

The Crest View

Volume 1, 8th Edition

a periodic newsletter sponsored by the Culver Crest Neighborhood Association

Editor in Chief: Mike Bauer * Contributing Editor: Mark Salkin * Production Designer: Mollie Bauer

Members of the Board:

Mike Bauer, Vice President * Antoine Durr * Peter Friedman * Rich Kissel * Rosalind LaBriola *
Howard Lichtman * Steve Reitzfeld, Treasurer * Marlene Rose * Mark Salkin, President

Committee Heads:

West Los Angeles College

John Kuechle
jmkuechle@yahoo.com

Internet and Cable

Jill McKeon
jillemckeon@yahoo.com

Hillside

Howard Lichtman
ldc.inc@comcast.net

Oil Field

Antoine Durr
antoinedurr@comcast.net

Block Captains Coordinator

Rich Kissel
rich@richkissel.com

Traffic

Mike Bauer
Culvercity99@aol.com

NOTICE of GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, April 11, 2007

* 6:30 p.m. *

at El Rincon School Cafetorium

Anticipated Agenda for April 11, 2007 General Meeting

- A. GREETINGS AND INTRODUCTION
- B. READING AND ADOPTING OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES
- C. TREASURER'S REPORT
- D. LT. IIZUKA WILL UPDATE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH
- E. TRAFFIC SAFETY, PRESENTED BY GABE GARCIA, C.C. TRAFFIC ENGINEERING MANAGER
- F. UPDATES ON HILLSIDE REPAIR
- E. NEW DEVELOPMENTS ON THE PXP OIL FIELDS
- F. PROPOSED NEW DEVELOPMENT OF SEPULVEDA BLVD. BETWEEN SAWTELLE AND SLAUSON AT JEFFERSON
- G. REPORT FROM NEW INTERNET AND CABLE SUBCOMMITTEE
- H. REPORTS ON PENDING COMMUNITY BUSINESS AND DISCUSSIONS INCLUDING ANY TOPICS PRESENTED BY CCNA MEMBERS
- H. NEW BUSINESS
- I. ADJOURNMENT

Traffic Safety and Mitigation

Our special guests at the General Meeting will be Lt. Iizuka of the Culver City Police Department who will bring us up to date on the Neighborhood Watch Program, and Gabe Garcia, Traffic Engineering Manager for Culver City, who will present his recommendations for improving the traffic conditions on the Crest. Gabe's plan will include modifications to parking, speed control and signage. As we are all affected by and are concerned about the safety of our families, fellow residents and visitors, you will all want to attend this meeting to hear first hand what the city has in mind for the Crest. You will all agree that this is long overdue and with your help, we will bring about changes that will provide safety measures in order to enhance our well being and add to the pleasure of living on the Crest.

Hillside Damage on Tellefson:

Sorry we jumped the gun in our last newsletter announcing the great news that the City is moving ahead with this project. Unfortunately, there is a new stumbling block, literally. It seems there is a very large drainage pipe buried at the base of the hill possibly just below the area where the retaining walls are to be reinforced and new beams are to be placed. The exact placement of the pipe is not known but its precise location must be established because it presents a potential for interference and major damage can result if the pipe is punctured. The City of Los Angeles owns the pipe and had been attempting to pinpoint its precise location. However, thus far, they have been unable to do so. The Culver City Engineering Department has redesigned the project to span over the pipe. Once the pipe's position is found during construction, a field change, if necessary, will be made to the design and repair will proceed. This has, as have many other complications, caused considerable delays. Currently, the initial design is being completed and will be presented to the City Council no later than the May 29, 2007 City Council Meeting for plan and spec approval. It will then be put out for bid, a contractor selected and then the repair can commence. An exact timetable has not been established but we're told the project will be completed this year.

Another setback regarding this repair has been caused by the significant delay due to the lawsuits, which have now been settled. Unfortunately the extension of time requested of FEMA was denied. This means they will not disburse any more funds for this project. They stated that this is no longer an emergency issue and therefore no longer eligible for funding. The City has hired a consultant, a former O.E.S. employee very experienced in these matters, who is developing an appeal package to be presented to FEMA. This letdown will not stop the process as the City has committed to finance the project out of the City's General Fund.

We will bring you up to date of any new developments of this very critical project at our April 11 General Meeting.

West Los Angeles College:

There are some hiccups that have occurred recently with regard to the use of the West Los Angeles College track. The basic problem is that the track is being damaged by heavy use from a number of groups who train with their coaches. The College wants to require these groups to obtain permits before using the track, which has been the district's policy for many years. Apparently the College is unable to get the sheriff to remove these people from the track unless they post a sign that clearly requires a permit for any outsiders to use the track. We, however, negotiated in connection with the EIR that neighborhood residents should be able to use the track (and other facilities) so long as this use does not interfere with College activities. Our current proposal to the College specifically states that neighborhood residents will have approval to use the track, but goes on to agree that "coached training" will require a permit. Since we don't believe anyone from Culver Crest employs a coach to help them with their morning walks or jogs, this proposal should be acceptable to all.

PXP OIL FIELD:

In our last newsletter, we ended the Oil Field section stating that the Initial Study/Negative Declaration was fatally flawed and that the Initial Study should be withdrawn and a new study be conducted, and that our protest letter would hopefully get the State to reconsider this issue. Much more to follow.

Well, look what we stirred up!

First, a little history. Initially, the CCNA board found out that the Crest residents weren't notified about the result of the study and the resulting Negative Declaration by the California Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) regarding the 24 new wells that PXP was requesting to drill. Once we accidentally found out about the ruling, our Board wrote a letter of protest and called for an independent EIR to be performed, eventually threatening a lawsuit as the last resort to assure proper procedures were followed in approving PXP's request. Then, as a result of our rattling a few cages, Culver City, Los Angeles County and the State of California have entered the fray.

Now, not only is there going to be a complete and thorough EIR performed, personally conducted by L.A. County Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke's office, but a full criminal investigation has commenced looking into the conduct of certain DOGGR employees with regard to oil companies past requests which have historically been approved with little scrutiny. These employees are directly connected with approval of oil field activities for the State of California. It appears that there are a lot of suspicious activities between the oil companies and these employees that have already been uncovered and two managerial employees have been put on leave pending the result of this inquiry.

It seems that one of these employees owns stock in one of the oil companies for which he approved additional drilling and that he solicited donations for a charity for which his wife works, both violations of State law. There are also emails that were sent from this employee to the oil company that will prove incriminating.

A big thanks to the work done by John Kuechle, Mark Salkin and especially Ken Kutcher regarding the major effort they did regarding this issue. It appears we now just have to wait for the EIR to be completed to find out just what activities PXP will be allowed to engage. However, we could rest assured we have some major hitters on our team that will give us more comfort that whatever action does occur, our safety will be a major consideration. Even Governor Schwarzenegger has entered the arena and indicated his office is very interested in finding out about any irregularities by DOGGR and will monitor the progress of this situation very closely.

You can rest assured...SO WILL WE!

SEWER PROJECT:

This project is reportedly on schedule to begin in May. I'm sure we will all be notified by the City which streets are to be dug up and when.

Howard Lichtman appointed to Advisory Group:

Congratulations to Howard Lichtman, a Culver Crest Neighborhood Association Board Member, for being appointed to the Sepulveda Redevelopment Citizens Advisory Committee. This is a group of 9 residents and business people who are assigned to review the Champion Realty's proposal to develop the west side of Sepulveda Boulevard between Sawtelle Boulevard and Slauson Avenue. They will report their findings and make recommendations to the Culver City Redevelopment Agency. Howard, who is an architect and well qualified to provide valuable input to the Committee, will represent Culver Crest and the Blanco Park neighborhoods.

New CCNA Subcommittee:

The CCNA Board has created a new Subcommittee, which will look into the problems many of us have had with our Internet and Cable service. This Subcommittee will be headed by Jill McKeon, a fellow Crest resident. There will be a meeting on Tuesday, April 10 at 7 p.m. at 10755 Whitburn Street to discuss these troubles the residents are having and what we could do about them. Please RSVP if you plan to attend by emailing Jill at JillMcKeon@yahoo.com, or calling her at 310-837-1821. Your input is important to us.

Rumor has it that Time Warner, since taking over from Comcast, has lost over 10,000 subscribers in the area. Heads have rolled at the company as a result. As a group, we could put some major pressure on even a company as big as they are.

Culver Crest Neighborhood Watch Report:

Now here's how the Neighborhood Watch should work! Last week, Ilana Ostrin, a Ranch Road resident, found a small dog wandering the neighborhood. Her husband Ron Ostrin, a former CCNA Board Member, immediately sent information about the dog with the dog's picture to Rich Kissel, who posted the picture on the internet using the Culver Crest Neighborhood Association email list. Another good neighbor, Charlie Stephens, after reading the email notice, saw the dog and directed the owners to where the dog was last seen. Lo and behold, a family and dog reunion. A great ending to this trauma as a result of great communications between our neighbors.

This is a good example why it is good to be on the Culver Crest email list. Please provide your email address to Mike Bauer at culvercity99@aol.com.