

# Country Club Park Chronicle

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A PUBLICATION OF THE COUNTRY CLUB PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION [www.countryclubpark.net](http://www.countryclubpark.net)

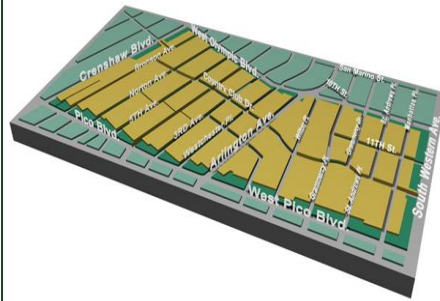
## Olympic Community Police Department Opens

Divides Police Coverage Boundaries for Country Club Park

By Holly Eubanks

The long-awaited Olympic Community Police Station staged its Ribbon-cutting Ceremony in confetti-filled skies, and officially opened its doors on January 14, 2009. The Grand Opening and dedication was a celebration in every sense of the word. Throngs of visitors and well wishers were treated to vivacious and colorful dances by folkloric groups from Mexico, El Salvador, and Korea. City dignitaries—including Chief Bratton and our own Councilman Wesson—spoke words of praise and welcome for the new station and officers. An outdoor museum featured patrol cars from the Department's earliest to the current model; bomb squad and anti-terrorism vehicles were also on display. (See p. 8 for event photos.)

Historically, Country Club Park has been patrolled by the Wilshire Division Station. But the meandering western boundary of the new station bisects Country Club Park at Arlington. Our neighbor to the north, Windsor Park, is divided in similar fashion on Plymouth Boulevard. These boundaries were established to equalize patrol area for the two departments, but a number of residents have expressed concern about coverage. We ask that neighbors let us know of any problems relating to this issue.



## Next General Meeting:

Tuesday April 7, 2009  
7:00 p.m.

Avatar Meher Daba Center,  
1214 South Van Ness

Come for the unveiling of the  
plans for the new Pocket Park

## Eat at El Cholo!

By Pamela Whittenbury

Have you been to El Cholo lately? Their enticing menu promises mouth-watering cuisine... always great prices, an authentic ambience, and a kid-friendly atmosphere. This is the last month of the "El Cholo Gives Back" campaign. Until March 31, when you dine at El Cholo and turn in a dining card (restrictions apply), everybody wins. We patronize a first-rate neighborhood eatery, El Cholo thanks its patrons with a donation to the Association, and *you* enjoy a great dining experience. You can even win a free dinner. The more you enter the more chances you have to win! Need more cards? Call John at 323-732-8118. The promotion runs through March for parties of 4 or less.

## From the President: In the Spirit of Volunteerism

By Tom Smith

The current economic climate seems to have given new vitality to volunteerism in America—"Neighbors Helping Neighbors" has begun to shape proactive neighborhoods and ignite community organizations.

Can we count on your assistance with a number of important projects?

### Community Task List

Here's a to-do list to post on your refrigerator. Below are just some of the ways you can jump in and get involved with the Country Club Park Neighborhood Association. Call us to volunteer for any of these projects, or make your own suggestions. But **COME JOIN US!** It's always interesting and usually fun. Call (323-732-8811) or write ([tom@tsaresearch.com](mailto:tom@tsaresearch.com)) or speak out at our next General meeting on April 7, 2009. Volunteerism is all that holds us together.

**1. Create a new image for Country Club Park.** We need some creative person to help brand the neighborhood with a logo and signs that identify us. There's plenty of history and images from that history to draw on. Put your design (with credit, admiration, and thanks) out on our streets and in our literature. (continued, page 2)

## From the President

*(Continued from Page 1)*

**2. Throw the big summer party.** We've had success with Saturday in the Park for the past three Augusts. Kids had fun. Neighbors connected. Some of us ate too much. New energy and new ideas will allow us to continue this tradition. I hear that the planning meetings are a riot.

**3. Produce the Country Club Park calendar for 2010.** Did you like the 2009 calendar? How would you like to work on next year's? You know what you like about our neighborhood. Put it in the calendar. We need another year's worth of those unique images that identify and define us.

**4. Submit articles for the newsletter or important information and links for the website.** Our goal for both these media is that they be resources for news and information. In the case of the website, we hope to move into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century by building a community-wide internet contact list and keeping it up-to-date.

**5. Attend the downtown City Planning and City Council hearings that determine our future.** When the City Council hears and acts on our request for historic preservation, we need an audience full of supporters. When a builder wants to put up condos that look better suited for Disneyland, someone has to be at the hearing to tell the city powers that it looks out of character with the rest of the street.

**6. Be the Block Captain for your street.** We need a way to quickly connect and communicate across Country Club Park when things happen, both good and bad. (A police action in CCP? An important reason to reach out to your neighbors.)

**7. Celebrate Country Club Park's historic designation, our new HPOZ, our new park, and other groundbreaking events.** When we get our historic (HPOZ) designation this fall, we'll celebrate. How should we do this? When the new park at Wilton and Olympic is built and opened around Thanksgiving, who wants to be in the picture with Councilman Wesson?

**8. Throw the neighborhood winter party.** See "summer party" above. Not as hot. Indoors. Presents (yes, for charity, but still presents).

**9. Get the word out by delivering the CCPNA newsletter.** Our newsletter is hand-delivered to everyone in the neighborhood. This is a great way to meet your neighbors and get a little exercise. Let me know what street(s) you can do and help us get the word out.

**10. Come to the General meetings.** The next Country Club Park Neighborhood Association meeting on April 7, 2009 (it's noted on your calendar) will unveil the final plans for the Wilton Place pocket park. Come and see what it will look like. Want to know what you missed? Our last meeting on January 20, 2009, presented the American Cancer Society's plans for the renovation of 1101 Arlington. They hope to bring a Hope Lodge to the center of our

neighborhood. I know that we were competing unsuccessfully with President Obama's inauguration on that evening, so you're forgiven for missing that meeting. See you in April.

The CCPNA is nothing more than a conduit for neighbors getting done the things that enhance our lives and preserve our homes. Country Club Park is the one thing that we all have in common. Let's hold it together by coming together.



## 2009 CCPNA Annual Calendar

By Pamela Whittenbury

Did you receive your 2009 Annual Calendar featuring our unique and historical neighborhood homes?

This is the third year that your neighborhood association has produced this resource for neighbors, but we had help from some very important people.

We would like to extend a very special thanks to all those who made this beautiful calendar possible:

**ChoSun Galbee Restaurant  
American Cancer Society Hope  
Lodge**

**Contributing Members  
Olympic Park Neighborhood Council**

The calendars were hand distributed to all neighbors who were home or had a protected area where we could place it.

To get your calendar if we missed you, call Pamela Whittenbury at 323-734-1873. And a healthy and prosperous 2009 to all from CCPNA!



## December 08's "Holiday in the Park"

By Megan Song

Were you there? Our Country Club Park holiday parties just keep getting better and better!

In December, Country Club Park neighbors again came together to celebrate the holiday season. The Avatar Meher Baba Center was adorned in twinkling lights and hanging lanterns, paper snowflakes, and clove-studded oranges. Children occupied themselves with arts and crafts projects or danced to the music; their parents and neighbors watched on, bemused, as they reconnected with others within this magical community. The evening was truly

a festive occasion, with great food and desserts, music, and the company of good friends.

We want to send out a special thank you to David, from King Fu Restaurant, for his generous portions of delectable Chinese cuisine! (King Fu is at 8681 W. Pico, 310-274-4211.) Also, Juliet Curry, from SmART Space, who provided children's crafts; and Rob Hewett, who graciously offered his services as a photographer and took group photos. For those who have not received their photo, please contact me at [threepegs@gmail.com](mailto:threepegs@gmail.com) and I can send them to you. A special thanks goes as well to those who made contributions to the Los Angeles Youth Network and the Los Angeles Pet Clinic. They were well received

and much appreciated.

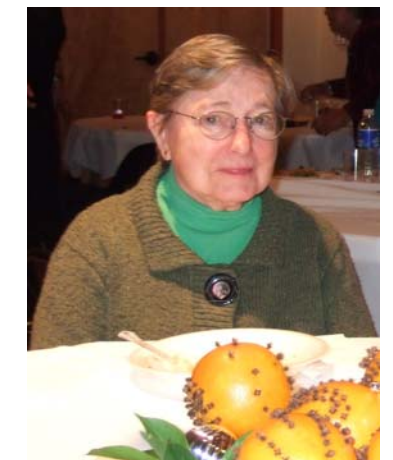
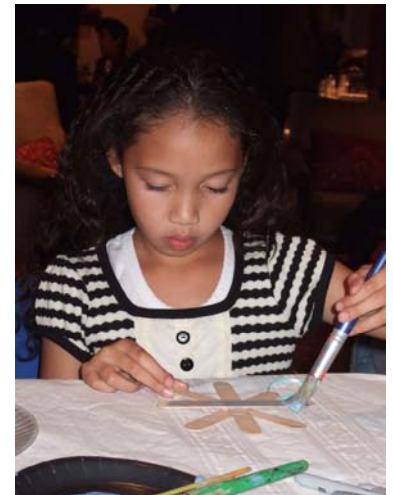
We look forward in seeing you around in the neighborhood and at future neighborhood events.

Thanks, from the Country Club Park Holiday Party Committee:

Maisha Closson  
Trang "Ky" Ho  
Megan Song  
Pamela Whittenbury



Brandon Saunders dancing to the music!



## Meet Megan Song

By Maisha Closson

Meet Megan Song, our newest CCPNA Board member! I must admit that it's a little unusual to be interviewing someone you already know. But an interview appearing in our community newsletter is a great way to introduce this remarkable young woman to the neighborhood.

I've worked with Megan on several committees and she babysits for us all the time. But just because you're around someone a lot doesn't mean you really talk to them. Ask any married couple. So I learned a lot about someone I thought I already knew.

At 23, Megan is the youngest person ever to serve on our board of directors. She decided to run for the open position after observing her dad, Gary, while he worked on the CCPNA board and the Olympic Park Neighborhood Council (OPNC). She was voted on last month. "You have to challenge yourself to make life interesting." (I'm a big believer in this outlook myself!) She then added, "Although sometimes it's good to be lazy!" (I'm an even bigger believer in this!)

Three generations of Songs have lived in the house where Megan Song lives. They've lived there for over 60 years. (The desire to start this article with "There's a house on Gramercy Place that was literally bought for a Song!" was very strong but I fought my cornball urge.) Residing with Megan are her parents, one grandmother and two dogs. Her younger brother, Dustin, is in school at USC. "If you guys want to adopt him you can," she informed me.

For high school, Megan Rose Song attended a boarding school in Santa Barbara and then a high school in Santa Monica. While in school, Megan often had to miss classes due to surgery.

Megan has a form of dwarfism called Achondroplasia. It is the most common type, and often the people it affects must have surgery. She's had three major surgeries related to limb lengthening and a lot of surgeries in general. She says as a kid she often wondered "Why me?" It was hard and sometimes still is, especially when people stare. By now, she's used to it, but it tends to make friends and family uncomfortable which then makes her uncomfortable. "It's a part of life. Everyone's different and being uncomfortable with yourself only affects you."

This is what struck me most about Megan when I first met her. For someone with obvious challenges, she seems extremely at ease with herself. (I'm still trying to figure out if I like my bangs.)

One major hobby of Megan's is baking. She loves trying new recipes and is in the process of putting together a cookbook full of recipes submitted by neighbors. I can attest to the fact that she makes delicious scones, cakes and cookies because she brings samples over to our house regularly. As a result, I often scout out locations for her bakery as I'm driving around. I mean would it kill her to take over the old Papa Ricco's pizza joint? It's close to our neighborhood and maybe they've even left their ovens. So far she hasn't given in to my pressure, but I can dream. Megan's also into arts and crafts. They come pretty naturally to her and she's always enjoyed "making things instead of

I asked her if she drives and she said no. "But at 23 I should learn." This would involve attaching pedal extenders, among other things. Since she doesn't have her own car, she'd have to put them in one of her parent's cars and then they'd have to removed whenever another family member was driving.

It would be a hassle but I think she should go for it. From what I already know about Megan, I'm sure she'd learn quickly and have a sense of humor about the whole thing. After all, this is a woman who every Christmas is asked by children, "Are you one of Santa's elves?" She tells them yes.



### IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR GOOD CHINESE FOOD....

If you were at the Holiday Party, you were able to taste the delicious food provided by KING FU RESTAURANT. David, the owner of King Fu, is more than happy to deliver to Country Club Park! The food is fresh and delicious and the delivery is FAST...it's as if he cooked it on the way to your house! Please call KING FU at 310.290.3700 and help a business that has helped us.

There is a \$1.00 delivery charge, regardless of the size of the order. Now, that's a good deal!

## News from the Board

By Maisha Closson

The famous Country Club Park calendars were distributed at our annual holiday party. The 2009 edition looks better than ever.

One of the sponsors of this year's calendar, The American Cancer Society, is continuing with its plans for a Hope Lodge at the corner of Country Club Drive and Arlington. The architects and members of the ACS were present at the last general meeting held on January 20<sup>th</sup>. An in-depth slideshow of the proposed lodge was shown to CCPNA members in attendance.

We are, so far, on schedule with our HPOZ. The context statement, which is the main part of the survey that covers the history of our neighborhood, has been submitted. The entire HPOZ must be submitted to the Planning Department, then reviewed by the Cultural Heritage Commission and the City Planning Commission, before going to the City Council for final approval by the end of October.

The community was encouraged to come out and participate in the final Wilton Place pocket park design meeting on January 14<sup>th</sup>. The results from this meeting will be the basis for the final design to be presented by landscape architect, Steve Cancian at the next General Meeting.

The "El Cholo Gives Back" campaign is in full swing. The campaign ends March 31st, after which the restaurant will make a donation to CCPNA. Many of the cards for participation have been distributed. It is now up to YOU,

THE NEIGHBORS OF COUNTRY CLUB PARK, to use them!



## Let's Get Cookin'

By Megan Song

Dear Country Club Park Neighbors,

As you might have read in past newsletters, we are trying to gather all your favorite recipes to compile into a cookbook. Obviously, this can't be done without your help!

Several people have already submitted great recipes, but we need more! We're asking that you send recipes that you use often, or that are your own unique creations, or a family recipe that you'd like to share.

To accompany your recipe, you can also send an anecdote about how the recipe ties to living in Country Club Park — did you make it for a special event? What was the event and when was it? What was happening in the community or in the world when you served this meal? You may also include photos, drawings and other tidbits. Have your children join in on the fun and send along their artwork and their favorite recipes.

We know that all recipes come from somewhere, and although you may not be the originator of the one you send, you are part of the chain that keeps it going. Feel free to include who or what or where the inspiration came from. Recipes from a favorite cookbook or magazine are welcome, but please list the source. If you've altered the recipe, call it

yours! Keep in mind that we need all kinds of recipes: appetizers, main dishes, vegetables, desserts, etc.

So dig through your recipe box, cookbooks and clippings and send them to Megan Song at:

[eatyourdesserts@gmail.com](mailto:eatyourdesserts@gmail.com)

There is no limit on the recipes you can send, so keep them coming! Thanks!



## Area Codes—Look Twice

By Holly Eubanks

Scams abound, and while many that we read about in our email are urban legends or 'scareware,' some are legitimate.

Our neighbor on Wilton Place, Malcolm Brown, is one of our best sources for sorting out cyberspace fact from fiction, and here is a warning he recently forwarded to us.

AT&T and Snopes both warn about responding to a phone message giving you a call back number beginning with area code 809, 284, or 876. Usually the message promises a prize, or has information about a sick friend or relative. The caller assumes the area code is continental, but it connects, in fact, to an international number. Charges can escalate rapidly. AT&T advises consumers to only return calls to recognized numbers! Snopes provided this link if you need to verify an area code:

<http://decoder.americom.com/cgi-bin/decoder.cgi>



## Step up, Redouble, Intensify Watchfulness...



### In Country Club Park

By Holly Eubanks

We have received three reports from neighbors of serious crime in the area during the past couple of months. One involved a break-in of a home by three men while a family member happened to be inside. Quick thinking and the availability of a cell phone summoned the police in time to apprehend one of the burglars, who was injured while trying to escape by jumping over a fence. We have no further information about the other perpetrators.

One of our Board members described the second incident:

"The first week of February two (male and female) of our neighbors who live south of Pico were walking north on 3rd Avenue just past Country Club when they were robbed. A gray primed '92 or '93 Ford SUV drove up and one person jumped out, said he had a gun, and asked the man for his wallet. The victim didn't have his wallet on him but handed the robber the money he had in his pocket—about \$20 and his watch. There

were two or three more men in the SUV. The assailants were Hispanic; the time was 6:30 p.m. The crime was reported to the police.

I have spoken with the victims. They were very shaken up but are okay now. They were very concerned and will be making sure they are home before dark from their walks from now on. I sincerely believe that we should all do our walking before dark or twilight."

We received a letter about a third burglary in our community from another neighbor, who reported that their home was broken into on February 26 between 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. The home was very systematically and thoroughly ransacked, and the burglar(s) seemed to be targeting small, trendy, expensive items. The homeowner reported that "an almost identical burglary occurred (just a few days before) near Crenshaw and Olympic."

As a community, we may want to revisit prior conversations about patrol, systematic neighborhood vigilance and safety efforts, and emergency preparedness. ***It is vitally important that each block have a Block Captain who can maintain contact information for his or her street, and who can be available to disseminate vital information in the event of emergency or disaster.***

In the past, we had created such a list, but the demographics of the neighborhood have changed. In light of the current global financial uncertainties, we need to strategize collaboratively—with one another, with our Councilman's office, and with the local police personnel to ensure that our homes and families are safe and secure.

## Oxford Square Unveils Neighborhood Sign

By Holly Eubanks

On February 21, our neighbors in the newly designated Oxford Square Neighborhood Association congregated on the corner of Victoria Avenue and Pico Boulevard for a very special occasion—the unveiling of their historic neighborhood sign.

Chris Elwell, community organizer and President of the Olympic Park Neighborhood Council, was visibly pleased about the combined effort of Oxford Square neighbors to create first their Association, and then the elegant logo for their historic community. Councilman Wesson, who officiated at the unveiling, commented that the design for the Oxford Square sign, designed by Victoria Avenue resident Murray Cohen, was the best he had seen.

The councilman offered words of praise to the neighborhood, and pledged to do everything in his power to continue with the revitalization of the Pico Corridor. He reminded neighbors that as the goods and services that we all have requested make their appearance in the neighborhood, it becomes incumbent upon us to be regular patrons—a sentiment applauded by the neighbors.

Chris expressed his gratitude to all in attendance—guidance and support given by Councilman Wesson and his Senior Deputy Sylvia Lacy; well-wishers from Country Club Park; and the assistance given by the Department of Street Services. Said Chris, "LA's newest neighborhood sign dedication would not have been possible (continued p. 7)

## Oxford Square continued from p. 6

without the enormous generosity and support of the Olympic Park Neighborhood Council (in cooperation with the Oxford Square Neighborhood Association) and the tireless efforts of our project manager, the famous Arts and Crafts historian and designer and Victoria Avenue resident, Murray Cohen."

Murray was available at the dedication to sign paper copies of the sign for all in attendance.



## An Association of Neighbors in Historic Central Los Angeles



## Congratulations from Country Club Park Neighborhood Association!



## My Stretch Limo

By Jamie Feusner

One important thing members of the Country Club Park community could do to fight climate change is to start riding a bike or using public transportation.

*Climate change? Who really knows for sure? There are plenty of scientists who say we need to study it more, that they are not convinced human activity has anything to do with it. Nine straight days of 80 plus degree temperatures in Los Angeles this January – could be a fluke. A wall of flames roars across Australia... who cares what happens down under!*

*Oh, you say it's been a consensus amongst scientists for a while now, and our president recognizes it's a problem. Well, even if it is a problem, isn't the fact that our economy is down the toilet a bigger one? Won't it cost more for U.S. car companies to change to making more fuel-efficient cars, forcing them out of business and resulting in more unemployment? How can the government think about taxing carbon at a time like this?*

Steven Chu, our new Nobel laureate Energy Secretary, announced that if things continue the way they are, we will reach a point of there being *no more* agriculture in California. The snowpack drops,

the forest keeps dying off due to drought and parasites so the soil can't hold water, and there's no water left for agriculture. He says that would be an economic disaster, since California produces 20% of the agriculture in the United States. Think food prices are high now?

*Yeah, but that might not happen for a few years. What about my job now? Anyway, since Obama and his cabinet seem to think it is an important issue, maybe they'll do something about it. He keeps mentioning cutting carbon emissions. Can't he get companies to do that? You mean you don't think the systems of politics and lobbying that have supported big business and allowed them to lay waste to the environment can change all of a sudden? Maybe you need to be more optimistic. Quit with all the fear mongering, I just want to live my life.*

*Anyway, I can't do anything about it, because I can't afford a new car and I can't afford solar panels and I don't have the time or think it's safe to take the bus and I like my cheeseburgers and I like to have my computer on all the time so I can have quick access to the internet. I'll wait for the government to do something about it, or tell me to do something about it. (continued p. 8)*

(Stretch Limo continued from P. 7)

*It doesn't really seem to be a big deal yet. Oh, avocado production was down because of the heat? Oh, every summer's heat waves are already killing thousands of farm animals in California? Oh, wildfire seasons are getting longer and more intense and destroying more houses and forests?*

There is no bigger crisis the world is in now. Why would it matter if you have a retirement savings or even a job if you and/or your children may not have a world with adequate food, water, or bearable

temperatures? If we do not all act now *individually* and do everything we can, we do not have much of a future. Don't expect the wealthy CEOs of companies who heavily influence our government to want to change things; they will adapt much more easily to a new world with hotter temperatures than everyone else.

*You say an important thing I could do is start riding a bike or public transportation? Well, I'll start riding the bus when public transportation gets better. No, actually haven't ever tried it.*

It's true that public transportation could be a lot better, but it will only get better when people use it more and put more pressure on the government to improve it (and are willing to pay more taxes for it).

So join me on my stretch limo called the MTA.

The drivers may be a bit surly, but they'll get you where you're going.



**Enjoy these pictures of the Grand Opening ceremony of the new Olympic Community Police Station!**



**This Newsletter** is brought to you by the Board of Directors of the Country Club Park Neighborhood Association  
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 Director: Shin-Yong Earl Kang  
 Director: John Longmuir  
 Director: Edmon Rodman  
 Director: Megan Song

These individuals volunteer their time and considerable energy for the good of the neighborhood. Support your Neighborhood Association... volunteer, get involved!  
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