



# The Mount Washington Association

Serving the Mount Washington community since 1955.

September 2005

[www.mtwashington.org](http://www.mtwashington.org)

## Southwest Museum Mediation

*Nicole Possert*

A city-sponsored mediation process between our Coalition and the Autry management is now under way.

A delegation representing the Friends of the Southwest Museum Coalition met with the Autry National Center's chief executive and legal counsel at City Hall on Thursday, August 25, in a session arranged by Council District 14 caretaker Lisa Sarno.

The Coalition was represented by Coalition chair Nicole Possert, Dan Wright, Carol Jacques, Eliot Sekuler, and our legal counsel, Susan Brandt-Hawley.

In addition to Lisa Sarno, city representatives included Jimmy Blackman, the Mayor's deputy chief of staff, as well as Council District 14's Monica Garcia and Michael Cathey.

Gary De La Rosa of the Department of Human Relations acted as meeting facilitator.

Since the rules of settlement conferences dictate that all discussions held during the course of the conference be completely off the record, we've been strongly admonished not to divulge specifics regarding the discussion.

We can say, though, that the city took a very clear position regarding the importance of the Southwest Museum to CD14, to the City, and to our mayor. All of us felt that the tone of the meeting was positive.

Although we all wish these issues could be quickly resolved to our satisfaction, we have agreed to abide by the City's appeal to our continued patience: we've been asked to allow the Autry to complete a draft plan before taking further "negative" actions.

We are to be briefed by the city in approximately 30 days regarding the status of the Autry planning process.

In turn, we will continue to brief Coalition supporters as the process goes forward.

**MEANWHILE, OUR PETITIONERS HAVE COLLECTED 3,784 SIGNATURES! MORE NEEDED!**

Our petition process continues. With special thanks to Ann Walnum, Chris Howard, Daniel Munoz, Connie and Adrian Saxe and so many others from throughout the community who have distributed petitions, at this point the Coalition has collected some 3,784 signatures!

Keep 'em coming..... Our website is:

[www.friendsofthesouthwestmuseum.com](http://www.friendsofthesouthwestmuseum.com)

Or call Ann Walnum for blank petition forms to take to work, family, neighbors. If each Mount Washington Association member household collected just 10 signatures, we would match what's been collected already. Let's do that!



## President's Message

*Natalie Seaman*

Well, I would have to say that our lovely neighborhood of Mount Washington is definitely on the radar in the City of Los Angeles, now that our neighbor is mayor!

Congratulations, Antonio, and thanks for stopping by the Mount Washington Association Ice Cream Social right after your election. It was nice to know that we still have access and will still have our chance to bend your ear on our issues.

We have many opportunities in this neighborhood to meet the elected folks that make

decisions at the local, state and national levels. If you go to community meetings on a regular basis, you will have plenty of chances to see your representatives in action and hear where they stand and what their concerns and areas of focus are. We often get to chat one-on-one with Eric Garcetti, Ed Reyes, Antonio, Jackie Goldberg or Xavier Becerra at area events. We have great access and can provide input and influence decisions.

We have another election coming up in November, and I urge each of you to go to the Meet and Greets, the debates, the rallies – get involved and figure out who you want to support. Politicians especially want to hear from you when they are up for office, so go meet them and let them know how you feel about the Southwest Museum, the Interim Control Ordinance, etc.

We have two key spots open – Council District 14, vacated by Antonio, and Assembly District 44, where Jackie Goldberg is termed out. Go talk with the folks who are running. You can make a difference. I once heard Councilmember Ed Reyes (Council District 1) say that 15,000 votes can get a person elected in his district. That is good odds if you want to have an effect.

See you all at the polls (and at the MWA meeting).

### General Membership Meeting

Monday, September 19, 2005, 7:30 PM

Carlin G. Smith Recreation Center

511 W. Avenue 46

### **November Ballot Initiatives – Get Informed**

Kevin de Leon, candidate for California State Assembly District 45, has been in the thick of things in Sacramento as a member of the California Teacher's Association, working against the Governor's package of "Reform" initiatives. Come and get the background details on the Propositions and learn how they might affect you.

As always, refreshments will be served. We look forward to seeing you there.

# Call For Candidates for the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council

Pat Griffith

## Officers

### President

Natalie Seaman (223-0996)

### 1<sup>st</sup> VP (Action)

Ann Walnum (222-8327)

### 2<sup>nd</sup> VP (Programs)

Maria Gray (225-4256)

### 3<sup>rd</sup> VP (Membership)

Pat Griffith (225-8330)

### 4<sup>th</sup> VP (Hospitality)

Grayson Cook (227-8899)

### Treasurer

Susan Phifer (222-2424)

### Historian

Pat Samson (223-4895)

### Past president

Carol Jacques (225-0501)

## Directors

David Brunk (223-1533)

Paul Girard (221-7822)

Lynette Kampe (221-1782)

Michelle Lewis (258-6874)

Nancy Lilly (225-7597)

Julie Nagesh (223-1144)

Hank Schaeffer (221-9695)

Rob Schraff (254-4207)

Laurie Trachtman

## Committee Chairs

### Advertising

David Brunk (223-1533)

### Child Care, PTA Liaison

Cheri Hanamoto

### Communications

Eliot Sekuler (344-9955)

### Emerald Necklace

Carol Jacques (225-0501)

### Finance

Michelle Lewis (258-6874)

### Gold Line

Larry Hoffman (221-5277)

### Land Use

Liz Herron (225-5711)

### Public Safety

Cheri Uno (222-0410)

### Public Service

Rob Schraff (254-4207)

Webmistress: Donnette Thayer  
(877-581-0833)

Newsletter edited by Scott  
Burleigh (225-4546)

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The annual Board election for our own Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council is fast approaching. The last date to file to be listed as a Board candidate on the preprinted ballot is September 29, 2005. (You may still declare yourself a Write-In Candidate up until November 27.)

You can learn more about the process at a Candidate's Workshop. There are two workshops coming up: one on September 25 at 6:30 PM at Fellowship Hall (5722 North Monterey Road) and a second one on September 27 at 7:00 PM at Ramona Hall (4580 North Figueroa).

At either workshop you will be briefed on election requirements and procedures, expectations, responsibilities, and your obligations if elected. And of course this information is also available on the ASNC website:

[www.asnc.us](http://www.asnc.us)

Two of Mount Washington's four regional representative seats will be up for election, as will all seven At-Large representative seats:

- Retail, wholesale and services
- Faith-based organizations

- Education and youth
- Recreation, culture and the arts
- Environment
- Community non-profits
- Health care and seniors

But, of course, even if you do not wish to run for a Board position, your vote as a Stakeholder is important. The Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council serves all of Mount Washington and, in coalition with Montecito Heights, Sycamore Grove, Monterey Hills, and Hermon, works with the City on issues that are of importance to our stakeholders. Over this past year, our Neighborhood Council has provided funding for – and taken positions on – land use, beautification, community picnics and art festivals, support for our Southwest Museum, and Mount Washington's own elementary school. We have worked in coalition with our neighboring Northeast Los Angeles neighborhood councils and on the Oversight committee of the LA DWP. And the ASNC has a strong and active Mount Washington Local Issues committee that focuses specifically on Mount Washington issues.

Forms for either Candidate or Stakeholder registration are available on the website, and they also should have arrived at your household in the mail by now. If you have already registered, you do not need to register again. The date of the election is November 28, and ballots will be mailed to all Stakeholders who have registered by October 31.

## Marmion Way Clean-Up

Ann Walnum

Friends of Southwest Museum staged its first clean-up on Saturday, August 27, from 8:30 to 10:00 AM. Same task, same crew under a new banner: David Brunk, Lynnette Kampe, Marie Leong, and Ann Walnum. Welcome new crew: Pam Hannah and Marilyn Kim of the Southwest Museum staff, Jonnie Summers of Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council, and Rosamaria Marquez of Rock Rose Gallery. Four days later (press time), there were only 14 pieces of trash in the cleaned-up area. Next clean-up soon.

We met at the Daniel Cervantes mural, in which we are minor stakeholders through the Mount Washington Association's contribution of a permanent protective coating for the mural.

## Public Safety

Cheri Uno

### Think Disaster Prevention – Get Prepared Now

Have you checked your disaster supplies lately? These should be updated every 6 months to refresh food, water, and medication supplies. An earthquake gives no warning – you will not have time to prepare and evacuate. Do you have disaster supplies? Do you know what you need? Do you know what to do or where to go if there is a large earthquake and you have to vacate

your home? Do you have a fire extinguisher, and do you know what to do with it? What do you do if your family is separated – do you have a plan?

Have you taken the Community Emergency Response Team Training, CERT, offered by the Los Angeles Fire Department? If not, please contact Public Safety Chair – I can get you information about upcoming classes.

### Northeast Crime Report

Crime is down overall but homicides are up. The Part 1 Crimes (homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assaults, burglary, GTA, BTFA, personal theft) are down by 6.8% from this time last year despite some recent gang-related homicides. Property Crimes are down by 3% but there is still a problem with Grand Theft Auto and Burglary and Theft From Vehicles (BTFV). Eagle Rock's shopping areas in particular have been hit hard recently by BTFVs. To help keep these crimes under control:

- Lock Your Car.
- Do not leave valuables and car phones visible.
- Do not rely on your trunk to secure valuable items.
- Park in well-lighted areas.
- Check vehicle exterior regularly.
- Remove old registration tags before putting on a new tag, and make small cuts in the registration tab to make it difficult to remove.
- Drive safely and defensively with your seatbelt on!
- Report any suspicious activity to Northeast Police Station 213.485.2563 or 877.ASK.LAPD.

To get all the crime stats, go to [www.lapdonline.org](http://www.lapdonline.org) and click on the "community police" area. You can then go to your neighborhood – Mount Washington – to get all the crime stats and other LAPD information regarding your area.

### New Community Relations Sergeant

Sergeant Arthur Reyna is now the supervisor for the Community Relations Office (CRO) for the Northeast Station. Sergeant Reyna has been at the Northeast before and is familiar with all our communities. He will be doing a great job overseeing the Senior Lead Officers, NE Community Events, and C-PAB. We all welcome his input for all our projects.

We were sorry to see Sergeant Sandy Rosenberg leave – but he didn't leave the Northeast Station. Sgt. Rosenberg is now working directly for Capt. Morris Smith.

### Fire, Fire, Fire - Think About Prevention!

All the rain we had last winter made the fire danger greater for this fall. Report anyone burning in their yards; if you suspect a fire, report it – dial 911. The sooner a fire is reported the better chance of saving the homes – don't think someone else will do it.

Also, let's get 100% clearance of vacant property. Call the fire department if you have a lot in your area that has not been cleared. If you don't know who to call, call 311; they can direct you to any city services needing attention.

### Changes to Neighborhood Watch Signage

Los Angeles City, Department of Transportation, has changed some of the guidelines for Neighborhood Watch Signs. The new requirements can be found at [www.LAPDonline.org](http://www.LAPDonline.org) or [www.lacity.org](http://www.lacity.org). If you have any questions, please contact me, Mount Washington Association Public Safety Chair.

### Neighborhood Watch Works – Get Involved

For Mount Washington residents on the Nob Hill/Terrace 49 area covered by Senior Lead Officer Galindo, there is a standing Neighborhood Watch meeting on the third Thursday of each month; it's held at Council District 14's Eagle Rock Field Office from 6 to 7PM. Please phone ahead to make sure they are meeting – (323) 254-5295.

Highland Park also has a standing Neighborhood Watch Meeting on the second Thursday of each month at the LAPD Historical Museum on York. Crime and quality of life issues in Highland Park affect us in Mount Washington, so get involved. Communication with your neighbors is the best way to prevent crime.

## Nominating Committee

The nominating committee to select the officers for the Mount Washington Association for calendar year 2006 includes the following folks:

- Maria Gray
- Carol Jacques
- Eliot Sekuler
- Florencia Teran
- Larry Solomon

If you have any idea of who might want to serve on the board, please let these folks know.

## T-Shirts

Local filmmaker and resident Patty Newton has created some beautiful T-shirts that capture the essence of Mount Washington. She is selling them as a fundraiser for her upcoming projects, one of which is a documentary about Mount Washington. There are three distinct designs, each available in two colors. Small to XXL are \$25.00. For details, call 323/342-0171 or send email to: [mtwashingtonshirts@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mtwashingtonshirts@sbcglobal.net).

## Support for Southwest Museum

*Ann Walnum*

Local archaeologist Mari Pritchard Parker added 100 signatures to our Retain Southwest Museum petition at the recent P.E.C.O.S. archaeology convention in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Mari stationed herself, clipboard in

hand, at the head of the cafeteria line. Part of her message was:

“Please sign this partition and spread the word! The public IS interested in the public siting in its entirety and the legacy of the collection as part of the treasure. These items should be not be viewed just as objects, but the humanity of the behaviors they represent as sacred and social icons.”

One way we can all support our Museum is simply to visit it, to help counter the sense that attendance at the Museum is low. Here are some fun events that are coming up soon:

Children’s Storytimes will be held from 11:30 AM to noon on two Sundays, September 4 and October 2.

There will be a Family Storytime at Sycamore Grove Park on Saturday, September 17, from 1 to 4 PM.

An exhibit on “First People’s Art of the Northwest Coast” will be in the Lower Lobby from September 2 through January 2. A reception and sale associated with this art will be held on the weekend of October 1-2.

And on Thursday, October 20, from 6 to 7:30 PM, there will be a behind-the-scenes tour that is open to all Museum members. Find out what’s been happening in the emptied lower galleries. Climb the steps of the Caracol Tower. Learn how the conservation work is proceeding. Reservations required: please call (323) 667-2000, extension 375.

## Interim Control Ordinance in Mount Washington

Pat Griffith

The City Planning and Land Use Management committee is currently considering draft language proposed by Councilmember Reyes and then-Councilmember Villaraigosa that would create an Interim Control Ordinance (ICO) for some ridgeline and hillside areas in Mount Washington, Glassell Park, Montecito Heights, and El Sereno. Testimony from many interested citizens regarding this proposed Ordinance was heard on September 6, and revisions to the draft are expected shortly.

The Ordinance would temporarily regulate building in these areas. It comprises measures similar to those of the Mount Washington/Glassell Park Specific Plan (which would remain in place), extending those measures to areas not covered by that Plan. Within Mount Washington and Glassell Park, the ICO would regulate grading and would mandate native tree protection in the included areas. In the other included areas – in Montecito Heights and El Sereno – the ICO would regulate subdivision density and maximum floor area ratios.

The Interim Control Ordinance would remain in effect for between 12 and 24 months. During this time, a more general permanent solution would be developed to address over-building in the included hillsides, and plans

### 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.*

could be put forward to preserve the open space that is so characteristic of our community.

The ICO is not a moratorium on building in these areas. It is not permanent, and does not involve eminent domain. It would not affect development that is already under way subject to City Planning Department procedures. It is the start of a very public process to address quality and safety in land use in Northeast Los Angeles.

The ICO would cover two areas of Mount Washington. The first includes the open hillside south of Avenue 37, the properties along Cliff Drive down to Future Street, and the open space surrounding Mount Washington Drive and connecting across the southeastern end of Avenue 37 to Glenalbyn, Beech and James Street. Excluded are Vista Glorioso Drive, all the developed properties along Isabel, Randall Court, and much of Killarney.

The second area starts on the eastern side with:

- the Southwest Museum
- all the hillside areas east of Crane down towards Highland Park, including Cross Avenue
- the canyons from Glenalbyn to Crane, beginning approximately north of Carlin G. Smith Recreation Center
- the areas surrounding San Rafael from the school to Moon Avenue
- the areas surrounding the fire road Seaview Drive, including Red Hawk Canyon
- and an additional portion of the western side of San Rafael.

Excluded are the properties south of the fire road Seaview Avenue.

Maps of the included areas can be found on the bottom of Council District 14's website at:

<http://www.lacity.org/council/cd14/>

## A September Tradition

*Ann Walnum*

The annual Mount Washington School Back-to-School Breakfast will be held on the morning of Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> of September. Watch the school fence for details.

The Mount Washington Association will present a gift of needed classroom equipment at this event. We'll also be launching a Membership Drive and a Toy Share Drive. Does someone's toy chest need selective re-education? Call us to pick up any toys you may have to share – (323) 222-8327.

## Focus on Local Architecture

*Ann Walnum*

Highland Park Heritage Trust will conduct a special home tour on Saturday, October 22, from 10 AM to 4 PM, to accompany the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy National Convention activities. The theme:

“Arroyo Seco Heritage and Innovation”. We'll focus on particular architects, especially James De Long, a pupil of Frank Lloyd Wright, who built and remodeled many Mount Washington homes. Advance tickets are available at Galco's (at York Boulevard and Avenue 57) for \$20. Call Ann Walnum for information.

## Green On Green

*Lynnette Kampe*

How do you add native plants to a non-native garden?

The two main approaches are a bold renovation versus a gradual infiltration. In the long run you may save money by converting all at once to locally adapted plants that require a minimum of additional resources. Locally adapted natives require a minimum of supplemental water to get through the summer without looking parched. And they just look silly if they're clipped into a ball or a rectangular hedge. So enjoy the wildness and put the hedge clippers away. An additional benefit of a bold renovation is that a consistent garden design becomes possible.

If you are not ready for a major change but want to link your garden to the natural heritage of this area, you may decide to feature natives in just one or two spots or drop a native in wherever there is an opening. It's good to have a vision of where you're going with your garden and introduce new plants accordingly. Native plants from redwood forests of California would be resource-intensive to maintain here. So by “native” I mean indigenous to this area, and adapted to the historic conditions of your yard – without the sprinkler!

The rule of the “green thumb” is to group plants by their water needs and liking for shade or sun – this information is found on nursery tags – so go visit a native plant nursery and see what catches your eye. Rub a leaf and notice what pleases your nose as well!

It can be an enjoyable field trip to visit a native plant nursery, and better garden centers will have a native plant section. The Theodore Payne Foundation in Sunland has a wonderful nursery where you can actually buy endangered plant species that are being propagated and preserved. (I find this amazing, and have just joined their Board of Directors, so I'm obviously biased.)

My own garden is a mish-mash of mostly drought-tolerant survivors. I have a beautiful mature Southern California Black Walnut, with a surprisingly drought adapted Hawaiian fantasy below it. I wouldn't plant the palms and Giant Bird of Paradise again, but it's hard for me to take out plants that are doing well. Maybe this winter I will move a few and limit my folly to a smaller area.

## Arroyo Corridor

*Louis Quirarte*

Is there anything so dear as finding reason to hope after all hope is lost? For those in the know, there has been very good reason to feel dread of late and to agonize over the future of North East Los Angeles, what with so many community leaders staying home at supreme

moments such as ArroyoFest and ignoring the bevy of Master Plans that even just a few years ago offered to transfigure the Arroyo. But fear no more. The reason for real hope is that the first meeting of the absolutely crucial Arroyo Seco Corridor Advisory Committee is about to be held, thanks to Nicole Possert.

Unlike so many other local dreams, this one has funding built-in. Ten percent of all Federal transportation funding must go for “transportation enhancements” under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Enhancement Act (ISTEA). We qualify for it in competition with only a few other locales in California. The Arroyo has already been well prepared by CalTrans in the form of the omniscient Dr. Diane Kane and friends, who were responsible for designating it a National Engineering Monument (1997), a State Historic Byway (2000) and a National Historic Byway (2003). So with a bit of effort (and in seven to ten years) our Arroyo plans should mature into a series of transformative “transportation enhancements” limited only by our collective imagination and will.

Here’s the hitch as I see it. We’ll have to (1) inform ourselves of the process, (2) believe in ourselves as we produce a series of projects that fall within ISTEA purview and can be approved by Congress, and (3) prioritize these projects and stay together on this long enough to see them through.

We all have pet projects, e.g., dearest to my heart (as a Montecito Heights resident) is the construction of the Arroyo Interpretive Center (described in the Arroyo Seco Landscape Master Plan, 2000) along the Homer Street

entry to Heritage Square. But Lynette Kampe’s Rainbow Canyon would equally qualify, as would existing venues up and down the Arroyo such as the Lummis Home, the Southwest Museum, and Heritage Square. With so much to do, which of so many wonderful things do we want to have first? Deciding will be phase one of our salvation.

In aid of our efforts, Caltrans just adopted a new icon for the 110 – which I designed. It should soon augment all Parkway signage. I’m also delighted to announce that a poster and t-shirt will be available to Advisory Committee members. Based on the response of those who have seen it you’ll want one too. I’m very proud of the design and it would let me die a happy man if I knew that it had encouraged my community to finally address infrastructure issues in a meaningful and coherent manner and that all of it will be paid for by Fort Knox.

Here’s where you come in. This is because the Arroyo Parkway and its viewshed can only be granted funding if we the people (not CalTrans) ask for it. So let’s get it done.

The Arroyo has long been our holy stream. Now the Parkway named for it has been endowed with the power to transfigure all that is called up in its name; building the first truly self-sustaining and self supporting communities in the nation will be that easy and that hard. I wish we could be there when it’s done. I know my heart will be.

– Louis Quirarte

*Cogito ergo Spud.* (I think therefore I yam.)

### Coming up...

- September 11 *Native Plant Propagation* at the Red Barn in Elyria Canyon. Please lend a hand and help preserve some of our local treasures. Contact Lynette Kampe (221-1782) for details.
- September 17 *Pancake Breakfast* at Mount Washington School.
- September 19 *MWA general membership meeting* in Carlin G. Smith Recreation Center at 7:30 PM.
- September 25 *ASNC Candidates’ Workshop* at 6:30 PM at Fellowship Hall (5722 North Monterey Road).
- September 27 *ASNC Candidates’ Workshop* at 7:00 PM at Ramona Hall (4580 North Figueroa).
- September 29 Deadline for being listed as a 2006 ASNC Board candidate on the preprinted ballot.
- October 1-2 *Eagle Rock Music Festival*. Live music along Colorado Boulevard and Eagle Rock Boulevard on Saturday evening, with free shuttle buses. Concerts at Eagle Rock Cultural Center (2825 Colorado Boulevard, just west of Eagle Rock Boulevard) on Sunday.
- November 5-6 *Intertribal Marketplace* at Southwest Museum.
- November 20 13<sup>th</sup> Annual *Arroyo Arts Collective Discovery Tour*. Visit artists’ homes and studios. 10 AM to 4 PM.