

West Hollywood West Residents Association

Newsletter

May 2006



**WHWRA
2006/2007
OFFICERS:**

President:
Steven Golightly

Vice President:
Richard Giesbret

Executive VP:
Dan Siegel

Secretary:
Brad Keistler

Treasurer:
Marty Strudler

Past President:
Lauren Meister

CONTACT INFO:

Steven Golightly
Phone: 310/652-3344
WHWRAPresident@aol.com

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.whwra.org

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY MAY 22 AT 7:15 PM

AT THE WEST HOLLYWOOD SHERIFFS STATION

**(ON SAN VICENTE BOULEVARD,
NORTH OF THE PACIFIC DESIGN CENTER).**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear friends and neighbors, the association continues to be very busy. This note will hopefully bring everyone up to speed on a variety of issues we have been working on. Your board of directors consists of Richard Giesbret, Dan Siegel, Brad Keistler, Marty Strudler, Lauren Meister and me. As a team we have been actively advocating on behalf of improving the quality of life here in West Hollywood West. I encourage everyone who lives in our part of town to join us in our work.

We recently successfully appealed the Guy's proposed expansion. Our appeal revoked the Planning Commission's approval of Guy's conditional use permit for expanding a private club between Dominick's and Jerry's Deli. Our action responded to parking concerns and continuing late night noise and disturbance problems that nearby residents experienced even subsequent to the approval. Many of our members were instrumental in communicating their concerns to the Commission and Council and they have my personal thanks for their active participation in doing so.

Just adjacent to the Sofitel Hotel, Maimonides Academy appears intent on expanding without the necessary environmental review. The City of Los Angeles has "won" the lead agency role (determined by the State), and is "in charge" of evaluating the impacts of the proposed expansion on residentially and commercially zoned property located in the City of West Hollywood. Please see the enclosed update from Lauren Meister detailing this issue of concern to all in the area. Lauren continues to serve as Chair of the Maimonides committee. Your board of directors also recently voted to engage the services of a law firm to assist us with our efforts.

Speaking of environmental review, we're expecting to see the draft Environment Impact Report for the Melrose Triangle project soon. And sometime this fall, we will also be looking for results of environmental studies with regard to the Greenwich Place project (a/k/a Sherbourne Triangle).

The owner of Lord's, who is currently remodeling the long-gone Le Colonial restaurant, called a meeting with association residents to discuss changes to his restaurant and retail project. Though construction approval was secured previously, he is reconsidering the design and wished to have community input. The meeting produced much discussion and it appears likely there will more, before any change is implemented. We will keep you abreast of unfolding events and meetings. If you wish to be notified by email, let me know... WHWRAPresident@aol.com.

WHWRA Committees

District 1 Parking Committee

Committee Chair: Terry Leftgoff
Vice Chair: Dan Siegel
Phone: Terry - 310/659-1068;
Dan - 310/273-7766
Email: tleftgoff@aol.com
dansiegel@earthlink.net

Maimonides Academy - Proposed Expansion

Committee Chair: Lauren Meister
Phone: 310/659-3379
Email: meister4weho@earthlink.net

Melrose Triangle Project

Committee Chair: Jeff Saikhon
Phone: 323/461-2027
Email: jsikon@aol.com

Rangely/Melrose

Commercial Issues

Committee Chair: Dan Siegel
Phone: 310/273-7766
Email: dansiegel@earthlink.net

Rosewood Circle Landscaping, Holly Hills Storm Drain Project

Committee Chair: Marty Strudler
Phone: 310/657-7868
Email: martystrudler@yahoo.com

Sherbourne Triangle

Committee Co-Chair: Adam Green
Phone: 310/289-8559
Email: adamgreen@earthlink.net

Westmount Cul-de-sac

Committee Chair: Padi Moschetta
Phone: 310/659-8218
Email: padianna@yahoo.com

WHWRA Online

www.whwra.org
Webmaster: Janet Cole
Email: info@whwra.org

WHWRA Contact Info

Steven Golightly, President
Phone: 310/652-3344
Email: WHWRAPresident@aol.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (continued)

Our Parking District rules have changed on the east side of West Hollywood West, so parking is less burdensome for all. I want to thank Terry, Dan, Lauren and the many participating West Hollywood West residents. Let committee co-chairs know about any new or continuing problems - Terry Leftgoff [310-659-1068, tleftgoff@aol.com] or Dan Siegel [310-273-7766, dansiegel@earthlink.net].

Last, but not least - our experiment with a colorful and expanded newsletter seems to have been successful, so look forward to future newsletters, with more news, pictures and information about our community association. We will also be featuring limited advertising space and very limited "unclassifieds" in this newsletter, with the intent to appeal to those within our immediate association boundaries. If you have an interest in advertising to your neighbors, please contact Patrick Shandrick or Dan Siegel for more specific information at WHWRAPresident@aol.com.

Although throwing parties is not an express directive of our association by-laws, it would be remiss of the association if we did not engender community spirit. So, we plan to partner with one of our local restaurants to host a Summer Cocktail Party and Dinner in support of the community. Stay tuned for details and consider contributing to the mix by taking a table with your friends.

All the best and thanks for your ongoing participation in the events of our neighborhood.

Steven J. Golightly
President, West Hollywood West Residents Association

Bigger And Better... That's Our Newsletter!

Yes, our newsletter is growing up. With tasteful advertising, we can cover the expense of expanding the newsletter. Let's face it – this is a great neighborhood! If you want to make West Hollywood West residents your customers, then place your ad here! Contact Patrick Shandrick or Dan Siegel and let them tell you about the limited number of spaces that are available or our very limited "unclassified" section. Both Patrick and Dan will be happy to answer your questions and offer more specific information, as you require – email them at WHWRAPresident@aol.com.

ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION...

West Hollywood West Residents Association ("WHWRA") is an organization for homeowners and tenants. The officers are elected by the membership; block captains and committee members are all volunteers.

The purpose of **WHWRA** is to protect the integrity and quality of life within **West Hollywood West**, and, in a nutshell, that's what we do.

For dues of **only \$10 per person per year** (\$5 for seniors or limited income), you receive a newsletter (at least quarterly), online access to neighborhood news 24/7 with the **WHWRA** website (www.whwra.org), social events where you can meet your neighbors as well as special guests such as city officials and city staff. And in addition, we hold quarterly "regular" meetings to discuss issues that affect our neighborhood.

We, the officers and active members of **WHWRA**, work hard to protect our/your neighborhood and in exchange, we ask for your support.

Thank you!

West Hollywood West... Where Neighborhood Matters!

Newsletter + Email = Convenience

Our expanded newsletter coverage of the neighborhood will include so much new and substantive information that, for your convenience, we'll be distributing by email in addition to the hard copies. This makes it easier as a reference, to follow-up on ideas, make comments and share with others through hyperlinks. Get your neighborhood updates and the convenience of an electronic copy of the newsletter fast.

**Just contact us by email at
WHWRAPresident@aol.com.**

Maimonides Academy Proposed Expansion

Dear Residents, Homeowners and Neighbors,

As you may know, the City of Los Angeles has "Lead Agency" status over the proposed Maimonides Academy Expansion Project. The City of LA has recommended a Mitigated Negative Declaration, which would allow the school to build an 84,000 sq. ft. project without an Environmental Impact Report. The City of LA has also given approval for a Zoning Variance, which would allow the school to build a large building on the corner of La Cienega and Beverly Place (in the City of Los Angeles). However, the proposed parking for this building according to the plan, would be a subterranean parking garage located primarily in the City of West Hollywood, on property that is zoned Residential!

Although the project must get certain permits and permissions from the City of West Hollywood for the portion of the project which is located in West Hollywood, because the City of LA is Lead Agency, the City of West Hollywood is limited in terms of being able to require certain environmental studies.

Our obvious concern is that the interests of West Hollywood West's residents may be ignored or "squashed" by the City of LA, the Lead Agency.

In order to protect our interests, our property values and our quality of life, the West Hollywood West Residents Association Board has voted to engage legal counsel to represent us.

We need **your help** to raise money for future legal assistance and other related expenses (i.e., environmental studies on traffic or noise, etc.) that will be necessary to protect our neighborhood.

We thank you in advance for your help. Please make your contribution check payable to "WHWRA." So that I can keep a record of contributions to be earmarked for expenses related to this project, if possible, please mail to me at the address below.

Lauren Meister
Chair, WHWRA Committee on Proposed Maimonides Academy Expansion

Phone: 310-659-3379
Email: Meister4weho@earthlink.net
Address: 337 Westbourne Drive
West Hollywood, CA 90048

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Enclosed are my **dues** for **2006**: Check one: () \$10.00 **Regular** Membership Fee
() \$5.00 **Limited Income/Senior** Membership Fee

I want to make an **additional donation** of: \$_____ to help pay for expenses incurred to preserve the "quality of life" in our neighborhood.

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

*If you do **not** want your **phone number or address** released to WHWRA committees, please check here ().

Please make your check **payable to WHWRA** and mail your check to:

West Hollywood West Residents Association, c/o Marty Strudler, 403 Westbourne Drive, West Hollywood, CA 90048.