



Mar Vista Community News

A Publication of Mar Vista Community Council



Fall 2008

Mar Vista residents are increasingly replacing lawns with xeriscape landscaping and toting reusable bags on shopping trips.

Local Farmers' Market sets sustainable goals

The Mar Vista Farmers Market is delighted to welcome new board member Andrew Basnajian, who is the outreach coordinator for the City of Santa Monica's Office of Sustainability and the Environment. And the timing could not be more perfect because the board has several greening initiatives underway, and there are more planned for the coming years.

Farmers Markets are sustainable by definition, but there are always room for improvements. The basic mission, beyond bringing local produce and prepared foods to your community, the market has impacts on our local land, air and water resources. How the market moves forward to address these impacts are of particular interest to the board and the community. For example, there is a move afoot to install electricity terminals for vendors requiring power, eliminating the need for remote generators. There are provisions being made for a sewer access to easily discharge wash water, etc., from food vendors requiring such health provisions.

Ultimately, in partnership with GoSolar Mar Vista, a community effort designed to speed the

See MARKET, page 6

Let's Go Green Mar Vista!


Environmental awareness is on the rise in Mar Vista

The MVCC is looking forward to an informative and tasty Stakeholders Meeting on Oct. 14, hosted by the Mar Vista Green Committee. Being Green is not just for hippies and Kermit the Frog anymore. With the very real threats of climate change, dwindling water supplies, and toxic air and soil, mainstream America is actively seeking viable solutions.

Come at 6:30 PM and visit the Sustainable Living Q&A Tables. Get information on many aspects of sustainable living: composting, solar power, green construction, home energy evaluation, organic gardening for homes and apartments, and cycling for fun and energy conservation.

Speakers begin at 7 PM and will include City of Los Angeles Public Works commissioner Paula Daniels, an innovative leader and

See GREEN, page 4



Quarterly Stakeholder Meeting
Go Green Mar Vista! Sustainable living & environmental information to live a greener life

When: Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2008
Time: 6:30 PM Sustainable Living Q&A Tables
7 PM Speakers
Where: Mar Vista Rec Center Auditorium
11430 Woodbine St.

Bring your old batteries to recycle!

Mar Vista Green Committee
Mar Vista Community Council

Residents' meter spins backward after solar panel installation



Solar panels atop Mar Vista roof reduce daily energy costs.

We are probably on the high side of energy usage. Both of us work from home offices and we have 19-year-old twins still living at home. Between six computers, loads of wash and home entertainment, that equates to electrical use throughout most of a 24-hour day – all day for the two of us working from home and then well into the wee hours of the morning with the teenage night owls. We knew we had to take action to convert to clean energy.

For years we struggled with the decision of whether to install solar panels. It seemed too costly and the process seemed overwhelming. How do you evaluate a service that you know nothing about? Networking

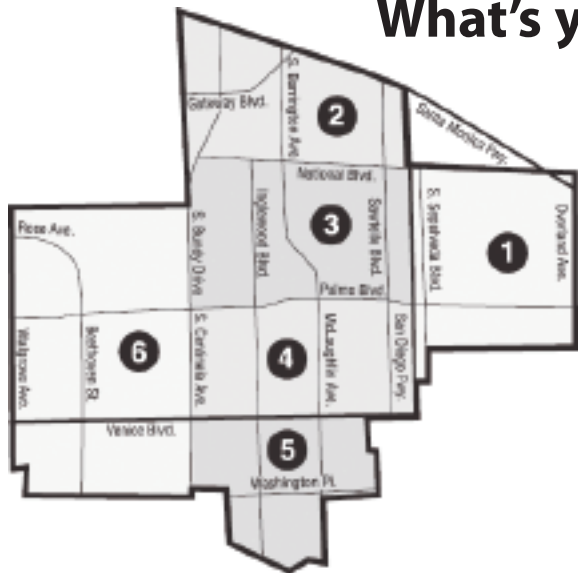
was the important first step and once we found a contact that had used an installer, the rest fell into place.

Cost: Our installer worked diligently to determine what positioning would give us the best utilization as well as the highest DWP rebate. I think there were more hours spent on evaluation and planning than on the actual installation! He handled everything to secure the rebate – we did not have to lay it out and struggle to recover it. We only paid the net cost.

Appearance: I was fearful that it would be all you would see. In fact, they can't be seen from the front at all and you have to make an effort to

See SOLAR, page 6

Mar Vista Community Council Zone Map: What's your zone?



There are six MVCC Zones, each having a director who sits on the MVCC Board. Please contact the director for your zone with your thoughts, comments and concerns. The MVCC boundaries are, roughly, from Walgrove on the west to Overland on the east, and from Washington Place on the south to the Santa Monica Freeway on the north.

Mar Vista's "Grand Stairway" is getting a makeover

The stairway to the Mar Vista Elementary School, tucked in between Inglewood Blvd. and Granville Ave., serves as a fresh-air and inexpensive way to exercise, as the pathway to school for many children and their parents and a get-to-know-you venue for some of the folks who exercise at the same time during the week. The steps are part of our neighborhood's history, built at about the same time as much of Mar Vista, during the growth era right after World War II.

Many mornings I've walked to the steps begun my descent, and counted - down and up. In case you don't feel like counting yourself, there are 97 of them. Down, and up. On the steps I greet many of the "regulars." People meet and talk and exercise. The stairway can be a little town square.

On a clear day, you can see Los Angeles and the mountains beyond. I've identified many kinds of plants and several varieties of birds. The close-up view, however, isn't so pretty. The greenery survives by sheer will - only the infrequent rains have helped it live. There are dead leaves and plants on both sides of the stairs and on the steps

themselves. The drainage gulleys on either side of the stairway were, until recently, completely clogged with debris and garbage. There are beer cans and bottles, soda bottles, paper trash and (Yes!) a hypodermic needle-looking thing in plain view. Some graffiti has been painted over; other graffiti is still there. The steps are chipping. And they are flanked by super-institutional chain link fencing on either side.

MVCC has agreed to sponsor an application for a \$10,000 matching grant from the city to beautify the stairway, and has pledged \$2,500 toward thematch. The Mar Vista Neighborhood Association has pledged another \$500. I've had extremely positive response from Mar Vista stakeholders, including a pledge of \$100 toward plants for landscaping, \$500 of my personal time. I invite all of you to join me in this project to clean and beautify a neighborhood landmark. Call 310-636-0126 or email bubbysq@aol.com.

Roseann Herman
MVNA Board Secretary

Zone 3 Report

Westdale Block Party: Westdale is holding its annual block party Saturday, Oct 12 from 1 to 5 PM on the 3100 Block of Coolidge. Come join your neighbors for a fun afternoon.



Kate Anderson
Zone 3 Director

Hilltop Aftershock: On the morning of Nov 13, the City of Los Angeles is going to engage in a city-wide earthquake drill. That night, from 6:30 to 8 PM, the Hilltop Neighbors Association will host the Hilltop Aftershock at the North Venice Little League Field. Come join us for an evening of experts, information, and community. We will also open up the container of emergency supplies (did you even know we had one?) and you can learn both about what your community can do for you in an emergency and what you can do for your community.

Hilltop Block Captain Search: Hilltop is revitalizing its block captain program and is looking for more block captains. If you would be willing to serve as a block captain for your block, please email KateAnderson@marvista.org.

Help Fix the Stairs by Mar Vista Elementary: Thanks to the hard work of Roseann Herman, we are getting ready to clean (really clean) and repair the stairs between Mar Vista Elementary and Inglewood Boulevard. We need as many volunteers as we can get. If you are interested in helping, please email Roseann at bubbysq@aol.com.

Zone 3 Blog: I made the jump into the new technical age and have started a blog. Join me in cyberspace at www.mvcczone3.blogspot.com. You can subscribe to get regular updates and also post your own comments.

Kate Anderson
Zone 3 Director

Zone 5 Report

A group of approximately 50 South Oval and Atlantic Avenue neighbors gathered on Mar Marcel Avenue in Culver City at the border with Los Angeles on a recent Saturday morning.



Christopher McKinnon
Zone 5 Director

Organized by a neighbor, with help from the South Mar Vista Neighborhood Association, the purpose of the meeting was to disseminate information and to gather input on the proposed 3-story, 54,311 square foot building that spreads over three lots between Mar Marcel and the Econo Lodge on Washington Place in Culver City. The developer earlier had presented plans to build a four-story building to the PLUM committees of both Del Rey Neighborhood Council and Mar Vista Community Council. Neighbor input may have influenced the developer's decision to downsize the height but both plans have included encroaching past the sidewalk and halfway into Mar Marcel Avenue (making it one way Southbound) with Culver City planning's apparent blessing. Los Angeles and Culver City neighbors' concerns include visual blight due to massive size and possible cut through traffic, and employee and customer parking problems on Mar Marcel and East Boulevard. A large majority of those present took a straw vote approving a possible solu-

tion by blocking off in some manner both East Boulevard and Mar Marcel Avenue. This would make it necessary for residents to travel north in order to exit the neighborhood to the South but would provide a barrier to cut through traffic. Restricting outside parking in the neighborhood would possibly require permit parking. There was a vocal minority objecting to both solutions. Input on the height, size and footprint of the building will have to be given at upcoming Culver City planning meetings.

Neighbors on East Boulevard and McLaughlin Avenue have been working long and hard on gating a problem north-south alley. They recently received notice that their waiver of permit fees has been approved at City Council and signed by the mayor. Unlike in the past when alley closures were funded by City funds, currently neighbors desiring gates must fund it themselves. These neighbors have raised the thousands of dollars necessary for design, build and installation. Through persistence and working closely with Councilman Rosendahl and his staff, they have achieved an important breakthrough with Dept. of Building and Safety.

The North and South Oval neighbors are working on a possible assessment district to repair their crumbling 1920's era curbs on North Park, South Park, Pacific Ave, Mar Marcel and East Boulevards. Although the streets have been placed on the 2008-2009 fiscal year calendar for street reconstruction, the Bureau of Street Services has informed the neighbors at a community meeting that they can't proceed with reconstruction until the curbs with concrete gutter is replaced. Unknown by neighbors until recently, the curbs are the financial responsibility of the

See ZONE 5, page 6

Zone 6 Report

Since my election on June 21, I have learned more about Mar Vista than in the previous 12 years. I know it a great neighborhood and until recently the best kept secret in our sprawling city. I have long term caring neighbors which gives a sense of safety and trust. Let us not take these comforts for granted.



Marilyn Marble
Zone 6 Director

I have met old friends and neighbors at the

Mar Vista Market on Sundays. Have you been there yet? There are great elements just across from our booth and wonderful fresh fruits and vegetables.

My concerns are for the residents of Mar Vista, and especially Zone 6. We are working with the neighborhoods to have your voice heard by our councilman, and the persons that make decisions that affect our quality of life. We are involved in restricting zone changes, airport noise and cut through traffic. Through our channels, we have been heard. I applaud the sense of community in Mar Vista. I look forward to working with you in keeping this our community. If you have issues you are concerned about, talk to me or one of the MVCC representatives or call me at 310-313-7280.

Marilyn Marble
Zone 6 Director

Animal Welfare Events around Mar Vista

Oct. 1

Grace period ends for the Spay/Neuter Ordinance for Los Angeles.

Requires all dogs and cats over 4 months old to be spayed/neutered unless a license to breed is applied for through LAAS.

Oct. 4 & 5

The Lange Foundation Estate Sale

11870 Santa Monica Blvd.
10 AM to 4 PM
They are still taking donations of items to sell!
310-472-7727
www.langefoundation.com

Oct. 11

Adoption event & Costume Parade

Featuring dogs and cats from the WLA Animal Shelter and other Animal Rescue organizations
Culver City Media Park
9070 Venice Blvd., Culver City
10 AM to 3 PM

Oct. 12

Best Friends Super Adoption Event & Strut Your Mutt at La Brea Tar Pits

All the shelters and rescues in LA will be there!
5801 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles
10 AM to 4 PM
www.strutyourmuttla.com

Oct. 19

WLA Farmers Market Adoption Event & Costume Parade!

Featuring dogs from the WLA animal Shelter
11360 Santa Monica Blvd., West Los Angeles
10 AM to 2 PM

Oct. 25

Spay Day LA

Spay/neuter clinic, vendor booths, a special adoption event, free lunch and KIIS FM will be there playing music.
West Los Angeles Animal Services
11361 West Pico Blvd., Los Angeles
9 AM to 4 PM
www.spaydayla.com

Nov. 23 & Dec. 28

Look for LAAS adoptions at Kirby's Pet Depot right next to the Mar Vista Farmers Market!
12112 Venice Blvd, Los Angeles
10 AM to 2 PM

For info on available animals for adoption visit
www.laanimalservices.com &
www.doggiematchmaker.blogspot.com

Lola McKnight
Director of Animal Welfare, Mar Vista

Mar Vista Community Council Agendas and minutes are posted on-line at www.marvista.org

Rob Kadota • Community Director & Chair • rob@marvista.org

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Mar Vista Community News



A publication of the Mar Vista
Community Council

Editor: Laura Bodensteiner

The articles contained here in
are the opinions of the writer only, and do
not necessarily express an official opinion of
the Mar Vista Community Council.

Richland Avenue School on the rise

Richland Avenue School is a gem of a public school nestled in a quiet neighborhood in West Los Angeles. Richland is a school on the rise with increasing parental involvement, students from the neighborhood attending the school, and test scores that increased by 45 points this past year alone. The atmosphere is friendly and welcoming. Richland is unique in that it serves students in grades pre-K through 6th grade. The administration and staff are committed to providing students with an excellent education, and creating an environment for the school that promotes a strong sense of community and pride. The student population represents a broad range of cultures and backgrounds with all levels of ability, from special needs students who attend special day classes to many of whom are mainstreamed, students who are English Language Learners, to students who participate in the Gifted and Talented Enrichment program (G.A.T.E.).

The future. The Wonder of Reading Library offers children a comfortable space to check out and enjoy books, and a brand new mobile computer lab is used by many of the teachers in their classrooms. One of the school's best kept secrets is its nearly one acre lot of land, The Richland Learning Garden. It is a real working garden that teachers use to supplement curriculum. Not many schools can offer such a large space where children can see

and be a part of growing fruits and vegetables. The school has joined with Urban Farming, an organization that finds green space in urban areas for farming. Urban Farming's goal is to eliminate hunger in the United States through farming in urban spaces. 10% of all harvests are donated to the Westside Food Bank.

The STAR after-school program is free for students in grades 1-6. STAR offers enrichment that is among the best in the state.

The active Booster Club

sponsors events throughout the school year with the goals of bringing together the whole school community and neighborhood to promote school spirit.

Feel free to visit Richland and attend any of the Richland events to discover a great little West Side School.

*Kami Turrou
Richland Avenue Booster Club*



RICHLAND AVENUE SCHOOL SCARE FAIR & HAUNTED HOUSE

Date: Saturday, October 25, 2008
Time: 12 PM - 3 PM Scare Fair
 12 PM - 5 PM Haunted House
Where: Richland Avenue School
 11562 Richland Ave.

Additional Haunted House Hours
Oct. 29-30: 5 PM - 8 PM
Oct. 31 5 PM - 9 PM

GREEN from page 1

founder of the Green Streets Committee. How is a "green street" kinder to the environment than traditional streets? Come to the meeting and get the whole story. James Brennan will be enlightening us about GoSolar Mar Vista and the benefits of working as a community to make solar energy subsidies available via the California Solar Initiative. Can Mar Vista meet the challenge of 100% clean electricity? Hear the facts and decide for yourself. In addition, there will be a trash sorting demonstration to finally learn what you can (and can't) put in your Blue Bin. We'll also hear from the Mar Vista Farmers' Market about how the market is becoming even more sustainable.



No one will leave empty handed. The Green Committee will be handing out compact, fold away, reusable shopping bags to all meeting attendees. These are a must have – a way to be sure you will always have a reusable bag on hand no matter where you are shopping. Plastic bags don't biodegrade, they photodegrade – breaking down into smaller and smaller toxic bits contaminating soil and waterways and entering the food web which animals accidentally ingest. For more startling facts, visit www.reusablebags.com/facts.php

In addition to these cleverly designed bags, you may win the raffle, and go home with a basket full of fresh produce from the Mar Vista Farmers' Market or a Hook & Go highly compact rolling grocery bag cart, also donated by the Mar Vista Farmers' Market.

Refreshments will highlight items from the Mar Vista Farmers' Market. Find out why L.A. Zine said "this market is fulfilling its duty to the community, and doing so in an inviting way." Bring your neighbors, friends and family to this great event. See you there!

*Jeanne Kuntz
Vice Chair,
Mar Vista Green Committee*

Walgrove Elementary celebrates improvements

Mar Vista parents are buzzing this fall about what's new at Walgrove Avenue Elementary. The school's dynamic new principal, influx of new students, and renovated facilities along with continued expansion of programs that address a range of learning styles, are attracting considerable attention to the neighborhood school.

Principal Arlene Fortier, who took the helm at Walgrove in August, is enthusiastic about the school's potential. "This community's vision for itself was to grow the school, and I'm looking to be an active part of that," she remarked, noting that one of her first tasks upon arrival was to hire additional teachers to accommodate the swell of increased enrollment. "We have a talented staff, a motivated, supportive community, and my goal is to see Walgrove become a California Distinguished School." Fortier credits the full array of enrichment opportunities at Walgrove, including the raised bed agricultural gardens, STAR after-school program and PS Arts and Music, for helping to foster a well-rounded education that is attracting local families. "Students at Walgrove get a variety of hands-on experience and educational opportunities that allow them to develop their creativity and a love for learning that should help them become successful academically."

This year, Walgrove celebrated the debuts of two beautifully renovated campus facilities. Benefactor Dr. Anton Ambröse led a moving ribbon cutting ceremony on Sept. 19 that unveiled the Orlanthe Ambröse Center of the Performing Arts, located inside Walgrove's newly renovated auditorium. The facility, which is equipped with state-of-the-art sound and lighting technology, is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Ambröse's daughter, a beloved Walgrove music teacher who was tragically killed in the 2004 Sri Lanka tsunami. Ms.

Ambröse was the subject of an intimate documentary film, *Blood and Water*, which was screened by candlelight to cap off the event.

On June 4, Walgrove held a dedication ceremony to commemorate the revitalized center courtyard and rename the area "Jay's Garden" in honor of local celebrated landscape architect, Jay Griffith. Working pro-bono, Griffith designed the renovation to complement the existing mid-century architecture, accenting it with landscaping and benches. Local muralists



Giant colorful maps and a compass rose on the asphalt surface of the courtyard area bring a greater sense of the world to the heart of Walgrove's campus.

Sally Nicholson and Jaye Mascariello, led a team of volunteers to paint giant colorful maps and a compass rose on the asphalt surface of the courtyard area, bringing a greater sense of the world to the heart of the campus. In honor of the occasion, the courtyard trees were hung with sparkling beaded sculptures and hand-painted silk disks created by students of all ages through Walgrove's Studio Program.

The Studio Program is a unique offering that enables Walgrove students to contribute creatively to campus beautification projects under the direction of Studio teacher, Rebecca Carpenter. "Using children's work in this way strengthens their connection to their learning environment and makes their work visible to the community around them," explains Carpenter. "Additionally, this work supports cognitive, motor and social development, which contributes to our academic growth as well." Now in its second year, the Studio Room is a key aspect of Walgrove's exploration of ideas

around multiple intelligences, co-construction, team teaching and the use of a wide range of materials to support academic and social growth that teachers at Walgrove began in 2005, facilitated by fellow educator, Roleen Heimann.

Another remarkable program at Walgrove is the Shakespeare Club, led by veteran acting and dialogue coach, Mel Ryane. Working one day a week after school, students in the Shakespeare Club study, prepare and present a public per-

formance of a work by William Shakespeare. "Twelfth Night" is on the docket this year, and recent triumphs include "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "Hamlet," and "Romeo and Juliet." Ryane's experiences directing the Shakespeare Club are memorialized in her upcoming book release, *Is There Kissing? (What Ten Kids Taught Me That Hollywood Couldn't)*.

As Walgrove School enters a new era of rising achievement, Principal Fortier attributes a great deal of Walgrove's increasing popularity to the commitment and effectiveness of the school's parent leadership. "The Friends of Walgrove is critical to Walgrove's growth, providing the kind of support for educational opportunities in the arts and environmental sciences in ways that are just not available at other District schools." Booster Club President Lisa Hassel acknowledges the synergistic efforts of parents, teachers, students and the neighborhood to energize the school. "Your vision is possible," Hassel reflects gratefully, "when you have the support of your community to make it manifest."

Those interested in more information may refer to the school website at www.friendsofwalgrove.com or call the Friends of Walgrove Hotline at 310-450-1740.

*Laurie Hansen
Walgrove Elementary Parent*

You can help our schools, arts and culture in Mar Vista

Education, Arts and Culture Committee seeks Members

The Education, Arts and Culture Committee has just started again and we're looking for new Committee members. We are engaged in a strategic planning process and would like you to be a part of it. Help us figure out how to

better support our schools and the kids they serve. Help us figure out how we can better bring the many Mar Vista artists and art lovers together to improve the arts and culture in the community.

Visit our website: sites.google.com/a/marvista.org/education-arts-and-culture-committee/Home or email either of the co-chairs, Babak Nahid at

babak@marvista.org or Kate Anderson at kate.anderson@marvista.org to find out more about who we are and what we are doing.

Or just come join us – check out the webpage for our next meeting date and time.

*Kate Anderson
Education, Arts and Culture Co-Chair*

If you are interested in publishing an article about your Mar Vista school, email Laura Bodensteiner at laura@marvista.org

MARKET from page 1

adoption of residences and businesses in Mar Vista to use clean energy from the Sun, GoSolar includes the objective of installing rooftop Wi-Fi antennae on homes and businesses throughout the community. Learn more about it at openmarvista.net.

However, many of those things are behind the scenes. One that may be more noticeable to the patrons of the market is the idea of requiring a 1950's-style food packaging: wax paper, foil, chipboard and/or paper are all products that decompose quickly and/or are recyclable. The ultimate idea is to gradually introduce food waste recycling, or composting. Eventually, it could be in the not too distant future that the market would not generate any waste that wasn't biodegradable. Our goal is to have all food vendors compliant by January 1, 2009.

The Mar Vista Farmers Market already has an arrangement with Ocean View Farms – the community garden in Mar Vista. Diego Leon – our orange juice vendor and his four sons, Diego, Fabian, Daniel and Ari, gradually collect all farmer and vendor green waste and compost each market day and deliver it to Ocean View Farms for composting.

One of our biggest worries is litter – specifically plastic bags that blow around and can end up in our storm drain system – which could end up in the Santa Monica Bay. Many U.S. cities are banning plastic bags. We will be looking into ways to minimize bag distribution and to encourage the use of reusable bags. In any event, these provisions would place the market ahead of the regulatory curve that will likely restrict distribution of the bags in the coming years.

We encourage all of you who shop at the farmers market to bring your own bags so we can begin cutting back on plastic bags before we cut them out altogether.

These are just some of the ideas being put forward. Visit us online in the coming months to see our sustainability initiatives spelled out: www.marvistafarmersmarket.org.

*Diana L. Rodgers
Mar Vista Farmers' Market*

SOLAR from page 1

notice them from the backyard.

Return: Our electricity cost was reduced by 80%. For the first 7 months of 2006 our daily average was \$5.17. In 2008 it has dropped to \$1.04 and most of that is the DWP minimum charge to be hooked up to their grid. That computes to savings of \$1,507 a year – and the best usage is still ahead of us through October.

How often do we take a \$16,000 depreciation on a car over two or three years without ever seeing a return on it? We took that \$16,000 and put it into solar panels instead – with an immediate return of \$1,500 per year and a full payback in a little over 10 years. And as electricity rates continue to rise, most likely it will be even faster.

You can't imagine how much fun it is to watch your meters spin backwards as you are generating more electricity than you use!

*Scott & Sherri Littell
Mar Vista Residents*

ZONE 5 from page 3

landowner. They have been struggling and lobbying for several years to get their failed streets repaired.

New business development in the Mar Vista Town Center section of Venice Boulevard is making slow but steady progress. New owners of the art deco like building at Grand View and Venice Boulevard have cleaned up, painted and added awnings to this highly visible corner making the area very attractive. A new cafe named the Curious Palate is renovating the former taco restaurant near the Library at 12034 Venice Blvd. The two owners have presented twice to the MVCC Plum committee for informational purposes including a sample menu. They may be asking for future support for possible variances needed for bathroom requirements and license to sell beer and wine. Their goal is to open in October and apply later for any additional licenses, however stakeholder input is vital to this effort. A success here could encourage more new gourmet food businesses to consider downtown Mar Vista. Immediately adjacent to the Library a new two story steel structure is taking shape. It is reported to be mixed use with retail space on the ground floor and 4 rental living spaces on the second floor. A new produce store named Top Tomato appears to be opening soon in the old Golden Lion wholesale hardware store at 3815 Grand View Blvd. across from the Post Office.

There is a move by local businesses and community organizations working with Open Mar Vista to install more repeaters and make Town Center a wi-fi hub. They are currently investigating cost and approvals from building owners to install the small roof top antennas. Public sharing of a segment of already installed private broadband internet service is required but the ad hoc group is confident of success by the end of this year.

The Farmers' Market appears to be thriving and a great meeting place for concerned citizens and board members who check in at the MVCC booth. The future wi-fi hub could be a boost to the Farmers' Market vendors and customers as well as boost MVCC's effort to go paperless with its stakeholder surveys. The Farmers' market is working on a program to ban plastic bag use.

An anti graffiti camera monitored by the Pacific LAPD will be placed in the alley just west off Grand View Blvd. There is some debate whether it will face east toward the Post Office or west towards

Centinela both plagued by graffiti and illegal dumping. Mar Vista will be one of the first neighborhoods on the westside to have a graffiti camera installed. Thanks to the work of South Mar Vista Neighborhood Association, Pacific Station of LAPD and Len Nguyen, Councilman Rosendahl's Deputy for Mar Vista.

Zone 5 contains at least three public facilities in need of landscaping assistance. The US Post Office has never trimmed or cared for their parking lot or parkway trees. The Library, despite a Mayor's Day of Service project, still needs further work to renovate the ground cover, weed and trim plants, and to recheck the irrigation. The new Fire Station #62 has completely removed all the Bougainvillea vines and plants along the Marcasel Blvd. side. Neighbors are inquiring as to why removed and replacement and irrigation repair plans with the help of the Councilman's deputy and the MVCC ROSE Committee.

The South Mar Vista Neighborhood Association is working on plans with the Captain at Fire Station #62 to have a fundraising Pancake breakfast. Instead of cash donation participants will be asked to bring an unwrapped toy (no plush toys) as a donation to Toys for Tots and the Pacific LAPD toy drive for their Winter Wonderland. Date to be announced but probably early December on a first come first served basis. The SoMar officers were re-elected for another term at their July meeting.

The two Venice Boulevard pilot median plants and trees seem to be making excellent progress despite the lack of rainfall. The Venice Boulevard Streetscape Improvement Association with the help of local pre-eminent landscaping company Katherine Spitz and Associates has created a Master Plan for the "Greening of Venice Boulevard." KSA also had designed the plantings at Fire Station #62.

Cell towers installed on the outside of an apartment building at 3815 McLaughlin Avenue at Venice Blvd. have created concerns to apartment dwellers and neighbors. The installation has been accused by apartment residents to have been done without proper notification. Although masked with facades their concern is about hazardous radio waves. Working with the Councilman's deputy the city departments and T-mobile, more peak hour testing will be done to determine if the signals are within acceptable FCC limits.

*Christopher McKinnon
Zone 5 Director*

Calendar of monthly events in Mar Vista

For more information about meeting times and locations, visit www.marvista.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Every Sunday Mar Vista Farmers Market 8:30 AM - 2 PM</p> <p>First Sunday Executive Committee Meeting, Mar Vista Farmers Market</p>		<p>First Tuesday Richland Ave. Elementary Booster Club 8:30 AM, Room 22</p> <p>Neighborhood Traffic Management, 7 PM Santa Monica College Bundy Campus</p>	<p>First Wednesday Mar Vista Neighborhood Association, 7 PM</p> <p>Santa Monica Airport Committee, 6 PM Mar Vista Library</p>			
<p>Every Sunday Mar Vista Farmers Market 8:30 AM - 2 PM</p> <p>Second Sunday Green Committee 9:30 AM</p>	<p>Second Monday North Westdale Neighborhood Association 7 PM St. Andrew's Church</p>	<p>Second Tuesday MVCC Monthly Board Meeting 7 PM, Mar Vista Park</p> <p>Friends of Beethoven Elem. School PTSA 6 PM Beethoven Parent Center</p>	<p>Second Wednesday Mar Vista Concept Plan Subcommittee, 7 PM Hurry Curry (NE corner of Beethoven/Venice)</p> <p>Mar Vista Elem. School Student Enrichment Group</p>	<p>Second Thursday South Mar Vista Neighborhood Association, 6 PM Mar Vista Library</p> <p>Venice H.S. PTSA 7 PM, cafeteria</p>		
<p>Every Sunday Mar Vista Farmers Market 8:30 AM - 2 PM</p>	<p>Third Monday MVCC Election and Bylaws Committee 7:30 PM</p>	<p>Third Tuesday MVCC Urban Planning/ Land Use Meeting, 6 PM Mar Vista Library</p> <p>Mar Vista Recreation Park Advisory Board 6:30 PM, Mar Vista Park Auditorium</p>	<p>Third Wednesday Pacific Division Community Police Advisory Board 7 PM Marina Beach Marriott</p>	<p>Third Thursday Education, Arts & Culture Committee</p> <p>Mar Vista Historical Society, 7PM</p> <p>Ven-Mar Neighborhood Association, 7PM</p>		
<p>Every Sunday Mar Vista Farmers Market 9 AM - 2 PM</p> <p>Fourth Sunday ROSE Committee 12 Noon, Farmers' Market</p>		<p>Fourth Tuesday MVCC Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, 7 PM Santa Monica College Bundy Campus</p>	<p>Fourth Wednesday MVCC Outreach Committee, 7 PM 3547 Federal Ave</p>	<p>Fourth Thursday MVCC Safety & Security Meeting 7 PM, Coffee Connection</p>		

Winter Wonderland Toy Drive

The annual LAPD Pacific Division Winter Wonderland is right around the corner. Featuring 10 tons of snow, food, hot chocolate and an ovie, our local police officers organize this annual event to bring holiday gifts to 2200 needy children.

Santa and an elf will bring their sleigh to several Mar Vista locations for visiting, photographing and toy-collection. When dates are finalized stakeholders who would like to host a Santa stop will be alerted. Please contact MVCC board member Steve Boskin at ssboskin@aol.com for more information.

*Stephen Boskin
Co-Chair Outreach Committee*



**Every Sunday
Rain or shine!
8:30 AM - 2 PM
Corner of Venice
& Grand View**

Halloween Festival ~ Oct. 26

Trick or Treat with your favorite farmers at the Mar Vista Farmers' Market!

10:30 AM Halloween Parade and march with the Superbroke Brass and Tin and Strings Electric Marching Band Ensemble. Also Pumpkin decorating and live music and dancing with Al's Peace.

.....
Mar Vista pick-up location for CSA available!
Community Supported Agriculture available at J.R. Organics at the Mar Vista Farmers' Market

Are you ready to rumble Mar Vista?

I'm sure you all remember the last earthquake we just had a few months ago. The question is, how many of are prepared for the next one? All of the current data points to a big quake on the horizon and Mar Vista is preparing for it now. Join us and the rest of southern California in The Great Southern California "Shake Out".

On Nov. 13 at 10 AM, millions of southern Californians will "Drop, Cover, and Hold On." Schools, businesses, families, organizations, and individuals will join firefighters, police officers and other emergency responders in the largest earthquake drill in our history. A simulated 7.8 quake on the San Andreas fault will last for 2 to 3 minutes. The 1994 Northridge quake only lasted for 7 seconds!

Join Us
for the Largest
Earthquake Drill
in U.S. History.
November 13, 2008

The Great
Southern California
**Shake
Out**

Please visit www.ShakeOut.org It is a fantastic web site packed with information and helpful hints to keep you safe before, during and after the big one.

Hilltop Aftershock: That night, the Hilltop Neighbors Association is hosting the Hilltop Aftershock, a community meeting where we will come together to talk about what we can do individually and as a community to help ourselves and our neighbors when the big one hits. We will bring in experts, have free stuff, and will open up Hilltop's emergency container. Come join us at the North Venice Little League field from 6:30 to 8 PM Nov. 13. If you have any questions or want to help out, email Kate.Anderson@marvista.org

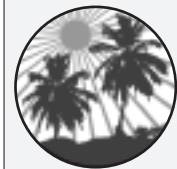
Bill Koontz
Safety & Security Chair

Kate Anderson
Zone 3 Director

Guest speaker to discuss urban planning issues

How does a community attract the kinds of development which can help create a sense of place along Venice Boulevard, a busy thoroughfare seen as a 'through traffic corridor to the beach'? How can a community work effectively with developers at the grassroots level to get good projects which enhance economic viability of a major commercial corridor? Can the Palms Mar Vista Del Rey Community Plan update play an effective role in these goals and objectives?

At its final regular committee meeting of the year, the Concept Plan Committee will feature as guest speaker Neal Richman PhD, from the UCLA School of Public Affairs, Department of Urban Planning.



**CONCEPT
PLAN
COMMITTEE**

Date: Wednesday, Nov. 12
Time: 7 PM - 9 PM
Where: Santa Monica College
Bundy Campus Rm 123
.....
Guest speaker: Neal Richman, PhD
UCLA School of Public Affairs,
Department of Urban Planning

From his UCLA profile page: "Currently, as the associate director of UCLA Advanced Policy Institute, he has been exploring the use of new information and communication technologies to support grassroots community development activities."

Dr. Richman holds a PhD in Development and Planning, University of Aalborg (Denmark) and presently serves as Director, Center for Neighborhood Knowledge at UCLA.

Sharon Commins
Concept Plan Committee Chair

CERT Volunteers Needed

Interested in helping your community during an emergency? Become a member of the Community Emergency Response Team in your neighborhood. Its easy to do - go to www.cert-la.com to learn more.

Upcoming trainings - 1st of 7 sessions

Oct. 14, 1-3:30 PM

Westside Childrens Center
12120 Wagner St., Culver City

Oct. 14, 7-9:30 PM

Del Rey HOA, Del Rey Middle School Room 56
12500 Braddock Dr., Los Angeles

Oct. 15, 6:30-9:30 PM

Mar Vista Family Center, Main Rm East Bldg
5070 Slauson Ave., Culver City (Spanish)

Oct. 16, 6:30-9:30 PM

UCLA Northwest Campus Auditorium,
200 De Neve Dr.

Oct. 16, 7-10 PM

CCCHA Cheviot Hills Park
2551 Motor Ave.

Preparedness checklist

- Create or revisit your family disaster plan
- Organize or refresh your emergency supply kits
- Do a "hazard hunt" for items that might fall and secure them
- Check your homes structure, ie. gas lines, water tank strap, foundation, windows
- other steps are at www.dare-toprepare.org

MAR VISTA GREEN COMMITTEE

Date: Second Sunday of every month

Time: 9:30 AM

Where: MVCC Booth at Mar Vista Farmers' Market, corner of Venice & Grand View



Go?Green Tip: Reuse those plastic produce b

Many of us bring reusable bags when we go to the market, but then fill them with individual produce selections - each in a separate plastic bag! When you unpack your produce, put that plastic bag right back in your reusable tote. Now it's conveniently located, ready to be re-used at the Farmers Market or the grocery store. Perfect for potatoes, toma-

toes, peaches, apples, etc. You'll find you are easily able to reuse them 5 or 10 times.

With this simple gesture, you will make a huge impact. Become part of the solution and reduce the pollution. Next time you are at the Farmers market, notice how many new plastic bags are handed out and think about the impact we could make.