

## North Westdale Neighborhood Association

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

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



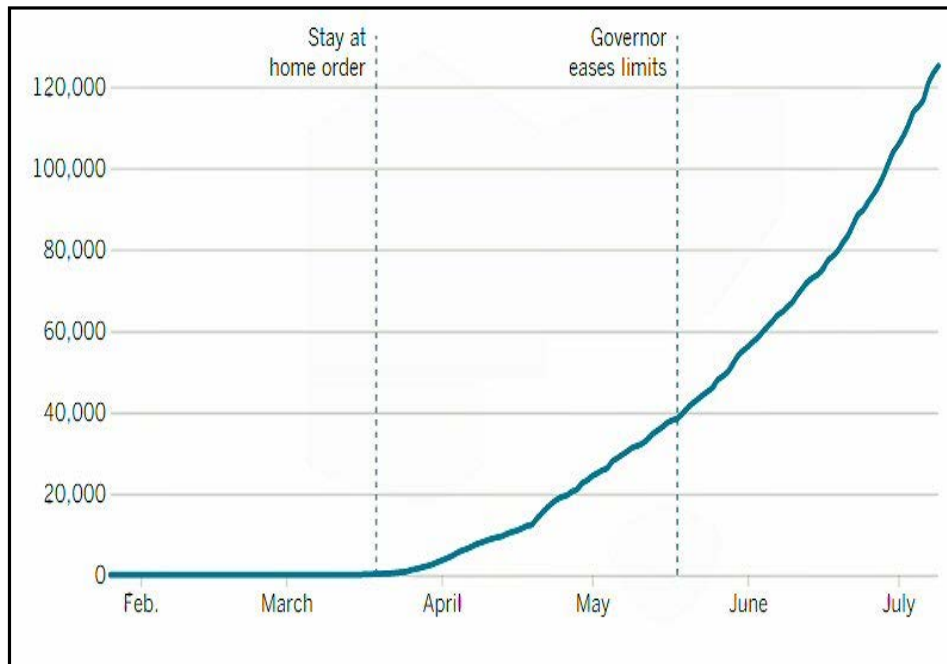
North Westdale

<https://groups.io/g/NWNA>

## Tracking the Coronavirus in Los Angeles County

Updated July 10, 2020 - by Los Angeles Times Staff

<https://www.latimes.com/projects/california-coronavirus-cases-tracking-outbreak/#california-map>



## Mapping the Cases

The county has provided case totals for 336 cities, neighborhoods and unincorporated areas.

Mar Vista	154
West L. A.	251
Del Rey	160
Venice	117
Palms	331
Westwood	156
Culver City	237
Santa Monica	469

The above Los Angeles Times graph uses data from the L. A. County Department of Public Health with new cases and deaths updated each day. As we send this newsletter off to press, the graphs do capture a thumbnail shot of where we are in this time period in Los Angeles and Los Angeles County, and it is not a good picture at all. After approximately six months fighting this COVID-19 battle, the numbers should not be going up. This war is hampered by those conscientious objectors who want out and continue not wearing facial coverings, not washing their hands enough, not physically distancing themselves from others, and even insisting on throwing home gatherings with non-household members as well as going to crowded areas. They apparently feel that they want to have fun and it is their right. However, we don't want to lose this war. Everyone's actions will affect how and when it will end. We all have rights, and in this moment in time, our right to stay healthy and protect ourselves and our neighbors is the best and most heroic action to take. Please continue to wear facial coverings, and if you haven't before, start now. We all have to take COVID-19 seriously. Graphs don't lie. Our actions will determine how the data will look in the future.

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# DRONES BIG BROTHER AND YOU

by Joan Winters and Martin Rubin



Yes, we are all aware of our privacy, or lack of it. But do you know that drones are being used as part of real estate commercial enterprises here in North Westdale? Of course, as those of you who scan the real estate sections know, you would probably notice their use in more rural areas such as the outskirts of Malibu, and residential properties with quite a bit of square footage in very wealthy areas. We understand that some would say, well, your privacy is gone, but some would hold on to the thought that we can still control some of our privacy. Most people do not want to be photographed while in the privacy of their own house or backyard, especially if sunbathing, etc. Don't we have a right to be comfortable and relax on our own property? Recently, while relaxing in our patio, we heard a pretty loud noise and looked up to see a drone hovering and zipping around somewhat like a dragon fly and directly over us. It would dart around to another area, finally straightening out and flying directly over our backyard at a distance fluctuating from approximately 30 feet to an alarmingly seven or eight feet as it maneuvered to land outside our six-foot privacy wall by the photographer's car trunk. I immediately went out my backyard gate and mentioned to him, along with Martin, that what we observed was really not cool. He seemed surprised and asked us in what way was it not cool? It feels like we are in the Twilight Zone, that we are on another planet nowadays, in another reality. We tried to mention that the drone with the camera hovering overhead in our backyard, as well as many neighbors, was trespassing. There was no written permission from us giving him the right to trespass over our property to photograph the property they were selling - a commercial venture. When asked what would be done with the photos he just took, he said he wouldn't use any images of our property. I asked him how could we know that, and he gave me no answer. We told him drones are prohibited by the Federal Aviation Agency (FAA), for obvious safety reasons, within a five-mile radius of an airport. If you are new to this area, you should know that Santa Monica Airport (SMO) is about one mile away. Our drone photographer casually mentioned that he had a permit to fly the drone. When he saw that we were upset, he apologized. We felt this was a good time to check into the FAA's current postings on their website to verify our limited knowledge about drones. After all, we both are the longtime founders of Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution (CRAAP) as well as officers of the North Westdale Neighborhood Association, and we need to know! You need to know!

Bing or Google the following for more details.

**FAA Part 107** rules include: Must not operate within Class B, C, D, airport airspace and must not fly over people.

*Compensation* is one thing that kicks you out of the hobbyist category altogether and almost exclusively into Part 107. More generally, anything that takes the purpose of your flight from fun or hobby to "a job" could put you into Part 107 even if there is no direct compensation.

**California Civil Code 1708.8.**

(a) An individual is fully liable for any physical invasion of privacy if/when they knowingly enter owned land or airspace that is above another individual without permission or permit and has committed a trespass for the purpose of capturing any type of sound recording, physical impression, or visual image of another engaging in family, personal, or private activity and deemed offensive to the plaintiff.



## 13 NEW Neighborhood Watch Signs Provided By: the Mar Vista Community Council (MVCC)



18"x24" Engineering Grade  
Reflective Neighborhood  
Watch Street Signs  
Provided by the Mar Vista  
Community Council



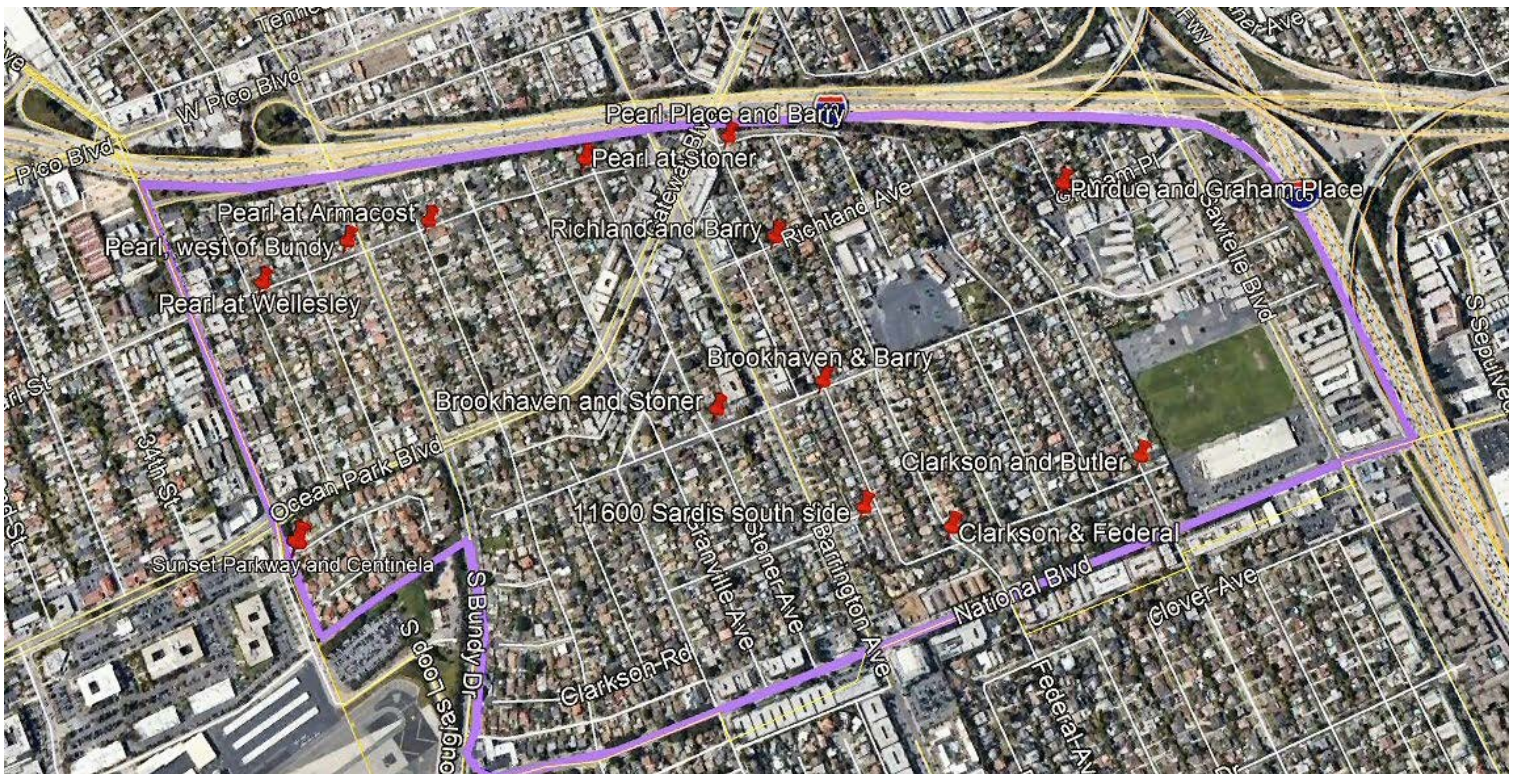
*Photo by Andrew Parke*

We all should give a big thank you to our Zone 2 MVCC Director and NWN President, Martin Rubin, for his proactive efforts to install these signs that have been in storage for about a year.

Zone 2 is the first MVCC zone of 6 to install them.

This was not a simple project. It took days to accomplish, and distances to travel. Our good longtime neighbor Giancarlo was gracious enough to accept Martin's request to assist, which covered key locations in our zone (see map), from Sawtelle Blvd., near Daniel Webster Middle School, to Sunset Parkway, just off of Ocean Park Blvd. and next to SMO. Some areas had extensive neighborhood watch signs already.

Thank you to Giancarlo and Martin. Your hard work, persistence, and dedication is greatly appreciated.



Map of Zone 2 compiled by MVCC Zone 2 Director Martin Rubin



## All Day-All Night-All Month Celebration of America's Independence Day

Here in our community the enormous amounts of illegal non-professional fireworks displays over July 4th posed a public danger and a sense of terror in many residents who weren't interested in seeing or setting off fireworks. Also compounding this situation is the fact that this residential neighborhood is densely populated and California is in "our fire season." No doubt you noticed the fireworks being set off in our public streets meant for vehicles. It made it very difficult and dangerous for drivers to maneuver around them. Some actually had to stop to protect themselves. Also noticeable was the fireworks smoke visible from neighbors' backyards. Many of these yards have tall palm trees, banana trees, and dry brush which are incendiary around sparks. If you look around where you shot off your firecrackers, you might notice that your or your immediate neighbors' roof, might be in need of replacement, with plenty of bare space for a few sparks to settle and ignite a fire. So this is pretty reckless and thoughtless. If you think about it, our animals and our wildlife had no place to go or were able to understand what was going on in their world. And of course, it was very traumatic for residents as well, who obviously did see what was going on. Over that weekend, according to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), our air quality was HAZARDOUS with high levels of particulate matter (2.5) but this time the pollution appeared to be more concentrated and lingered for even longer.

*Fireworks get their beautiful, vibrant colors from metals, and now researchers at New York University's Grossman School of Medicine have found that fireworks sold to consumers can release toxic metals into the air. "I was surprised there were such high levels," said lead study author Dr. Terry Gordon. "We found high levels of lead in one of the 12 samples. Another common metal we found was copper at high levels. We also found strontium, barium and titanium and aluminum." Researchers also analyzed air quality samples taken over 14 years and found toxic metal levels were higher around the Fourth of July and New Year's Eve, popular times for fireworks. "Nobody considers the metals and the particles that we're going to breathe," Gordon said. "And the consumer fireworks are mostly for young children. One should not assume that these are safe just because a manufacturer sells them."*

This must have been very noticeable and problematic for people who suffer breathing problems, such as asthma and bronchitis. Some elderly neighbors spoke of trouble breathing, sore throats, and irritated eyes because of the chemical-smoke drifting into their homes. They were forced to close their windows and suffer the heat on a hot night.

Neighbors observed some groups who, with their young children, were celebrating and not all were wearing masks. People defied the law and the law let them go off in their own direction in a sometime-observed hysterical mass with no thought to the public's health and safety; no thought to igniting a tree fire, or to dry shrubbery, or to a home. The enormous amount of fireworks set off in every direction was an example of a type of ANARCHY (a state in which there is widespread wrongdoing and disregard for rules and authority) with no consideration to those people (and their pets) who were not able to feel comfortable in their own homes. There was absolutely no thought for those who are elderly and living alone, or for those who are sick and suffering through an incurable illness; no consideration for those who need their quiet space and the right to have breathable air coming into their homes, but instead got the stench of selfishly set off fireworks wafting into their living quarters. This is no way to celebrate freedom, by having fun at other people's expense. It is highly selfish and inconsiderate, and it's illegal. It appears to be the case that when laws are not enforced, the problem will only grow even worse. It's a recipe for disaster. Home ownership pride appears to be pushed aside by some, who are transitory and could move out at the end of the month if they wanted, and who don't try to be the least little bit considerate of neighbors who have invested many years and energy in this community. Let's not let our neighborhood change in negative ways.

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



### Dear Neighbors,

Thank you MVCC for providing the Neighborhood Watch signs and to my neighbor Giancarlo for his help putting them up. It was great working together.

**Congratulations to the Primo's on their 64th anniversary of Primo's Donuts.** Stop by for a free buttermilk mini-bar, Saturday, August 1, 9am to noon.

On July 4<sup>th</sup> I spoke with Fire Chief Hogan about all the illegal fireworks being set off with impunity, and he mentioned there was a lack of resources. We need to ask our CA State legislators to write and pass statewide laws prohibiting the selling of these fireworks for reasons mentioned on page 5. Without enforcement, we will have complete chaos.

Regarding COVID-19: Take it seriously! We are all responsible for protecting ourselves and each other. Wear masks, practice safe physical distance and do frequent, careful hand washing. We all have to fight this war, and accept that in this time period, it is a war, and we have to win. We are capable of it, but we have to take this seriously.

*Thank you!*

Martin Rubin - [martinrubin@earthlink.net](mailto:martinrubin@earthlink.net) - (310) 479.2529

**Neighbors, especially new neighbors:**

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

*(Crime data was not available this month.)*

## NWNA OFFICERS

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

**Virginia Ernst, Vice President - Joan Winters, Secretary - Matthew Roethle, Treasurer**

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

## Calendar

***MVCC meetings are now happening via Zoom***

***more MVCC information on how to join in at: [marvista.org](http://marvista.org)***

***August, 2020 NWNA Newsletter Submission Deadline: July 23, 2020***

***[martinrubin@Earthlink.net](mailto:martinrubin@Earthlink.net) - (310) 479-2529***

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*Martin Rubin - Director  
310.479.2529  
[martinrubin@earthlink.net](mailto:martinrubin@earthlink.net)*

**CONGRATULATIONS and THANK YOU**  
to the Primo's for 64 years of sweet service to North Westdale!

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It's our 63rd Anniversary!



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March 1st, 2020

**Escrows Dropping Like Flies!**  
April 1st, 2020

**Demand is Back!**  
May 1st, 2020 - June 15, 2020

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