

WESTSIDE
VILLAGE
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NEWS & VIEWS

WESTSIDE VILLAGE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
WWW.WESTSIDEVILLAGE.ORG SPRING 2021

Westside Village Homeowners Association is evolving!

**We are becoming
a fully inclusive
neighborhood organization.**

HOUSES
APARTMENTS
CONDOS
CO-OPS
BUSINESSES

WE NEED YOUR
OPINION.
TAKE A 5 MINUTE
SURVEY TO HELP
YOUR COMMUNITY.



SCAN ME

Go to www.westsidevillage.org
or scan QR code to take survey.

**You are invited to the
Westside Village Homeowners
Association 2021 Annual Meeting
Thursday, March 11, 2021 – 7pm**

On Zoom. Go to www.westsidevillage.org for one click link to Zoom meeting.

Update on St. John's Homeless Safe Parking program.
Read story on page two.



President's Message

Valerie Fontaine

Even as we've hunkered down to stay safer at home in this pandemic, the WVHA Board has been hard at work. In this newsletter, you can read about issues we've been grappling with to keep Westside Village the wonderful place we all love. The Board and members of our community have been meeting online during this past year to work on matters regarding development, zoning, disaster preparedness, crime, public safety, filming, health, and homelessness.

Most importantly, we've been exploring ways to make sure that Westside Village is more effectively represented in City Government so we can better communicate our concerns and get our needs met. Please carefully read the articles about the upcoming MVCC elections and proposed changes to the scope and mission of the WVHA. Your input is crucial as we take the next steps forward. Go online at www.westsidevillage.org and take a quick survey. Ask your neighbors—including those who live in houses, condos, and apartments—to do the same. We need to hear from all of you, whether or not you choose to formally join the Association.

Our very important Annual Meeting will be held on Zoom at 7pm on Thursday, March 11, 2021. We hope to see you there as we discuss the results of the survey and how we propose to implement it for the betterment of our community. Get the details on how to attend on the WVHA website at www.westsidevillage.org.

It has been my privilege to serve as president of the WVHA for the past several years and it is time for me to pass the torch. Elections for our new Board and officers also will be held during the Annual Meeting on March 11, 2021. Although I will be stepping down from my leadership post at that time, if reelected to the Board, I will remain involved, concentrating on my personal mission of making Westside Villagers prepared to work together to withstand and recover from any disaster that may come our way.

We, on the Board, are looking forward to continuing to work with all our neighbors to make Westside Village an even better place to live.

Thank you.

Your Neighbor, Valerie Fontaine

Homeless Safe Parking Program at St. John's

You may have heard about the Safe Parking program proposed for the St. John's Presbyterian Church parking lot at National Blvd. and Military Ave. The WVHA Board learned of this proposal in late January and invited representatives from Safe Parking LA, St. John's Church, Clover Avenue Elementary School, and Councilmember Koretz's office to attend the WVHA Board meeting via Zoom on Jan. 27, 2021, to inform us about the program.

They told us that there would be a Zoom meeting the following afternoon for members of the Clover Avenue Elementary School community. Shortly thereafter, members of our Board began hearing from Westside Village residents with questions and concerns about the proposal and the lack of community outreach. To give our neighbors an opportunity to learn more about the project and voice their concerns, the WVHA Board arranged a Zoom Town Hall meeting for Saturday afternoon, February 6th.

We did our best to get the spread the word of the meeting throughout the community, and more than 150 residents attended. Also present were representatives from Safe Parking LA, St. John's Church, Clover Avenue Elementary School, and Councilmember Koretz's office. We started the meeting with a 14-minute video about a successful Safe Parking LA church site near a school, a pre-school, and after school activities in a residential neighborhood.

Pastor Steve Craig of St. John's Church made a brief statement about how the church deeply cares about and has long worked with both the community around us and the less fortunate, including homeless individuals and families. Denise Cohen from Safe Parking LA, and Elizabeth Garcia and Debbie Dyer Harris from Councilmember Koretz's office, shared facts and responded to questions and concerns from community members about the proposed program and related experiences at other Safe Parking sites. There are eight such lots currently operating in Los Angeles, including two in Council District 5 (our district). They all assured us that they would listen and take all our comments under advisement without announcing or making any decisions during that meeting. In addition, we promised to provide them with all questions and comments that were typed into the chat during the Zoom meeting.

We were told that the Safe Parking program provides overnight parking for temporarily homeless people living in vehicles, including men, women, and families. The



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proposed lot would be open from 7pm to 7am only to provide them with a safe place to sleep. Participants are vetted (including through the sex offender registry) and permitted to the specific lot, with no guests allowed. Each lot has a case manager to help participants end their homelessness and every participant is required to work with the case manager. Additionally, they must abide by a Code of Conduct.

There will be a maximum of 30 slots available for participating vehicles along the Southern edge of the St. John's parking lot along Clover Ave. in the space previously leased by Caltrans for vehicle parking. (The Caltrans park-N-ride program is suspended due to COVID.) A security guard will be on site all times the lot is operational. There will be porta-potties and handwashing stations. Sanitation services will come three times a week.

For further information about the program and the specific proposal for the lot at St. John's Presbyterian Church, you may contact:

St. John's Presbyterian Church:

Pastor Steven Craig
steven.Craig@StJohn'sPres.org

Jim Lamm, Elder
jim.Lamm@sbcglobal.net

Safe Parking LA:

Silvia Gutierrez |
silviag@safeparkingla.org

Denise Cohen
denisec@safeparkingla.org

Councilmember Koretz's Office, Council District 5:

Elizabeth Garcia, Field Director
elizabeth.Garcia@lacity.org

We believe that our community deserves to be heard on all matters affecting Westside Village. The Town Hall meeting provided a forum for a very fruitful and productive discussion. We heard that Westside Village is a compassionate community that wants to help but another location may work better for this program. To that end, the WVHA Board and many other people are working on finding a location to fit everyone's needs and concerns, and perhaps accommodate more of our unhoused community.

Rest assured that our voices were heard, and neither this nor any similar project will move forward without community support.



Development Updates

Stacy Shure

Community Plan Update

Due to COVID, all meetings involving land use, City Planning issues, and interaction with council members and developers have been conducted online since last March. Right before COVID, we were working hard to provide input on the Community Plan Update and held several zoom meetings with the Department of Planning and the planning deputy for Councilmember Koretz. COVID slowed the work down and the Community Plan Update is a little behind schedule. At the time of this writing, we are waiting for the Department of Planning to come back with a REVISED draft concepts plan based upon the feedback and input our community provided. I am confident the Department of Planning heard our concerns, as did Councilmember Koretz's staff, who have remained engaged and supportive of our community.

Our greatest concern is protecting the residential area near the Overland Avenue TOC (Transit Oriented

Communities) projects that have been developed. Also, the Department of Planning staff discussed with our community the possibility of zoning the stretch of Palms Blvd. between Overland and Sepulveda for duplexes. That would allow the construction of more units while maintaining lower height, as well as units suitable for families wishing to live near our outstanding local schools.

In mid-February, I expect DCP to get back to us with the Revised Concept Plans. Soon after, they will schedule meetings to review the draft EIR (Environmental Impact Report) which is part of the updated Plan. To prepare an EIR, the community needs a great deal of data that DCP relies upon to make their decisions. That data has been requested by the MVCC (Mar Vista Community Council), the Alliance of Westside Neighborhood Councils, and members of the community, but has not yet been received. I will continue to keep our community apprised as soon as we hear from DCP and will remain engaged to make sure our community has an opportunity to provide feedback in the planning process.

Palms Middle School

In the last few months, LAUSD made a surprise

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Ron Wynn Client

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announcement that they were considering removing part of the athletic fields at Palms Middle School to construct housing on the parcel. Despite the late notice, many members of our community attended a Zoom meeting hosted by LAUSD to give feedback and voice concerns and opposition to the proposal. The athletic fields at Palms Middle School were revitalized and updated in the last year or so, at a cost of close to 3 million dollars. The facilities are integral to the track and field program at the school and it is some of the only space in our community where children can play. Currently, the LAUSD Board of Directors postponed further consideration of the proposal. I will continue to monitor and work with Councilmember Koretz's staff regarding this issue and keep the community informed if the proposal comes up for consideration again.

Palms/Sepulveda

The Palms and Sepulveda apartment project previously planned for the former Albertsons site is back in the planning stage. The developer is in discussion with Councilmember Koretz's office as they redesign the project and will resubmit new plans to the Department of Planning. As of this time, nothing has been shared with the community but, as soon as I hear more news, I will inform the community.

Mar Vista Community Council Elections

Lastly, as your Zone 1 representative on the Mar Vista Community Council, I would like to remind everyone that elections for new board members will be held in June. All voting will take place online and all residents must sign up online to get a ballot. The registration period to get a ballot will be in April. See the article in this newsletter for more details. We will provide further news on our website, www.westsidevillage.org, with links to sign up to get a ballot and procedures for voting.

Crime and Safety Update

Tom Costello

The New Year, 2021, is off to a deadly start according to the Los Angeles Police Department. The City of Angels suffered "59 shooting victims compared to 7 last year," stated LAPD Chief Michel Moore in a tweet addressing the violence. Los Angeles experienced 24 homicides and 68 shootings in the first half of January, which is more than double the number from the same time last year. The 68 shootings marked "the highest year-to-date start in over 10 years," the LAPD tweet said.

The bloody start seems to have picked up right where 2020 left off. LAPD stats indicate homicides in L.A. shot up 38 percent last year, and the city's year-end total of 349 homicides was the highest in over a decade. Then, just like now, the neighborhoods hardest hit by the increase in violent crime were predominantly poor, Black, and Latino, yet experts agree that more affluent neighborhoods certainly are not immune from the violence.

Many believe the increase in crime is a direct result of the pandemic which crushed incomes, shut down businesses, and caused people to act in desperation to meet basic needs. Ironic as it may sound, the pandemic also hurt the business of drug dealers and sparked what seems to be a turf war between gangs in South LA., which is where most of the spike in killings occurred.

With so many people unable to work, and stuck at home with nothing constructive to do or any "legitimate ways" to earn a living, many resort to crime to bridge the gap, according to an unnamed LAPD source. Non-law enforcement analysts attribute it to a variety of factors including increased economic anxiety, inefficiency in federal and state relief, and the controversial release of thousands of inmates back into society in an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19 by alleviating prison overcrowding. Some attribute the increase in crime to the election of DA George Gascon who said his office would no longer seek the death penalty and would take a less aggressive approach to lower-level crimes, which many believe invites crime because there is little threat of consequences.

Robert Galvan, Neighborhood Resource Officer with the Santa Monica PD Community Affairs Relations Office, says they have seen a huge increase in residential and commercial property thefts. "Thieves are villains of opportunity," said Galvan. "They look for easy targets and capitalize on unsuspecting homes, businesses, and individuals."

Thieves look for anything left in plain sight that might have value on the secondary market. Big favorites are valuables like cell phones, purses, or laptops left unattended in cars. Even an iPhone charger plugged into a cigarette lighter will attract unwanted attention because thieves think there may be a cell phone attached to the other end. "It's a simple smash and grab operation," said Galvan. Thieves see something they want, look around to see if anyone is watching, then smash the window, and take what they want!

In the LAPD Community Volunteer Training (which I



highly recommend), we learned about an alarming trend of theft in broad daylight. Bandits knock on doors of unsuspecting homeowners, pretending to be looking for a friend or offering free estimates, to see if anyone is home. When no one answers, they proceed around back and try all the doors to find one that is unlocked, or smash a window if they can't find one. Once inside, they open the front door and let in their friends, who systematically and efficiently go room to room, unearthing all the treasure they can carry. Many of these gangs work so efficiently they can be in and out of a home in 10 minutes or less.

Underground parking garages are a particularly vulnerable target. Criminals break in at night when there is less chance of getting caught. They look in each car window and check each door to see if it is unlocked. Many robberies can be avoided simply by locking all your doors and making sure valuables are either removed from the vehicle or covered with a blanket, so they are not visible.

There are many things people can and should do to make their homes and neighborhoods safer, such as:

- *Install video cameras at all entrances (front back and side).*
- *Add Ring cameras which will alert your cell phone when someone comes to your door.*
- *Install motion sensor lighting.*
- *Adopt pets which provide an early warning system that most criminals don't want to face.*
- *Participate in Neighborhood Watch programs and the Nextdoor app.*
- *Get to know your neighbors and let them know when you are coming and going.*
- *Have packages delivered to a PO Box or protected address to avoid theft.*

The best deterrent is preparedness. The best way to be prepared is knowing what your adversary is doing, and then doing as much as you can—both individually and collectively—to prevent it from happening in your neighborhood.

Filming in Westside Village

Westside Village is picturesque and photogenic, but TV, commercial, and movie filming in our neighborhoods can be a real nuisance to residents.

Filming activity and equipment inevitably spills over onto adjacent properties and into the street. Parking

problems are exacerbated when large trucks, equipment and crews occupy the already limited availability. When filming vehicles are parked on both sides of the street, and their doors are hanging open with people ducking in and out loading and unloading equipment, a car can barely make it through safely. The crews sometimes even set up tables and pop-up tents in our narrow streets. The majority of our streets lack sidewalks, so constant jay-walkers risk being hit by cars. And, once the sun starts to set, our streetlight-less neighborhood becomes even more dangerous to navigate.

In this time of COVID-19, safer-at-home orders, and social distancing, large numbers of outsiders in our neighborhood are even more concerning. Film production is designated as an essential business and, therefore, is allowed to continue, but there are strict masking requirements. Unmasked crewmembers were spotted on the street during at least one recent filming session in Westside Village.

What can you do?

Neighbors within a certain distance of any proposed filming should receive a Notice of Filming. Distributed two or more business days before filming, it must include proposed filming dates and times, a description of the scene, parking requirements, and phone numbers should you have concerns.

All filming must be licensed by FilmLA and crews must comply with a Code of Professional Responsibility. You can ask crewmembers to show you their license and report unlicensed activity. If you don't want to ask personally, or if you have specific complaints or concerns, you can check with a community relations representative at FilmLA (**213-977-8600** or **info@filmla.com**). They can ask the LAPD Film Unit to come out and check on operations.

While hosting film crews on your own property can be lucrative, their activities can negatively impact the quiet enjoyment of this community by your neighbors. So, please be considerate. Keep an eye on what is happening and please don't rent your house out frequently.

Disaster Preparedness

Valerie Fontaine

For 2021, let's plan, train and organize.

Last month, FEMA ranked Los Angeles County as the riskiest place in the U.S. for natural disasters. While we don't get hurricanes, or volcanoes, we do have 60+ mph Santa Ana winds, 120+ degree heat waves, and occasional



torrential downpours and floods. To top it off, we know we are long overdue for an 8.0 magnitude or greater earthquake along the San Andreas fault.

Remember, in a disaster situation, first responders such as the Fire Department, Police, Ambulance and EMTs will be overwhelmed and likely unavailable to respond to our emergencies. We will need to rely on ourselves and our neighbors for a period of up to several weeks. Let's work together to get prepared.

Do you want to receive notifications of disaster preparedness trainings offered in our neighborhood? If so, sign up on the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) mailing list. This resource is open to everyone, not just those who have taken the CERT training. If you haven't taken any training, you're especially encouraged to sign up for notifications at <https://join.ntp-la.org> so you can get started at your own pace.

Note: We now use this consolidated mailing list for all disaster preparedness notifications. Therefore, even if you received emails about upcoming programs and events in the past, you won't continue to do so unless you sign up on this mailing list.

When filling out the form, click the selection stating that you live in the Battalion 18 area, type in your neighborhood as "Westside Village," and designate Fire Station 43 as your local LAFD station. That way, you'll receive only those notifications appropriate to this area. We take your privacy very seriously and do not share your information with anyone outside of CERT Leadership.

So, what do we have planned? You might recall that we started a four-part NTP (Neighborhood Team Program) training early last year and only got through the first two classes, Personal Preparedness and Disaster First Aid, before the pandemic shutdown. Unfortunately, we were not able to present the final two classes—Light Search and Rescue and Radio Communications.

Public health considerations currently require us to take our trainings online and we're relaunching our NTP via video over the next few months, so opt into the mailing list to receive notices of:

- *Map Your Neighborhood/RYLAN (Ready Your Los Angeles Neighborhood)*
- *Home and Family Preparedness*
- *Disaster First Aid*
- *Light Search and Rescue*

- *Hand-held Radio Communications*
- *Neighborhood Situational Awareness and Security*
- *And other potentially life-saving trainings and drills*

You don't necessarily need to take all the classes, although that's recommended. You can choose those that fit your schedule and interests. Some will be "live," and others will be recorded and available for you to view at your convenience. All are free.

In the meantime, check out this cool Emergency Preparedness Resource Guide (<https://bit.ly/375qGca>). Download this interactive resource guide created by the Federal Executive Board of Greater Los Angeles to help you prepare for an emergency. Each logo is linked to its corresponding website. It also provides links to useful apps for your mobile device.

Westside Village Radio Net

Westside Village also has established a radio network for residents to communicate with each other and contact outside help in a disaster or when, for any reason, other modes of communication are down.

On the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:45pm we run a Westside Village Radio Net check-in. Using hand-held FRS (Family Radio Service) radios, we tune to channel 6 to practice and check our radios and connectivity around Westside Village and neighboring locales. These inexpensive, simple-to-use radios are available at retailers such as Target, Home Depot, and other general merchandise or hardware stores, as well as online.

Anyone with a hand-held radio within earshot is welcome to participate whether or not you live Westside Village. Just tune your radio channel 6, listen, and our coordinator will call out to see who's there. If the coordinator can't hear you, someone else may. In that case, we practice relaying the messages to get better at connecting around the neighborhood. If you have questions about what kind of radio to buy, where to buy it, or how to use it, contact Philip Jamtaas at pj310@ca.rr.com for assistance.

If you have any questions about how to fill out the mailing list form or other disaster preparedness issues, contact at westsidevillagentp@gmail.com.

**Hope is not a strategy.
Together we will make it through.**



The COVID-19 Vaccines Work, and the Best Side Effect: Surviving the Pandemic!

Kenneth S. Alpern, M.D.

I just got my second Moderna vaccination shot yesterday (2/6/2020), and frankly I couldn't wait to get it fast enough. These vaccines have taken far too long to get to health care workers, let alone to those over 65. There are definite side effects, but they are far worth the inconvenience to survive this terrible COVID-19 pandemic.

There are up to 25% or more health care workers who don't want the vaccinations, but some hospitals and medical groups will mandate them in order to stay employed there. Within the first month of the vaccines showing up, less than 40% got the vaccines.

Of course, the "newness" of the vaccines scares many people, and there are many reading this who refuse vaccines of any sort. They certainly do have side effects, but they are temporary. You will get muscle soreness at the location of the shot, you will feel tired, and you might get a sore throat.

File this under "who cares?"— please! If you have a good workout at the gym, your muscles will feel sore, but they also will grow. Ditto for the vaccine side effects. Just give yourself 2-3 days to get over them (the same after you get a good workout, right?). I did each of mine during a Saturday morning, and by Monday morning I was and will be good to go.

Now, some Frequently Asked Questions:

1) Are some vaccines better than others?

Our three vaccines (there are the two-shot Moderna and Pfizer vaccines, and the new single shot Johnson and Johnson (J & J) vaccine) appear to work very well. The first two vaccines are the earliest, and did not get studied against the newer, more aggressive COVID-19 variants in South Africa and South America. The J & J, however, did. They each will be approximately 85% effective against severe cases of all virus variants, and 70% is considered to be pretty darned good.

2) Is the vaccine free?

Yes! Your insurance information might be requested but, even with no insurance, you will pay nothing.

3) Can I choose which vaccine I will get?

Probably not. The availability of each vaccine, and the ability to refrigerate or freeze a given vaccine, makes

them unable to allow us a "choice". Furthermore, right now the national and local health officials conducting our vaccination program want as many individuals vaccinated as possible, and as fast as possible. The J & J vaccine allows a new wave of vaccines to get into Americans' arms.

And remember: if you need two doses (Pfizer and Moderna), there will be that second dose stored and waiting for you after your first vaccination. Other nations are playing around with delaying or splitting doses to get more citizens vaccinated, but the United States is not.

Three weeks between doses are needed for the Pfizer vaccine, and four weeks for the Moderna vaccine, and the J & J vaccine needs only one dose. Approximately two weeks after each vaccine, you should be protected.

4) Can't I just get COVID-19 "naturally" to get immunized the old-fashioned way, and just get through it because so very few die?

You certainly can, but you are playing Russian Roulette! Some people get just a cold, some people get a two-week flu-like syndrome, many people become permanently disabled with long-lasting lung and vascular damage, and some just die (even if they're healthy). Furthermore, "natural" exposure and vaccination lasts only 5-6 months, and does not always allow you protection against newer variants.

On the other hand, the vaccinations appear to give you protection for at least a year. So get vaccinated! If you get COVID-19 between the two doses, you must wait 3 months before you get that second shot...but get it!

5) Where can I get vaccinated?

Do it through a hospital you're affiliated with, a medical group you're affiliated with, or a public location (like Dodger Stadium). Go online. Those over 65 of age get first dibs, because they're more at risk. But let's make something clear: people in their 30's, 40's, and 50's also have died. We cannot get vaccinated fast enough, and only when about 75% of our total population, or more, are immunized can we all throw away our masks.

6) Wait a minute—even after I get vaccinated, I still must wear a mask and do the social distancing thing?

Sadly, yes. The vaccines prevent the virus from overwhelming you if you're exposed, but even if you never know if or when you might be exposed, you can still pass it to others. It's the same thing with the measles, the influenza virus, or Hepatitis B. The vaccinations won't work in a society to provide "herd immunity" unless the overwhelming majority of that society gets immunized.



7) Shouldn't I stop any immunosuppressive medicines for rheumatologic, dermatologic, GI, or autoimmune diseases during this virus?

Don't...you...dare!!! It is not the virus that disables or kills you, but rather your own immune response that disables or even kills you. For example, why do we feel so awful during the common cold? The sniffing might be the virus finding a way to spread it from person to person, but the fevers and chills we get are due to our own body creating substances (such as cytokines and interferon) to stop the virus from replicating throughout your body.

Therefore, you should remember that Methotrexate, Humira, Cosentyx, Enbrel, Taltz and other medications can even save your life by preventing your own host response from hurting you. The big exception is Prednisone (or other steroids), yet that's what we give people who actually get serious COVID-19 syndromes. Talk to your doctor or other provider, and make darned sure they know about this phenomenon, because many do not.

Remember that it's not the virus that kills or disables a person, it's your own immune system, which is why you should not be afraid of the side effects of the vaccines.

8) So wait a minute...how long will the vaccines protect me? What about new strains of the virus if it mutates?

Sadly, it's not like the polio virus that has only three types, and which therefore can be "cured" for your life with the trivalent vaccine we all got as kids. It's not like the two-shot shingles vaccine (90 days apart) which is pretty darned long-lasting (Shingrix) and recommended for everyone over 50 years of age. The Shingrix shots hurt more than the flu vaccine, but a whole lot less than shingles!

Both the influenza (flu) and COVID-19 virus mutate enough so that a good likelihood of annual boosters and altered proteins/mRNA will be needed for the indefinite future. Maybe it will be less than every year for COVID-19, but there's definitely a need for an annual flu shot.

Count this as an unfortunate side effect of living in a world that's gotten a lot smaller, and one that allows travel and commerce to other nations throughout the planet.

But we're also smart enough to vaccinate our nation and world. I am on my way to being at least 85% protected from COVID-19. Please do what it takes to be in that happy place, and if enough of us do this, we can throw away our unpleasant masks, hug each other, and go back

Adam Glick Sells in Westside Village

CONTACT ADAM TODAY FOR YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS



3609 Greenfield Avenue
6 bed | 5 bath
3,850 SF living
4,667 SF lot
Sold \$2,100,000



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3,888 SF living
8,642 SF lot
Sold \$2,350,000



3020 Kelton Avenue
2 bed | 1 bath
947 SF living
5,164 SF lot
Sold \$1,173,000



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to our jobs and the vacations we not so long ago took for granted!

(Kenneth S. Alpern, M.D, is a dermatologist who has served in clinics in Los Angeles, Orange, and Riverside Counties, is chair of his department in Orange County for a large, multispecialty medical group, and has been a medical reviewer evaluating other health care providers throughout the nation for approximately 15 years.)

Introducing Tyler Laferriere, WVHA Community Liaison

The Westside Village Homeowners Association is pleased to introduce Tyler Laferriere as its community liaison as the WVHA undertakes a survey and community feedback process as it seeks to transition into an inclusive neighborhood organization.

Tyler is a resident of the UCLA University Village Apartments on Sepulveda. A resident of Zone 1 and the Westside Village for over three years, he has been an active participant in the Mar Vista Community Council as a co-chair of the Renters' Subcommittee, which exists as part of the MVCC Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) committee. His focus as co-chair has been on outreach to Mar Vista's renters and education on renters' rights and responsibilities under the COVID-19 eviction protections.

Outside his service to the Westside Village and Mar Vista communities, Tyler is vice president of communications for Monograph Wealth Advisors in El Segundo. Previously, he was an associate economist for the Los Angeles County



Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC). His fiancé, Travis, is a 4th-year Ph.D. candidate in the ULCA Department of Molecular and Medical Pharmacology.

Prior to settling in Westside Village, Tyler was a master's student in applied economics and statistics at Washington State University. He holds joint master's degrees in applied economics and

statistics and holds bachelor's degrees in economics and political science from Gonzaga University. He is originally from Scottsdale, Arizona.

In addition to his work and community activities, Tyler is president of the LA Chapter of the National Association for Business Economics. In their spare time, Tyler and Travis can be found on a golf course, on the beach, at the Mar Vista Farmers' Market or, lately, planning for their wedding this fall. They both members of St. Bede's Episcopal Church in Mar Vista.

Why Should I Pay Dues?

The Westside Village Homeowners Association is a non-profit, non-partisan organization founded in 1961 and dedicated to developing and fostering community spirit and participation of residents in community activities and civic affairs. See: <https://www.westsidevillage.org>. Westside Village covers the area bounded by National Boulevard, Overland Avenue, Sepulveda Boulevard and Charnock Road.

Your \$20.00 annual contribution goes a long way to help support a dedicated group of volunteers who work hard to give association members the following benefits:

- *Preserve and improve property values.*
- *Attend and participate in government and developer meetings to make sure changes in zoning and other governmental regulations improve and enhance the area. Issues that may impact the area negatively are communicated to the area residents, and the interests of homeowners are presented to commissioners and boards.*
- *Secure necessary public improvements.*
- *Maintain close contact with elected officials, governmental agencies and other neighborhood Homeowner Associations help to bring a fair share of public improvements to the area. These include street improvements, noise abatement, public transportation, school infrastructure and police resources.*
- *Promote health and safety measures such as crime prevention, disaster preparedness and local traffic and parking modification.*
- *Support an active Neighborhood Watch program with constant communication with LAPD.*
- *Produce and distribute at least two newsletters a year that report on the latest issues affecting homeowners as well as a crime report and interesting facts and stories.*
See: <https://www.westsidevillage.org/newsletters/>



Your WVHA Board actively monitors the numerous transportation and construction projects that impact our neighborhood and will dramatically affect the quality of life in Westside Village. **WE ATTEND ALL THOSE MEETINGS SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO!** Note: The Association is NOT involved in any partisan political activities.

The work of the WVHA is done primarily by four Officers of the Association and a small Board of Directors who are elected at the annual meeting and serve two-year terms <https://www.westsidevillage.org/board-of-directors/>. The Board meets monthly (now on Zoom). Everyone working on behalf of WVHA is only a volunteer and receives no compensation. Everything we do requires the help of many people and we're always looking for volunteers, so please let us know how you'd like to help. To help us match your interests with our organization's needs, please fill out the form at <https://www.westsidevillage.org/volunteer>.

The Westside Village Homeowners Association's Annual Meeting is held in late February or early March. At that meeting, we review important issues impacting our neighborhood ask questions of our City Councilmember and LAPD Senior Lead Officer for the neighborhood. We also elect our Board of Directors.

For the past several years, WVHA sponsored and organized the practical and well-attended Annual Preparedness Fair. Unfortunately, due to the COVID pandemic, we were unable to hold the event in 2020. WHVA organizes other free disaster readiness drills and classes in our neighborhood throughout the year and will do so virtually in 2021.

WVHA also works with the Westside Village Neighborhood Watch to keep our community safe. There are still a few blocks that need block captains and some block captains who would like to have a co-captain. If you are interested in more information about these volunteer opportunities, please contact our Neighborhood Watch at WestsideVillageWatch@gmail.com or the board at board@westsidevillage.org.

Your dues and donations pay for all these projects and events in addition to allowing the association to provide support for our local schools and library. You can pay our dues and make additional donations online at <https://www.westsidevillage.org/take-action>.

To receive email notification of events, activities, and issues affecting Westside Village, please subscribe on our homepage <https://www.westsidevillage.org/>. If you

have any questions or suggestions as to how we can work together to expand our activities and make Westside Village an even better place to live, please contact us at board@westsidevillage.com.

Announcing the 3rd Annual Westside Safety and Preparedness Fair

March 7, 2021, 11 am – 3 pm (virtual)

Register today! <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/3rd-annual-westside-safety-and-preparedness-fair-los-angeles-tickets-136716393413>

At the 3rd Annual Westside Safety and Preparedness Fair you can learn what to do before, during, and after a major earthquake (or other disaster). You will receive the fair schedule and a link to the event at the beginning of March. All presentations are virtual and will be followed by live Q & A sessions.

Keynote speakers include a seismologist, an infectious disease specialist, and the LAFD disaster preparedness officer. You can learn:

- *Hands-only CPR*
- *Stop the Bleed*
- *Pet first aid and CPR*
- *How to use a fire extinguisher*
- *When and how to turn off your utilities after an earthquake and whether it is okay to turn them on again*
- *How to “harden the target” to make yourself, your car, and your home less attractive targets of crime*
- *How to work with your neighbors before a disaster so you can help each other after a disaster*
- *And more!*

Special kids' programs include bike safety and other safety skills.

Attendees will qualify for discounts to purchase preparedness supplies from trusted vendors. **Not only is attendance entirely FREE, you also can receive free emergency supplies to create or add to your emergency preparedness kit.** These will be distributed to fair attendees via curbside pick-up soon after the fair. (Date and place of distribution to be announced. One set of free items per family, while supplies last. Attendance at the fair is required to receive items.)



Westside Village Homeowners Association is evolving!

We need your opinion. Take the Survey.

Long overdue changes are afoot for the Westside Village Homeowners Association (WVHA). For more than 50 years, the WVHA represented homeowners in our community, which is bounded by National Boulevard to the North, Overland Avenue to the East, Sepulveda Blvd. to the west and Charnock Road to the South (see map and mission statement at Westside Village Map). However, within the designated area live not only homeowners, but also renters, and condominium and co-op owners. Additionally, we have local businesses and community organizations that have generated incalculable value for our community.

Historically, however, this organization (the WVHA) represented owners and renters of single-family homes, exclusively. This is changing! We are changing our name and bylaws to become representative of ALL residents and businesses in our area.

Currently, Westside Village also is designated as Zone 1 of the Mar Vista Community Council (MVCC), a city-certified Neighborhood Council. MVCC represents people who live, work, own property, or have a demonstrable community interest in Mar Vista. However, a majority of the MVCC community is primarily located west of the 405 freeway (see Mar Vista Boundaries). As a result, decisions affecting our community about land use planning, transportation and infrastructure often are made by residents outside our area in ways that do not reflect our priorities.

It's time our community had a singular voice, not drowned out by competing interests. By changing WVHA to a fully inclusive, representative civic organization, we intend to be a stronger voice for our community of Westside Village only.

We all must work together to accomplish this. We need YOUR opinion – about what issues we need to address, how you would consider participating, and how we

can best represent everyone's interests. A community survey as the essential first step towards making our civic organization fully inclusive, representative, and more impactful when communicating with City leaders to make sure our community is heard.

Be on the lookout for door hangers with a link to the survey or go to www.westsidevillage.org. If you have not already done so, please complete the short survey by March 1. It should take less than five minutes. We want your participation to plan for our future, develop community cohesion, and improve and preserve the quality of life in Westside Village for everyone—as an active, engaged community of caring neighbors.



Go to www.westsidevillage.org or scan QR code to take survey.

Please let us know what you think.

If you wish to contribute to News and Views, please email us at board@westsidevillage.org Visit us at www.westsidevillage.org

Officers and Directors

President, *Valerie Fontaine*

Vice President, *Donald Elliott Jr.*

Secretary, *Stacy Shure*

Treasurer, *Christine Stemar*

Directors, *Ken Alpern, Tom Costello, Tali Diamond, Parvin Kassaie, Scott McCausland, Greg Severson, Scott Shaw*

Emeritus, *Bill Pyne, Roberta Schiller*

Our newsletter is written and produced by volunteers.

Design and Production, *Donald Elliott Jr.*

Distribution by Westside Village Block Captains.

If you are interested in submitting an article please reply to board@westsidevillage.org

All articles are subject to acceptance and editing.