

Title: Cleanup Westchester	Item No. 4.7
Meeting date: 8/10/21	
Agendized by: Chip Mallek	
Contact person: Chip Mallek	Phone number: 310-702-0152
Committee Vote (if appropriate):	
Does this item have a fiscal impact on the Neighborhood Council? ___ Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Additional documents attached? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes ___ No	

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa supports the grassroots community called “Clean Up Westchester”.

**BACKGROUND:**

Under the direction of long time Westchester resident Grant Francis, a “grassroots” (trashroots) group was established to make an impact on our local Westchester retail areas. It started with only a group of 10 over the next 4 months; it has grown to a group numbering over 30 and is still growing! They started off of Sepulveda, cleaning trash from Manchester Blvd. to the Pacific Coast Highway, and then moved to Lincoln Blvd. Their plan is to recycle and continue to make Westchester a cleaner place. The group meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month.

**DISCUSSION:**

N/A

**FISCAL ANALYSIS:**

N/A

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Hometown News Article and Photo

**MOTION:**

That the Neighborhood Council:

Recognize and support this group by featuring the Hometown Article and photo on our website, FB Page and posting the dates for the remainder for 2021: 8/20/21, 9/17/21, 10/15/21, 11/19/21

Attachments:

Clean Up Westchester – Hometown News April 2021  
by Grant Francis

I moved to Westchester in 1942 to a house at 9163 Ingleport Ave, which is now part of the airport parking lot. My dad worked in aerospace and could have walked to work. My mom was very involved with the community. They were both founding members of the Kentwood Players. Since my mom was PTA president, it seemed logical that I followed in my mom's foot steps by getting involved with the community at a young age. I had several jobs as a kid, delivering news papers for the Westchester News Advertiser. I also worked at Thrifty Drug Store, Woolworths, and Sportsville. I was on the Townhouse Youth Board which sponsored dances after the Westchester High School home football games. I had a Hi-Y group and was a member of the Y's mens club. That club sold Christmas trees, and from those profits I became involved with starting the Westchester Hot Line.

In the mid sixties I got a job teaching at Venice High School and moved down the hill. I got involved with their alumni association, and the chamber of commerce, and with the Venice Heritage Foundation, a group forming a museum for Venice.

In the eighties I moved back to Westchester but found myself wearing two hats, one from Westchester and one from Venice. I became involved in Westchester neighborhood watch with Cyndi Hench, and was responsible for starting a number of new groups, and hanging their signs on many of the light poles in Westchester.

At the turn of the century I retired from teaching and became a handyman for the residents in Westchester, and started more neighborhood watch groups. With my friend Amy Frelinger, we started a fun activity called Westchester Team Challenge. Unfortunately it only lasted one year and was put on hold due to the pandemic.

During the recent pandemic I had some time to think about how I could get further involved in the community. I volunteered with the Venice Chamber of Commerce to help clean up Venice. A few months into that endeavor I thought that I could get that same program started here in my own community. I sent out some feelers to my neighbors and to NextDoor, asking for volunteers. Ten people responded telling me that it was a great idea. We set a date: Saturday March 27 for our first **Clean UP Westchester** day. Five volunteers showed up, not a bad start for the inaugural event. One of the volunteers, Paul Davis, a graphic artist, made up a flyer to get more people involved for our next **Clean UP Westchester** day. I sent that flyer out to ten influential leaders in the community and received five positive responses saying that they would love to sponsor this activity. Not bad for the first time out. One of those positive responses came from Stephanie Davis at Home Town News. I sent her the flyer on Tuesday, she called me asking some questions about the event, and two days later I picked up my copy of the Home Town News from my drive way. She had already written a story about our clean up day and it was being distributed to our neighborhood. From that article I received ten more people who wanted to get involved with our clean up project.

Our second **Clean UP Westchester** day, was scheduled on April 24, we had an amazing crowd of 35 volunteers show up. We all met in the parking lot behind Mono Poke, and started cleaning up Westchester. Here are the names of those people who showed up for our second **Clean UP Westchester** day: Jerry and Al Wilson, Eric

and Lucy Stolz, Julie Glass, Mike and Kathy Hirano, Steve and Sandi Tsukamoto, Richard Lopatto, Lisa and Gordon and Chris and Quentin Mercurio, Lori and Mathew Counihan, Sally Anderson, Pat Cronin, Lola Reynosa, Nick and Carol Baer, Emiko and Ethan Kuwata, Kathy Saenz, John Sharpe, Lorelei and Stanley and Zachary and Taylor Sun, Lucas Delfosse, Coral von Zumwalt, Calista and William and Vivian Thompson, Paul and Miko Davis, Chip Mallek, and my wife Judy Ervin-Francis.

I heard a very interesting story from Lisa Mercurio. While Chris and Lisa, and her two small boys, Quentin (6) and Gordon (3), were picking up some trash, a lady walked out of Target and saw them. The lady was very impressed by what they were doing and she told them how important it was to give back to their community. She also gave them ten dollars. Both of the boys were so excited that they wanted to go back to Target to buy a nice gift.

I would like to mention all of the sponsors that made this event possible: Gus - The Coffee Company, Erin - Westchester Pharmacy, Jennifer - Westchester Eye Center, Amy - Douglas Elliman, Karen - Book Jewel, Stephanie Younger Group, Abdi - Comparis, Stephanie - Home Town News.

Our next Clean UP Westchester day is May 22. If you want to jump aboard give Grant a call and he will give you the details: 310-216-9365.

