

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL OF WESTCHESTER / PLAYA

Working together to improve our communities!

"If you do not take an interest in the affairs of your government,
then you are doomed to live under the rule of fools."

~ Plato



Congrats to the Stars of the Neighborhood

Congratulations to the members of Westchester's Volunteer Community Patrol (VCP) team that have been named the 2026 NCWP Stars of the Neighborhood and will be honored during the annual Westchester Fourth of July Parade.

The purpose of the award is to identify and honor those unsung heroes of our community who quietly, persistently, and without fanfare, voluntarily perform good deeds that serve the needs of their neighbors and/or the community. This group certainly fits the bill!

VCP members Alison White, Cyndi Hench, Susan Buss, Stephan Baum-Harvey and others work with Los Angeles Police Department Sgt. Brian Cook to patrol local neighborhoods and serving as the eyes and ears of the community.

Driving a small black-and-white BMW i3, uniformed volunteers communicate with LAPD via radio and report everything from noise complaints to suspicious vehicles.

Born out of the community policing model that includes Neighborhood Watch, VCP became a reality when Captain Eric Eppolito arrived at Pacific Division last summer, bringing with him a model that had already succeeded elsewhere.

But before they hit the streets, volunteers go through a surprisingly rigorous training process that includes navigating a serpentine driving course, forward and backward maneuvers, and parallel parking—on both sides of the street.

They also study LAPD protocols, learn radio communication, and train with official equipment.

The role of the Volunteer Community Patrol is not enforcement, it's presence, observation, and



communication. Their work ranges from checking on incidents to relaying real-time information to officers en route so that officers know what to expect once they arrive at the scene.

At a time when LAPD is stretched as thin as ever, VCP allows volunteers to canvas neighborhoods, talk to residents, and stay at a scene long after officers are dispatched elsewhere.

The group was unanimously selected by the Neighborhood Council of Westchester Playa as this year's NCWP Stars of the Neighborhood. Congratulations to all of them, and thank you for making out community safer every day!!

Anyone interested in joining the Volunteer Community Patrol can contact Sgt. Brian Cook at 36258@LAPD.ONLINE.

Saturday Strolls Return to Westchester Triangle

This year's Saturday Stroll series kicked off May 9 with a Mother's Day themed day filled with music, dining, shopping and fun!

But if you missed it, don't worry, there are still three more Saturday Strolls scheduled for 2026:

August 15
October 10
December 5

Each Stroll runs from 4 to 7 p.m. as neighbors, families, local businesses, and community groups gather in the Triangle for this free community event series celebrating everything that makes Westchester such a special place to call home.

Each Saturday Stroll includes live music, local dining, shopping, art, games, crafts, treats, and connection for all ages as well as specially themed performers and activities to celebrate each season.

Browse local shops and vendors for thoughtful gifts, enjoy wine and dinner in the Triangle, and spend the evening surrounded by great entertainment and even better company.

With a mix of free activities, tasty treats, local flavor, and community spirit, the Stroll is all about supporting local and bringing people together. The Westchester Business Improvement District is proud to partner with Drollinger Properties and the Westchester Streetscape Improvement Association to present each Saturday Stroll.

Next Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa Board Meeting:

6:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 7, 2026

@ CD11 Community Room | 7166 W. Manchester Ave., in Westchester



www.ncwpdr.org

