

# North Westdale News

www.NorthWestdale.com

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JANUARY 2006

## For Auld Lang Syne



With 2005 wrapped up, let's take a moment to reflect on the past year and recognize some of our neighborhood's accomplishments . . .

### Great Job

- Homer Worf, the 19 beautiful new trees on Brookhaven will provide us shade for years to come!
- Tony Sanelli, the neighborhood garage sale was a mega-success!
- Marty Rubin, the Town Hall with Bill Rosendahl on Nov 10th, really let citizens affected by Santa Monica Airport air traffic be heard!

### Congrats Richland Avenue Elementary School

- For improving student test scores once again!
- On the grand opening of your won-

derful new library!

- For being a recipient of the Anne & Kirk Douglas Playground Award. New play equipment/structures for both the kindergarten and main yards coming soon!

### Thank You

- To Andrew Parke, for all the work on the website! Get the very latest North Westdale news at [www.NorthWestdale.com](http://www.NorthWestdale.com)!
- To Dee Dee Irwin, for putting together so many newsletters (it's an honor to pick up your torch)!
- To Amy Levy, for taking meeting notes!
- To Cecile Benson and Beth Salmon, for leading the school subcommittee!
- To all neighborhood block captains!

## Up For Discussion: Bylaws Committee Presents Proposed Changes

Over the past several months, a volunteer committee has been reviewing the North Westdale Neighborhood Association (NWN) bylaws.

Based on their extensive review, the committee has formulated a number of proposed changes for the bylaws in order to bring it up-to-date.

One of the major changes up for discussion will be

a proposal to change the boundaries of NWN to include unrepresented neighborhoods, such as those across Barrington Avenue.

You can review the proposed new bylaws by visiting the North Westdale website at [northwestdale.com](http://northwestdale.com). A copy of the current bylaws is also available on the website. Please send your comments to Pete Castro at

[pete@petecastro.com](mailto:pete@petecastro.com).

If you do not have internet access, but would like to request a copy of the proposed bylaws for review, call Victoria Sanelli at (310) 694-0228.

All neighborly input is welcome!



## SAVE THE DATE!

Upcoming North Westdale Neighborhood Meetings:

February 13th

March 13th

April 10th

Second Monday of the Month

7:00pm

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church on Federal & Clarkson

Find out what's going on in the neighborhood. Hear what's happening with schools, airport issues, the Mar Vista Community Council, neighborhood events, crime statistics and more.

## Preparing For Emergencies: Learn More at Feb 13 Meeting

Join us on Monday, February 13, 2006 at the North Westdale Neighborhood meeting to help determine the future of NWN's Emergency Preparedness & Emergency Response Program.

It's time to revitalize our North Westdale Emergency Response Program. Now that it's clear that we can't rely on government to respond in a meaningful way following a large disaster, it's more important than ever for us to be able to take care of ourselves and each other

*Join the North Westdale  
Emergency Response Program!  
Contact Stacy at (310) 478-3371  
for more info.*

during and following disasters and other emergencies.

Think of how long it takes to get a 911 response — now think of how that system will function if large parts of the City are in need of help all at the same time. We each need to be prepared.

The first (and most important step) is for each household to have an adequate supply of fresh drinking water and food on hand for each occupant (including pets) for a

minimum of one week. Add to that first aid supplies, extra medication, and functioning flashlights and batteries.

The LA Fire Department offers free Emergency Response training. See [www.cert-la.com](http://www.cert-la.com) for more information and schedules. Also, inexpensive first aid and CPR classes are available nearby.

For more information about NWN's Community Emergency Response Program, contact Stacy at (310) 478-3371.

We hope to see you on Monday, February 13. Your participation is very important for successful community preparedness.

## Richland Avenue Elementary Wants You! Share The Wonder of Reading

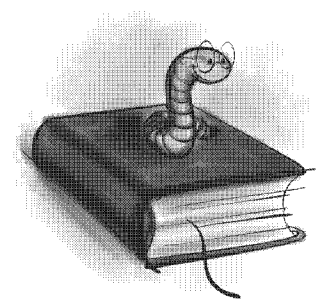
Have you been looking for an opportunity to make a real difference? If you have just one hour a week, you can become a Wonder of Reading "Reading Partner" at Richland Avenue Elementary School and become a force for positive change in the life of a child.

It's easy! Reading Partners read one-on-one with a student who is struggling with reading. You will read together for one hour a week (or every other week) during school

hours for the entire school year. Some Reading Partners read with the same student for several years, making a tremendous impact on the child's life.

The Wonder of Reading program has been funding new libraries and training volunteers around the L.A. School District since 2002 and is now at Richland Avenue Elementary. To learn more about the program or to volunteer, contact Ann Tell of Richland Avenue Elemen-

tary at (310) 729-7759 or visit the Wonder of Reading website at [WonderOfReading.org](http://WonderOfReading.org).



### ATTENTION BLOCK CAPTAINS!

**Block Captains' Meeting**  
Monday, January 30th at 7:00p.m.  
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church (National & Federal)

**If you'd like to volunteer or learn more about being a block captain, contact Pete Castro at [pete@petecastro.com](mailto:pete@petecastro.com) or (310) 442-6209**

### UPCOMING NEIGHBORHOOD MEET & GREET!

**Saturday, March 25th**  
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church (National & Federal)

**A great chance to socialize with your fellow North Westdalers and enjoy some light refreshment. More details to come!**



# COMMUNITY ALERT

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WEST LOS ANGELES AREA CRIME ANALYSIS DETAIL



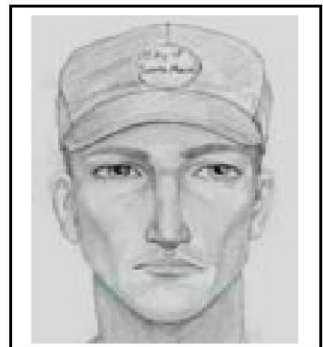
## ***BURGLARY*** ***DISTRACTION THIEVES TARGETING THE ELDERLY***

TEAMS OF DISTRACTION THIEVES HAVE RECENTLY BEEN VERY ACTIVE IN THE WLA AREA. THESE TEAMS INCLUDE MEN, WOMEN, AND SOMETIMES CHILDREN, IN VARIOUS COMBINATIONS. THESE GROUPS WILL APPROACH ELDERLY PEOPLE IN THEIR HOMES. THEY USE BOGUS EXCUSES TO GET INTO THE HOUSE, DISTRACT THE RESIDENTS AND TAKE MONEY AND JEWELRY.

**PLEASE BECOME AWARE OF THE FOLLOWING SCENARIOS USED BY THE THIEVES TO GAIN ACCESS TO HOMES IN YOUR AREA. IF YOU ARE APPROACHED BY INDIVIDUALS TRYING TO GAIN ENTRY TO YOUR HOME, OR REQUESTING YOU TO EXIT YOUR RESIDENCE FOR SUSPICIOUS REASONS, REFUSE TO COOPERATE, AND CALL THE POLICE.**

- #1. THE TEAM WILL CLAIM THAT THEY ARE LOOKING FOR THEIR CAT THAT "MAY BE IN YOUR BACKYARD". THEY WILL ASK YOU TO HELP THEM LOOK FOR THEIR CAT. WHEN YOU ARE OUTSIDE, A SECOND PERSON WILL ENTER THE HOUSE AND TAKE MONEY OR JEWELRY.
- #2. THE TEAM WILL TELL YOU THAT THEY WORK FOR A UTILITY COMPANY (DWP OR GAS COMPANY). THEY WILL INDICATE THAT THERE IS A PROBLEM IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD THAT NEEDS REPAIR. YOU MAY BE ASKED TO ASSIST THEM. WHILE YOU ARE HELPING THEM, A SECOND TEAM MEMBER WILL ENTER YOUR HOME WITH THE INTENT TO BURGLARIZE.
- #3. THE TEAM WILL APPROACH YOU AND CLAIM THEY ARE A CURRENT OR FORMER NEIGHBOR. THEY WILL ASK TO BE INVITED INTO YOUR HOME. ONCE INSIDE, THEY WILL DISTRACT YOU BY ASKING FOR A GLASS OF WATER. WHILE YOU ARE OUT OF THE ROOM, A TEAM MEMBER WILL RANSACK THE HOME LOOKING FOR MONEY AND JEWELRY.
- #4. THE TEAM WILL APPROACH YOU AND CLAIM TO HAVE COMPLETED HOME REPAIRS (YOU DID NOT CONTRACT FOR) OR THEY WILL OFFER TO DO HOME REPAIRS SUCH AS ROOFING, FENCE REPAIR, OR TREE TRIMMING. THEY MAY ASK YOU TO STEP OUTSIDE TO DISCUSS WORK THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE (THEY MAY ASK FOR CASH UP FRONT). IN THIS WAY, THEY WILL DISTRACT YOU IN ORDER TO SEARCH YOUR HOME FOR MONEY OR JEWELRY.
- #5. THE TEAM WILL APPROACH YOU AND CLAIM TO BE CAL TRANS WORKERS OR OTHERWISE CLAIM TO HAVE REASONS TO TRIM THE BRUSH IN YOUR REAR YARD.

### **POSSIBLE SUSPECTS IN YOUR AREA**



IF YOU ARE APPROACHED BY ANYONE OFFERING ANY OF THE ABOVE SCENARIOS, PLEASE CALL 911 AND REFER TO THIS BULLETIN TO HAVE A POLICE UNIT DISPATCHED. ALL SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE WLA BURGLARY UNIT DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS AT (310) 444-1580. FOR DETAILED BURGLARY PREVENTION HANDOUTS, PLEASE LOG ON TO [WWW.LAPDONLINE.ORG](http://WWW.LAPDONLINE.ORG).

*The North Westdale  
Neighborhood Association  
(NWN) strives to improve  
our neighborhood with ac-  
tivities ranging from crime  
watch to neighborhood  
beautification to local school  
support.*

*Meetings are held the second  
Monday of the month (except  
in summer) at St. Andrew's  
Lutheran Church on National  
& Federal. All neighbors are  
welcome to attend.*

**We're on the web!**

**[www.NorthWestdale.com](http://www.NorthWestdale.com)**

**Sign up to get email  
announcements by signing  
our online guestbook or  
email the webmaster.**

North Westdale Neighborhood Association

President	Pete Castro
1st Vice President	Sigita Blum
2nd Vice President	Jim Donaldson
Secretary	Amy Levy
Webmaster	Andrew Parke
Newsletter Editor	Victoria Sanelli

If you have questions or would like to volunteer and get more involved with the neighborhood association, contact Pete Castro at (310) 422-6170.

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

## Annual Dues Reminder

The North Westdale Neighborhood Association collects dues in order to defray operating costs. Currently, operating expenses are about \$1,000 per year. Expenses include the cost of printing newsletters, a post office box, server space for the North Westdale web-site ([www.NorthWestdale.com](http://www.NorthWestdale.com)) and miscellaneous expenses.

If you haven't already, you can give your donation to your block captain, bring it to an association meeting in person, or send it to the North Westdale Neighborhood Association at P.O. Box 642522, Los Angeles, CA 90064.



## Police Report

Crime Statistics for November 23 through December 20, 2005:

Aggravated Assaults (0)  
Burglary/Theft from vehicle (12)  
Robbery (3)  
Burglary-Residential/Business (8)  
Grand Theft Auto (5)  
Homocide (0)  
Sex (0)

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During this rating period Basic Car 14A25 (Mar Vista District) has experience an increase in Burglary (Residential/Business). The suspects committed their crimes at various times throughout the day. In the majority of the burglaries (Residential) the suspects gained entry via rear sliding glass win-

dows. If you have a home alarm system, arm and activate it anytime you are away from home. Place a rod or stick in the tracks of your sliding glass windows for extra protection. Install sensor lights around your property, burglary suspects detest lights for fear of being seen committing their crimes. Join your local Neighborhood Watch Group it is still the best tool we have against crime.

### Safety Tip:

Attempt to park in well-lit areas with high pedestrian traffic. Avoid parking your vehicle in unattended parking lots. A vehicle is five times more likely to be broken into or stolen from an unattended lot than from the street or attended lot.

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To report suspicious activity, contact:  
Senior Lead Officer, Craig White at (310) 622-3973.

Basic Car Coordinator Sergeant Pom-

## Represent!

### Fill a Seat on the Mar Vista Community Council

The Mar Vista Community Council (MVCC) will be holding Candidate Information Sessions at the following dates and locations:

Monday, January 23 at 6:00 p.m.  
St. Bede's Church  
3590 Grand View Boulevard  
Mar Vista, CA 90066

Thursday, February 2 at 7:00 p.m.  
Mar Vista Branch Library

12006 Venice Boulevard  
Mar Vista, CA 90066

Wednesday, February 8 at 6:30 p.m.  
Mar Vista Elementary School  
3330 Granville Boulevard  
Mar Vista, CA 90066

Learn more about the MVCC and its mission to motivate city hall to improve the Mar Vista area at their website: [marvistacc.org](http://marvistacc.org)