

Cheviot Hills News

Cheviot Hills Home Owners' Association

www.cheviot hills.org

Autumn 2013

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends and Neighbors,
All too quickly the holiday season is approaching and 2013 is coming to a close. This year's unusual calendar sees Thanksgiving and Hanukkah stacked up together and Christmas and New Year falling midweek. Yet even as seasons come and go, the CHHOA continues its work on behalf of our wonderful neighborhood. This year Cheviot has witnessed some changes for sure. We have started a vibrant Neighborhood Watch, kicked off our own social media site, NextdoorCheviotHillsHOA, and begun a massive update of our resident database. We also partnered with other area community groups to impact local development and infrastructure projects. Read more
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Rancho Park Driving Range Refurbishment is Underway

The long-awaited project began on October 7, 2013 and is expected to be completed by December. Project plans are in accordance with what the CHHOA requested at the May 10, 2010 Zoning Administration Variation Hearing. Your HOA worked closely with the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks Planning, Construction & Maintenance to create a more modern facility that serves both the golfing community and the residential community in which it is embedded. The range will remain its approximate size and the tee-line will remain in its current configuration. The fence height will be a maximum of 80 feet from the existing grade. New netting and lighting will be installed, and the dirt surface will be replaced by artificial turf. The tee-line will receive updating as well.

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Cheviot Hills Neighborhood Watch Has Its Eye On You!

The Cheviot Hills Neighborhood Watch program was formed and funded earlier this year by the Cheviot Hills Home Owners' Association as a response to a rash of home burglaries. Since its initiation our Neighborhood Watch outreach has successfully signed up over 60 volunteers to be block captains for the streets on which they live. At our first block captains' meeting in August we educated block captains on what suspicious kinds
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WNC Pico Beautification Effort awarded \$1.8 Grant

The Westside Neighborhood Council has announced the award of a \$1.8 million dollar MTA grant to the WNC's Pico Beautification Plan. The street improvement project funded by the grant will be implemented along the 1.7 mile stretch of Pico Boulevard from Patricia Avenue west to the I-405. Pico Beautification chair, Lisa Morocco, has shepherded the grant application through a competitive field of applicants three separate times, each year gathering more momentum and support from local politicians and community groups. Matching funds were a requirement of the grant so financial commitments from the CD-5 Council Office,
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in this newsletter about all of these efforts and how you can get involved.

The CHHOA board is made up of homeowners who volunteer their time to collaboratively address issues that affect the entire neighborhood. This year the Board has responded to resident concerns about community care homes; overflow parking; a new Cheviot bike path; street lights out; dying trees; cut through traffic, Overland School safety, "granny flats"; Expo traffic and construction impacts; commercial development and, of course, neighborhood security. Your \$70 annual homeowner dues support our efforts to address these issues. If you have not paid dues for 2013, please do so. You can save a stamp and \$35 with a single payment of \$100 covering 2013 dues and your 2014 dues!

Regular monthly meetings are held the first Thursday of each month in the Board Room of the **Beverly Hills Country Club, at 7:00 pm.** However, please note, we will hold our December 5, 2013 General Meeting at Vista Del Mar Child and Family Center, 3200 Motor Avenue, in the Social Hall next to the Sanctuary. This informal Holiday Open House is a good opportunity to see how the board operates during a short meeting, while sharing light holiday refreshments and desserts with your neighbors. The doors will open at 6:30 pm for refreshments and the brief meeting will start at 7:00. Please join us.

However you celebrate the holidays, the CHHOA Board of Directors wishes you joy and good health as you share the season with family and friends.

Sincerely,

Colleen Mason Heller, President

Cheviot Hills Home Owners' Association

Cheviot Hills Neighborhood... Contd. from Page 1

of activity to keep an eye out for and what to do if one sees anything suspicious. We also got a crime and security update from the two WLAPD Lead Officers in our area. Our second group meeting in November enjoyed an entertaining guest speaker, a security update, and a return visit from WLAPD Lead Officer, Mario Gonzales.

The goal of Neighborhood Watch is twofold: 1) to help our community reduce local criminal activity by educating our neighbors on what to look out for, how to react, and how to report suspicious activities to the proper authorities; and, 2) to

become more neighborly and to increase communication between Cheviot residents. As neighbors get to know each other observation increases and security increases. For instance, getting more familiar with the "regular" vehicles on your block, helping your neighbors out when they are away, and learning who your neighbors are and what their special health needs may be are important Block Captain duties. We need to know which of our neighbors are vulnerable and may need special attention during times of emergency. These things will all come in to play if and when a major emergency or disaster strikes.

Recently, LA Times columnist Steve Lopez wrote a story about our new HOA Neighborhood Watch program. Since that article we have seen our community strengthened. We have seen blocks come together with block parties, organized walks at night and just simply communicate more with each other.

With the aid of our new social networking site, NextDoorCheviotHillsHOA, we have increased our Neighborhood Watch's ability to reach and inform the members of our community about important matters. Through NextDoor we have been able to share burglary suspect descriptions and photos, updates on crimes in our area and other pertinent security information. I am pleased to inform everyone that the key members of one gang responsible for some of the recent local burglaries were arrested. I believe that it was the diligent work from our partners at LAPD, coupled with communication and perseverance from our neighborhood that helped capture these individuals.

Over the next month you will begin to notice new Neighborhood Watch street signs going up in Cheviot Hills. The application submitted back in early July was finally approved and we are now in the process of having 17 new Neighborhood Watch signs installed at all the different ingress points into Cheviot Hills. These signs, purchased by CHHOA, will add one more deterrent to criminals by showing that we are committed to neighborhood protection and that we look out for one another. We will never be able to eradicate crime all together. But with the success of this program and the continued support from the members of our

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Overland School Celebrates 80 Years!



Overland Avenue Elementary School is an extraordinary public school which has been recognized for its dedicated teachers, administration and its broad community support. Last year, Overland celebrated its 80th Anniversary with an Alumni celebration and dedication of the newly installed Discovery Garden. This year, we have started to plan for the next 80 years and cordially invite former Overland parents, grandparents and student alumni as well as local residents to continue their support of Overland School. It is the ongoing generosity of the broader Overland community giving their time and financial support that ensures continued success at Overland.

Many of the programs our children love would disappear without the support of our entire community.

Friends of Overland (FOO) was founded by Overland parents in 1985. For nearly three decades we have brought together parents and community to support the following important programs and activities:

- Smaller classes with class-size reduction teachers in grades 3-5.
- Enrichment classes in art, music and drama.
- Science and Computer lab staff and Materials.
- A librarian, new books and library resources.
- Exciting field trips and classroom supplies.
- Teachers' aides at all grade levels.

Please contact us at online at <http://www.friendsofoverland.org/id16.html> to see how you can help Overland School maintain their 80 year tradition of excellence.

Steve Herman
CHHOA Board

Councilmember Koretz Takes Good Look at Bikes on Westwood Blvd.

In January this year the Bikes Division of LADOT published the **First Year of the First Five-Year 2010 Bicycle Plan Implementation Strategy**.

The plan included, in part, the removal of traffic lanes on Avenue of the Stars, Westwood, Sepulveda, Bundy and Centinela. In each case the proposal was to **remove** one or more vehicle lanes and/or parking lanes and replace them with bicycle lanes. What the plan did not include was any consideration of the Expo crossing on Westwood Boulevard, nor did it address any of the pending traffic growth from Expo adjacent developments like Casden Sepulveda or the Martin Expo Town Center project (24,000 additional cars projected to Bundy/Olympic location).

While you would have to search far and wide to find an LA Councilmember who favors bike infrastructure more than Paul Koretz, he immediately noticed problems with the idea of Westwood Boulevard losing traffic lanes and parking. For one thing, the Expo at-grade crossing approval at Westwood is dependent on the **addition** of one north bound traffic lane south of Pico to provide safe vehicle queuing space. And Expo is already removing dozens of parking spots near the Expo station. As a result, that portion of the bike plan was deferred immediately if not dead altogether.

That still left the stretch of Westwood from Santa Monica Blvd. to Pico to consider. Severe parking shortages already threaten many businesses along there and send cars spilling onto the residential streets. And with the existing heavy volume of buses and auto traffic, even the idea for "floating bike lanes," which would change directions to accommodate the peak period traffic, did not survive.

After communicating with all concerned parties, Councilmember Koretz announced this month that he was removing Westwood Blvd. from the Citywide Bike Plan. While this is no doubt a disappointment to bike riders, as there still is no safe, direct, unbroken N/S route from UCLA to Palms, Mar Vista, and points south, hopefully someone is burning the midnight oil to come up with a more viable alternative.

Colleen Mason Heller

WNC Pico Beautification... Contd. from Page 1

CHHOA, WNC and other community groups will push the total project closer to \$2 million. Morocco says the list of street improvements funded by the grant includes **stamped crosswalks** at intersections, **audible traffic signals**, **sidewalk repair**, **ADA curbing**, **pedestrian lighting** and a decorative **median on the north side of Overland at Pico**.

The Pico Beautification Plan is the result of a multiyear planning process which culminated in a wish list that would improve the walkability and visual appeal of Pico. The WNC hired landscape architect **Kathryn Cerra** to design the Pico plan. In addition to the infrastructure improvements, the plan incorporates **outdoor restaurant seating**, **attractive trash cans**, **bus bench upgrades**, **more trees and flowers**, and **improved streetlamps** to enhance sidewalk lighting. You can access the Pico Beautification Plan in its entirety on the WNC website and then clicking this link, [Pico Plan](#) . You can see drawings of the project and speak with Ms. Morocco, Dec. 5, at the CHHOA Holiday Open House and General Meeting, 7:00pm Vista Del Mar Social Hall, 3200 Motor Ave.

The Westside Neighborhood Council is a City chartered organization of elected volunteers that oversees community interests and interaction with our local governments. They meet the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Westside Pavilion in Community Room A behind the 3rd floor food court. All are welcome.

Colleen Mason Heller
WNC Mobility Chair

Cheviot Hills Neighborhood... Contd. from Page 2

community we can do our best to diminish the amount of crime in our area and make Cheviot Hills a less desirable target.

Please contact your block captain if you would like a Neighborhood Watch window decal. If you don't know who your block captain is, or if your block is not currently included in the program, please email me. It is our goal to have every street included. Thank you all for your continued support of the Cheviot Hills Home Owners' Association Neighborhood Watch Program. Stay strong, stay safe, stay vigilant and stay connected.

Gregg Spiegelman
CHHOA Neighborhood Watch Chair
Email: neighborhoodwatch@cheviot hills.org

Racho Park Driving Range... Contd. from Page 1

Many of you will remember that the original variance request was for a fence height of 140 feet, and we appreciate that the City listened to our concerns and moved forward with a plan that will modernize the range while respecting its neighbors and its historical charm.

The CHHOA will continue to communicate with the City's Golf Division and monitor the project as it goes forward. Details and drawings of the new Rancho Park Golf Course Driving Range are posted on the CHHOA website: <http://www.cheviot hills.org/>

Kathy Griffis
Secretary, CHHOA
CHHOA

Important 54th Assembly District Election Dec. 3

Just when you thought election season was over...is it ever? Governor Brown has called a Special Election to be held on December 3 to fill the recently vacated 54th State Assembly District seat. The newly redistricted 54th is a diverse district stretching from South Los Angeles, through Culver City, Mar Vista, West Los Angeles, Westwood and UCLA. Like most Special Elections voter turnout is expected to be small. For that reason each vote, and especially yours, becomes even more important! Voters need to be sure to check polling places as they may be different for this election, but please take the time to vote. You can find out information on the candidates from their websites: <http://christopherarmenta.com> ; www.johnjake.org; www.sebastianforassembly.org .

CHHOA Board

Please visit our website:
www.cheviot hills.org