

North Westdale News

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

VOLUME 33, ISSUE 5

FEBRUARY 2012

Message From the President:



Dear Neighbors,

As many of you already know, this last year we have been trying out the idea of having the meetings of the NWNA every other month. I have been collecting your ideas and feedback about this and it turns out that our sleepy little corner of West L.A. isn't so sleepy after all. There are so many things going on that the monthly meetings are coming back. I understand if you can't make it every month and I appreciate all the familiar faces that I do see there. So starting in March you can count on there being a meeting every 2nd Monday, 7pm at St. Andrews.

Additionally I will be forming a

task force to take another look at the by-laws. With the departure of the Vice-President John Kuchta, I looked to the by-laws for some guidance as to how to proceed and they were not very clear. We may be beefing them up and adding some small provisions and as always I will bring it before the board for a full vetting process and vote.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Valentine's Day.

Your friend and neighbor,

Bill

Bill Koontz
President, NWNA

TREASURER'S REPORT

North Westdale Neighborhood Association
Cash Sources and Uses
For the Six Months Ending December 31, 2011

Cash as of July 1, 2011	\$ 5,943.83
Sources	
Dues Received	2,090.00
NWNA newsletter grant from MVCC	300.00
	2,390.00
Uses	
Newsletter	(535.73)
Church-Meeting Hall Rental	(80.00)
	(615.73)
Cash as of December 31, 2011	\$ 7,718.10

No meeting this month (Feb)

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!

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ITEMS OF INTEREST

Feb 10: Valentine's Sweetheart Dinner, 7pm at St. Andrew's Church.

Feb 15: Alley Cats Watch Meeting, 7pm at St. Andrew's Church.

Feb 21: North Westdale Book Club Meeting, 7pm at Casa Lillia.

Feb 22: Kinder Round Up Tour, 9am at Richland Avenue Elementary School (library).

Feb 22: Santa Monica Airport Subcommittee Meeting, 6pm at 12016 Clarkson Rd.

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

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

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

May 14: NWNA Monthly Meeting, 7pm at St. Andrew's Church.

DID YOU KNOW? The City of Los Angeles has added milk, juice, soup and wine cartons to its curbside recycling program! We're one step closer to zero waste!

Santa Monica Airport Subcommittee to Meet Feb 22

By: Martin Rubin

Important message: Martin Rubin - Chair of the NWN Airport Committee, Vice-chair of the Airport Committee for the Mar Vista Community Council, and Director of Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution encourages you to get involved with the NWN Airport Committee. **Next meeting will be Wednesday, February 22 at 6 PM at our Vice-chair's home. For details contact (310) 479-2529 or martinrubin@earthlink.net.**

North Westdale begins just across Bundy Drive from the east end of Santa Monica Airport (SMO). Several studies have shown it to be the most heavily impacted by SMO aircraft emissions. For more than twenty years, residents from North Westdale have complained about the odors and blasts from the new private and corporate jet traffic.

Dr. Mark Witten, a jet fuel

toxicology expert, and former Professor of Pediatrics and Director of the Lung Injury Laboratory at the University of Arizona College of Medicine from 1990-2010 did studies for the U.S. Air Force Office of Scientific Research to study the effects of jet fuel exposure on the lungs. He recently commented that there are two thousand different constituents in uncombusted jet fuel that have been linked to cancer. The combustion products of any burning substance are filled with a huge number of oxygen radicals that are well known to be very harmful to living tissue. For example, it is estimated that one exhaled breath of cigarette smoke contains one million oxygen radicals. His best estimate of what an idling jet engine would be emitting every second would be in the hundreds of billions of oxygen radicals.



A 1989 U.S. DOT - FAA inter-departmental memo warned that sensitive equipment and personnel should not be within 300 feet of jet fumes due to deleterious and dangerous health effects. However they failed to address the fact that there existed homes situated less than 300 feet from the jet blast.

A 1999 LAUSD study noted a 26 times higher cancer risk in the downwind North Westdale community; 26 times higher than the EPA's acceptable risk level for a single source of toxic air pollutants. This increased cancer risk was based on 10,000 total annual turbojet operations. Jet operations grew to 18,500 by 2007. North Westdale families have been subjected to these prolonged toxic emissions. Please help us with our efforts to address this critical public health concern by getting involved.

“The Alley Cats” Gather and Watch

By: Sue Funkhouser

Given the increase of crime, the residents who live off the alley between National and Clarkson (bordered by the Church and Butler), started to organize themselves in 2011. The goals of the Alley Watch are (1) raise awareness of the crimes — being off an alley increases vulnerability; (2) get familiar with faces who are supposed to be there; (3) gather names and contact information; and (4) identify and implement preventative safety actions.

Progress was made on the first three goals with these 2011 activities:

- We had Watch meetings in August, September and October
- We had our first "Alley Party" where neighbors walked the alley from one house to the next, getting to know one another. (About 18 neighbors participated

in addition to a person representing Bill Rosendahl's office.)

- We had our first Alley holiday gathering (About a dozen neighbors participated.)
- We established Next Door – a separate online social network exclusively for neighbors (a la face book) where photos, minutes, contact information and notices/queries can be sent. If you are on the alley and want to be included, please send email to Sue at sue@pinwheelperformance.com.
- The alley's large potholes were patched (thanks to Damien who called the right person at Bill Rosendahl's office).

The proposed 2012 activities are:

- Five watch meetings on the third Wed. of Feb, April, June, August and

October

- Alley beautification, neighborhood watch signs, posting house #'s on rear of house,
- Alley Parties in early May and perhaps October
- Holiday gathering in December.

If you are an Alley Cat (between Clarkson and National bordered by the Church and Butler) and want to get involved, please contact Sue Funkhouser at sue@pinwheelperformance.com

Alley Cats Watch Meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month, every other month, 7pm at St. Andrew's Church (National and Federal). Next meeting is February 15 and will include North Westdale Senior Lead Officer, Drake Madison of the LAPD.



The Richland Avenue Elementary School Report

KINDER ROUND UPS — PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE

School tours for Pre-K, Transitional Kinder and Kindergarten are available on the following dates:

- Wednesday, February 22
- Thursday, March 29

Tours start at 9am at the Richland Avenue Elementary School library.



support our local public school, including:

- Purchase your gift cards through Shop With Scrip at www.shopwithscrip.com, Richland Group ID #LL43451C26655. Questions, contact Letty at lviescaramos@gmail.com or Meggie at 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.



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

NWNA Book Club

Next Selection:

***The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio: How My Mother Raised 10 Kids on 25 Words or Less* by Terry Ryan**

Join us on Tuesday, February 21, for a discussion of this engaging and quick-witted biography! For meeting location or to join the book club email list, please contact Lillia Singer at bellagardendesign@att.net.



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!

Reminder: Scoop The Poop!

We love dogs, but their poop? Not so much. Please be a good neighbor and make sure to bring a baggie with you on walks. If your dog is off leash and out of your sight for any amount of time (not that we condone that!), check the area before you leave for "presents". And thank you to the vast majority of dog owners who always pick up after their pooches!

Sweetheart Dinner

Friday, February 10 at 7pm
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
(Nolte Hall, National & Federal)

\$10 donation to benefit Westside Food Bank
(\$5 for children over 5, free under 5)

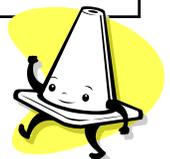
A delicious Italian meal to celebrate this season of love. Menu includes gluten free option. For more information, contact St. Andrew's at (310) 477-0257.



Safety First! Bill's Safety Corner

By: Bill Koontz

While crime is down recently here in North Westdale, let's take this time to beef up our neighborhood watch. If you don't have block captain or if you don't know whether or not there is a neighborhood watch on your block, please contact your LAPD Senior Lead Officer Drake Madison via email at 33997@lapd.lacity.org to set one up.



Monthly Farmers Market Report

If you're looking for sweet treats at the Mar Vista Farmers Market, here are two suggestions.

Sassy Sweets by Melissande sells caramels and fudge in amazing flavors made from natural products including organic sugar and products from the farmers market. Their caramels come in orange & rosemary, chipotle & mixed nuts, and the ever popular fleur de sel to name just a few flavors. The fudge line includes hint of mint, espresso buzz and spicy Thai peanut, just three of their many savory and sweet flavors. For Valentine's Day they will be selling s'mores made from homemade graham crackers and marshmallows, layered with caramel and fudge. Be sure to look for their Cupid cherry kisses: sour cherries plus balsamic reduction. Sassy Sweets is at the MVFM the second Sunday of each month, February 12 being their next market day. Melissande and Debra have samples to help you decide your favorite flavors. www.sassysultrysweets.com.

Franny Bakes-Exquisite Vegan & Vegetarian Confections makes candies and baked goods using butter and milk but no eggs, gelatin or other animal-based products. Her fudge line includes mocha almond fudge, green tea ginger fudge and Himalayan fudge (white chocolate, orange, cardamom & pistachios). Lime macaroons, vegan wheat-and gluten-free cupcakes, orange & rosemary butter cookies and coconut date rugelach are just a few of her many baked goods. According to Franny, some of her best sellers are the decadent caramel torte, rosemary & lemon shortbread, triple whammy ginger cookies and Hawaiian coconut mud torte. Franny Bakes is at the MVFM the first Sunday of each month. Franny will gladly offer samples of her candies and baked goods. She can be contacted at 310-310-3355 or info@frannybakes.com. www.frannybakes.com



Mar Vista Farmers Market

Every Sunday 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Grand View at Venice Blvd.
marvistafarmersmarket.org



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 12/1/11 - 12/31/11:

Aggravated Assaults 2
Burglary (Vehicle) 27
Robbery 1
Burglary (Res/Biz) 17
Grand Theft Auto 8
Homicide 0
Sex 0

Theft 10

During this rating period Burglary/Theft from Motor Vehicle (BFMV) has become a problem in our area. We reduced residential burglary and robbery slightly, but we still have work to do in reducing overall crime. Never leave items of value in plain sight inside your vehicle. Lock and secure all doors/windows whenever you leave your vehicle unattended. Attempt to park your vehicle in well-lit areas, ample lighting helps deter BFMV suspects. Stop using your vehicle glove box as a

traveling safe; it's the first place BFMV suspects look after they enter your vehicle. 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.

Safety Tip: In subterranean parking lots, avoid walking alone; coordinate with fellow worker when they arrive at work and when they leave work. Remember there is safety in numbers.

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.

Have a story idea or event that might be of interest to the neighborhood? Please email Victoria Sanelli at bunigrrl@gmail.com.

Deadline for the March issue is
Monday, February 27, 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

**Join The North
Westdale E-Mail
List!**

Go to:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NWNA>
Click on the "Join This Group" button