROW</b> \$1,695,000 2700 Coolidge Ave   West Los Angeles	

**kw**  
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## NWNA President / MVCC Zone 2 message: by Martin Rubin



**Dear Neighbors,**

**Mark your calendar** for our first NWNA meeting of the new year, January 22, 2020, 7PM. Our new Los Angeles Police Department's Senior Lead Officer, Jennifer Muther, will visit, speak, and field your questions. Also, Bill Pope will return to give us some follow-up, hands-on disaster training demonstrations.

Also, my sincerest thanks to our wonderful block captains!

We deliver NWNA Newsletters to more than 1,500 homes, condos and apartments.

### **My NWNA wish list for 2020:**

- I wish that many more residents would add their names to my NWNA member email notification list.
- I wish for more volunteers to be block captains and alternate block captains.
- I wish that we get even more residents coming to our meetings and events.
- I wish more neighbors would contribute dues, so we can strengthen our association.
- I still wish that Santa Monica Airport would close and the process of replacing it with a great park would begin.
- I wish that neighbors would follow the leaf-blower ban.
- I wish that the work of our Los Angeles City Government would result in improvements.
- I wish I had enough room to list all my wishes.

*And of course, I wish everyone a healthy and happy New Year!*

### **All neighbors:**

*Please drop me an email with your contact information for important and timely updates.*

*Thank you!*

Martin Rubin - martinrubin@earthlink.net - (310) 479.2529

## COMING SOON TO DESIGNATED LOCATIONS



### **A Mar Vista Community Council Project**

These **Neighborhood Watch** signs have been in the works for quite some time (don't ask), and they are now here, in storage.

Soon they will be mounted in appropriate locations throughout Mar Vista.

These signs can certainly offer a warning to those who would be considering illegal activities. However, there is no substitute for vigilant neighbors.

Stay vigilant as our neighborhood is surrounded by increased crime in adjacent communities.



## 21 YEARS AFTER THE LOS ANGELES LEAF BLOWER BAN SO WHAT ABOUT THE LEAF BLOWERS?

### SOME BULLIT POINTS TAKEN FROM NEIGHBORS RECENT COMMENTS:

- \*The sick trying to rest, the elderly, the very young, and those who work out of their homes can't escape the noise torture.
- \*Lungs are irritated by the toxic pesticides, herbicides, animal feces and urine particles blown around. \*People with allergies spend a day crying from the pollution these things produce. \*They are bad for the environment on so many levels, and bad for the gardeners who use it.
- \*They blow seeds from invasive weeds into neighbors yards.



## Let's Ban Leaf Blowers in LA ...

A 2014 CityWatch article with background information

**THE BOSTICK REPORT**-The high, whiny squeal pierced through the air, cutting the peace like a hot knife through butter. Check that, it wasn't so much like it pierced the silence. It was more akin to a slowly building soundtrack of insanity.

Five of my neighbors hire the same crew of gardeners. They come every Tuesday and unleash a frenzy of sound for at least 90 minutes strong. It's a lot of noise for just one lawn mower and a leaf blower.

Do I hate leaf blowers? It's not so much a hate for leaf blowers, to be honest. My irritation with them is more the knowledge that they are illegal within the city limits of Los Angeles.

#### • Leaf blowers are bad for people.

Leaf blowers disrupt the peace. The obnoxious revving of the engine while in use is far more disruptive than if it were to keep a constant pace. This "up and down" whininess has strong links to the death of urban bees, confusion in migrating birds, and abnormal levels of stress in my favorite animal species: people.

Leaf blowers increase the levels of airborne particulates in the surrounding area. It isn't just the brake dust, dirt, and pollen that exacerbate the allergies, asthma, and other respiratory ailments afflicting the immediate neighborhood. Leaf blowers also kick up all of the Round Up, Miracle-Gro, and weed killer sprayed on that lawn. Those poisons, now airborne, are breathed in by anyone in the immediate area.

#### • Leaf blowers are ineffective.

They're pointless. First problem is that they blow. If they operated like a vacuum and sucked, then it would make more sense. As it stands, they just push detritus from one yard to the next or into the street. If you want to get that stuff into a bag, then they have to use.... a rake. Maybe cut out the middleman and just use the rake to start with?

Leaf blowers also don't work on wet stuff. The homes I see using leaf blowers are typically the same ones over-watering their lawns. Gardeners trying to dry wet stuff, well, that's just a silly waste of time.

#### • Leaf blowers are used to validate the service.

It's not just the fact that leaf blowers pollute the air, kill bees, incite unnecessary stress in an urban environment, make dangerous lawn chemicals airborne, increase asthma and bronchitis, and generally disrupt the peace of a neighborhood. The worst thing about leaf blowers is that they seem to be used to validate the cost of the weekly lawn service model.

The more noise, the stronger the perception that work is being done. Think about it. How many leaves fall on your lawn? On your neighbor's lawn? How many trees are in your immediate area?

I'm no science teacher – wait, I am a science teacher. Ok, start over.

As a science teacher, I can attest to the fact that autumn is the season of leaves falling to the ground in mass numbers. There certainly are stragglers holding on into December in a temperate region like Southern California, but for the most part, the heavy shedding of leaves occurs between September and December. After that, the falling of leaves is pretty much over until next September.

Every lawn mower I see has a grass catcher on it. So, what are the leaf blowers blowing other than trash and particulate matter that is better left on the ground – or better yet, in the Miracle Gro bottle to start with?

The answer is nothing. They are blowing nothing. The purpose they serve is to make a sound for 25 minutes per yard because it represents work being accomplished to the person paying for the service, should they be around to hear it. This, in turn, creates a sense of value to the person contracting the service. The fact that the sound requires a machine represents a barrier to entry for the person contracting the gardeners. You see, if the gardener needs this big machine to do the job, then the homeowner needs the big machine to do the job, too. Or, the homeowner could just hire the gardener.

**MORE RECENT COMMENTS:**

\*They blow dirt all over clean parked cars. \*The rake and broom can still be used pretty fast for cleanup by a skilled gardener. \*Could we ask our garden keepers to put those serenity blasters down and pick up rakes instead? That's taking the problem to each of us individually to change. How about it neighbors? \*The blowers offend on every level: piercing noise, harm to plant health, gas exhaust pollution, blowing clouds of dirt into neighbors homes on summer days with windows open.....all done while there is a law prohibiting it. It's up to each homeowner to stop the use of one on their property, or they're the ones actually creating the problem. \*All you can do is lead by example, one yard, one block, one neighborhood at a time. **\*Amen - Sounds like a good New Year's resolution.**

## For Real This Time

on the (1998) leaf blower ban.

By *Odysseus Bostick* - April 14, 2014

The answer is nothing. They are blowing nothing. The purpose they serve is to make a sound for 25 minutes per yard because it represents work being accomplished to the person paying for the service, should they be around to hear it. This, in turn, creates a sense of value to the person contracting the service. The fact that the sound requires a machine represents a barrier to entry for the person contracting the gardeners. You see, if the gardener needs this big machine to do the job, then the homeowner needs the big machine to do the job, too. Or, the homeowner could just hire the gardener.

Let me be clear here. This is a perfectly rational economic tool for the gardener to employ to validate the cost of contracted lawn care. It's actually quite brilliant and I applaud the gardeners of Los Angeles for keying in on this.

But, the use of a gas powered leaf blower is no better for the health of the user than it is for the neighborhood residents. In fact, the people holding onto a running leaf blower every day for hours on end are the ones on the front lines here. Their health is more negatively affected than mine.

- **Leaf blowers are currently illegal in the city of Los Angeles.**

All of the reasons I give you in this article are the reasons the city council of Los Angeles gave as rationale for banning gas powered leaf blowers within the city in 1998. But the ordinance is not enforced, clearly.

I recently called LAPD to find out about leaf blower citations. They transferred me to Street Services Investigation and Enforcement. Street Services informed me that while they take complaints about the use of leaf blowers, citations are not currently being issued. They will, however, issue a letter warning the homeowner not to have gardeners use the leaf blowers as they are banned within city limits.

So, I asked what happens if that letter is ignored. Ignoring the first letter results in the issuance of a second letter. Of course, I asked how long that goes on before a citation will be issued. The answer is never. The city attorney's office is not currently "prioritizing the enforcement of this ordinance".

I was told by the city attorney's office that someone would get back to me. That was three weeks ago.

Look, I see the folly of designing a ban that is focused on the use of the machines within the neighborhoods. It's hard to locate those breaking the law and when you do ticket them, who should pay? Should the homeowner pay for a contracted employee using a banned machine? Should a person struggling to make ends meet on the wages earned from mowing lawns be fined for what is a pervasive, citywide disregard for the ban? How do you enforce a complaint that isn't witnessed by the issuer of the citation?

These are real problems in the execution of the ban. Personally, I think the ban should be refined. It should not be predominately based on neighbors snitching on each other. Enforcement of the ban should be done through citations to the homeowner by the police department. Patrol cars should be incorporate this potentially lucrative citation effort into their daily routine. They're certainly able to do this for parking tickets, aren't they?

The ordinance should also be refined so that it heavily targets the sale of leaf blowers. Fine stores, like Home Depot, that sell gas powered leaf blowers and fine them heavily. Use the fees collected to initiate a buy back program from gardeners.

The worst part of this ordinance is that it exists and was celebrated so heavily when it passed. That created a sense that our irritation with leaf blowers is justified. That sense of righteousness has translated into unnecessary friction between neighbors.

Let's fix this.

*(At the time of writing, Odysseus Bostick was a Los Angeles teacher and a former candidate for the Los Angeles City Council. He wrote The Bostick Report for CityWatch.)*



# C A L E N D A R

**January 04 / February 01 / March 07- 6 PM**

**MVCC Airport Committee Meeting** - Saint Andrew's Library Meeting Room

**January 14 / February 11 / March 10 - 7 PM**

**MVCC Board of Directors Meeting** - Mar Vista Park Recreation Center

**Wednesday, January 22, 2020 - 7 PM**

**NWNA Meeting** - Guests: Introducing our **LAPD SLO Jennifer Muther**

**and Bill Pope, Disaster Survival Seminar and Workshop** - Saint Andrew's Fellowship Hall

**January 16 / February 20 / March 19 - 6:30 PM**

**MVCC Outreach Committee Meeting** - Coffee Connection, Ramp Room Lounge

3838 Centinela Avenue, 90066

**January 20 / February 17 - 7 PM**

**Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee Meeting** - - Coffee Connection, Ramp Room

Lounge 3838 Centinela Avenue, 90066

**January 29 / February 26 / March 18 - 6:00 PM**

**MVCC Elections & Bylaws Committee Meeting** - Windward School

*more MVCC information at: [marvista.org](http://marvista.org)*

**Councilmember Bonin's West L.A. Office - (310) 575.8461**

## **NORTH WESTDALE CRIMES**

***November 25 to December 22, 2019***

*Compiled by Martin Rubin from: [maps.latimes.com/neighborhoods/neighborhood/sawtelle/crime/](http://maps.latimes.com/neighborhoods/neighborhood/sawtelle/crime/)*

**Crime, Location, Date and Time** (Address information is generalized by block to help ensure privacy is protected.)

**Theft from vehicle:** 2500 Barry 11/25-2:45am; 2700 Westgate 11/27-10pm;  
11800 National 11/29-noon

**Burglary:** 2600 Barrington 11/28-4:01am; 11400 National 12/3-noon;  
2500 Amherst 12/16-11am; 11300 National 12/18-3:30am; 2400 Centinela 12/20-6:30am

**Theft:** 2400 Wellesley 12/1-11:45pm; 12000 National 12/2-4:30pm;  
2700 Armacost 12/16-4:30pm

**LAPD online police report option:**

**[lapdonline.org/home/content\\_basic\\_view/60409](http://lapdonline.org/home/content_basic_view/60409)**

***Our NEW Pacific Area Senior Lead Officer:***

**Jennifer Muther - [36051@lapd.online](mailto:36051@lapd.online); 424.264.3212**

**We look forward to her visit**

**at our January 22, 2020 NWNA meeting**





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## NWNA OFFICERS

**Martin Rubin, President (310) 479-2529 - [martinrubin@earthlink.net](mailto:martinrubin@earthlink.net)**

**Virginia Ernst, Vice President**

**Joan Winters, Secretary**

**Matthew Roethle, Treasurer**

**Web Master - Andrew Parke—Newsletter Editor - Martin Rubin—Assistant Editor - Joan Winters**



## Annual Dues - Homeowners & Renters



Please consider sending in your dues donation for this new year, *September, 2019 thru August, 2020.*

Help our neighborhood association by making out a \$15 (or more) check payable to "North Westdale Neighborhood Association".

Mail to: NWNA, P.O. Box 642522, Los Angeles, CA 90064.

or use the PAYPAL button on our website, [www.northwestdale.com](http://www.northwestdale.com),

**Whether you own or rent, please invest in our neighborhood. Your donation will be used wisely.**

***Thank you to those who sent in their dues for this past year!***

## Want To Place An Ad ?

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