

Country Club Park Chronicle

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2008 • VOLUME 4 • ISSUE 1

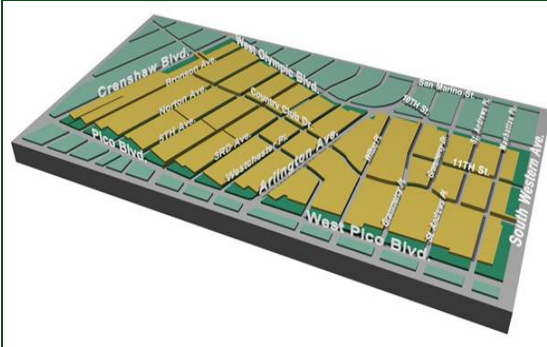
A PUBLICATION OF THE COUNTRY CLUB PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION www.countryclubpark.net

Hope You Were There: Holiday Party 2007

By Maisha Closson

It felt like one of those reality shows. How quickly can you pull together a party when the location is suddenly not available? This was our dilemma on the night before the annual Country Club Park holiday party. We were informed by the Avatar Center that there had been an oversight and their venue had been double booked. We'd have to find an alternate location. Father Raab and the Claretian priests were our salvation. We were able to pull off our party on December 16th in the dining hall of the Claretian Retreat Center without a hitch. And it was truly a fun time.

As I write this, I remember talking to Mr. Holliday about his dog Midnight. I received clothes for my new baby from the Longmuirs--picked out by Natasha and presented by Ryan. And I hugged Rani Cardona whose husband, Gilbert, had recently died. She came to the party to get out of the house and be around neighbors. Now, let me first say that I love parties. I love eating and talking and laughing and meeting new people. I don't, however, always love planning parties. That's what makes committee work a bit of



Next General Meeting:
Tuesday February 12
7:00 p.m.
Avatar Center,
1214 South Van Ness

a chore sometimes. The endless planning, and meeting and -sometimes- unforeseen complications. But what I often forget is the rewarding feeling that comes after a successful event is over. After this year's holiday party, I thought about conversations I had with neighbors I've never met before and it made me smile. Or I remembered seeing kids run around with gingerbread men they'd made. But ultimately, I remembered looking around the room and seeing all the different neighbors who make up Country Club Park sitting together and talking. This for me was the highlight.

This year's party was catered by El Cholo. Music was provided by pianist Roger Wright, and Angelique Paul and Jonathan Mouton, students of Lydia Mouton, a vocal coach and neighbor from 3rd Avenue. New members to CCPNA enlisted and a beautiful new 2008 calendar was distributed. Also—we had even more toys and canned food to donate to charity this year. A big thanks to Ky Fuesner for organizing the event. And hats off to Edmon Rodman, Tom Smith, John McCarthy for attacking and solving the location snafu. Thanks again to the Claretian Fathers! If this had been a reality TV show, our team would have won!

Message From the President

One-Light Town

By Edmon Rodman

I am waiting for the light at Country Club and Arlington, so I have plenty of time. While staring off into the tree-lined horizon the thought occurs to me that Country Club Park is really a one stoplight town. You know, a small town with a main street, a few blocks of businesses, a couple of thousand people, a church or two, a school, and one stop light, right in the center just thrown in to make everyone slow down. Many of you may originally be or have family from one-stoplight towns. Realizing that, and knowing that film

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Message from the President

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companies shoot here when they want a Midwest look, I suppose, I am not the first person to see Country Club Park, with its tree lined streets, broad lawns and wide sidewalks with joggers and dog walkers, as a small town.

Still waiting at the light I continue to play around with this thought. Like a small town, Country Club Park has a couple of gas stations, a butcher shop, a couple of banks, and more than enough liquor stores to go around. Lining our boundaries of Olympic, Pico, Crenshaw and Western, we have insurance brokers, doctor's, dentist's, lawyer's and accountant's offices. If you want to convalesce, we have a place for that, and places to get your hair done too. For our cars we have garages, a car lot, tire stores (new and used), and are awash in car washes (3).

The one-light town concept strains though as I recall that unlike most small towns we are way more international in flavor, having many restaurants serving cuisine from around the world: sushi, tamales, Korean bar-b-que, Salvadorian ceviche, Chinese and Vietnamese noodles, veggie soul food and yes take-out pizza and gelato.

We don't have a movie theatre, but we do have a mansion and other homes that appear in them and on TV as well. And we do have a night club, for gamers, an Internet Café, for those musically inclined, a place to buy a piano. We have appliance, hardware, glass and car stereo stores. We have a pet store, and a store selling live crabs (dinner not pets), and several small grocers green and otherwise. To relax, we have a day spa, to mend and clean our clothes, a tailor, laundromats and dry cleaners. In our one-light town of Country Club Park we are well provided for the inner life as well, being blessed with several churches and spirituality centers.

What a long light, long enough to recall reading that people in small towns report a slower pace of life, less tension and greater community; a chance if you so desire to get to know your neighbors. Small communities have the ability to hold town meetings (we have four public meetings a year), resolve issues amicably, and build their communities by making choices. Many of us CC "Parkers" identify with and appreciate these qualities as well.

So this is my one-light view of CCP. What's yours? While waiting for your next long light, take a moment, (you have several), and think about how you see things here. Are things about

right? Would you like to see more businesses, fewer, better? Safer streets? Cooking, Gardening, or Book Clubs? More greenery? We are about to discuss plans for a community pocket park on Olympic and Wilton. What kind of park do you see there? As a result of the new Interim Control Ordinance we now have a great deal more say in the kind of community we want. An HPOZ will allow us even more say in how our streets and community look. Let's, trade visions. Send me yours at edmonjace@aol.com.

Flood Insurance a Costly Expense for Some Country Club Park Residents

By Ky Ho CCPNA Board Director

About 200 Country Club Park homes located along Country Club Drive and on the northbound streets between Country Club Drive and Olympic lie in what is called a "flood plain." Mortgage companies require that you buy flood insurance if you live in an area that has a 1% or more chance of flooding in a year. The insurance company determines your level of risk based on flood maps provided by FEMA, the [Federal Emergency Management Agency](http://www.fema.gov). But depending on the height of your house compared to the Base Flood Elevation, you may be eligible for lower insurance premiums or be exempt from it altogether by getting a Letter of Map Amendment (or LOMA).

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Flood Control Plain, Cont'd from p.1

That's because FEMA's map may show that your house is in a high-risk flood zone, even though it's above the Base Flood Elevation, naturally or because the house was raised on fill dirt. To get a LOMA, you need to hire a Licensed Land Surveyor or Registered Professional Engineer to certify that your house is above the flood plain and apply for a LOMA through FEMA.

But there's a catch! A LOMA may eliminate the Federal flood insurance purchase requirement as a condition of Federal or federally backed financing, but your lender still has the prerogative to require flood insurance as a condition of providing financing, regardless of the location of a structure.

You can find a land surveyor at www.californiasurveyors.org.

For more information about LOMAs and the application process go to www.fema.gov and/or www.firstam.com.

Heal the Bay Encourages Ban on Plastic Bags

By Holly Eubanks

Heal the Bay, a Santa Monica organization dedicated to restoring the health and quality of Southern California coastal waters and watersheds, has stepped forward with a campaign to urge Angelenos to use reusable totes for their shopping instead of single-use plastic bags.

In December, they sponsored a one-day event to persuade shoppers to refrain from using plastic bags—just for that one day—and in return for the favor, merchants

throughout the southland donated and distributed literally tens of thousands of eco-friendly bags to consumers.

In January, Heal the Bay took the campaign to City Hall. Over the past 9 months, the organization has been working with County Supervisors toward the goal of achieving action to limit the City's "6 billion bag per year plastic bag addiction." The Board was moving in the direction of a 35% reduction by 2010, and a 70% reduction by 2013, but suddenly indicated they wanted to reduce these goals.

An estimated 200 activists showed up at city hall on the 22nd in support of an outright ban, citing similar actions taken in China, Africa, and closer to home, San Francisco, Paris, Whole Foods Markets!

But in the end, Supervisors recommended the most lax of the five alternatives, and allowed supermarket and store owners to simply encourage their customers to use reusable bags.

Given Mayor Villaraigosa and the Council's action plan to lead the nation in reducing the size of solid waste, the Supervisors' actions seem out of step. "It's a sad day," said Mark Gold, president of Heal the Bay, "when we have to look to China for environmental leadership and resolve."

Oxford Square Group Formed

By Murray Cohen

July 17, 2007 -- Residents of Windsor Blvd and Victoria Ave along with residents from 12th Street and Country Club Drive gathered on a warm summer's evening at the Wil-

shire Division Police Station Community room to discuss the formation of a block club. According to Windsor Blvd resident and Olympic Park Neighborhood Council Board Member Chris Elwell, "The neighborhood council is a terrific forum but some of us felt that, in addition to the OPNC, we might be even better represented by a block club." Mr. Elwell cited the recent successes of similar block clubs within the OPNC such as the Country Club Park Neighborhood Association. After discussing

Several neighborhood concerns, attendees voted to form a block club and name it "Oxford Square Neighborhood Association."

Neighborhood historian Murray Cohen said, "'Oxford Square' was the name of the original tract laid out on our streets by developer Emil Firth in 1906. In an historic sense, the name fits."

You can contact the The Oxford Square by email at Oxford.Square@Yahoo.com. Serving on the Board of Directors are

President: Chris Elwell
chriselwell@yahoo.com;
(323) 697-1813

Treasurer: George Kelly-
george@kelly-architects.com

Secretary: Mary Beth Fielder
mbfielder@cinema.usc.edu

Ed. Note: Country Club Park Neighborhood Association extends congratulations and best wishes to Oxford Square on their new Neighborhood Association. We look forward to working with you—our communities share many common goals!

Let's Get Cookin'

By Megan Song

Ever want to cook something different for dinner, but you have run out of ideas? Well, how about pulling out a new "Country Club Park Neighborhood Cookbook?"

Our lovely neighborhood is a diverse community of cultures and ethnicities. Each family has its diverse family recipes...wouldn't it be a good idea and a lot of fun to share them with our neighborhood family?

A few years ago, my family put together a cookbook with old family recipes along with some family anecdotes, stories, and pictures. Recipes varied from Korean BBQ to parfait pies. This was more than just another cookbook; it proved a way to learn a lot about our family's history.

Would you like to preserve some of Country Club Park's memories and recipes and pass them on to the next generation? The idea is to compile recipes and put them together in one unified cookbook. With that we can preserve the recipes for others as well as ourselves.

We would very much love to hear from you! If you would like to share your recipes, stories or photos, please feel free to email me or drop them off at our house, info can be found at the bottom. Please include your family name and address. Don't have recipes to share? Don't worry, we would still love to hear from you. Please share your favorite stories about the neighborhood with us or some

pictures as well. Please send us copies of photos, not the negative or the originals, as they may not be returned to you as given. Megan Song eatyourdesserts@gmail.com
1064 South Gramercy Place
Los Angeles, CA 90019



New! Gelaco! Your Patronage Requested!

Maybe it's the possibility of Tiramisu, Crème brûlée, and Strawberry White Chocolate Decadence Gelato all in the same bowl, or the European chocolates, or the aroma of a steaming espresso on a rainy afternoon, but the new *Gelaco* (that's how the business name is spelled) in Country Club Park is sure to garner five stars from neighbors. It's a "MUST PATRONIZE" — our longstanding wish for a coffee house in Country Club Park has been granted! Visit



Dr. Rasmussen called with the news; he discovered the new mini-mall at the corner of third and Olympic open and doing business. He had glowing reviews for the ice cream establishment, which features organic teas and organic olive oil, European chocolates and honeycomb honey, and espresso in

addition to a simply mouth-watering array of gelato flavors. Do visit right away—and often! We don't want to lose this gem.



3600 West Olympic Blvd, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

In the same new mall is a lovely gift shop, *Rosemary*, with some jewelry items, a variety of handmade ceramics, and a few clothing items—very appealing ambiance!

Next door to *Rosemary* you will find ...

Kids & Mommy Baby Supplies

...a baby boutique with some very cute things for the little ones. The shop is new, so inventory is still being added, but there are some darling shoes on display!



<http://www.kidsandmommy.com/MCClient.php?D1=S>

ReVisions



Premieres Jan 12, 2008, 6 pm

Eco-LA to Present ReVisions

New Art Painted on Recycled Billboards to be Seen 40 Million Times in the New Year

LOS ANGELES— Peter Schulberg, founder of the non-profit Eco-Logical ART Gallery (www.ecologicalart.org) continues to aim sky high in his determination to think outside the public art box. With “**ReVisions,**” his recycled billboard art event slated for Los Angeles and San Francisco, Schulberg’s “drive-by” art exhibit will be seen over 40 million times in the New Year. The gallery and “street” premiere of **ReVisions** was on **January 12, 2008 at 6pm.**

The ambitious project, made possible with a grant from the Vinyl Institute, and in association with display heavyweights Van Wagner and CBS Outdoor, features 15 original art billboards that will go on exhibit across the city of Los Angeles. Using actual data, it is estimated the works will be seen 750,000 thousand times daily—making it one of the largest public art events in LA history.

In the first hour more Angeleno’s will experience the art than attend any of the major LA art museums in a week.

While **ReVisions** opens in mid-January, the “renewable imagery”

art project kicked off informally on weekends starting December 1st when the public was invited to the Eco-LA gallery to watch a dozen renowned, cutting edge artists painting an eclectic array of images “live” on the 14 by 48 foot billboards.

ReVisions comes on the heels Eco-LA’s OFF THE WALL 3, an indoor/outdoor exhibit in which discarded billboards were transformed into spectacular works of art. Besides smaller pieces, for the first time the event featured original art on actual 14’ by 48’ recycled vinyls. Up for the run of the gallery show, the five original art billboards were seen over 15 million times.

The concept of new art on old billboards came to Schulberg in 2004 when he learned that tons of billboard advertising is tossed into landfills monthly. Schulberg, who paints and makes functional art from recovered materials, felt the waste cried out for a green solution. He also had a desire to turn the billboard vinyl and staid gallery world literally “inside-out.”

So he began experimenting with applying paint to the vinyl and invented a stretching process so that the material could be used as canvases. He then placed notices on art newsgroups offering free canvases and exposure on the exterior of his gallery. With the word out, Schulberg compared the response to the movie *Field of Dreams*.

Received from Peter Sculberg for immediate release.

Don’t Miss dineLA Restaurant Week!

Mark your calendars for some extraordinary tastes of the town!

January 27 to February 1, 2008
February 3 to February 8, 2008

dineLA Restaurant week showcases some of LA’s best restaurants and gives locals and visitors a chance to sample a selection of three-course menus at bargain prices. A few of the 140 (or more) participating restaurants include...

- All' Angelo (Italian)
- Neomeze (Italian)
- Red seven (Wolfgang Puck Pan-asian)
- Beacon (Pan-Asian)
- Patina (American-Modern)
- Grace (American-modern with french influences)
- Violet (American-modern, mid-priced)
- Il moro (Bolognese)
- Table 8 (American Modern, Comfort food, bar menu)
- Ocean Ave Seafood (standard Seafood)
- 3 on fourth (World Cuisine)

Lunch	Dinner
Deluxe Dining:\$15	\$25
Premier Dining:\$22	\$34

For more information, go to

<http://www.dinela.com/data/restaurantweek/>



Welcome!

Country Club Park welcomes new neighbors Peter and Electra Lang, who purchased what we all have come to call "The Mansion" from Monica Ericson and Eric Vinzants.

Welcome to the neighborhood, Langs! We hope to see you soon at the next General Meeting!



Traffic!

Dr. Rasmussen keeps us abreast of traffic incidents in Country Club Park. Notable news in this department include a very serious accident on Country Club Drive and 3rd involving a fatality, caused by a vehicle which breached the stop sign on 4th Avenue. There was also another serious collision on Arlington and Olympic. "These accidents on Olympic occur on an average of about 2 accidents a week," said Dr. Rasmussen. "It is a treacherous intersection."

Over two years ago, Dr. Rasmussen applied for a left hand turn signal for that corner, but to date one has not been constructed. Edmon Rodman, Tom Smith, and John McCarthy re-addressed this issue in a recent meeting with Councilman Wesson, who promised to look into the matter.



Rave Reviews!

Several of our neighbors have signed up for the Alta Dena Dairy delivery. They say there is huge selection of dairy items, luncheon meats, bread, and water. If interested, you can call John McBride at 1 (800)535-1369 extension 504 for the complete list of products available or to sign up for this service. Deliveries for Country Club Park are on Thursdays.



We always want to extend our appreciation to those neighbors who take a moment to inform us of criminal activity in the neighborhood. Naturally, we would rather not have to report any such activity, but it is wise to be informed and prepared.

The Police Department reminds us that we are their eyes and ears—you all are the eyes and ears of the Board as well.

From Charlotte Gooch and Carol Hall...reminders to stow valuables in your car so they are not visible through the window. The Gooches had two auto break-ins during the week of December 15.

From Sherri Woods, CCPNA neighbor and OPNC Board member...a shooting at Norton and Pico on December 20.

The Stormwater Program

The City Engineer of the Stormwater Program urges us to protect our

coastal waters—and reminds us that the problem is not at the end of the pipes where the runoff enters the ocean, it's at the source—where we live and work. Here are some valuable suggestions about how each one of us can help—everyday and during seasonal storms.

▮ Conserve water and keep it out of the gutter. Take your car to a car wash that recycles its water. Use a broom, not water, to sweep driveways and sidewalks. Do not over-water your lawn or garden.

▮ Recycle motor oil, paint, and other household products or shop at a store that will recycle them for you.

▮ Adopt your neighborhood storm drains. Report illegal dumping into storm drains and any catch basins that need cleaning.

▮ Purchase less toxic, biodegradable gardening and household products.

▮ Dispose of pet waste in the trash or in your toilet. Leaving waste on the lawn sends harmful bacteria into the storm drains whenever you water or the rains come.

▮ Place yard trimmings and leaves into City-issued containers or start your own compost program. Do not sweep debris into the streets or catch basins.

<http://www.lacity.org/san/wpd/Siteorg/download/pdfs/publications/swprgm91.pdf>



Filming Update

By John McCarthy

When the CCPNA Film Rate Card was established in 2006, there was no telling if it would be accepted or rejected by production companies planning to shoot in our area. Well, after 2 years we can give you an update: the Rate Card has been a resounding success! Since its inception, the CCPNA has been able to collect almost \$30,000.00 in filming revenue. Producers have been encouraged to donate to the CCPNA, but never bullied. The rates on the sheet are suggested, not mandatory. If a production chooses not to donate the first time they shoot in the area, we have seen time and again that they make donations on subsequent visits to the neighborhood.

"Beauty and the Geek" (now filming at the Milbank Mansion) has been a great contributor to the CCPNA. During the past year, 2 seasons of the series have been shot. After meeting with the production coordinators and the location scouts, Fox Television agreed to donate \$10,000 per season to the CCPNA. This money has been earmarked to use toward the establishment of the Country Club Park Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ).

Regina Jones, Pamela Whittenbury and I are proud to work as the film liaisons for the neighborhood. If you have questions about filming or want to join our committee, please give me (John McCarthy) a call at 323.732.8118.



Rambo Sign a Phenomenon

By Regina Jones and Holly Eubanks

If you google "Rambo ad Jason Lindeman", several pages of web results come up—and that's just in English!

So...Everyone is familiar with Rambo's mythic stature, but who is this mystery graphics designer Jason Lindeman?

Jason Lindeman, of Santa Monica-Based ad agency Ignition Print, is none other than Country Club Park neighbor Jason Lindeman, whose Rambo icon—originally intended as a T-shirt design—is now an 80-foot billboard in Times Square.

Tim Palen, who is Lionsgate's co-president of marketing, describes the widespread popularity of the new icon as "amazing." And apparently Sylvester Stallone feels the same way!

Congratulations to Jason, and best wishes to Sylvester Stallone and all the cast and crew of the new movie. The latest "Rambo" was released on January 25.

For a look at the ad, here is a link to the recent *Los Angeles Times* article:

<http://www.latimes.com/entertainment/news/movies/la-et-rambo14jan14,1,4269336.story?coll=la-entnews-home-topstories>

Welcome Baskets for New Neighbors

By Maisha Closson

Has a new family, couple or person moved to your street? Have you met them, introduced yourself? Sometimes, it seems that with all we have to do, meeting new people or reaching out is low on the list. I know I'm guilty of thinking this! However, a simple hello or introduction goes a long way

This Newsletter...

Is brought to you by the Board of Directors of the Country Club Park Neighborhood Association. These individuals volunteer their time and considerable energy for the good of the neighborhood. Support your Neighborhood Association...volunteer, get involved!

Your Board of Directors:

President: Edmon Rodman

Vice President: Tom Smith

Treasurer: Regina Jones

Recording Secretary: John McCarthy

Corresponding Secretary: Pamela Whittenbury

Director: Prem Goyal

Director: Maisha Closson

Director: John Longmuir

Director: Sequoia Mercier

Director: Trang (Ky) Ho

Director: Shin-Yong Earl Kang

in making everyone feel connected and welcome. If you have a new neighbor, tell us about them. We are now delivering "welcome baskets" to folks who have just moved into Country Club Park. These baskets, containing newsletters, a calendar, helpful numbers and a plant, are our way of helping newcomers feel at home. Plus, after they feel welcome, you'll feel more comfortable telling them how loudly their dog barks when they're not home!

Country Club Park Neighborhood Association

January February NEWSLETTER

February Event: GENERAL MEETING

Date: Tuesday, February 12

7:00 p.m.

Location: Avatar Meher Baba Center

1214 South Van Ness Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90019-3520

Country Club Park Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 19512

Los Angeles, CA 90019-1028

FIRST CLASS