



CASTLE HEIGHTS NEWS

July - Sept 2006

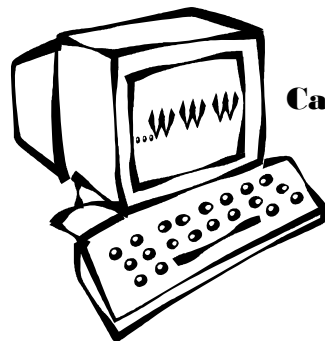
CASTLE HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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

NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED SEPTEMBER 9 & 10, 2006

George Reis, our neighborhood tree person, is working diligently on putting together a day of tree planting along both sides of National between the 10 Freeway and Castle Heights Blvd. We have neighborhood matching grant money in the amount of \$4,713. He will get approval next from the property owners, then obtain permits for the trees and the sidewalk cuts, and prepare for tree planting. Please hold September 9 & 10 to volunteer for this big neighborhood beautification project. Since this is a neighborhood matching grant, our neighborhood doesn't pay with money but with volunteer hours. It will take about 470 hours to get this project done, so we need as many of you as possible to show up and help. Bring your family and friends. You can volunteer for one hour or the whole day, but we will need your help (organization, refreshments, traffic, planting, clean up, supply tools, water, etc.). We will send more information as the time draws closer. If you have any questions or would like to help George with organizing the huge project, please email him at joreis@pacbell.net

Find us on the *Internet...*



CastleHeights.info

**Visit the Castle Heights Neighborhood
Association Web Site
www.CastleHeights.info**

You can find the following information:

- Upcoming CHNA Board Elections
- LAPD Crime Reports
- APS Patrol Service Info
- Neighborhood Project Updates
- Calendar of Neighborhood Events
- Recent Home Sales
- Important Phone Numbers
- *And much more!*

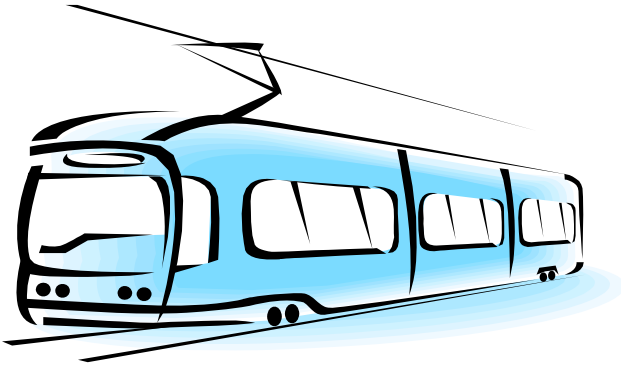
Run for the CHNA Board!
Nominations currently being
accepted - *details on page 4*

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CODE WATCH

We strive to make our community the best that it can be. This goal is achieved through programs that target crime prevention, community safety, and the beautification of our neighborhood. Ultimately we all must be responsible to do our part, and we need your help! If you notice issues in our neighborhood, give our Code Watch Chairperson a ring. Issues to report include: maintenance problems, vehicles stored on streets, excessive noise, overgrown lawns, garbage cans left out, etc. Call Marlene: 559-8652 to report or discuss an issue. Notices are sent to homeowners, and after two notices Marlene will contact the appropriate city resources. We appreciate your help in keeping our neighborhood clean, safe and peaceful. Thank you!



All Aboard!!!

Exposition Light Rail Line is on Its Way

In Four Years, You Could Ride the Train Downtown!

By Julia Maher

Construction of the first phase of the Exposition Light Rail line will soon be underway. This phase will run from downtown (7th and Flower, where it connects with the Red Line subway) to a temporary station at National and Washington in Culver City. The permanent station will be constructed as part of the second phase of the line and will be an elevated station over Venice Blvd. The first phase to Culver City is scheduled to open in the summer of 2010, and the estimated cost of the project is \$650 million. The travel time to downtown will be 27 minutes.

Preconstruction activities, which include utility relocation and clearing the right-of-way, begin this summer, but we probably won't see any major construction activity on this end of the line until the fall of 2007. The trains will run at street level along most of the route, except for an undercrossing between Jefferson Blvd. and Trousdale Parkway (at the southeast corner of USC), and two elevated stations over La Brea Ave. and La Cienega Blvd. The stations at Crenshaw, La Cienega, and Washington/National will include parking. Plans call for increased bus service to the stations along the line.

The second phase to Santa Monica (the terminus will be 2 blocks from the Santa Monica Pier) needs two things: the money to build the line, and the approval of the route. Just as there was for the first phase, there will be a period of public input and the preparation of an environmental impact statement. When the line was first studied several years ago, a preliminary environmental study was made of a "detour" taking the line off the right-of-way and down Venice Blvd. and then up Sepulveda, ultimately turning west back onto the right-of-way, which runs right in front of the post office on Exposition Blvd.

This route will undoubtedly be studied again, but the original right-of-way along Exposition will also have to be studied in order to comply with the legal requirements to study all possible alternatives. That route will continue the line from Venice/Robertson along the old right-of-way, crossing Bagley and then National Blvd (on an overhead bridge) and then running on the south side of the 10 Freeway until it dips under the freeway and exits behind the Rancho Park Library in a trench which brings it to Overland Ave., behind the elementary school. The planning and public hearing period for the second phase will begin later this year.

For more information about construction and design of the line, call the Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority at 213-922-3976 or visit their Web site at www.buildexpo.org



SAYING GOODBYE IS NEVER EASY

By: Kathy Souviron

It has been fun getting to know everyone in the Castle Heights neighborhood and working with the members of the Castle Heights Board. We have been in the neighborhood for 12 years and are now moving out of state so I wanted to make sure everyone had the updated information since I will no longer be in charge of the Patrol Service, the Newsletter or the proposed mental health facility.

- APS patrol service questions or sign up: We are currently looking for a Castle Heights resident who can take over this important project. Until then, Tony Pethebridge kindly agreed to temporarily be the contact person. You can email Tony at tpethebridge@coldwellbanker.com or call him at (310) 836-5518.
- Newsletter questions or to submit articles: Email Joezen Punongbayan at joezenp@gmail.com or call him at (310) 749-8568.
- Questions or interested in attending meetings regarding the proposed mental health facility, please contact John Hansen at john_hansen@symantec.com

My family and I will miss the neighborhood. The Castle Heights neighborhood is truly a great neighborhood. I have loved seeing how a neighborhood pulls together to support each other and how much can be accomplished by a community that stands together and protects each other. Castle Heights is like a big family - yes, every family has a little dysfunction – but that’s what makes it a family. It has been a pleasure serving you.

Update on the Exodus Mental Health Facility

By Kathy Souviron

Dr. Kay of The Los Angeles Department of Mental Health informed us that, “At the present time, the Board of Supervisors is scheduled to hear the general Board Letter (that will approve our receiving State funds) on May 30. This general Board Letter does not involve issuing any contracts. In fact, we are just beginning the review of the proposals for the first contracts that will be awarded with Mental Health Services Act dollars. This is for services called ‘Full Service Partnerships’. The next type of contract that will go out for bid covers services to foster children. I don’t exactly know when this will happen, but hopefully within the next month. Our expectation is that the Westside Urgent Care services will be the third in the series. The timing for issuing our Request for Service (RFS) for the Westside will depend upon how quickly the above two RFS processes can be facilitated.” She will keep us posted of any new information or meetings regarding this matter. We want to thank John Hansen from the neighborhood for volunteering to attend the meetings and report to the neighborhood.

CH Neighborhood Watch (CHNW)

By Tony Pethebridge

The most common threat to our homes today is burglary. The majority of home burglaries occur during the daytime when most of us are either at work or school. The summer months of July and August generally have the most burglaries. Statistically, about 70% of burglaries involve a forced entry, however, many burglaries occur as a result of doors and windows left unlocked. Although home burglaries may appear random, quite often they involve a selection process, based upon vacancy, ease of access, greatest amount of cover, and homes with the best escape routes.

Some simple tips to minimize your risk:

- Use quality, heavy-duty locks on doors and windows
- Use a secondary blocking system on sliding glass doors
- Use exterior lighting to illuminate access pathways and yards
- Use interior light timers to establish a pattern of occupancy, especially when away from the home
- Use a home safe to lock away valuables &
- BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR.
 - Get to know your adjacent neighbors & complete the neighborhood block map and contact sheet (email me if you need one);
 - Agree to watch out for each other’s home
 - While your neighbors are on vacation, pick up newspapers & mail, put away trash bins, etc.
 - Offer to park your car in their driveway while they’re away

I still have some Neighborhood Watch signs (with stakes), which I am happy to deliver to those who want them free of charge. Email any requests to tpethebridge@coldwellbanker.com



This & That & Community Events



Castle Heights Elementary School

Castle Heights Elementary School sells gift cards all year. A percentage of the gift card sales goes to support the school. You pay nothing more than the face value of the gift card. You can call **Micah at (310) 839-4686** or **email her at robertstimes4@aol.com** for a list of gift cards available, which includes Whole Foods, Best Buy, Home Depot, Islands, Starbucks, AMC Theaters, PetCo, Bed Bath and Beyond, Macy's and much, much more.

Castle Heights Elementary School's website is up and running at www.castleheightselementary.com

June 22, 2006 – Summer Vacation

September 5, 2006 - School begins

Hamilton High School - Home of the Yankees

June 22, 2006 - Graduation

June 23, 2006 – Summer Vacation

September 5, 2006 - School begins

Farmers Markets

Tuesdays 2 to 7pm: Culver City, on Main Street (Bagley) just south of Venice!

Thursdays 3 to 7pm: Corner of La Cienega Blvd and 18th Street (Monte Mar)!

Thursdays 11am to 3pm: Century City, on Constellation between Avenue of the Starts & Century Park East!

SoRo / your South Robertson Neighborhood Council

2nd Wednesday of every month, 6:45pm – check the web site for details: www.SoRoNC.org

CHNA Board Meetings

All meetings are on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7 pm at the
Castle Heights School Teachers' Lounge

Next meeting is June 21st

No meetings in July and August

Resumes September 20th

If you receive this newsletter, you are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Castle Heights Neighborhood Association Board Nominations

Nominations for all CHNA Board positions are now being accepted. Elections will be held in September at an upcoming community event. If you are interested in serving on the board and providing the necessary leadership to our wonderful neighborhood, this is your chance to make a difference. The Castle Heights residents are a vocal, energetic, and task-minded group – CHNA's goal is to keep the group organized to balance opinions, affect change, and improve our community.

Board positions are generally held for two years and are always supported by previous officers and members. Though specific experience is not required, individuals should be passionate about our neighborhood and have the ability to balance the needs and desires of the community as a whole. In addition to general board member positions, new officers are needed, including: President, Vice President, and Secretary. We also need chairpersons for Communications, Traffic, and our new APS security service.

Filling these positions is critical to our ongoing success as a volunteer neighborhood association. The jobs are not difficult. Rather, they simply require a commitment to participate, communicate, and reach out to neighbors and our city government. If you or a neighbor believes in our community and want to help, just let us know! We will be working on this project this summer and are accepting nominations and answering questions via email or phone: CastleHeights@aol.com or call Laurence R. DeMers at (310) 836-0340 (M-F).



**** Volunteer Needed ****

Dedicated person needed to manage Castle Heights APS Patrol Service

Help! We need somebody. Help! Not just anybody.

Kathy Souviron, who spearheaded our efforts of obtaining the APS Patrol Service for the Castle Heights neighborhood, is moving out of state. We need a dedicated individual who can continue her efforts to ensure the survival of this important service. Duties include: membership (new, retention, collecting dues, resolving questions), being the main contact between members and the APS Patrol Service, and updating the CHNA Board with relevant information regarding APS Patrol Services. If you are interested, please don't hesitate to call Tony Pethebridge at (310) 836-5518.

How APS is Keeping Castle Heights Safe

To date, APS responded to eight security calls from your Castle Heights neighbors*:

- Possible burglaries (3)
- Vandalism (graffiti/tagging) (2)
- Trespassing on private property (1)
- Automobile vandalism (1)
- Suspicious activity (1)

* Only Castle Heights residents who signed up for APS Patrol Service can call APS at (310) 842-8113 to report suspicious activity in our neighborhood. It's not too late to sign up. The more Castle Heights residents that sign up for APS Patrol Service, the more secure our neighborhood will be.

UPDATE - APS PATROL SERVICE (310) 842-8113

If you did not receive your welcome package or yard sign, please email Vernon Rosado at vrosado@mypatrol.com and copy Tony Pethebridge at tpethebridge@coldwellbanker.com. Please keep in mind that with the implementation of any new service, there are bound to be kinks that need to be worked out. Once everyone is up and running, the patrol service will run much smoother. Vernon is ready and willing to work with anyone to remedy any problem. We appreciate your patience as it was a Herculean effort to get the patrol service implemented in our neighborhood. The Board will send out invoices in January for patrol service dues for 2007. Everyone is on the same calendar year which is March 10. You can still sign up at the prorated amount by emailing Tony Pethebridge or calling him at (310) 836-5518.



REMINDER FROM OFFICER GONZALEZ: Please lock your cars and do not keep valuables in sight. Most of the car break-ins lately happened because people left iPods, computers, wallets, or money in the tray. If the criminals do not see anything of value, they will likely leave your car alone. The best protection is to be alert and cautious at all times. Avoid walking at night, especially in dangerous or unfamiliar neighborhoods.

If you must go out at night:

- Walk on well-lighted main thoroughfares.
- Walk next to the curb, and stay away from buildings, alleys, doorways, shrubbery, trees and benches.
- If approached, citizens are advised not to resist the suspect.

If you would like to be added to the crime report that Officer Gonzalez compiles for our area and the surrounding neighbors, email Castleheights@aol.com and ask to be added to the crime report email list.



Contact Information



Important Numbers:

Directory of Citywide Services	3-1-1
Emergencies	9-1-1
Non-Emergencies	877-ASK-LAPD
5 TH District Councilmember Jack Weiss	213-847-4467
Abandoned Vehicles	800-ABANDON
Bulky Item Pickup	800-773-2489
Graffiti Removal	310-204-2749
Parked Vehicles Exceeding Time Limit	800-996-2489
Poison Control Center	800-876-4766
Robertson Library	310-840-2147
Sidewalk / Pothole Repair	800-996-2489
Soro Neighborhood Council	www.SORONC.org
Street Lights Out	800-996-2489
Vehicle blocking street, driveway, etc.	800-996-2489
West L.A. Police	310-444-0701
Illegal Dumping	800-996-2489
Commercial Vehicles Parked In Res.	800-222-6366
Residential Trash / Dead Animal Pickup	800-996-2489
Sewer or Storm Drain problems	800-996-2489

CASTLE HEIGHTS

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

PO Box 642456 ~ Los Angeles, CA 90064

Phone and Fax--UPDATING

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
Patrol Service	Tony Pethebridge (interim)
Newsletter	Joezen Punongbayan

Susan Bursk, Philip Galper, Julia Maher, George Olah,
Joya Ovadya, Kim Warwick, Marlene Winston

We represent about 1,200 single-family homes, a few apartments, some businesses, a senior home and a great elementary school. As a volunteer group started in 1979, we have worked steadily to ensure that our neighborhood remains a clean, safe and enjoyable place to live. The boarders are approximately Robertson Blvd, 10 Frwy, Shelby, Beverlywood/David. If you receive this newsletter, you live within the association's boundaries and are a member.

Quarterly Quote:

"You will find, as you look back on your life, that the moments that stand out are the moments when you have done things for others." - Henry Drummond

Reminder: Please clean up your yard sale signs at the end of your sale. Be sure to remove bulky items by calling (800) 733-2489 for free removal. Let's all help keep our community clean, beautiful and safe – thank you!

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, LA, CA 90064