

The Alliance Times

The Mt. Washington Homeowners Alliance

The Free Voice of Mt. Washington
Vol. 11, No. 5, September, 2011



"We have it in our power to begin
the world over again." - Thos Paine

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10 Year Celebration

MWHA FOUNDED

Sunday, October 2nd

3 to 6PM

food service 3:30 - 5:30pm

Mt. Washington Elementary School

RSVP

PLEASE REPLY WITH FIRST & LAST NAME
OF EACH PERSON ATTENDING INCLUDING GUESTS

NO LATER THAN TUES. SEPT. 27
TO RUTH: RUTHMLB56@ROADRUNNER.COM
OR 323-225-1339

IF YOU ARE UNSURE OF YOUR 2011 MEMBERSHIP
STATUS CONTACT MONIQUE AT:
MONIQUEG42@YAHOO.COM OR 323-222-6558

President's Message Stan Sosa

We know that elections are coming up for Mayor of Los Angeles. It seems a bit far in the future, but when we think in terms of how many general meetings we have to hear the candidates speak directly to our organization there aren't that many. For example, there are 2 more this year and 6 next year. After subtracting out a couple or three meetings for installation of officers and other necessary issues, we will only have about five general meetings between now and the end of next year to have the mayoral candidates at our meetings before election time, which is in the beginning of 2013. So it behooves us to start paying attention now to the candidates that are the front runners.

We are fortunate to have front-runner Wendy Greuel, our City Controller, come to our next general members meeting to speak to us as well as answer any questions we may have. Other candidates to speak at our meetings later on may be Jan Perry, Eric Garcetti, Kevin James, Eric Garcetti, etc. We will also want to dedicate a meeting to the re-districting which take place next year as well as the candidates for the City Council that are going to represent the new district(s) in which Mount Washington will reside.

So the message is this: Every meeting from here on is going to be important so be sure to attend.

MURAL/MEMORIAL Project Mt. Washington Drive - part 2

by Ruth Mehringer

Question still before the community – To have or not to have a mural as memorial on the Mt. Washington Drive bulkhead? This issue is generating considerable conversation on the internet and among neighbors on the hill. The effort to install another mural to serve as a memorial for his friend and fellow artist, Jack Rohman, is being lead by Zach Christensen. The original mural was created principally by Jack, and installed in early summer of 2010 by Jack, Zack and friends. It disappeared later that summer. Jack Rohman took his life early this year.

In the July article I stated in error that the mural/memorial proposal was under consideration at the Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department. A spokesperson for the Cultural Affairs Department verified that as of August 22, no application for mural approval has been submitted.

ASNC recent developments: On June 6, at the ASNC Mt. Washington Local Issues meeting the request for a letter of support for the Cultural Affairs Department for the project was tabled. The next action was to place "discussion of letter of support for the Cultural Affairs Department regarding a memorial mural project on bulkheads above Canyon Vista/Mt. Washington Drive below the Self-Realization Fellowship property" on the July 21th agenda of the ASNC Recreation, Culture & the Arts committee. The committee voted to provide a

letter of support for the "process" going forward, not necessarily for the project. My unofficial count of the vote was 6 in favor, 1 opposed, and 2 abstentions.

Closely following the vote of the Recreation, Cultural & the Arts committee, "consideration of letter of support for mural project in Mt. Washington" was placed on the July 25th agenda of the full Board of Representatives of the ASNC. A point of order motion was made by Joseph Riser, the Education & Youth at Large representative. Mr. Riser stated that the item should not have been placed on the agenda since the Local Issues committee had tabled it. His motion did not carry and discussion of the project was allowed to proceed. In the end the Board voted by a narrow margin for a letter of support for allowing the "process", not the project going forward. My unofficial vote count was 6 in favor, 4 opposed and 4 abstentions.

The next meeting of Mt. Washington Local Issues committee is scheduled for Tuesday, September 6th at 6PM at Cleland Ave Park with pizza for all. No agenda items have been published. The issue of the mural project may or may not be on the agenda.

The mural/memorial project is firmly in place on the agenda for our next GENERAL MEMBERSHIP meeting on MONDAY, SEPT. 12, at 7 PM at Carlin G. Smith Recreation Center. Plan to attend to voice your thoughts about this project.

Van de Kamps- State Auditors Call for Investigation of Bond Program

by Laura Gutierrez and Miki Jackson

At a Wednesday, August 17, 2011, special meeting of the Board of Trustees of Los Angeles Community College District, the office of State Controller John Chiang called for an independent criminal or civil investigation by the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office or the Civil Grand Jury into the Los Angeles Community College District bond program. Chiang's auditors pointed to possible malfeasance of LACCD district officials, including local Board member Mona Field, in the interviewing and selection of the District's Inspector General.

The Controller's Audit, initiated by the work of our Van de Kamps Coalition steering committee, found \$140 million of improperly spent bond funds, suspect rigging of the selection process by the Inspector General who is supposed to police the troubled bond construction fund, and a complete failure of the duties of the District's Citizen's Bond Oversight Committee to assure proper bond expenditures.

The misspent \$140 million is more than 5% of all bond program monies spent to date – a huge amount of misdirected funds. The full audit and other key documents can be viewed at www.vandekamps.org.

VDK Coalition is holding the LACCD accountable for the illegal diversion of the Van de Kamps campus into the hands of the controversial Alliance for College-Ready Public Schools (a charter high school recently accused of cheating the vote for space in the new Sotomayer High School in Taylor Yard), and our own Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

Last year, former Attorney General Jerry Brown, District Attorney Steve Cooley and the Civil Grand Jury declined to investigate alleged wrongdoing uncovered by our Coalition. However, Controller John Chiang stepped up demonstrating true leadership. Chiang flew two auditors to Los Angeles last fall to meet with the Coalition and receive a stack of documents we assembled through our own investigation of public records.

That meeting, and our follow up with Chiang's office, has vindicated the Coalition's allegations that the waste of bond funds ran much further than the original wrongdoing we found at Van de Kamps. While local Board members Sylvia Scott-Hayes and Mona Field sneered at us when we presented evidence of misuse of bond funds as early as July of 2009, today Field acts as if knowing how to spend the bond funds properly was an "impossibly difficult" task.

Chiang's auditor also reported that LACCD is refusing to turn over the construction management and financial records of the Van de Kamps campus. As a result, Chiang's office was unable to complete a review of the expenditure of our tax

Mt. Washington Homeowners Alliance General Meeting

Monday, September 12,
2011, 7:00 p.m

Guest Speaker: Mayoral Candidate,
Wendy Greuel, City Controller

Mount Washington Drive
Mural/Memorial Project

Tasty refreshments

Carlin G. Smith Recreation Center

511 W. Avenue 46, Los Angeles, CA 90065

2011 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Pursuant to the MWA by-laws, the Board of Directors proposes the following Nominating Committee:

General Members

Paul Evleth
Bob Brody
Steve Rank

Board Members

Daniel Marlos
Diane Mead

The purpose of the Nominating Committee is to produce a recommended slate of Officers and Directors. According to the Bylaws Section 10.02., "The Nominating Committee proposed by the Board will be published in the September newsletter and, at the September general membership meeting, the President will ask for ratification of the Nominating Committee. The general members may ratify the Nominating Committee as proposed or substitute one or more other persons from the floor. Upon final vote by the membership, the Nominating Committee will be confirmed."

dollars at the \$86 million campus. What is Mona Field and the rest of the Board hiding from the taxpayers? Where there is smoke, there is fire as the City of Bell taught us.

What can you do to help? Please send an email to Jeffrey Brownfield, Director of Audits, at the State Controller's Office urging him to get to the bottom of the corruption at Van de Kamps so that the college promised for more than a decade can be opened. (Contact: jbrownfield@sco.ca.gov, vdcoalition@gmail.com) Help the VDK Coalition cover its expenses by making a donation (no donation is too small or large!) at the website listed above.

CRIME UPDATE

The following stats were provided by Leo Rey, Senior Lead Officer, LAPD, for the period June 10 through July 31, 2011.

1. Burglary Theft from Motor Vehicle: 900 block West Avenue 37 on 06/24
2. Burglary: 3700 block Mayfair Drive on 06/30
3. Theft: 4000 block Mt. Washington Drive on 07/19
4. Grand Theft Auto: 500 block West Avenue 42 on 07/22



MOUNT WASHINGTON HOMEOWNERS ALLIANCE

Draft MINUTES of the GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
JULY 11, 2011, CARLIN G. SMITH RECREATION CENTER

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM by President Stan Sosa.

PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Friends of Cypress Park, High Speed Rail meeting, July 13, 6:30-8:30, 1900 San Fernando Rd.
2. 10 YR. CELEBRATION, Sunday, Oct. 2, 3-6PM. MWES. Save the date.

The new field rep for Councilmember Huizar's office was introduced: Kai Newkirk, 323-254-5295, Kai.newkirk@lacity.org.

MINUTES of the May 9th General Membership meeting were unanimously approved as reported in the July issue of the newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ruth Mehringer reported the bank balance was \$8,891.54

LAND USE: Louis Mraz reported that DOT hearing on June 23 rejected our challenge to the traffic study at Marmion Way/Ave 45 condo development. Project was considered too small to have a negative impact.

WEBSITE: Carol Tilton reported that a "learning" work party was held on July 2. Blogging space is under consideration. Carol asked for volunteers to provide content.

PROGRAM: Vicky Cross, representative of the LADWP, spoke mainly of the reasons for the proposed rate increase over 3 yrs. of approx. 30% (half for water, half for power).

Minimum increase needed is 5% for next year. DWP is well behind in replacements for power poles and water pipelines and is under a state mandate to replace coal with renewables/natural gas by 2030. Citizens may participate in a "webinar" July 20 at 6PM at ladwp.com/LAForward.

The speaker referred to three operating concepts:

1. Incentives – appliance rebates, solar for homes (this program stopped because of high demand but due to restart at end of summer).
2. Conservation – usage is at 1970s levels but rate payer gets no reward, energy efficiency program is too small, needs to be increased.
3. Localize sources – increase ground water supply (requires treatment) and use of recycled (not grey) water. DWP currently purchases and leases facilities and sources for both water and power.

Member questions

- 1.) Did DWP scheduling of water days contribute to

main line breaks?

No direct answer. Dep't. monitors breaks, looks for clusters, upgrades breaks, does not just repair them.

- 2.) How much does DWP transfer to city general fund? Vicky stated that \$7 million from power revenues are transferred.

Regulatory constraints and costs to borrow money were identified as drivers of increased costs. Two entities - the DWP Board of Commissioners (to include a rate payer advocate) and the City Council will vote on the amount of increase. Council wants advocate in place before rate increase is approved. Concern was also voiced about generous pay and pensions. Vicky answered that General Manager, Ron Nichols, has stated he will deal only with what he can change. He has no influence over union issues.

SOUTHWEST MUSEUM: Dan Wright provided background on recent city hearings regarding the SWM and presented options for the FOSWM coalition going forward:

Non-legal options: a.) the coalition held an information emergency meeting on June 29

b.) effort to involve more families

c.) You Tube videos

d.) fundraisers: Galco's Soda Pop Stop, Sunday, July 24, 5-8PM, silent auction featuring Lauri Mraz's artwork, "poptails", live music, proceeds from products sold at the store during the event will be donated to the FOSWM

Legal options: possible violations – grounds for lawsuits

- 1) CEQA; 2) Brown Act; 3) general city plan; 4) fair hearing issue at June 20 meeting of Arts, Parks, Health & Aging committee – Wesson's partial absence.

Dan met with the MWA Board on June 28 regarding options. HPHT Board discusses options tonight. Ruth Mehringer read the motion as published in the March 2011 newsletter that reaffirmed the September 8, 2008, motion stating the willingness of the MWA to join in CEQA litigation, etc..... Dan also referenced the positive LA Times article in favor of the coalition's position by Hector Tobar.

Monique Gaudry announced that Frank Pasker, the architect/owner of the "greenest house in LA" built here on our hill will be a featured speaker at a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM after which members mingled and enjoyed the home made lemon poppy seed cookies and fruits provided by Susanne Brody.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Mehringer, Secretary

GALCOS SUMMER SODA TASTING EVENT RAISES THOUSANDS

Friends of SW Museum Event Draws Nearly 600 Supporters by Daniel Wright

A warm summer Sunday evening. Music of local musicians. Unveiling of a new soda pop confection bottled for the occasion. A long line of people patiently waiting to taste unusual soda pop flavors. Thousands of dollars raised to help seek a resolution of the Autry Museum's complete abandonment of merger agreement promises. This was the scene at Galco's Soda Pop Stop on York Boulevard, July 26, 2011 when John Neese opened his store for this first time FUN event.

John is a member of the Board of Directors of the Highland Park Heritage Trust, the lead organization working to bring back the Southwest Museum to its proper home on a shoulder of Mount Washington. Neese has been approached before about doing a soda tasting event but had never undertaken it. He suggested to the Friends of the Southwest Museum that now was the time to have the first-ever summer soda tasting event and raise funds for the effort to resolve the ongoing impasse over

the Southwest Museum.

The event marked an important collaboration of many. The eye-catching posters, flyers, mailers and tickets were all designed by Amy Inouye of Future Studio in Highland Park. Local musicians like Artichoke and the Greger Walnum Blues Band with Don Preston jumped at the chance to show their support by performing. Many people and groups donated items for a silent auction, including Lauri Mraz's spectacular knitted art piece, "Southwest Museum, Empty". Councilmember Ed Reyes, who attended the event and spoke, bid \$500 for the prize art piece. The staff of Councilmember Huizar lingered over the volunteer sign-up table and spoke with lots of people about the Southwest Museum issue they are working on.

Inside the store, Retro Folk Humorist Charles Phoenix, dressed in a wild florescent jumpsuit and rhinestone bowtie, mixed up three different concoctions of soda, candy and whipped cream for the huge line of soda tasters winding their way through the store at the tasting stations. Many walked out of the store with armloads and baskets of their favorite gourmet root beers, cream sodas, and choco-pops. Ticket sales and the profits of the stores sales all went to the Friends of the Southwest Museum to cover expenses of various grant activities and to support the litigation efforts of the Highland Park Heritage Trust and the Mount Washington Ho-



ABOVE: CHARLES PHOENIX SERVES CANDY AND SODA "POPTAILS"
BELOW: GREGER WALNUM'S BLUES BAND WILL PROVIDE MUSIC FOR MWA'S ANNIVERSARY PICNIC



meowners Alliance.

The Mount Washington Homeowners Alliance sweetened the till just after the event with a donation of \$1000. Thank you to all who came to show your support of the effort to end the theft of our community's cultural anchor.



LEFT: A LONG LINE FOR TICKETS TO THE TASTING EVENT RIGHT: LAURI MRAZ AND "SOUTHWEST MUSEUM, EMPTY" PHOTOS BY LOUIS MRAZ



AUTRY'S BASEMENT EXPANSION PROJECT DRAWS TWO LAWSUITS

by Daniel Wright

In June 2009, Los Angeles City Hall was overrun by supporters of the Southwest Museum to demand that the City Council act to prevent the plan of the Autry Museum to move the exhibition land uses of the Southwest Museum into Autry's building in Griffith Park. The City Council chambers were literally filled to standing room, mostly with Southwest Museum supporters. But Autry did not get the message.

When faced with a City Council condition that the 2009 Autry Museum expansion would be tied to continued operation of the Southwest Museum site, Autry withdrew its entire project. Withdrawing to their board room and firing their land use attorneys, Autry began planning a new project – in its basement.

As recently became clear, Autry's new tactic was to misrepresent to the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners that conversion of tens of thousands of square feet of its basement was just a little remodeling. But it is not. Unfortunately consistent with years of misrepresentations about its financial capacity, its intent to treat the Southwest Museum assets with respect, this "remodel" is simply a stealth effort to once again try to move the main exhibition land uses of the Southwest Museum into the Autry museum building in Griffith Park.

Autry's strategy was to seek a State Proposition 84 grant to pay for the changes needed to move the exhibition spaces into its building. Yes, your taxes are proposed to pay for this move. Once again, the Friends of the Southwest Museum organized the community to object in a series of administrative hearings at City Hall, but when our City Council had to choose between Autry losing the State Grant or defending the integrity

of our City's zoning and environmental laws... well, you know the answer. They refused to take the blame for Autry losing the money.

As a result, it was unfortunately necessary for the filing of lawsuits. The Highland Park Heritage Trust and Mount Washington Homeowners Alliance retained counsel and filed a California Environmental Quality Act lawsuit against the City and Autry for refusing to disclose and mitigate the project's negative impacts on the Southwest Museum. Additionally, Ann Walnum, a founder of the Friends of the Southwest Museum, initiated a lawsuit over the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners' violations of the Brown Act, the state's opening meeting law, in the approval of the Autry's basement project.

In the meantime, the community continues to reach out to Autry in an effort to seek an amicable resolution. You can help by donating to the effort at www.friendsofthesouthwestmuseum.com.

MILKWEED MEADOW: Monarch Caterpillars Spotted In Elyria Canyon Park

by Daniel Marlos

Each summer, along the trail that leads from the sharp curve on Killarney Avenue down into Elyria Canyon Park to the red barn, a small stand of native, perennial Indian Milkweed, *Asclepias eriocarpa*, sprouts just above the ranger station. This summer, members of the Beautification Committee went rogue and erected an informational, hand-painted sign for this sensitive ecosystem with the goal of educating hikers and dog walkers who use the trail. About a month after erecting the sign, the milkweed began to bloom, and this year, several monarch butterfly caterpillars were spotted among the woolly gray



MONARCH BUTTERFLY CATERPILLAR PHOTO BY DANIEL MARLOS



leaves and pale cream blossoms, indicating that a migrating female monarch stopped to feed from the blossoms and to lay eggs.

This Milkweed Meadow is one of the areas being targeted by the Beautification Committee for hand pulling weeds that are competing with the milkweed for precious real estate and water. Milkweed is the only food that monarch caterpillars feed upon, but globally, there are many species of milkweed, ensuring that during their travels, monarchs will be able to find food wherever they go. If you are considering buying milkweed to attract butterflies to your garden, please consider the native species that are available at the Theodore Payne Foundation.

The Beautification Committee also plans to collect seeds from the Indian Milkweed when the seedpods begin to appear, and we hope

to start propagating seedlings in the nursery at the Red Barn. The Beautification Committee has monthly work parties, now scheduled for the fourth Sunday of each month from 9:30 to 11:30. Please consider volunteering some time to weed and help in our nursery as we try to make Elyria Canyon Park a more inviting environment for both people and native flora and fauna. We hope to see you on September 25 and October 23. You can also get more current updates by visiting our Beautification Blog at <http://www.mountwashingtonhomeownersalliance.com/wordpress/blog/beautification/> or by visiting the MWA website and clicking the beautification link at the top of the page.

Wildlife Sightings on Mount Washington

by Clare Marter Kenyon

May and June this year brought reports of larger-than-usual number of sightings of coyotes on the hill. Residents expressed concern for their pets and small children and some talked about a plan to trap and relocate the coyotes.

These two months see the greatest activity in terms of Brush Clearance in the hilly areas of Los Angeles, because LAFD's inspections are either imminent, or underway. This weed-whacking commotion is the cause of much confusion and agitation to the wildlife and it displaces them from their dens and trails. At the same time, the natural prey for the predators is disturbed - and everything is thrown off kilter.

As far as "relocation" is concerned: An area can support a certain number of animals.

If some of those animals are destroyed, those that remain will breed and fill the gaps left, returning the population to the previous level. In any case, it is a futile course of

action to move an animal into the territory of others - they will be forced to starve or fight - or move on. It just pushes the problem next door and is not a solution.

Elyria Canyon, Heidelberg Park, Moon Canyon and Rainbow Canyon were preserved in large part for their vital wildlife corridors and habitat, which house and protect the remaining wildlife on the hill. They continue to serve as such and we should expect sightings of wildlife on Mount Washington.

Most residents are inspired by a sense of wonder and privilege at the presence of raccoons, skunks, hawks, owls and coyotes - and these creatures provide a valuable service to us by keeping down rodents- but, we all want our children and pets to stay safe. There are few guarantees in life, but there are steps that we can all take to minimize the risks.

Please read these pamphlets to help become educated. Let us learn to protect our pets from the wildlife around us by implementing the advice given in the brochures.

www.laanimalservices.com/aboutani_wildlife.htm

www.keepmewild.org

Have a heart - protect your own and co-exist with the wild ones.

REAL ESTATE UPDATE

by Raphael Guerin

Mt. Washington continues to be the place to live in for an exceptional quality of life. The neighborhood has continued to be in a nice value range in regards to real estate values. We are a community that works to maintain and improve our community and that alone brings value to all of us the beauty and serenity that is present on the "hill".

July has supported the following data:

Homes For Sale are on the market about 57 days.

Inventory level of active listings is 3.5 with 3 as benchmark for normal market.

A total of 11 homes sold in July.

A pending list totals 13, in escrow, over the number listed for sale.

Pricing is in the mid \$500k range as a positive basic reference.

Now is a great time to think about sprucing up your front landscaping. Curb appeal is a factor that we all appreciate. Check for additional info on the market at Realtor.com as a source for reliable data.

There is also a large inventory of vacant lots for sale in the neighborhood. Great for a wise investor planning for the future.

Real estate is still one of the best investment areas in our current economy.

Black walnut seedlings

Free walnut trees to good homes - at our NOVEMBER meeting.

These are young trees, grown in Elyria Canyon Park's nursery this year. Seeds were gathered from gardens and, with permission, from public open spaces on the hill by Mount Washington residents. In other words: genetically appropriate for our soils and local climate.

The trees are in one-gallon "tall pots" that allow the root to grow long and reduce the circling produced by growing them in the regular short one-gallon pots.

Each tree will come with specific instructions for planting and care for the first year.

Beautification News by Daniel Marlos

Summer is nearing its end, and it is time to reflect upon and report out on many of the events that occurred toward the end of the summer. Perhaps the most exciting development is that there has been some positive activity on “dirt” Burnell.

Longtime readers and followers of Land Use reports for the past five and a half years will have heard of “dirt” Burnell, that unpaved block, little more than a dirt path, that leads from the corner of Burnell Drive and Killarney Avenue to a gate at the beginning of Elyria Canyon Park. Since 2006, the MWA and neighborhood activists have written yearly letters requesting that the properties on “dirt” Burnell be considered as part of open space preservation in Northeast Los Angeles.

Earlier this year, County Supervisor Gloria Molina’s office allocated funding for the open space land acquisition on “dirt” Burnell Drive for properties that the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) learned had two willing sellers. The 7 parcels total nearly 2 acres.

Councilmember José Huizar of Los Angeles City Council District 14 has continued to show support in this open space land acquisition. The Council-

member first met with neighbors in April 2006 and his office has produced letters of support throughout a lengthy appeal process. Those appeals culminated in a “stop work order” on the first house that began construction in violation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on the 1600 block of Burnell Drive.

A direct quote from the letter sent by Councilmember Huizar’s office is: “A preserved area along the ‘dirt’ section of Burnell Drive would be a great addition to the open space land and parks we have already preserved for the people of Northeast Los Angeles, which they will enjoy for generations to come.”

Before the SMMC and MRCA could seal the deal, one final requirement needed to be met. Paul Edelman of the SMMC and Eric Bruins of the MRCA requested that the majority of the owners of 18 homes within 200 feet of the identified lots sign a waiver acknowledging an understanding that: “(1) the MRCA will not perform brushing on newly acquired parkland (2) the MRCA will grant permission to affected property owners to allow them to perform brushing on public parkland as required by the Fire Department.” The affected homeowners in the area signed

the waivers to provide this linchpin in the land acquisition deal.

The 7 lots along “dirt” Burnell, including some with addresses on the paper street Davenport, are contiguous with Elyria Canyon Park. The lots are on both the upslope and the downslope, and they contain a natural vernal stream runoff to the paved street, Bridgeport, below. The area is classified as California black walnut woodland with associated native trees including Oak, Toyon, Elderberry,



“DIRT” BURNELL PHOTO BY DANIEL MARLOS

Hollyleaf Cherry and California Laurel Sumac. Numerous other native shrubs, perennial plants, annual flowers, birds, insects, reptiles, amphibians and mammals can be found on “dirt” Burnell as well as neighboring properties and parkland. Prior to the attempted development in 2005, most of the neighbors

had believed “dirt” Burnell was already part of Elyria Canyon Park. As this article goes to press, we are still awaiting news on the final outcome of this potential preservation effort.

The Beautification Committee has once again requested funding from both Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council (ASNC) and Greater Cypress Park Neighborhood Council (GCPNC) to be used for the ongoing abatement in Elyria Canyon Park of the weeds known as Trees of Heaven. An abatement regime began this past spring with funding secured during the 2010/2011 fiscal year. Professional herbicidist Bill Neil was contracted to apply systemic herbicide to the targeted trees in Elyria Canyon Park. Several large stands of Trees of Heaven have been successfully eradicated; however, numerous young shoots need attention before they too develop into towering stands that compete with native plants. Trees of Heaven need to be professionally treated with herbicide because if the trees are cut down or dug out, even the tiniest bit of root will resprout, and cut trees quickly become impenetrable thickets.

The Beautification Committee also initiated a pilot program to help property

owners eradicate Trees of Heaven in their own yards for a very affordable rate. Any property owners in Mt Washington who want additional information on the Tree of Heaven abatement program can contact Jerry Schneider at 323-225-2748.

Finally, the Beautification Committee has changed its regular Elyria Canyon



LEFT: DEAD AILANTHUS
BELOW: AILANTHUS SPROUTS
PHOTOS BY DANIEL MARLOS

Work Party meeting day. We now meet on the fourth Sunday of the month from 9:30 to 11:30 at the Red Barn. We need volunteers to work in the nursery planting local seeds and caring for young plants, keeping the meadow near the Red Barn clear of invasive weeds, and working in other parts of the park to remove invasive exotic plants that compete with native species. Read about some of those efforts in the Milkweed Meadow piece in this issue. Come out and show your support on September 25 and October 23.

Mount Washington Homeowners Alliance Membership Application

- ⇒ Single: \$15 ⇒ Family / Couple: \$25 ⇒ Sponsor: \$35
⇒ Senior: \$10 (each) ⇒ Benefactor: \$100

Name(s) _____
Address _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____

- I am ⇒ OWNER ⇒ RENTER ⇒ RENEWING MEMBER ⇒ NEW MEMBER
 Yes, I'm interested in advertising my business or service in the MWA Newsletter.

Memberships are valid for one calendar year, beginning in January. Member voting privileges are restricted to homeowners. Please make check payable to the Mount Washington Homeowners Alliance. Mail application with check to MWA, P. O. Box 65855, LOS ANGELES, CA 90065



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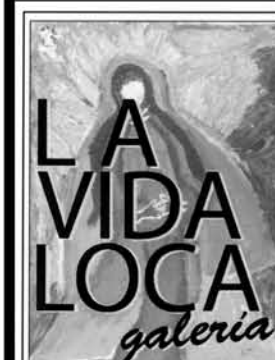
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Uptown Gay & Lesbian Alliance

In 1983, a gay man was killed outside a gay bar in Highland Park. Friends of the slain man joined together to protest the inaction of the Los Angeles Police Department who described the victim as coming from "that fag-got bar." From that meeting, Uptown Gay and Lesbian Alliance was born. An IRS 501 (c) 3 California non-profit corporation, UGLA's mission statement reads: "UGLA is a charitable and educational non-profit service organization. Primary goals are to provide a support system for lesbians and gay men in Northeast Los Angeles and education for individuals and the community-at-large on the true nature of homosexuality." Members live in Northeast Los Angeles and enjoy monthly mixers & newsletter, Matching Funds, Hollywood Bowl and community activism. To learn more, please visit: www.ugla.org

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Mt. Washington Homeowners Alliance General Meeting
Monday, September 12, 2011, 7:00 p.m
Guest Speaker:
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Tasty refreshments

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