

# Country Club Park Chronicle

MAY/JUNE 2008 • VOLUME 4 • ISSUE 3

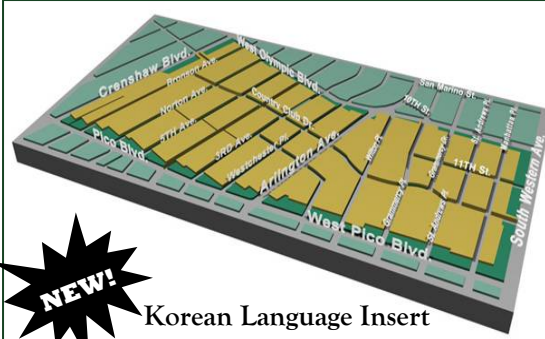
A PUBLICATION OF THE COUNTRY CLUB PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION [www.countryclubpark.net](http://www.countryclubpark.net)

## Message from the President

This spring, we have received several very nice personal notes and comments, thanking those involved with the neighborhood association for their time and effort. It's nice to hear from you, and you are most welcome. Most of us, though appreciative, don't have the time or energy to be involved in planning and committees and meetings. But you could be involved in important more personal ways. So, here in this column, with a 10 point list, I am challenging you to become a bit more aware, a little more friendly, a shade greener and a spot cleaner. Can't do everything on the list, then try one and work your way up. It's the simple stuff that works:

### Ten Easy Things You Can Do to Improve Your Neighborhood:

1. Go out and spread a little green--patronize the merchants surrounding Country Club Park. Many real estate analysts believe that as a commercial district improves, so goes the adjacent residential area. Tell the merchants where you live.
2. Create a personal neighborhood network. For added security and well



**Next General Meeting:  
HPOZ PRESENTATION  
Tuesday June 10 at 7:00 p.m.  
Avatar Center  
1214 South Van Ness**

being, collect your neighbor's names and phone numbers and their email address.

3. Put your eyes on the street. Keep watch on your block, your neighbor's homes and property. Keep your hedges and fences low—if you can't see out—no one, if you are in danger, can see in to help you.
4. See trash or debris in the street or on the parkway? Stop and pick it up. Do it for someone and someone will do it for you. Some of you pick up already. Sure, you can call the city to pick up the big or really gross stuff. But that still leaves a lot for you to pitch in. Think RR: Receptacle Reciprocity!
5. Turn on your porch light; let everyone see your light. Make your street safe and walkable. The more light, the less illegal after-dark activity. For a double score here—go out and buy one of those low energy fluorescents

(continued p. 2)

## Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Report

By Tom Smith

The Midtown Crossing Project, slated for Pico at the site of the old Builders Discount, has been in the works for over 10 years.

The project has been beset by obstacles, and we receive inquiries from neighbors who are wondering when the promised businesses will finally be in place...still a good question!

The project had been delayed for the past few months due to the discovery of old infrastructure and property features that were missing from City records, and that posed new structural problems for the development. These have now been addressed and the plans have been revised. On May 15, 2008, the CRA/LA board approved additional funding of \$9,322,000 so that the project can resume. Fortunately, Lowes Home Improvement is still onboard as a primary tenant. *Curbed LA* reports that the ground floor will be occupied by Lowes, the middle level at this point is to be parking, and the upper level is designated for 3 additional

(continued p. 2)

## Message from the President

(continued from p. 1)

- for the porch.
6. Water your parkway trees. We have so many new trees, and this spring they are really making a green statement. They are thirsty and need your care.
  7. If your dog is barking for long stretches, do what you can to sooth and settle him. What can drive you out of your mind more quickly than an incessantly barking dog? Be considerate. Many of us have pets in part to alert us to danger. But when they are alerting us to everything all the time—you need to step up and take responsibility. And speaking of stepping, when you walk your pet, clean up after them.
  8. Drive safely and slowly in the neighborhood. There are kids, elders, walkers, and strollers. Take an extra minute, slow down and enjoy the view. Cut back on a car trip or two, buy locally (see #1).
  9. Put your trash cans out Thursday, put them back on Friday. Hey, I know, some days it's hard. And what's the diff' if the gardener comes on Wednesday and puts them out then? You or your neighbors can't park, and of course, you get to look at trash cans for three days.
  10. Relax. If you've done the previous 9, you deserve a break. Sit on the porch. Lean back and put your feet up. Have a nice cool lemonade, smile and just say "hi" when a neighbor walks by.

—Edmon Rodman, President

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## Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Report (Continued from p. 1)

smaller big box retailers. There is the possibility that Circuit City will come in as the electronics store; there may be a Ross or sporting goods store (if you examine the renderings).



<http://la.curbed.com/archives/2007/10/constructionwat.php>

*Projected views of the completed Midtown Crossing, Pico Aspect*

The third retailer is undecided at this point. Still intended for the development is a ground floor restaurant along Pico.

In other CRA news, the organization put out a Request for Proposal (RFP) for an architect to oversee the creation of the **Wilton Place Pocket Park**, at Olympic Boulevard. Hopefully, in July we'll be able to hold community meetings with the new architect and start to build something that we can all be proud of.

## Update on the Claretian Retreat Center

Early in May, the property we knew as the Claretian Retreat Center and Mission closed escrow. The new owners—and our new neighbors—are the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. Join us in extending a warm welcome to the Sisters! The order will be using the Center as a retirement home. As the new owners, the Order has graciously allowed the Community to use the lawn area adjoining 12th Street as the grounds for the 3rd Annual Saturday in the Park, to be held this August 23.

## News from the Board

By John McCarthy



The Country Club Park Neighborhood Association's Board of Directors is preparing for a busy summer. The Saturday in the Park event has been slated for August 23. Please mark your calendars! It's time to start thinking about what you are going to donate to the Bake Sale. This year the committee is being chaired by Rich Schmidt. If you have interest in helping out, please email Rich at: [game7@speakeasy.net](mailto:game7@speakeasy.net).

The HPOZ survey of our homes is going to begin shortly. In partnership with the Olympic Park Neighborhood Council, we look forward to getting our neighborhood the historic designation it deserves. As part of our commitment to the process, we will need to take photos of each house in the area. If you have any interest in photography and have some time to donate, please email Tom Smith at: [tom@tsaresearch.com](mailto:tom@tsaresearch.com)

The plans for the Pocket Park at the corner of Olympic and Wilton Place are beginning to take shape. The process may take longer than we hoped for, but the end result should be an asset for the neighborhood.

## Conferences and Meetings

By Edmon Rodman

In May there was a shower of meetings and conferences dealing with neighborhood planning and preservation--all attended by neighborhood representatives. The Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative (LANI) held their annual conference at USC on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Councilwoman Jan Perry spoke convincingly about the need for more green grocers, and keynote speaker, Keenan Ivory Wayans, spoke about the awareness and need for going Green in the Black community. Breakout sessions included, "Solving the Supermarket Dilemma," and "Neighborhood Asset mapping made Easy."

Also in May, Chief City Planner Gail Goldberg spoke to a packed room at the Ebel Theatre about the need for an individual updated City Plan for our area. Afterwards, she answered several questions, including those by John McCarthy and Judy Reidel, about code enforcement and how to create really great streets in LA,

The following Saturday, neighbors Tom Smith, Gary Song and Edmon Rodman attended the 7<sup>th</sup> annual citywide HPOZ conference. Held at Pisgah Village in Highland Park, the conference was sponsored by the LA Planning Department and the Los Angeles Conservancy. Invited as an HPOZ in process, CCP neighborhood representatives heard each of the City's 22 HPOZ's give an update on their progress and challenges of the past year. Also attended were breakout sessions on how to increase HPOZ awareness, and a walking tour of a Highland Park historical area.

## Update on Flood Plain

### Waivers

Several households have already been exempted from the flood plain designation which generates some hefty insurance rates for many homes in Country Club Park. Our neighbor on Wilton Place, Amy Vuckovich, got the ball rolling by researching surveyors, and contacted land surveyors Chris Nelson and Associates. They conducted the survey in April, and issued homeowners a LOMA certification. A "LOMA" is a Letter of Map Amendment which must be submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to change a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) in order to move a piece of property out of the 1% floodplain. If you can wade through the Alphabet Soup that accompanies the bureaucracy, you have the possibility to considerably reduce your insurance costs! For more information, contact your Board of Directors.



## Citywide Services Directory

...and a single toll-free phone number to contact City of Los Angeles officials for any **non-emergency** public service!



## Eating Our Way Out of Climate Change

By Jamie Feusner

What does food have to do with global warming?

Food, and everything that goes into producing and delivering it, accounts for 1/3 of global greenhouse emissions. What people choose to eat influences how much carbon is released into the atmosphere every year. Fortunately, the changes we can make individually to help reduce our environmental impact will lead to a more healthful lifestyle and probably even weight loss.

For years I knew that it was probably better for the environment to not eat meat, because of the excess of resources (deforested land for grazing, water, fertilizer, energy) that it takes to produce, relative to other foods. For me, environmental impact and the fear of an incurable disease were enough for me to finally give up beef. Yet there are many more reasons such as rising prices, contribution to high cholesterol, heart disease, obesity, etc.

I kept eating pork, chicken, and dairy. Then I read the article in the LA Times about food and carbon. It directed me to the website [www.eatlowcarbon.org](http://www.eatlowcarbon.org) where one can calculate the carbon dioxide equivalents of what they eat. I tried it out. Any time I put in milk or cheese, the thing skyrocketed. Crikey, do I have to give up dairy, too? Cheese has about 8 times the carbon dioxide equivalents of the same amount of bread. Dairy involves all the energy to raise

cows, plus all the energy to pasteurize the milk, etc. So we switched to soymilk. This took about a week to get used to in my cereal. It still tastes pretty awful in my coffee, so I just drink it black now. I was really lamenting the loss of ice cream until I bought a soy-based "cherry chip" variety. At first I was very suspicious of it. How can it be soy-based? The texture is exactly like ice cream. I had to turn off the TV, close my eyes, and concentrate on how it's different. It's a little less rich, a little less cold and dense, yet 90% as satisfying.

In just two and a half months since I gave up beef and about two weeks since I gave up dairy I've lost 8 lbs. I am not hungry. My meal portions have not changed. I wonder if there is something in beef and dairy products that promotes weight gain, above and beyond the actual calories. I am definitely eating more vegetables and grains, and I feel pretty healthy.

There you have it, less carbon, water, land, fertilizer, animal cruelty. A more healthful diet and weight loss without trying. Is it cheaper? The jury is still out. I think it probably would be for us if we prepared more foods and purchased less packaged items.

Just consider me a Country Club Park experiment. But wait a minute, it's not like I'm setting foot on Mars or anything. Millions of people around the world eat a diet close to what I am eating. What *is* extreme, compared to the rest of the world, is the way Americans on the whole consume carbon-intensive foods such as meat.

If you still want to eat meat, chicken is the most carbon-friendly of the

meats. Or treat meat more as a condiment, or to flavor sauces. Nuts and eggs are good alternative sources of protein.

If you buy locally-grown fruits and vegetables, less carbon has been spent to transport it. An easy way to do this is buy at the farmer's market. Avoid out of season produce (like peaches in the winter, which have probably come from South America) and tropical fruits. Most likely it will be cheaper, too.

[eatlowcarbon.org](http://eatlowcarbon.org) recommends people try to reduce the carbon equivalents in their diet by 25%. Even having one vegetarian day a week will make a difference!



### For the 4th of July...

If you happened to be in town during the month of June and July of last year, you had the unenviable experience of discovering what the sound of gunfire must be like in a war zone. The number of illegal fireworks set off both inside and outside our community's boundaries was unprecedented, and the Board received numerous letters and complaints from neighbors who were fuming about the noise, terrified pets, and spent cartridges and rockets they found in their back yards. You may recall that one family had their dog wrench himself free of his chain and bolt over the backyard wall in terror. Please respect the City Ordinance...and your neighbors. If you want to enjoy fireworks, attend any one of the many legal fireworks displays held in controlled environments. Municipal Code SEC. 57.55.01.

## And Speaking of Climate Change...

Did you know that planting one tree can offset the carbon emissions created by one car driving about 2000 miles?

Have you heard that our neighbors the Gooches awoke one morning recently and admired the young cedar newly planted in their parkway, but returned in the afternoon to find that it had been ripped out of the ground and spirited away?

We are outraged...for more reasons than we can count...the feeling of violation that theft always leaves behind, the affront to our community and the hard work of the KYCC in conjunction with our Board and neighborhood volunteers, the loss of the opportunity to nurture that little tree, and the senselessness of the act, considering that the City is giving away these trees for the asking!

The cedar will be replaced, but we ask that, as Edmon said in this issue's Message from the President, "Put your eyes on the street. Keep watch on your block, your neighbor's homes and property."

We all are aware of the problems we have with loiterers in the neighborhood, or those who walk through with motives ulterior to a leisurely stroll along a lovely tree-lined street. Wilshire Division reminds us to call the police whenever we observe suspicious or criminal behavior. But perhaps we can add a #11 to Edmon's list of ways to improve the neighborhood...let's take time to do some walking ourselves; call a neighbor or take your dog. Let's work together to be a visible presence in our community!

## Bake Sale for Mark Ricks' 2008 1st Annual Defensive Back Camp

6/21/2008 12 noon - 5pm  
1210 S Gramercy Place  
Los Angeles, CA 9001

Sponsored by: Mark's Mentoring Sports Program

Some of you may have seen Mark Ricks running short sprints on the hilly side of Gramercy Place—an intense burst of power and speed, a brief pause, and then that same drill again—but this time going *uphill!* And then multiple sets in sequence...

Ricks, who played in the AFL Arena Football League, is modest about his professional football status, but he is indeed an expert when it comes to physical fitness.

Mark is hosting a sports camp at West Adams High School this summer. It is geared to high risk inner-city youth, and offers alternatives to gang affiliations and violence through the training and discipline required for athletics.

This year's focus for participants is football and track and field. Training can either be one on one or group setting. The bake sale is to raise money for the camp, which will be held on July 19, 2008 at West Adams High School in Los Angeles.

Let's all turn out to support this cause...the bake sale is right here in the neighborhood, and all deterrents to gang violence have benefits for every neighborhood in the City!



## For Pets' Sake...

Some people seem to have a special knack when it comes to discovering natural remedies for pet ailments. Our neighbor Charlotte Uyehara is a veritable storehouse of good information and some rather extraordinary results using natural products with her pets. Charlotte is particularly leery of using pesticides exclusively to rid lawns and gardens of fleas and ticks, or as an "apply to the skin" type of flea deterrent for dogs. She has had good success recently with a product called Cedarcide. This product offers a wide range of non-toxic treatments for lawns and for pet care. Check out the link, or talk to Charlotte when you see her out walking with Sheba and Princess.



<http://www.cedarcidestore.citymax.com/releases/release/3365525/14642.htm>

## AYSO Announces Fall Registration Period

Do you have any future soccer stars in your home? The fall season is not far off. You can register online or in person. We're in Region 78 (Hollywood Wilshire)—recipient of the Platinum Region Designation for the 7th straight year.

<http://.ayso78.org/default-ayso78.aspx>

Or Call 323-462-0110

## In Memorium: Isao Yasuda

It is with sincere sympathy that the Country Club Park Neighborhood Association offers condolences to the family of Isao Yasuda, who passed away on March 19 at age 86. Mrs. Yasuda (Marian) told us that her husband was born in Altadena, but that his family moved to the Hollywood area during his school years. Isao attended Fairfax High, and later served in the Military Intelligence Service as an interpreter during World War II. He also was active in the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He and Mrs. Yasuda met at the Hollywood Independence Church, and soon would have celebrated 49 years of membership in that faith community. The couple moved to Arlington Avenue in Country Club Park in 1948 where they raised four sons—Richard, David, Ronald, and Dwayne. Mr. Yasuda is survived as well by two grandchildren, Matthew and Timothy. The Yasudas have been longtime members of the Neighborhood Association, and we are so sorry to hear of Mr. Yasuda's passing.

## Accepting Applications...

The CCPNA Board of Directors will be accepting nominations from the community for one open director's position. If you are interested in serving on the Board, there are a few prerequisites:

1. You must be available to attend Board meetings, which occur every other month, usually on Monday evenings.
2. You must be a contributing resident of Country Club Park, i.e. you must have a current paid subscription on file.
3. You must be able to work within a "team" model, and have a general knowledge of procedural rules.
4. Good people skills are a definite plus!

If you are interested in this important community service, please write a paragraph or so telling us about your interest in becoming a Board member. Fill out the form below and mail both to **P.O. Box 19512, LA 90019**

✂

I am interested in becoming a Director of the Board for Country Club Park's Neighborhood Association. I am a contributing Country Club Park Associate.

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Associate

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Associate seeking Board seat

\_\_\_\_\_

Address

\_\_\_\_\_

## 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: Trang (Ky) Ho

Director: Shin-Yong Earl Kang

**Editor:** Holly L. Eubanks

Thanks to all the Board Members and neighbors who submitted articles! Your input allows us to bring a treasure trove of information to the community!



Over 28,000 health and human service programs throughout Los Angeles County 24 hours per day, 7 days per week

## RENEW FOR 2007 – 2008

Those who live and work, learn and worship here...  
Send your subscription donation now, or bring it with you to  
Saturday in the Park on August 23  
for the

Country Club Park Neighborhood Association Newsletter!  
Keep informed of the latest developments in the community.

It's that time of year when we again ask you to renew your subscription to the  
Country Club Park Neighborhood Association Newsletter.

Our renewal period is from June 2007 to June 2008.

We want to keep you informed about what's happening in Country Club Park, and how these matters could affect you.

Be part of the drive to maintain, beautify, and preserve our historic neighborhood.

**Fill out the renewal form below. Thank you for your support.**

### RENEWAL FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**STANDARD DONATION - \$35.00**

**PATRON'S CIRCLE DONATION - \$50.00**

**SPONSOR'S CIRCLE DONATION - \$100.00**

Make check payable to: COUNTRY CLUB PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Mail to: Country Club Park Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 19512

Los Angeles, California 90019

Country Club Park Neighborhood Association

MAY/JUNE NEWSLETTER

June Event: GENERAL MEETING

Date: Tuesday, June 10

Time: 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