



The Mount Washington Association

Serving the Mount Washington community since 1955.

July 2004

www.mtwashington.org

Inclusionary Housing and the NIMBY Factor

Ann Walnum

"Meet the Neighbors: Habitat Tackles NIMBY Fears" is the theme of the June/July 2004 issue of Habitat World, a publication of Habitat for Humanity.

"With house prices across the United States soaring, more people are finding it difficult to secure suitable housing, including teachers, police officers, firefighters and others who play vital roles in society." Twenty-four percent of our population – 65 million people – suffer severe housing problems or homelessness. Three-fourths of extremely low income households spend more than 50% of their incomes for housing.

"In 1999 the national two-bedroom Housing Wage was \$11.08. (The Housing Wage is the hourly wage a full-time worker must earn in order to afford a two-bedroom unit at the area's Fair Market Rent, paying no more than 30 percent of his or her income.)" In 2004 that figure was \$15.21, 37% higher. In California it was \$20, almost four times the minimum wage. In Illinois a minimum wage worker would have to work 123 hours per week to afford housing.

Habitat for Humanity helps communities develop affordable housing. The need is profound, but sometimes there is resistance. There shouldn't be. Habitat homes are designed to blend into existing neighborhoods and often exceed the value of surrounding homes because they are newer and are built to careful standards. Studies have shown that "affordable housing has an insignificant or positive effect on property values in higher-value neighborhoods and is likely to improve property values in lower-value neighborhoods."

Certainly concerns over traffic, noise, and road damage are reasonable, provided they don't mask deeper, silent fears about lower income families. Habitat for Humanity policies ensure pride in home ownership and responsibility. There is careful selection of home owners, who must provide sweat equity and pay affordable mortgages.

For further information, see www.habitat.org. Also, please see the related article on page 4.



President's Message

Natalie Seaman

As the days grow longer and we move out of June gloom, I just keep humming "hot fun in the summertime" and thinking about all the activities available here in our corner of Los Angeles! There is so much to see and do

in Mount Washington or within a small radius of our hill. Traffic is not getting better and local entertainment is – so I encourage everyone to support local events.

Here are a few of the activities that I found in a recent week by watching the postings on several local electronic bulletin boards and chat rooms (see the box on page 4 for Web links), and also the local postings on the physical bulletin board at Mt. Washington School.

The SouthWest Museum has a new exhibit and sale opening in July that features the paintings of contemporary Shoshone-Tataviam artist Stan Natchez. His works, which reveal the interface of his two cultures – American society and that of his family, his tribe and his ancestors – are on view through September.

The SW Museum also has a new mural by local artist Daniel Cervantes that is being dedicated in July. The mural vividly depicts the native cultures of the Americas, past and present. It is worth a hike to Marmion Way in front of the Museum to check it out.

Flor y Canto, a local venue, shows politically challenging movies every Friday night. Everyone is welcome to come, bring a potluck dish and check out a flick. The night I stopped by, about 40 folks gathered round and watched "The Fog of War", a look back at historically significant events of our lifetime through the eyes of Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara.

The Audubon Center, just across the freeway at Debs Park, has "drop-in" programs for kids scheduled every Sunday in July; each program focuses on a different aspect of nature. If you are more free-form, you can take a hike any day with equipment (butterfly nets, color book guides, back-packs, etc.) provided at the nature center.

And tennis lessons are being provided at the Glassell Park Community Center, which is one hill over from Mount Washington. What's more, the pool at the center is open and is now on its summer schedule.

For one week of watching – not bad!

And as if this were not enough, I want to remind everyone that Grand Performances are back again at the California Plaza in Downtown Los Angeles. Multicultural music and dance programs with performers from all over the world are free! The website has performance information and times – check out these marvelous events put together by Mount Washington resident Michael Alexander.

Finally, of course, there is the Mount Washington Association's Summer Fun Ice Cream Social. This year our Summer Fun Meeting will be held on Sunday, July 18, in the Southwest Museum patio.

General Membership Meeting
Sunday, July 18, 2004, 2:00 PM
Southwest Museum
234 Museum Drive
Our 2004 Summer Fun Meeting
Details on page 3.

So I encourage all of you to continue to focus on the volunteerism and activism – but take some time for fun!

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A New High School for Mount Washington Kids

Pat Griffith

At the June 8 presentation by the Facilities Services Division of the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), Fernando Chavarria from Community Outreach announced that Parcel F at Taylor Yard has been selected as the preferred site for the new LAUSD high school to serve Northeast Los Angeles.

This site was chosen for a variety of reasons:

- It will relieve overcrowding at the two existing high schools, Franklin and Eagle Rock, allowing them to stay on or return to a traditional school year.
- No homes or businesses need to be displaced at this site. This reduces the cost of building a new campus.
- This was the first site chosen which had active and ongoing support from the community.
- Environmental testing has indicated that all but a small portion of the 23 available acres are clean and usable for a high school.

The vote of approval for this preferred site will take place at the Board of Education meeting on July 27.

The detailed configuration of the campus is still to be determined, and this is a good time for the community to submit suggestions for facilities to be placed at the campus. Proposition K and Proposition R funds will allow for a school to serve between 1000 and 2000 students, configured as a Small Learning Community.

The final boundaries of the catchment area for this school will be determined approximately six months prior to the school's opening day in the fall of 2010. However, the school definitely will serve our Mt. Washington children, who presently attend overcrowded, year-round Franklin High School.

An unrelated LAUSD News Item

Full-day kindergarten is beginning in 173 elementary schools throughout Los Angeles. Unfortunately Mount Washington Elementary school was not selected to begin this beneficial program this year.

ASNC Developing Spending Plans

Rob Schraff

As the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council (ASNC) has begun to operate, it has become clear to many that spending the money made available by the city for local community projects in a responsible and balanced way has become one of our most important functions. Of course, community outreach to develop consensus, lobbying appropriate government agencies and elected officials, and providing a forum where many voices can be heard on the issues that affect our communities also remain critical objectives. But our ability to financially aid local projects and programs is a tremendous opportunity for the board to support individuals and groups who are making a real impact.

For instance, the board recently allocated \$5,000 for tree planting and maintenance by Northeast Trees. An ad-hoc committee chaired by Jerry Schneider has been created to make sure this program is administered effectively and responsibly. (I'm sure Jerry will publicize any upcoming meetings of this committee, and of course your input is not only welcome but essential.) In our last meeting, we allocated \$5,000 to sponsor the Monterey Hills Jazz Festival, a cultural event that brings tremendous enjoyment to many in our communities (as well as bringing in many visitors.) The ASNC has also created an Arts committee that will promote and organize arts events and will be discussing funding for these efforts in upcoming meetings – a great opportunity for those interested in the arts to show support and, perhaps even more importantly, get involved!

The board has also provided modest funding support for community-based organizations to do outreach, and is considering a community barbeque in late September to foster the emerging sense that we all live in the larger community of the Arroyo Seco.

The bottom line? Up to \$62, 500, much of it as yet unallocated, will be spent by the ASNC by next June on outreach and local community projects. Now is the time to come to meetings and have your voice be heard as these spending plans are developed.

Please visit www.asnc.us for up-to-date information on meetings of both the ASNC Board and the Mount Washington Local Issues Committee.

July Summer Fun Meeting

Maria Gray

Join us on 2 PM on Sunday, July 18th, at the beautiful Southwest Museum for Summer Fun, Ice Cream Sundaes, and some "local culture".

As you drive around Mount Washington, do you notice artists painting in your part of the neighborhood? Have you always meant to stop and look at their work, but never had the time? Well, now is your chance to see Mount Washington through our local artist's eyes. Our neighborhood painting group will be exhibiting some of their recent masterpieces and will be on hand to discuss them.

As an added bonus, the Southwest Museum will be hosting tours for all attendees of the Summer Fun Meeting throughout the afternoon. Whether you're a regular to the museum or visiting for the first time, the tour will be sure to provide some new and fascinating information about this premier Native American collection.

All of this as well as some great ice cream sundaes adds up to the perfect way to spend a summer afternoon. Look forward to seeing you there.

Draft Minutes of the May General Membership Meeting

Ed Raspa

The Mount Washington Association met on May 17, 2004 at the Carlin G. Smith Recreation Center located at 511 West Avenue 46 in Los Angeles, California.

Since a quorum was present, President Natalie Seaman called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

President Seaman reported that Director Bob Walters had resigned for personal reasons; to complete the remainder of his term, the Executive Committee recommends former Membership VP Julie Nagesh.

Motion (Gray): **That the membership ratify the Executive Committee's recommendation that Julie Nagesh complete the remainder of Director Bob Walters's term.** Motion passed by voice vote.

Those present approved the minutes of the March 2004 membership meeting without correction.

President Seaman introduced Erica Flores representing the Center for Law in the Public Interest, a non-profit law firm interested in the fair distribution of public resources (parks, school, and transportation) to all city residents. Ms. Flores briefly recounted past victories (Cornfields

and Taylor Yards) and described the Center's interest in reviving the Olmstead Plan for northeast Los Angeles.

President Seaman then presented First District Council member and longtime Mount Washington resident Ed Reyes. Council member Reyes, who chairs the Council's Planning and Land Use Management committee as well as the Ad Hoc River committee, spoke about the effort to inventory and identify existing land uses in the Northeast as well as the effort to secure funding for preservation of the Los Angeles River watershed. A brief question and answer period followed his presentation.

President Seaman then introduced James Rojas, representing the Northeast Los Angeles Open Space Coalition, a group dedicated to identifying and protecting existing open space in Northeast Los Angeles. The Coalition meets weekly at the Audubon Center in Debs Park.

Land Use chair Liz Herron announced that Common Ground, a proactive land use subcommittee, would hold its next meeting on June 11th at President Seaman's house.

Communications chair Eliot Sekuler, one of Mount Washington's representatives on the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council (ASNC), reminded the members that the Mount Washington Local Issues committee of the ASNC meets on the second Wednesday of each month at the Carlin G. Smith Recreation Center. He reported that the ASNC Board opposes the development of Red Hawk Canyon

Motion (Griffith): **That the Mount Washington Association opposes the current development in Red Hawk Canyon due to environmental concerns.** Motion passed by voice vote.

Communications chair Sekuler continued his report, touching on the preservation of the Seaview Trail, development of alternative routes for the DASH line, deficiencies in the City's Early Notification System, and creation of a special assessment district for lighting on Marmion Way.

Public Safety chair Cheri Uno announced that the LAPD Basic Car meeting would take place on June 10th at the LAPD Police Museum. She also reminded the membership that Police Appreciation Day is June 23rd and that residents should display blue ribbons on their property. Ms. Uno reported on the completion of the Olancha mural and suggested that the work be commemorated.

Motion (Uno): **That the Mount Washington Association places a plaque adjacent to the Olancha mural that commemorates the participation of the Neighborhood Matching Funds program, the Roth Family Trust, the artist, and the Mount Washington Association.** Motion passed by voice vote.

Director Ann Walnum asked the membership to write letters of support for the creation of a state park at Ascot Park. She also announced that the next meeting of the Southwest Museum would take place on May 27th at the Police Museum.

Since there was no new business, President Seaman adjourned the meeting without objection at 9:10 PM.

The Los Angeles Challenge – Working on Affordable Housing

Natalie Seaman

It seems that in just a few short years the cost of housing in Los Angeles has moved beyond the reach of middle class folks, not to mention working class or lower income families. To realize how quickly this change has occurred, ask yourself – could I afford to buy my house at today's prices? How many in Mount Washington today can say yes?

The challenge of finding or creating housing for the workforce of this

city should be an important concern to all of us as the city population continues to expand. Quality of life for much of the workforce that supports the city has deteriorated as people either spend hours each day driving to distant suburbs or live in less than optimal conditions in existing housing in the city.

The problem of affordable housing is not simple, but Los Angeles is moving forward to find solutions. A community forum was sponsored last month by several local neighborhood councils and community organizations (including the Mount Washington Association) to discuss one proposed answer: an Inclusionary Zone ordinance.

Inclusionary Zones are used to encourage the provision of affordable housing in new housing construction. The ordinance being considered by the Los Angeles City Council is a land use regulation that requires a minimum percentage of low and moderate income housing in all new developments. Council Members Eric Garcetti and Ed Reyes sponsored the Inclusionary Zone proposal before the Los Angeles City Council; Antonio Villariagosa seconded the motion.

Both Eric and Ed made educational presentations at the forum. As with all issues, it is important that concerned members of the community get involved and provide feedback on the details. For example, many at the forum expressed concern that the ordinance would affect property that was zoned R-1. This was not the intent of the proposed ordinance, and the feedback from the community is now resulting in removal from the document of all reference to R-1 issues.

So your input is important!

At the May 12, 2004, joint session of the PLUM and HCED Committees, the committees agreed to allow for an additional 90 days to obtain input on the proposed inclusionary zoning policy from the public, including Neighborhood Councils, the development community, housing advocates, and other city stakeholders.

During this period (ending date to be determined), the committees request that constructive com-

Some Useful Internet Links

Mt. Washington Association: www.mtwashington.org

Glassell Park Improvement Association: www.gpia.org

Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council: www.asnc.us

Other Local Neighborhood Councils:

Highland Park NC: www.historichighlandpark.org

Glassell Park NC: www.gparknc.com

Daily Email update on events and news: groups.yahoo.com/group/ASNCAAlert/

To receive emails, please send an email to:

ASNCAAlert-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Other discussion forums:

NortheastLA: groups.yahoo.com/group/NortheastLA

NELAlist: groups.yahoo.com/group/Nelalist

Friends of the Southwest Museum: groups.yahoo.com/group/swmcoalition

Rob Mendel's community calendar: mendel.locations.org/community/calendar/

North East Trees: www.northeasttrees.org

Southwest Museum: www.southwestmuseum.org

Arroyo Arts Collective: www.arroyoartscollective.org

Friends of the LA River: www.folar.org

Highland Park Historic Trust: www.hpht.org

Audubon Center at Debs Park: www.audubon-ca.org/debs_park.htm

ments on the proposal be submitted to:

Office of the City Clerk

Attention: Barbara Greaves, Legislative Assistant

City Hall

200 N. Spring Street, Room 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012

The Ordinance will next be heard at:

East Los Angeles Area Planning Commission
Wednesday, July 14, 2004
Ramona Hall Community Center
4580 North Figueroa Street
Los Angeles 90065

To learn more about the housing crisis in Los Angeles and the possible solutions, contact the following sources:

City Council offices at:

<http://www.lacity.org/council.htm>

City Housing Department at:

<http://www.lacity.org/lahd/>

<http://www.lacity.org/lahd/inclzone.htm>

Membership Report

Pat Griffith

As of July 1 we have 387 memberships (representing approximately 581 members); 287 of these memberships are paid for the year 2004. Eighty-four of these paid memberships are at the supporting level and above; the Board offers special thanks for those members who have given extra financial support to the Association.

We have added twenty-four new memberships (approximately 38 members) to the membership rolls since November 1st. Don't forget to tell your neighbors about the Association!

The membership committee needs volunteers for its various activities. If you're interested in stuffing newsletters, contacting current and/or potential members, or working on other outreach activities, please contact me. I hope to hear from you soon.

Public Safety Report

Cheri Uno

Northeast Crime Report, from Capt. Morris "Mo" Smith

We have had 14 homicides so far this year; last year there had only been 6 homicides by this date. Robbery is down 28.7% and has been going down for 3 years. Total violent crime is down 15.3% this year. Burglary and Grand Theft Auto (GTA) are down 12.7% and 13.6%. Burglary theft from auto (BTFA) is still going up, though.

Here is what you can do to help prevent these crimes:

- Do not leave **anything** in your car.
- Equip your car with an alarm **and** use a Club.
- A kill switch is also helpful to prevent auto theft.
- Keep your car in your locked garage at night.

If you have a high risk car (Toyotas and Hondas are the most frequent targets) or one that needs extra protection from theft, call the LAPD Northeast Community Relations Office at (213) 485-2548. They have Clubs for sale now for \$10, a great deal for our community.

Free Gun Locks

If you own a gun which is not protected with a gun lock, you can get a free gun lock from the LAPD Northeast Community Relations Office.

Fires The fire season is here again. Please clear your lots as soon as possible. If there are any lots in the vicinity of your home that are not cleared, please report them to the LAFD or call 311 to report. Let's keep Mt. Washington safe from fires.

Graffiti – report it but don't paint it out In several of my articles I have urged everyone to not paint out graffiti but instead to report it to the CRO office at (213) 485-2548, or dial 311. Why not just paint it out yourself? A few weeks ago, a worker whose job it is to paint out graffiti was shot in Boyle Heights!

Please do report graffiti so that it will be painted out

MOUNT WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____ Phone _____

Email _____ Fax _____

Please check one: New membership Renew membership

Please circle Membership Category and Contribution Level below:

Basic:	Single \$15	Family/Couple \$25	Senior \$12	Associate \$15
Supporting:	\$35			
Business/Professional:	\$50			
Benefactor:	\$100			
Patron:	\$250			

All renewals due at start of calendar year.
Your cancelled check is your receipt. Please make check payable to :
MOUNT WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION

Your name and address shall be kept confidential and shall not be given to other organizations.

- *Membership (Single, Family or Senior) is open to adults who either reside or own property on Mount Washington. Membership includes the right to vote and hold office.*
- *Associate membership is open to any adult who resides outside of the Mount Washington community. Associate members may not vote or hold office.*

ASAP. It can be very dangerous to paint out graffiti yourself, as this incident proves.

Neighborhood Watch Neighborhood Watch Programs are very effective against crime. If you are interested in a Neighborhood Watch meeting, please contact Public Safety Chair at (323) 222-0410 or ctuno@pacbell.net.

New Senior Lead Officers (SLOs) Recently Officer Ray Rangel and Officer Robert 'Red' Falconer switched areas. We now have Officer Falconer at (213) 793-0758 covering the western portion of Mount Washington. Officer Cooper, at (213) 793-0761, covers the Northeast section of Mount Washington – east of San Rafael, Moon and Crane. We will all greatly miss Officer Rangel who has been here for many, many years. I will invite Officer Falconer to one of our meetings so that he can get to know our community and we can get to know him. He is relatively new to being a SLO and is very energetic. I'm sure you all will find him very responsive and informative.

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS CAR? – Update As of our last newsletter the Northeast Station was looking for an early 90's black Thunderbird with black tinted windows. The driver of this car was recently arrested in San Bernardino

County where there was a warrant out for his arrest. Both Hollenbeck and Northeast had been looking for this person in regard to several robberies in the Mount Washington and Montecito heights areas.

July 29, 2004 is the date for the next BLEND Awards Luncheon, at the Women's Club on Colorado Blvd. BLEND is the booster club for the Northeast Division of LAPD. BLEND members raise money to buy things for our officers and the station to help make their work easier, things that would take years to get through procurement procedures. They also furnished a playroom for children who end up at the station. Also, they have furnished a conference room in the station where the officers can meet in comfort around a table with chairs. This is just to mention a few of their great efforts. Anyone can become a member for as little as \$25 per year. Contact me at (323) 222-0410 or ctuno@pacbell.net if you are interested.

August 3, 2004 will be National Night Out, from 6 PM to 9 PM at the LAPD Historical Museum, 6045 York Blvd. Come out to make a statement against crime. This is a great way to learn more about how to prevent crime in your community and protect yourself. Contact Officer Rita Vallejo at (213) 485-2548 for further information.

Coming up...

- | | |
|----------|--|
| July 14 | Next <i>reading of proposed Inclusionary Zone Ordinance</i> . Ramona Hall. |
| July 14 | Next meeting of ASNC's <i>Mount Washington Local Issues Committee</i> . 7 PM at Carlin G. Smith. |
| July 18 | Mount Washington Association <i>Summer Fun Meeting</i> . 2 PM at Southwest Museum. |
| July 26 | Next meeting of the <i>Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council</i> . 7 PM at Ramona Hall. |
| July 29 | <i>BLEND Awards Luncheon</i> . Women's Club on Colorado Blvd. |
| August 3 | <i>National Night Out</i> against crime. 6 PM at LAPD Historical Museum, 6045 York Blvd. |