



CASTLE HEIGHTS NEWS

CASTLE HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

APRIL - JUNE 2006

ALTMAN
BAGLEY
BEVERLY
BEVERLYWOOD
BEVERWIL
BURGEN
CANFIELD
CARDIFF
CASTLE HEIGHTS
CATTARAUGUS
DAVID
FLINT
GIBSON
HARGIS
KINCARDINE
KRAMERWOOD
NATIONAL
OAKHURST
OLIN
PROVON
SHELBY
VICAR
24TH
25TH

CASTLE HEIGHTS RESIDENTS JOIN FORCES TO BECOME CRIMEFIGHTERS!

We are pleased to announce the launch of our own private security patrol service! The response from residents was terrific and we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has already signed up for and supported our efforts to



improve the safety of Castle Heights! It is not too late to sign up - the more homes that participate, the more patrols we can add. All revenue collected at this point goes directly toward increasing the number of patrols, so imagine a patrol car cruising through our neighborhood 8, 10 or 12 times each day!

Of the almost 1,000 homes in the Castle Heights neighborhood, over 320 homes have already signed up for the patrol service. To those participants, APS (Alexander Protective Services) has already mailed out a Welcome Package that includes a "Client Information Form", which must be completed and returned to them ASAP. Only after receiving this form will they be able to add you to their Client Database, install your front yard stake sign, and dispatch a patrol car at your request. Not only does this form contain your emergency contact... (See **Security Patrol Service** on Page 3)

SURF'S UP!

We have arrived... on the web, that is!

We're pleased to announce that the official Castle Heights web site launched this month...our new web site address is www.castleheights.info



CASTLE HEIGHTS TREE PLANTING PROJECT TAKES ROOT

A big thank you to George Reis for volunteering to chair the tree planting project. George will follow up with the Neighborhood Matching Fund Program to see if Castle Heights still has funds available to it for tree planting. If the funds are still available, he will be forming a committee to pick out trees, location, etc. If the funds are not available, he will submit a new application. Eventually, it would be nice to have all of the streets in the neighborhood lined with trees (city approved trees that don't buckle the sidewalks). If you are interested in helping George with this tree planting/beautification project, please email him at joreis@pacbell.net or you can call Kathy Souviron at (310) 202-6020.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH UPDATE

There was a Neighborhood Watch meeting in the Castle Heights auditorium on February 15th, with LAPD **Senior Lead Officer Mario Gonzalez** giving an update on crime, both citywide and in our neighborhood. The crime trends in our neighborhood have been primarily limited to petty theft and burglaries and although they are on the rise, we are thankful that there have been no violent crimes to our knowledge. Residents who attended discussed the precautions they can take to ensure the safety of their homes and families and Officer Gonzalez even shared the methods he uses at his own home when he is away. Future



Neighborhood Watch meetings will be scheduled and we encourage all residents to attend so that you can also benefit from these programs. In addition, please remember to report all crime in our neighborhood to the LAPD at (310) 444-0701 so that additional police resources are supplied to our area...every bit helps!

The Castle Heights Neighborhood Watch Committee is currently being formed. If you would like to become actively involved in the development of a plan to make Castle Heights an even safer place to live, please consider joining this committee at its inception by contacting Tony Pethebridge at neighborhoodwatch@castleheights.info.

CULVER CITY OPENS FIRST OFF-LEASH DOG PARK

On the nose (no pun-intended), the gates of Culver City's first off-leash dog park opened at sunrise on March 4th. As a testament to what a handful of people in a neighborhood can accomplish when they set their minds to it, six residents of Culver City met in July 2001 to develop a plan for a local off-leash dog park. By September, they had a name, a P.O. box and mission, which would see them through the next 4-1/2 years of fundraising and political wrangling with various offices within the City of Culver City, the City of Los Angeles and the State of California. From tables in front of grocery stores to mailers sponsored by a local pet store, and from their annual "Boneyard Bash" to the selling of T-shirts, the Friends of the Culver City Dog Park raised over \$75,000 before they broke ground in late July 2005. After almost five years of seemingly never-ending obstacles, the sheer diligence and tenacity of this group of residents makes the opening of the Culver City Dog Park an outstanding achievement and shows a level of dedication to which we should all aspire in any project we undertake.

The Boneyard is open to the residents of neighboring communities, not just Culver City. It

is located in Culver City Park, where Duquesne dead ends into a "T". The Friends of Culver City Dog Park ask that visitors read the park's rules, which are posted at the entrance to the park and on their web site at www.culvercitydogpark.org. There are also sponsorship opportunities posted and information on how to make a donation to their operating and improvement costs...and of course, you can order one of those cool T-shirts, too!

RUMOR HAS IT...

...that **CALIFORNIA PIZZA KITCHEN** is coming to the corner of Venice Blvd. & Overland Ave. Scheduled to open in late May 2006.

...that **UGO**, an Italian Café is opening in the former location of the Pilates Studio on Main Street, near Washington Blvd...visit www.cafeugo.com for info.

...that **LONGS DRUGS**, complete with a drive-thru pharmacy, will open in the old Rite Aid location, in La Cienega Plaza (*near The Coffee Bean*).

...that a new restaurant called **TENDER GREENS** will open in the old Sagebrush Cantina location... visit www.tendergreensfoods.com for info.

SECURITY PATROL SERVICE (FROM PAGE 1)

information, but you are providing them the legal authority to enter your property and protect you. APS has already begun patrolling our neighborhood six times per day and they will soon be installing large "This Area Is Protected By APS" signs at key entry points to our neighborhood.

One of the many values of this program comes from its reciprocal nature...neighbors keeping an eye on each others' homes. If your neighbors see suspicious activity around your home, they can dispatch a patrol car on your behalf if you are not at home and you can do the same for them. Please encourage your neighbors to participate for \$5 per month. The more homes that participate in the program, the more people keeping an eye on your home and the greater number of drive-through patrols we can afford to purchase as a community. If we all work together and watch out for each other, our community will only become safer.

For those residents who do not have a security system, APS provides this service on an individual basis. In addition, if you wish to switch your existing monitoring service from another company to APS and your monitoring system is nonproprietary, APS can reprogram your keypad at no cost to you. This will provide you with immediate patrol car response if your alarm is activated. For more information about your individual alarm monitoring options, please call Vernon Rosado with APS at (310) 842-8113 ext. 15 or e-mail him at vrosado@mypatrol.com.

More information on the service APS is providing, how to join, and a schedule of the pro-rated fees for the rest of the year, please visit www.castleheights.info/patrol. For questions, please contact Kathy Souviron at (310) 202-6020 or patrol@castleheights.info.



Friends of Castle Heights Elementary are having their **Annual Spring Auction Fundraiser on May 6th** at Inner City Arts and are currently seeking donations for both their silent and live auctions. They need to raise over \$30,000 at this event, so if you have a donation item or work somewhere that might be able to provide one, please give a call to Stacy at (310) 202-0497 as soon as possible. Thank you for supporting Castle Heights Elementary!

READ ALL ABOUT IT! GET YOUR OWN PAPER ROUTE HERE!

Resident Volunteers deliver the CHNA newsletters on their designated blocks and it's actually fun to have your own "Paper Route"! In response to feedback we've gotten on the consistency and timeliness of newsletter deliveries, we'll soon be seeking commitments from our volunteers to have all newsletters delivered within 72 hours of their issue. If you can spend 30 minutes every few months delivering newsletters to a block in our neighborhood (generally from 15 to 35 homes), please send us an e-mail with "Paper Route" in the subject line to news@castleheights.info or call Kathy Souviron at (310) 202-6020. With more volunteers, we will be able to coordinate smaller delivery areas, make them closer to your home and ensure that everyone receives a newsletter promptly. Thank you!

UPCOMING ASSOCIATION BOARD ELECTIONS...

We will be sending out more information regarding the nomination and election process in the very near future but wanted to give everyone time to consider running for one of the following officer positions on the Castle Heights Neighborhood Association Board.

President: The duties of the President are that he or she: shall preside at all meetings; shall carry out the intent and purposes of the By-Laws and the duties arising therefrom; shall, when necessary, represent the Association and present positions on behalf of the Association; establish committees to perform specific duties for the Association; and shall perform all the duties incident to the office of the President and such other duties as the Association shall from time to time determine. The President shall make parliamentary rulings, and shall be an ex officio member of all committees. The President shall maintain files and records of the Association. *Laurence DeMers has been a dedicated and hard-working President for the past 4 years and is very happy to work with the incoming President to make the transition a smooth one.*

Treasurer: The Treasurer shall collect annual dues and maintain all financial records of the Association; shall be responsible for seeing that all financial obligations of the Association are promptly paid; shall present to the Association and the President a statement of the financial condition of the Association at the bi-annual meetings and at any time upon request of the President or Association. All checks shall be signed by one of the officers, whose signature shall be on file with the institution designated by the Association to retain its funds. The checkbook shall be open to inspection by any member in good standing upon reasonable request. The Treasurer shall be required to maintain a current list of paid-up members of the Association and to make such a list available to the President and Association at each meeting and at other times upon request.

Chairperson of Communications: Shall coordinate and direct efforts to communicate with the membership concerning the Association's activities. Duties will include ensuring the taking and relaying of Board Meeting Minutes as well as collecting articles about issues which may impact the neighborhood and the greater community. This will be accomplished by individual and committee through the maintenance of the web site, creation & delivery of quarterly paper newsletter, informational flyers, e-mail and telephone.

Chairperson of Projects: Shall coordinate and direct special projects as directed by the Executive Board and the membership at large. This will be accomplished by individual and committee and would encompass (but not be limited to) the areas of neighborhood security, neighborhood beautification, membership drives, fundraising, annual block party, traffic issues, Welcome Wagon, etc.

In addition to Officer Positions, there is an unlimited number of **Board** and **Committee Member** positions that can be filled by any resident of our community who would like to get more involved. Board Meetings are held once a month and generally last for two hours. With the recent revitalization of the Association Board, the successful implementation of the patrol service, the launching of our web site and the resurgence of an expanded quarterly paper newsletter - we are looking forward to launching elections, the tree-planting project, and the Neighborhood Watch/Block Captain program next - but resident involvement in bettering our community is vital to the speed with which we can move ahead and our overall success! **Get Involved Today!**

SOMETHING TO PONDER...

"EVEN THOUGH WE LIVE IN THE BIG CITY, WE CAN STILL FEEL LIKE WE LIVE IN A SMALL TOWN. WE JUST NEED TO MAKE THE EFFORT TO TURN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD OF RESIDENTS INTO A COMMUNITY OF FRIENDS."

SO...WHAT INSPIRES YOU!? Here's our "To Do" List...projects that are in one of several stages of completion...or just on our list to accomplish in the future. The Neighborhood Association is here to be a resource to residents who are interested in getting involved in making Castle Heights a better place to live. We offer project support, counsel from years of collective experience in the neighborhood and sometimes just as a connector of people who have common interests and goals. If you are interested in being a part of any of the projects currently on our To Do List, please indicate which ones and we'll be in touch with you when the project gets underway! Or e-mail us at getinvolved@castleheights.info!

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION "TO DO" LIST

- Election Process, Restructure Association Board & Update By-laws
- Organize Neighborhood Watch Program & Recruit Block Captains
- Revamp Newsletter Distribution & "Paper Route" System
- Develop Membership and Fundraising Plan for Association's Project List
- "Love Thy Neighbor" Program & Code Enforcement Program
- Excessive Traffic & High Speed Problems - Potential Stop Signs, Speed Bumps, Turn Restrictions, etc.
- Operation "Clean & Green" Using \$5,000 in Tree & Beautification Matching Funds
- Organization of Community Events - Summer Block Party or Fall Festival
- Appoint School Liaisons - Parking Issues Around Both Schools, Hamilton Use Policy, Juvenile Crime, etc.
- Medians & Signage - Phase II of Medians, Maintenance Contracts, Install Pole Signage
- Supervise Patrol Service Membership & Renewal Program
- Neighborhood Welcome Wagon - New Procedures, Uniform Gifts, Additional Welcomers, etc.
- Please add this new project to the list and keep me in mind as interested in spear-heading it down the road!

Have You Remembered to Pay Your Neighborhood Association Dues?

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 - Member | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 - Bronze Sponsor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 - Silver Sponsor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 - Gold Sponsor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 - Patron | <input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ - Other |

Name _____

Street Address _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Mail to: **Castle Heights Neighborhood Association**
P.O. Box 642456
Los Angeles, CA 90064

CASTLE HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

PO Box 642456
Los Angeles, CA 90034
WWW.CASTLEHEIGHTS.INFO

A MEMBERSHIP OF CONCERNED
RESIDENTS & NEIGHBORS SINCE 1979

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Laurence DeMers
Vice President: Open
Treasurer: Istvan Kerekes
Secretary: Open
Neighborhood Watch: Tony Pethebridge
Communications: Open

Susan Bursk, Philip Galper, Julia Maher, George Olah,
Joya Ovadya, Kathy Souviron, Marlene Winston

CHNA Board Meetings

April 19th, May 17th, & June 21st @ 7pm
Castle Heights Elementary Teachers' Lounge

Farmer's Markets

Tuesdays 2-7pm in Culver City
Main Street-just south of Venice Blvd.
Thursdays 3-7pm at La Cienega Plaza
La Cienega Blvd. at 18th St/Monte Mar
Thursdays 11am-3pm in Century City
Constellation betw. Century Park East & Ave. of the Stars

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

DIRECTORY OF CITYWIDE SERVICES	3-1-1
EMERGENCIES	9-1-1
NON-EMERGENCIES	877-ASK-LAPD
5TH DISTRICT COUNCILMEMBER JACK WEISS	213-847-4467
ABANDONED VEHICLES	800-ABANDON
BULK ITEM PICKUP	800-773-2489
GRAFFITI REMOVAL	800-611-2489
PARKED VEHICLES EXCEEDING TIME LIMIT	323-906-7973
POISON CONTROL CENTER	800-876-4766
REPORT SIDEWALK VENDORS	310-451-5273
SIDEWALK/POTHOLE REPAIR	800-996-2489
STREET LIGHTS OUT	213-485-5391
VEHICLE BLOCKING STREET OR DRIVEWAY	800-222-6366
WEST LA POLICE	310-444-0701
ILLEGAL DUMPING	800-996-2489
COMMERCIAL VEHICLES PARKED IN RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD	800-222-6366

MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY UPDATE:

BY KATHY SOUVIRON - *This is a follow-up to the opinion article in the last newsletter, a copy of which can also be found on the web site at: www.castleheights.info/newsletterindex.htm. Exodus pulled their application with Culver City Planning and Zoning. They realized they had jumped the gun and caused a big disturbance in Culver City and the surrounding neighborhoods. Prop 63 has generated approximately \$63 million dollars for the County of Los Angeles Department of Mental Health ("DMH") to use. The DMH is sending out a bid to prospective bidders for this contract. Dr. Robin Kay of the Department of Mental Health says it does not go to the lowest bidder but that it would go to the best provider for the job. So this facility could be located anywhere on the Westside so long as it is near an emergency room. Exodus will, again, be filing an application with Culver City Planning and Zoning but this time with the provisions provided by the surrounding neighborhoods. This is a difficult topic because on the one hand, if neighborhoods continue to make allowances after allowances, like an apartment building instead of a gas station, liquor store instead of a family restaurant, then we no longer have neighborhoods and the quality of life that comes from such neighborhoods. Dr. Kay explains that emergency rooms are full and cannot accommodate the current flow of patients. Therefore, these types of facilities are needed, and from what I understand, especially on the Westside. So a facility like the one being proposed by Exodus would take the pressure off the emergency rooms as the patients in crisis would be re-routed to this new facility. I have expressed my concerns at a number of meetings that - if Exodus turns out to be the provider and the facility is located on the Brotman property - every precaution must be taken to keep our children, schools, and parks safe and clean. There is going to be a meeting with a representative of each neighborhood council to dialogue with the DMH. If you have any questions or input, please contact me at ksouviron@castleheights.info or call (310) 202-6020. I will be happy to report any feedback or additional concerns to the committee on your behalf.*

CHNA represents almost 1,000 single-family homes, a few apartments, some businesses, a senior home and an elementary school. As a volunteer group, we have worked steadily to ensure that our neighborhood remains a clean, safe and enjoyable place to live. The borders are approximately Robertson Blvd., the 10-Fwy, Shelby and Beverlywood/David Ave.