

Community Focus

Reinforcing Residential Zoning

Hancock Park Homeowners Assoc. is attempting to enforce the R-1 zoning at a home where there is a flagrant disregard of the standards for a residential neighborhood. The home is not occupied as a residence, but instead is used for religious services and social events. At the same time the Windsor Square Assoc. is concerned about a homeowner who is walling in his backyard so that it may house what reportedly will be a commercial spa retreat.

The entire area suffers when a few homeowners decide that the regulations of R-1 zoning do not apply to them.

The desirability of home ownership in our community is contingent on adherence to zoning laws. These residences are occupied by families who desire the normal amenities which come with home ownership. This does NOT mean numerous paying guests arriving at a home, nor communal religious services or other uses which create noise, traffic and parking problems.

Granting of variances to permit these types of uses would be detrimental to the surrounding neighbors and could also encourage other homeowners to follow suit. We applaud the efforts of the local homeowners association members, and are grateful that their diligent volunteer work is safeguarding the character of our residential community.

1926 Memorial Library to Open Virtually On-Line

By Suzan Filipek

The Memorial Library is scheduled to reopen this month as a "virtual electronic library" while maintaining the dark wooden beauty that has been featured in several films, officials said.

When it opens Mon., July 22, after closing six years ago for seismic upgrading, it will be among eight libraries in the 66-branch system with access to 500 data bases, once only found at major libraries, said Fontayne Holmes, assistant director of branches for the Los Angeles Public Library.

An opening reception is scheduled at 11 a.m. at the library at 4625 W. Olympic Blvd.

The 1926 Gothic Revival-style building across from

"The goal of the system is to make a superhighway among the 66 branches and Central Library."

**Maggie Johnson
Memorial Librarian**

Los Angeles High School has been completely restored with about \$2.3 million raised from bond sales and a \$50,000 grant from the Weingart Foundation.

Grant funds purchased micro-computers and network equipment to attach Memorial's new computer system to a file server at the main library, Holmes said.

MEMORIAL JOINS Cahuenga and Pio Pico Koreatown branches as "virtual libraries" in the area, with on-line catalogues giving access to magazine articles, corporate directories, and other publications.

"The goal of the system is to make a super highway among the 66 branches and Central Library," Memorial Librarian Maggie Johnson said.

English Tudor overtones and a fireplace are featured at the restored Memorial site

as well as several stained-glass windows, including one in the adult reading room donated by the Los Angeles High School alumni in honor of 20 colleagues who were killed in World War I.

The alumni association, which included many of the most influential names of the city, raised money to purchase the site, which was to be developed as Memorial Park in honor of soldiers who died, according to the Windsor Square-Hancock Park Historical Society.

THE LIBRARY Department hired the top Los Angeles architect of the first quarter of the century, John C. Austin, to design the building that was to be the focal point of the park.

Austin's other achievements include City Hall and the Griffith Park Observatory.

At Memorial, he designed a high-pitched slate roof with extended gables capped in cast stone, partially as a reminder of western Europe, where most of WW1 was fought, according to Historical Society records.

The Judson Art Studio installed the stained-glass window with names of the deceased soldiers inscribed on it. The same firm, now called Bill Judson Company, created new windows for the remodeled library.

AN ELEVATOR has been added to the two-story building, which was also expanded during restoration to a total of 10,578 square feet.

After closing in 1990, the library operated temporarily in an office building on Wilshire Blvd. until January 1996 when its lease expired.

"It's really been a long wait, but it's been worth it," Johnson said.

Volunteers are needed to donate refreshments for the opening. For more information, call Johnson at 213-664-6418.

FOR DISPLAY RATES call the Chronicle at 462-2241.

Police Beat

WILSHIRE DIVISION

Furnished by Senior Lead Officer Bernard Barber

The following is a selection of crime reports from the Wilshire Division LAPD and related tips to help you avoid becoming a victim.

GRAND THEFT: In the 400 block of N. June St., a \$1,250 cell phone was stolen during the day when the owner had parked his van unlocked in his driveway for a few minutes.

PREVENTION TIP: Always lock the doors, even if you are only going to be away from the vehicle for a brief period.

ROBBERY: At a bus stop at Wilshire Blvd. and Sycamore Ave., a suspect put a gun to a woman's back after following her from the bus. He stole \$1,985 in jewelry and money.

PREVENTION TIP: Avoid displaying money, credit cards or valuables in public. Keep your purse and wallet arranged so that you can easily access your money and have bus fare prepared at the beginning of your trips.

ROBBERY: A man in a vehicle at Sycamore Ave. and Fourth St. was robbed of \$190 by four suspects who approached him with a handgun at 11 p.m.

PREVENTION TIP: Park in well-lit areas with pedestrian traffic. Keep your driveway and shrubbery well-lit.

Also, join or form a Neighborhood Watch in your area. Regular community patrols by you and your neighbors help deter crime.

If you have any questions concerning crime or safety, or if you want to join a Neighborhood Watch group, contact the Wilshire Division at 213-485-4020.

MISSED PAPER

If you do not receive your copy of the Larchmont Chronicle by the first Monday of each month, call our office at 462-2241. A paper will be delivered to you later in the week.

Larchmont Chronicle

Owners
Dawne P. Goodwin & Jane Gilman

Published the first Monday of each month. Delivered to Wilshire Center families in Hancock Park, Windsor Square, Fremont Place, Park Labrea and the general Larchmont area. Additional paid subscribers bring readership to 71,217. Cost of delivered or mailed subscription is \$19.50 per year.

Publisher: Dawne P. Goodwin
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Los Angeles, CA 90004
Telephone 213-462-2241

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213-462-2241 ext. 16

SECTION ONE



COMING TO A NEIGHBORHOOD near you. Sgt. Frank Hurtado and Officer Bernard Barber hope to prevent crime with the Wilshire Division's new Community Mobile Substation.

Substation Rolls into Area to Help Drive Away Crime

By Suzan Filipek

Local police hope to create a friendlier rapport with the community and reduce crime with the help of a new, royal blue van which will be at city events, school areas and neighborhoods in the coming months.

The Community Mobile Substation is just what its name implies—the community's, said Sgt. Frank Hurtado of the Wilshire Division of the Los Angeles Police Department.

Concerned about heavy crime, gang activity and the highest incident of emergency radio calls in the city's Wilshire Division, police

hope the 24-foot-long van will encourage residents to get to know their local policemen and encourage Neighborhood Watch programs.

Funded with a federal grant from the National Institute of Justice, the \$100,000 van is dressed with the latest technology, including a radio and computer terminal linking the vehicle to LAPD headquarters.

ITS FLASHING LIGHTS and fancy equipment won't be used for arrests but to assist in educating the public.

"It's for people who have fears about going into the

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DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF HANCOCK PARK



HANCOCK PARK HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION

157 N. LARCHMONT BLVD. LOS ANGELES 90004

Now that most of the chimneys in Hancock Park have been repaired following the devastating Northridge earthquake, it's easy to put off the important ongoing task of earthquake preparedness. Summer is a perfect time to go out to the garage (or where ever earthquake supplies are kept) and replace food, batteries and other perishables as well as reviewing the preparedness list put together by the HPHA's Disaster Preparedness Committee Chairperson, Ned Fenton.

Some of the most important things that need to be done are: 1) Assemble car and office mini-survival kits; 2) Select sturdy shoes and place them in accessible locations; including a pair for each family member in each car; 3) Assemble special personal needs, e.g. important medicine, infant supplies or special tools; 4) Store an extra set of car keys and eye glasses; 5) Be sure that enough flashlights and a battery radio are available with spare fresh batteries on hand; 6) Store a 72 hour survival water and food supply, including pet food; 7) Check water, food and first-aid supplies every 6 months; 8) Learn how to turn off all utilities at the main control points and secure the house; 9) Check your home for hazardous furniture arrangements (such as beds under windows, wall decorations over beds, etc.); 10)

Secure furniture and other objects for greater stability; 11) Assemble an up-to-date first-aid kit including first-aid book; supplies for fire prevention and fire control; 12) Provide for safe storage of vital records; and 13) Provide sanitation supplies.

This list may seem long, but once the needed items are gathered and in place, it is only necessary to check the freshness of batteries, food, water, fire extinguishers and matches on a regular basis. It is also recommended that photographs of valuables be securely stored along with important papers, including current family immunization record. This should be done in any case, but will be particularly important in the uncertainty produced by a major earthquake. Set up an emergency communication plan with all family members. Finally, develop a neighborhood support plan: know where the elderly or disabled live, who lives alone and what homes are empty.

Ned has put together a more detailed packet and the HPHA will be glad to send you a copy. Just write or call: HPHA, 157 N. Larchmont Blvd., LA, CA 90004. 213-931-5478. Remember, earthquakes are a part of life in California, and there is a lot we can do now to make our lives safer and easier when one strikes.

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JULY 1996