



NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL OF WESTCHESTER/PLAYA

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SEPULVEDA BOULEVARD TO BE COMPLETED IN JULY

By John Ruhlen, President, Westchester Streetscape Improvement Association

This is the year that the construction on the Sepulveda Boulevard project will be finished!

Griffith Company started construction in September 2006 and has progressed well. Tasks yet to be completed are:

- Planting of the landscaping in all the medians and the east sides of the street in the business center
- Synchronizing the traffic signaling
- Resurfacing the streets
- Striping the new surface

The schedule for completion is July of this year.

We are already seeing improvement in the traffic flow, are able to parallel park at the curb all hours of the day, and can see the visual impact that the new street trees make in giving a sense of place to the Business Center.

The Westchester Streetscape Improvement Association (WSIA) started as a grassroots committee formed by then Councilmember Ruth Galanter when the LADOT presented their plans to reconstruct Sepulveda Boulevard into an eight-lane highway to the Westchester community. The presentation did not go over well with the approximately 800 community stakeholders who attended. A local resident, Kent Strumpel, who has an interest in making roadways more compatible with the community by calming traffic, submitted his ideas and got a standing ovation.

Councilwoman Galanter formed a committee, known as the Sepulveda Boulevard Task Force, to work with the Council office, LADOT and the Westchester community to come up with plans for Sepulveda Boulevard that would be acceptable to all parties. The budget at the time was \$5.8 million. It has become an \$11.6 million project due to labor and material increases.

The Sepulveda Boulevard Task Force became the Westchester Streetscape Improvement Association in 2003 as a 501 © 3 California Corporation.

Studio One-Eleven was hired as the design team to assist WISA in the design process. Three community design workshops were held. Approximately 135 stakeholders attended each workshop. Our City Council members provided the funding for the design team. The proposed design elements were submitted to LADOT to incorporate into the construction documents.

WSIA spearheaded the formation of the Business Improvement District. One of the services the Westchester BID provides is landscaping maintenance in the business center. The Westchester BID has been in existence for two and a half years.

In keeping with the Mayor's One Million New Trees Program, WISA has



Community Members pose in front of the "Welcome to Westchester" sign, which was dedicated in June of 2008.

worked with Greg Monfette, who is a Certified Arborist and Superintendent of the Los Angeles Department of Street Services to plant approximately 450 new trees in the Westchester community over a three-year period. This includes the new trees on Sepulveda Boulevard, as well as other major streets in the community.

Replacing broken sidewalks on the west side of Sepulveda from 80th Street to 83rd Street with a meandering sidewalk, trimming tree foliage and root systems, installing an irrigation system and planting new landscaping is another project of WISA. The 2008 earmark of \$1 million secured through our Congresswoman Maxine Waters will fund this project.

The new "Welcome to Westchester/Welcome to LAX" gateway signs on Sepulveda at the Lincoln intersection were proposed by WISA and provided by the Los Angeles World Airports. Our thanks to LAWA for funding the sign.

WISA continues to strive to improve the visual impact of the major roadways within our community. Our Board meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the CD11 Community Room located at 7166 W. Manchester Avenue in Westchester. The community is invited to attend.

CYNDI HENCH NAMED NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL PRESIDENT

In this first edition of our monthly newsletter of 2009, I would like to wish you a happy new year.

In January, I was elected by the board to serve as the President of the Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa. I am excited to serve the board and the community in this role and look forward to a productive year. As the president of your neighborhood council, I will do my best to set the tone of openness and responsiveness, as we carry out the responsibilities of the neighborhood council.

Neighborhood councils are intended to act as a conduit between the City and the community. The role of the council is to work with you, our stakeholders, to increase our influence with City lawmakers and departments to improve our community. We do our work through our committees: Airport Relations, Budget and Finance, By Laws, Communications, Education, Elections, Governmental Affairs, Membership and

Marketing, Planning and Land Use, Public Safety and Lincoln/Sepulveda Streetscape. Our committees hold open meetings, and you are always invited to participate. Non-board members are welcome to serve on these committees, as we work together to address issues that affect our community.

I have been a part of the Neighborhood Council since 2007 and have served as the Treasurer for a year. As I am a CPA, being Treasurer was a natural fit. I am the chairperson of the NCWP Public Safety committee and have enjoyed organizing the Community Emergency Response Team ("CERT") training in our area as well as organizing community events and meetings on a variety of crime prevention and safety topics. In addition to the Neighborhood Council, my community involvements include serving on the Pacific Area Community-Police Advisory Board ("C-PAB"), and as a LAPD volunteer, I help to coordinate the Pacific Area Block Captains'

efforts and have helped launch a number of new Neighborhood Watch groups.

I hope that you will take time to read our newsletters each month in the HomeTown News and ask that you share it with your friends and neighbors. We will work hard to address topics that we believe you will find interesting and informative.

I look forward to serving the community in this new role and hope to see more community involvement.

Sincerely,
Cyndi Hench



STANDING MEETING SCHEDULE

Airport Relations: 4th Thursday at 6 p.m.

LAX Soundproofing Office, 8939 S. Sepulveda Blvd.

Budget & Finance: As Needed at 5:30 p.m.

Westchester Community Room, 7166 Manchester Blvd.

Bylaws: As Needed

Visit www.ncwpdr.org for location

Communications: As Needed

Loyola Village Library, 7714 Manchester Blvd.

Education: 4th Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Westchester Community Room, 7166 Manchester Blvd.

Elections: As Needed

Westchester Community Room, 7166 Manchester Blvd.

Governmental Affairs/City Services: 3rd Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

8740 La Tijera Blvd.

Membership/Marketing: As Needed

Playa Vista Library, 6400 Playa Vista Dr.

Planning and Land Use: 2nd Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Playa Vista Library, 6400 Playa Vista Dr.

Public Safety: 4th Monday at 6:30 p.m.

8740 La Tijera Blvd.

Lincoln Streetscape: As Needed

Visit www.ncwpdr.org for location

Sepulveda Streetscape: 2nd Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Westchester Community Room, 7166 Manchester Blvd.