



Figure 1 – Juvenile Red Tail Hawk – Photo © Hart Walter PhD

The Year Turns

V.J. Waks

Most probably, June gets its name from Juno, Roman Deity of marriage. Yet, it may also signify “young ones” and for our resident urban raptors, the hawks and owls in the tract, this two or three month segment of the year will spell success or failure. Whilst we as humans barely note the transitions of one month to the next, for the habitat and for these birds, the weight of real, natural changes from April through May and then June is staggering.

The majestic nest tree in the tract holds three Red Tailed Hawk chicks. While not easily seen, they are tall, vigorous,

and growing rapidly. All are still in down, yet all have varying degrees of juvenile plumage, the dark feathers on wings and back feathers that typify all juvie Red Tails. When the long wing primaries appear, the young hawks will stand on the nest rim, with the same appearance as the Juvenile Red Tail, Figure 1. All juvenile Red Tails will have some form of ‘belly band’ of spots or dark streaks; these will alter when the young transition to their first adult molt.

What happens next?

In a scant few weeks, our young birds will be at adult size, and attempt to leave the nest, jumping to close tree branches and limbs. This ‘fledge’ marks the first significant boundary in lives that may extend to decades, if this tree



and those like it are left standing in our neighborhood. From these first perches, they will continue to strengthen legs and now wings, by strong flapping exercises. As soon as the young are fairly confident, and their feather loads are in – we may see maiden flights, as the young attempt to fly freely from the tree.

The parents will continue to feed whenever a juvenile asks for food; this may extend until the early fall. Now, as the parents hunt, safe prey is critical. One poisoned rat can destroy both young and adults, wiping out two entire generations of birds. If the young can avoid accidents, soon, much sooner than the parents seem to expect — young juveniles test their perimeters, flying further and further, and they may vanish into the area, to try to



Figure 2 – Cooper Hawk – Photo © Hart Walter PhD

fend for themselves. And in this instance, this breeding period, our nesting pair might have some help — there have been sightings of an additional one to two adult hawks in and around this nest. These are certainly close family members, and it is possible that the parents of the

current breeding pair are back to visit this home turf. The appearance of these birds underscores the importance of keeping the tall trees in the tract whenever possible; the entire family clearly knows this home range, and is prepared to breed here whenever the tall trees are present for nesting.

Just down the road close to Military Boulevard, roughly at the western borders of the Red Tail's nesting territory, our resident Cooper's Hawks are breeding again. The female was seen nesting in a tall tree and her mate is hunting in the tract. For those less familiar, the Cooper's Hawks (Adult, Figure 2) do not rigorously compete with the larger birds unless territory or prey is compromised. These two families know one another and the nests are widely separated. The Coop's eggs will hatch soon and we can expect another generation of this resident pair to be prominent later this summer. Adding to that is the continued presence of our Great Horned Owl; all in all, it should be a very busy and very interesting summer.

By the time we reach Midsummer Day, their year – and ours – will be turning again. With luck – and our watchful care, our families can share in their families' growth. Thanks to all whose vigilance protects these birds – your time and regard will be repaid in the generations to come.

*V.J. Waks – Raptor Researcher and Habitat Preservationist
Writer/Producer – Vjwaks.com, vjwaks@gmail.com*

President's Report

Valerie Fontaine

This is my inaugural report as the new President of the WVHA. I've lived in Westside Village for over 25 years and you may know me from our emergency preparedness programs. Please see our website and the listing in this newsletter for the roster of our current Board members and officers. I look forward to working with each of them, in addition to all members of our community, to continuously improve life in Westside Village.

Chairing WVHA's 2018 Annual Meeting on March 1 at St. John's Presbyterian Church was Brian Considine's last activity as WVHA president and long-time Board Member. We'll miss his calm and steady leadership. Carolyn Saltsman and Laura Laser Galperson also stepped down from board membership at the end of this term. We truly appreciate their many years of tireless service to make Westside Village a wonderful place to live.



At the meeting, we were treated to a report about neighborhood wildlife by Victoria Waks, a nearby resident we affectionately dub “The Bird Lady”. Species of birds not usually seen locally are nesting and laying eggs in Westside Village. She reported seeing a great blue heron and an owl, the first in ten years and, we hope, part of breeding pairs. We also have a pair of cooper hawks with baby hawks due Mid-April. (They’re here!) Please note that local wildlife increases when residents stop using rat poison. For additional details, see the February Westside Village News & Views; an update article by Waks is in this issue.

We were very pleased that L.A. City Councilmember Paul Koretz and many members of his staff attended our Annual Meeting and addressed residents about issues of local concern such as the November 2017 Rancho Park Mercaptan spill, traffic, parking, and real estate development. Additionally, Councilmember Koretz presented each member of the previous year’s WVHA Board with certificates of commendation from the City of Los Angeles for their service to the community.

Guita Farin, co-leader of the Westside Village Neighborhood Watch, and LAPD Senior Lead Officer Juan Ceja reported on crime and safety issues and Stephen Hahn, Senior Security Consultant for ACS Security, spoke about the services ACS offers our residents.

Let’s be in touch! If you have any questions, comments, concerns, or suggestions, email the WVHA Board at board@westsidevillage.org . Also, join our email mailing list through our website at <http://www.westsidevillage.org/home.htm>

Updating Our Image

Donald Elliott Jr.

After 22 years it is time to freshen up Westside Village’s logo. We have designed a clean, modern logo that is easier to read and has a custom Westside Village monogram.

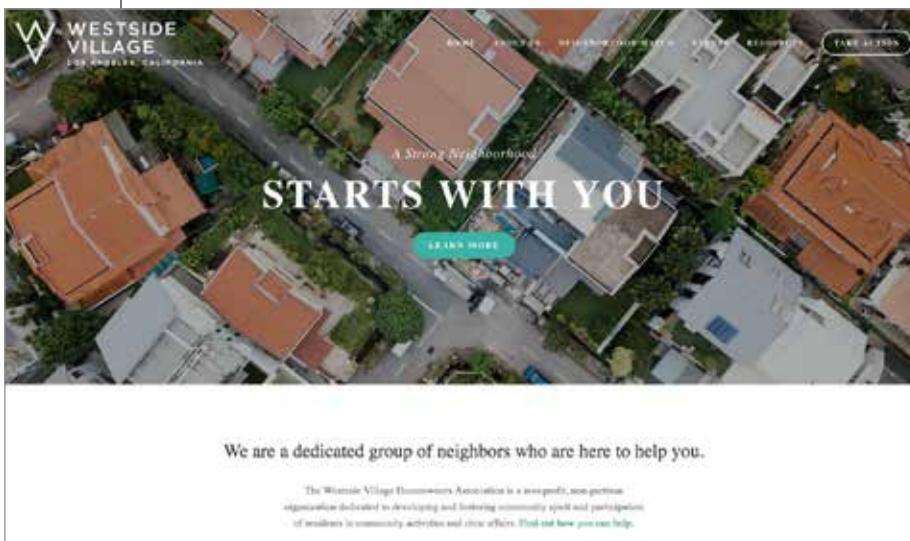


Updating Our Website

Scott Shaw

Our new website has been updated with more helpful links to city services and current information about our association activities.

Check it out at www.WestsideVillage.org



Neighborhood Watch Updates

Stacy Shure

On May 10th the Pacific Division of the LAPD hosted our Neighborhood Watch block captains for their quarterly meeting. The meeting was very informative and provided the most recent crime statistics and information to keep the neighborhood safe. Among the statistics noted: violent crime in our area continues to decrease and our area is the 2nd best area in Los Angeles for decrease in this area of crime. Burglaries are also down for our specific area, thanks in part to increased patrols by the LAPD, motorcycles being added to patrol duties, an extra car in our area and shift changes at the LAPD that allows more officers to be on the streets during the heaviest hours of incidents.

However there continues to be “knock knock” burglaries where suspects come to the door to see if anyone is home and if there is no response they proceed to break in, usually through open windows or back doors. In such cases, the suspects are blending into our area by driving expensive (usually rented) cars and sometimes cars with no tags (paper tags on the plates) so they cannot be spotted and identified easily. Of note, a new law has passed in California and goes into effect in 2019: paper plates will no longer be allowed on any motor vehicle in the state. Every car will have temporary plates that will issued that will be



able to trace back to the owner of the vehicle.

Detective Robyn Salazar gave valuable advice regarding burglary prevent that bears repeating: secure your side gates. Suspects can and do enter through doggy doors, so if you can, making sure your side gates are locked will prevent access to doggy doors. Make sure 2nd floor windows and doors are locked and secured: there have been several instances where suspects gained access by climbing up to 2nd floor balconies or went on the roof to gain access through unlocked windows. When home leave doors and windows locked or get something that will prevent windows from being opened all the way. Make sure that inside your home that you have secured your car keys and remote control devices where they cannot be easily found. Sometimes suspects break in and take car keys and remote controls — to either take the vehicle or return and have access through the garage.

If you have alarms at your home, make sure they are audible and not silent. Audible alarms are more likely to scare away potential burglars. Make sure that any safe in your home is secure and hidden. If you do go out of town, notify your neighbors and ask them to keep an eye on your property and be sure to put lights on timers. The key is to

make sure your home looks occupied when you are gone. If someone does knock on your door and states they have an emergency — do not open the door but do inform them that you are willing to call the police on their behalf to get them assistance and that you are going to do that. And then call it in! Better safe than sorry.

If you see a crime in progress please call 911. If you see something out of order or suspicious you can also contact our Lead Officer, Juan Ceja (see the points of contact for his contact information as well as others at Pacific Division). When you call, the following information should be provided to assist LAPD: inform the dispatcher in clear and simple language what you are reporting “burglary in process” “someone unknown entering a rear gate,” etc. Give the address. LISTEN to the questions asked of you. If you can, give the car make, model color and plate number. Additionally providing the sex, race, hair color, eye color, height, weight and approximate age is also of great help to the police. If you can describe the clothing that they are wearing — color shirt, pants, what type of shoes and if they are wearing any head coverings. If you see any visible logos on their clothing or hat, be sure to note what it is and tell the police.



VIDA ASH



A BIT ABOUT ME
I have been a resident of the Los Angeles Westside since 1988 and serving Westsiders with their real estate needs in buying and selling as a broker for the past 16 years. When I am not working full time in real estate I devote my time to my family, especially with my autistic niece who I love beyond this world, going out with my friends, long distance running (marathons & ultra marathons), and aiding various non-profit organizations (focusing mostly on our homeless population), and A safe place for youth organization.

By the time you read this, I have run another marathon or begun training for an epic 100-mile trail run in the near future, which I would love to tell you all about next time we meet over coffee or tea. What sets me apart from other real estate specialist is my review of the complex contracts homeowners must face when buying or selling a home, my attention to details in showing and selling a home, understanding the shifting profitability of a property, and my extensive study to gain knowledge about Los Angeles residential styles and the West Coast architecture vernacular. I can assist you and your family with anything related to real estate questions or chat about running over a cup of coffee, so please do not hesitate to call, email or text me, I am always available to my clients.

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<p>SUGGESTED FOOD ITEMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baby food • Baby formula • Peanut butter • Jelly & jam • Pasta, Macaroni & Cheese • Soup • Cereal • Canned fruit and vegetables • Canned or dried beans • Rice • Dry milk 	<p>SUGGESTED NON-FOOD ITEMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clothing items (lightly used) • Diapers (adults, babies) • Light jackets • Blankets • Shoes (men, women) • Tooth paste • Tooth brush • Deodorant • Toilet Paper • Personal Hygiene items
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PACIFIC UNION
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Being alert, involved and communicating with your neighbors keeps us all safe and is proven effective in reducing crime. You can also volunteer to be a block captain or co-captain, or volunteer to become involved in neighborhood watch supporting your neighbors who are block captains. Volunteers are needed and always welcome. To volunteer or find out more information about how you can become involved in Neighborhood Watch please reach out via email! Contact information is on our Westside Village Home Owners website as are frequent updates about crime, safety and preparedness events that will help all of us remain safe and informed.

New Building Ordinance Affects Westside Village, But It's Not Too Late

Laura Galperson

The Los Angeles City Council amended the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance (BMO) on March 17, 2017. This ordinance regulates the size of single-family homes in Lower Council District 5 which includes Westside Village. The new BMO scales back the square footage allowed for houses to 45% of the overall lot, down from 50%.

Several neighborhoods are in the process of petitioning for exemption to the ordinance, including Cheviot Hills and Westwood South of Santa Monica Blvd, and we can do the same. If you are interested in signing a petition to rezone Westside Village as R1V2, please sign the petition at <http://tinyurl.com/westsidevillagezoning>. Be sure to include your address and full name.

Both the BMO and R1V2 zones enforce strict building guidelines that will prevent mansionization. The BMO and the R1V2 zoning requirements both prevent huge ugly boxes. The rules for height, setbacks from neighbor properties, etc., are almost identical. The key difference is living area, which is important for the inhabitants of the house while hardly affecting the neighbors. The properties that will be most affected by the BMO are those properties with lots that are between 5,000 and 8,000sf.

Transportation/Planning: The Citizens Are Getting Angry!

Ken Alpern

After helping to vote in and enact multiple City and County taxes for transportation and homeless issues,

the residents of Westside Village have raised quite a few issues of concern on how their taxes are being spent, and how laws are (or are not) being enforced.

After passing an ongoing sales tax hike (on top of previous hikes) for the next several decades to fast-track the Wilshire Subway, the Metro Rail/LAX connection, and other projects such as the Westside-Valley subway (talked about for decades), the hope for using more City/County funds to also expedite road, sidewalk and parkway repairs appear to be dashed.

A lack of parking for the growing number of car commuters (both homeowners and apartment renters) is also plaguing Westside Villagers, who point out that the drive for more mass transit is also occurring at a time when bus ridership is down and car ownership is up, and Westside Village homeowners are having to compete with adjacent apartment renters for parking in front of their own homes.

The planning efforts for the Pico Blvd./Exposition Light Rail Line Corridor are also somewhat problematic, in that the line is already reaching full capacity decades prior to anticipated goals but is being planned for much denser housing than would be accommodated by the Exposition Line.

The Exposition Line has a limit of trains and train riders because it shares tracks with the Blue Line in Downtown L.A., unlike the Wilshire Subway which can carry hundreds of thousands of more riders when extended to the 405 freeway as planned. Many questions are being raised as to whether densification of the region is directly connected to the amount of transportation, water, and other infrastructure existing and planned for the Westside.

Furthermore, the debate over how to configure or reconfigure our streets for bicyclists, pedestrians, buses and car commuters is getting more contentious, in particular with the Venice Blvd. Road Diet reaching its first-year of existence without data promised to local residents in Mar Vista and to the Mar Vista Community Council.

The Board of the Mar Vista Community Council (<http://marvista.org/>) has been split and very conflicted over the aforementioned Road Diet, but the request for promised data is arguably the one unifying opinion, and Westsiders throughout the region have flooded the offices of the Mayor, of CDII Councilmember Mike Bonin, and the LADOT for the promised information and for action on this issue (including the possibility of reversing the Road Diet).



The issues surrounding the ever-worsening homeless/RV/ Camper problem, with issues of public safety, mobility on our sidewalks and curbs, affordable housing and other related topics causing a similar flood of complaints, concerns, and debates on whether the City and County homeless services are performing their job in an effective manner.

The Westside Village Homeowners Association and Mar Vista Community Council have always been, and will always be, there to encourage input and (especially!) more volunteer efforts on the part of individuals who want to represent and improve the lives of their neighbors and neighborhoods.

One person can ALWAYS make a difference...and maybe that one person is YOU.

LAPD Community Police Academy

Scott McCausland

Two of our WVHA Board members, Scott McCausland and Christine Stemar, recently completed the LAPD Citizen Community Police Academy. The eleven-week



Scott McCausland testing out LAPD equipment.

course met every Wednesday evening for 11 weeks and concluded with a graduation ceremony.

The Academy gave community members an inside look at the Police department and various facets of law enforcement. Students were introduced to police operations and participated in a firearms training simulation. Classes covered the organization of the

LAPD and its history, patrol and detective operations, pursuits and traffic policies, child abuse, hate crimes, vice and gang operations, criminal law, domestic violence, narcotics, and Internal Affairs, and included a SWAT and K-9 presentation. The class toured LAPD's Police Administration Building, Air Support Division (helicopters), and the Communications facility.

Through the Community Police Academy, students built a lasting partnership with the Department with the goal of reducing crime and improving the quality of life.

Are you interested in attending the Citizen Community Police Academy? A new session begins on August 1,



Christine Stemar graduates.

2018 and runs for eleven-weeks from 6:00 – 9:00 PM. After completion, if you so desire, you will have the opportunity to participate in the Volunteer Citizen Patrol Program.

Please note, there is a vetting process each participant needs to go through before

being accepted into the program.

Location: Ahmanson Recruit Training Center
5651 W. Manchester Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90045

Contact either Officer Juan Ceja: (310) 622-3976 or Sgt. Kevin Lowe: (310) 482-6397

Building Developments Around Westside Village

Stacy Shure

As we are all keenly aware, being residents of a neighborhood that is in the middle of West Los Angeles, development is up, and it seems like every week there is a new development on Overland, National or other surrounding streets.

There are two new apartment developments under construction on Overland between Rose & Venice with two more planned. There is an additional development underway on National near Barrington across from Whole Foods.

To keep informed and see where there are developments underway or planned, you can visit the City of L.A.



website that maintains a current list of all permitted developments being planned or constructed in the city: http://laist.com/2016/10/10/la_construction_map_2016.php

Of course, if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out through our website at www.WestsideVillage.org. We have WHVA board members who attend Mar Vista Community Council meetings concerning transportation, infrastructure and development and represent our neighborhood in trying to minimize the impact these developments have on our neighborhood.

Are You Prepared?

Valerie Fontaine

Preparing for a disaster today means more than just having a plan for an earthquake, fire, or flood. We must be ready for man-made disasters that, unfortunately, include workplace violence, terrorism, and other mass casualty attacks.

Surviving an Active Shooter

On Wednesday, March 28, Westside Village Homeowners

Association once again presented a “Surviving an Active Shooter” class to teach us what we need to know and do to increase our chances of survival if faced with one of these situations.

Sergeant Stephen Showler and Officer James Weigh, LAPD Active Shooter/Terrorism Preparedness Training Instructors, took us into the minds of first responders as they enter these types of scenes. The most important lesson they taught the 45 attendees was the importance of “situational awareness”. We learned that we always must be alert to the people and activity around us, note more than one exit at work and in each public place we enter, and — if we cannot run — think how we can creatively use what is at hand to hide or fight.

Disaster Communications

Westside Village is creating a disaster communications plan for use in the event our usual systems — cell phones, land lines, and Internet — fail. For most residents, that means using a hand-held FRS radio, which is like a walkie-talkie, and does not require a special license. With fresh batteries and a little training, anyone can use them for short-range communication.

Thinking of Selling?



For a FREE market evaluation of your property, please contact:

Adam Glick
310-488-4410

AdamRGlick@gmail.com



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For those who want to get a little more sophisticated, hand-held GMRS radios, which are more powerful, transmit further, and require an FCC license to use. You can buy FRS and GMRS radios at most hardware stores or online.

Ham radio is the most powerful amateur radio option and requires training and a test to obtain a license. Ham operators communicate using higher wattage equipment and frequencies, reaching a greater geographic range.

For residents using FRS radios—which will be most of us—information can be passed from one FRS user to another within our neighborhood and relayed to a local ham (or even a GMRS) operator, who forwards it to CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Battalion Radio Operations in Baldwin Hills, which will relay it to the Fire Department as appropriate.

To kick things off, on Saturday, Feb. 10, 2018, CERT- and non-CERT-trained residents from Westside Village and the surrounding area met on the front lawn of Palms Middle School for a training exercise on FRS radio operations. After a lesson on FRS radio operation and on-air etiquette, we paired off and dispersed throughout Westside Village to practice our skills. We mapped the locations of best and worst reception since radio transmission range is a function of terrain, weather, and even surrounding buildings. We covered about half of the neighborhood but

need to finish mapping our neighborhood.

COMING UP: Join us for another Emergency Communications Drill on Saturday, August 18, 2018 from 9:00 am to noon in front of Palms Middle School on Woodbine. Bring your FRS radio and we will continue to learn and practice using them while we complete our Westside Village Disaster Communications Map.

We also have MONTHLY DISASTER COMMUNICATIONS CHECK-INS. If you have a radio, please join us for our monthly radio check-ins on the following Tuesdays: July 10; Aug. 7; Sept. 11; Oct. 2; Nov. 6; and Dec. 4, 2018 from 6:30-8:30 pm. Even if you don't have a radio, you can participate via text.

- *Text SMS Check-In (6:30-8:30 pm): 213-595-1146 Type your name and location.*
- *FRS Check-In (6:45-7:00 pm): FRS Channel 7. You will only be able to communicate with others on that channel within your transmitting range.*
- *Ham Check-In (7:00-8:30 pm): (Freq 445.620 (-) PL. 127.3)*
- *GMRS Check-In (7:30-8:30 pm): Freq 462.5500 / GMRS Channel 15.*
- *Note: FRS members can LISTEN IN ON GMRS CHANNEL 15, but you will not be heard and cannot transmit.*

Fifth Annual WVHA Preparedness Fair Oct 4, 2018

For each of the past four years, our annual preparedness fair drew a capacity crowd. This year's theme is "Resilience: Preparing for Recovery." Mark your calendars for Thursday, October 4, 2016, 6:30-9:00 pm at St. John's Presbyterian Church on National Blvd at Military Ave. Get to know your neighbors and learn how to protect yourself, your family, your home, and your neighborhood! Learn what you can do now to build resilience and what resources are available and steps to take for recovery after a disaster. Disaster supply vendors will be on-hand, so you can see, touch, and purchase items for your home safety and earthquake kits. Don't miss the chance to win door prizes to add to your preparedness supplies!

More information about preparedness training:

The official website for LAFD CERT: www.cert-la.com

CERT'S NEIGHBORHOOD TEAM PROGRAM (neighborhood teams comprised of CERT-trained people and active community neighbors): www.ntp-la.com

CERT Battalion 18: www.facebook.com/groups/LAFDCERT.BATT18/

Westside Village contact: westsidevillagentp@gmail.com

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

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

All articles are subject to acceptance and editing.