

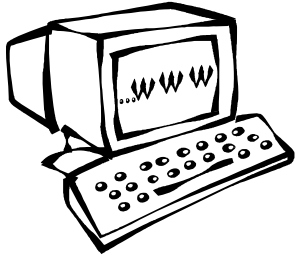


CASTLE HEIGHTS NEWS

December 2006

CASTLE HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Altman . Bagley . Beverly . Beverlywood . Beverwil . Burgen . Canfield . Cardiff . Castle Heights .
Cattaraugus . David . Flint . Gibson . Hargis . Kincardine . Kramerwood . National . Oakhurst . Olin . Provon. Shelby . Vicar .
24th . 25th



www.castleheights.info

Get Online and Find Out About Our Neighborhood...



Exposition Light Rail Line Reaches Phase 2

On September 29th, The Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority joined a host of local elected officials including Mayor Villaraigosa, County Supervisors Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Gloria Molina and Culver City Mayor Gary Silberger for a groundbreaking event to officially mark the beginning of construction on the 8.5-mile Exposition light rail line. The light rail project, once completed in 2010, will ease travel times between the Westside and downtown Los Angeles. The \$640 million project will include eight new stations along the Exposition right-of-way from downtown Los Angeles to Washington/National in Culver City.

In January 2007, public scope meetings will be held. This will be your opportunity to tell the consultants *everything* that you'd like them to study in the environmental process, including route options, issues, and suggested mitigations. For more information on the exact times and places of these meetings, visit:

<http://www.friends4expo.org/>

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- Expo Rail Update
- Profile – Kathy Galper
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- New APS Coordinator Announced & Safety Tips
- Code Watch Update
- Castle Heights and Hamilton High events
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Get to know Kathy Galper on Page 2





How Well Do You Know Your Neighbor? Spotlight on Kathy Galper

This new section is part of our ongoing efforts to unify the Castle Heights neighborhood. We aspire to provide you new insight into your neighbors and to cultivate a continuous conversation with each other. If you'd like to be interviewed or know a willing candidate, please email me at joezenp@gmail.com – Joezen Punongbayan

How long have you lived in Castle Heights? I've lived in the Castle Heights neighborhood for 20 years... We bought our house on Cardiff in 1986.

What do you like most about living in Castle Heights? I feel like it's a small neighborhood... there's a sense of community... we're a little community in a big city where all our neighbors watch out for each other.

How do you think Castle Heights can be improved? The City of LA needs to pay more attention to this neighborhood for such things as curb cutouts (for wheelchairs and children on bikes)... we seem to be missed for a lot of things when it comes to the City of LA.

What do you do in your free time? Oh gosh, okay... Although I am not a full-time working person, I work full time. I do billing for my husband's business, household billing, shopping, laundry, house cleaning, caring for my mother... when I do have free time, I love to read... I am a voracious reader.

What is the best kept secret in our neighborhood? Part of the best kept secret is that we have people who care about each other in our neighborhood... they smile and say hello, and are concerned about our families, watch our house when we're away, feed our pets...

What is your favorite time of day and why? Probably around 5 in the morning... I love to get up at that time, make a fire and read... It's time to myself because my husband and son don't get up until 6:30.

Where did you grow up? I grew up in Beverlywood on Duxbury road. My parents bought our house in 1948... it was the 5th house built on the block and I lived there until I was 25. I went to Castle Heights Elementary, Palms, Castle Heights High School... then went on to Santa Monica College and UCLA.

What is your favorite television show? Monk... I love the obsessive compulsive thing... and any PBS mysteries.

Where is your next vacation destination? Hahahahahaha... I'm just laughing because the last two vacations I didn't go on... my husband and son went by themselves. If I were to choose, I would love to go to Santa Barbara or San Francisco.

What are you favorite restaurants in the neighborhood? I love La Dijonaise (eclectic) in the Helms District and Kristina's (near Overland and Palms), which is a little Italian restaurant that's been around for 20 years.

What CDs are in your CD player right now? My husband burns CDs for me and they are very eclectic... right now I have Linda Rondstadt, the Beatles, classical, and the Traveling Wilburys.

Are you currently reading a book? I am reading a novel by Shirley Rousseau Murphy, which is part of a series of books called Joe Grey mysteries... I'm finishing the 3rd in the series and about to start the 4th.

Name something about you that people would be surprised to hear? That I don't like to talk about myself.

What are your goals for 2007? To become a healthier person than I am now...



LOOKING FOR ONE GOOD NEIGHBOR

The Castle Heights Neighborhood Association Seeks New President

Our current President Laurence DeMers has been a board member for over 6 years, holding the offices of Treasurer for 3 years and President for 3 years. With his oldest now in first grade and actively involved in cub scouts and sports, Laurence finds himself overwhelmed by his schedule. Therefore we are seeking a candidate to take over the office of President.

Our neighborhood has accomplished many great things over the years. It is important that we keep our association active and we need your help. If you know someone that would be a good candidate, please let us know. If you yourself are interested, we would love to talk. Drop us an email (CastleHeights@aol.com) or call Laurence at work with your questions about the position: 310-836-0340.



CHNA Neighborhood Meetings

All meetings are on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 7 pm at the Castle Heights School Teachers' Lounge

Next scheduled meetings are:

January 3rd

February 7th

If you receive this newsletter, you are welcome and encouraged to attend.

You may even be inspired to join us on the Board!

New School Is Out!

The Los Angeles Unified School District's (LAUSD) proposal to build a new high school (Central Region High School #14) to alleviate the overcrowding experienced at Hamilton, Los Angeles, and Dorsey High Schools has been abandoned. After meeting with community stakeholders of three proposed sites earlier this year, LAUSD reevaluated the project and redefined the school project to mitigate the overcrowding of the three schools as follows:

- **Hamilton High School:** The need for new seats will be satisfied through proposed boundary changes with Fairfax, University, and Venice High Schools, as they continue to release capped-out students back to new schools that will open over the new few years.
- **Los Angeles High School:** The need for new seats will be satisfied with the openings of Central Los Angeles High School #2, located at Vermont and Washington, and the Central Los Angeles New Learning Center #1 at the site of the former Ambassador Hotel.
- **Dorsey High School:** The best solution to provide seat relief appears to be construction of a 20-24 classroom addition, in 2-story configuration, on site at Dorsey to create a new small learning community. Existing portable classrooms would be removed once the classroom addition is completed.

The proposal of the above-described redefinition was considered at a series of meetings in November, culminating on November 28, when the redefinition was presented for action by the Board of Education.



APS Updates

**** Welcome Jonathan Steier as New APS Coordinator ****

Please join us in welcoming Jonathan Steier as the new APS coordinator. Jonathan has been working with Tony Pethebridge to ensure the smooth transition of all APS duties. Thanks, Jonathan, for making the commitment to helping keep our neighborhood a safer place to live.

**** APS Membership Dues ****

As 2007 approaches, so do our APS membership dues. For all our neighbors who are currently protected by APS, expect to receive your renewal dues notice in the near future. They are due by the end of January. For all our neighbors who are not currently APS members, this is your chance to join and to help keep your home and neighborhood safer. Remember, APS patrol cars will only respond to calls from neighbors who pay for their services.

**** Using APS Services ****

As an APS member, in addition to the security that they provide every day, you can also call APS and let them know when you're out of town so that they can pay extra attention to your home. They can also bring in your newspapers and trash cans while you are away.

For information in joining APS or any other questions, please send an email to patrol@castleheights.info

Code Watch Update

Our neighborhood Code Watch continues to be very active and successful. Several homes have been successfully "cleaned up" due to the persistence of our Code Watch leader Marlene Winston.

Please call Marlene at (310) 559-8652 with any problems that you have. This includes excessively loud barking dogs, tree trimming needs, graffiti removal, parking problems, dilapidated homes, abandoned vehicles, commercial businesses run out of homes, overgrown brush, and anything else. Marlene has many phone numbers for you to call to help solve your problems. Our neighborhood is safe and beautiful. Let's all work together to keep it that way.



REMINDER FROM OFFICER GONZALEZ: Please lock your cars and do not keep valuables in sight. Most of the car break-ins lately happened because people left iPods, computers, wallets, or money in the tray. If the criminals do not see anything of value, they will likely leave your car alone. The best protection is to be alert and cautious at all times. Avoid walking at night, especially in dangerous or unfamiliar neighborhoods.

If you must go out at night:

- Walk on well-lighted main thoroughfares.
- Walk next to the curb, and stay away from buildings, alleys, doorways, shrubbery, trees and benches.
- If approached, citizens are advised not to resist the suspect.

If you would like to be sent the crime report that Officer Gonzalez compiles for our area and the surrounding neighbors, email Castleheights@aol.com and ask to be added to the email list. You can also check www.castleheights.info for updates.



Keeping Your Home Safer

Did you know that single family homes are twice as likely to be burglarized as apartments? Items targeted by burglars tend to be cash, small electronic equipment, computers, laptops, cameras, jewelry, tools, and hand guns.

Most people only think about the security of their homes when something happens to them or a nearby neighbor. This mentality is what burglars rely upon to keep them from getting caught.

Stay one step ahead of the burglars by asking yourself these questions. If you answer “No” to several of these questions, your home may be more susceptible to a burglary.

1. Have you arranged to have a member of a law enforcement agency do a professional survey?
2. Are all trees and shrubs pruned and well maintained to prevent anyone from hiding?
3. Do you prevent trees, down pipes, lattice work from providing easy access to upper floors?
4. Do you prevent your skylights from being removed easily from the outside?
5. Do you store away any ladders or tools that may assist intruders from entering your home?
6. Do you keep extra house keys in a location outside that is difficult to find?
7. Is your home well lighted with particular attention to exterior doors?
8. Can your main entrance be seen from the street?
9. Are exterior doors at least 1 ¾ inch thick and made from solid wood or reinforce?
10. Do all exterior doors have heavy duty dead bolts and reinforced door jams?
11. Do you prevent anyone from gaining easy access through a mail slot, dryer vent, or pet entrance?
12. If doors have glass panels, do you prevent anyone from breaking through and defeating the lock mechanism?
13. Have all sliding glass doors been protected from being easily lifted out from their frames?
14. Are all exterior lights and security devices in good working order and protected from breakage?
15. Does the door from the attached garage leading to the house have a dead bolt?
16. Does your overhead door have a working electronic door opener?
17. Do you make sure that your overhead door does not have any loose, broken or missing door panels or hardware?
18. Do you keep overhead doors closed, and your car locked inside the garage?
19. Do all windows have reinforced locking devices that can be secured in the open position?
20. Do all screens and storm windows have reinforced locks?
21. Do ground level windows have guards or grates?
22. Are basement windows glass block or protected by grates or security devices?
23. Are all irreplaceable items kept in a high quality fire resistant safe or in off-site safety deposit box?
24. Do you have a complete and current video tape or pictures of all your valuables stored at an off-site location?
25. Are all firearms kept secured and apart from ammunition?



Castle Heights Elementary School

Castle Heights Elementary School sells gift cards all year. A percentage of the gift card sales goes to support the school. You pay nothing more than the face value of the gift card. You can call **Tina at (310) 876-7676** or email her at **cteodorescu@peoplepc.com** for a list of gift cards available or to order gift cards, which includes Whole Foods, Best Buy, Home Depot, Islands, Starbucks, AMC Theaters, PetCo, Bed Bath and Beyond, Macy's and much, much more.

The Castle Heights annual Fall Festival raised over \$20,000. Thanks to all the parents and neighbors who helped with their time, donations, and bids. These funds will be allocated to help pay for music and physical education staff, teachers' aides, and other extracurricular activities.

Castle Heights Elementary School's website is up and running at www.castleheightselementary.com

December 8, 2006 – January 5 2007 – Winter Vacation

Hamilton High School - Home of the Yankees

We welcome new principal Gary Garcia to Hamilton High School. After a revolving door of principals lately at Hamilton, Mr. Garcia has made a commitment to remaining principal of our high school for a minimum of six years.

If you live close (or even not so close) to Hamilton, you've probably seen and/or heard the Friday night football games that have occurred a few times this season. Did you think they were too loud or the lights were just too bright? Well... so did some of your neighbors. A group of concerned Castle Heights neighbors met with Hamilton High officials on November 15 to discuss mitigating the noise and bright lights of the Friday Night games. Stay tuned for more information as to the result of this meeting for the upcoming 2007-2008 school year.

December 18, 2006 – January 5, 2007 – Winter Vacation

January 19/20, 2007 – Winter Dance Recital

Farmers Markets

Tuesdays 2 to 7pm: Culver City, on Main Street (Bagley) just south of Venice!

Thursdays 3 to 7pm: Corner of La Cienega Blvd and 18th Street (Monte Mar)!

Thursdays 11am to 3pm: Century City, on Constellation between Avenue of the Stars & Century Park East!

SoRo / your South Robertson Neighborhood Council

2nd Wednesday of every month, 6:45pm – check the web site for details: <http://soronc.org/soronew/>



Eating Out - A Review of Local Restaurants

Sushi Zo

By Hal Klaskin

Sushi Zo is a quaint authentic traditional style sushi restaurant conveniently located near the intersection of Castle Heights Ave. and National Blvd. The sushi is exceptional and in terms of quality is probably among the top 10% of sushi bars in the city. Like everything else, you get what you pay for. The salmon is delectable and almost dissolves in your mouth without chewing. My other favorites are tuna, sweet shrimp, tuna hand roll, salmon skin hand roll, freshwater eel, butterfish, and eel & cucumber hand roll which are part of a broad and diverse menu of exquisite choices. Daily specials are prominently posted with pricing.

Sushi orders are placed by the piece (1) as opposed to the order (2). The benefit of ordering by the piece is you may try one of something you might otherwise leave undiscovered. However, if you are really hungry and can put away large portions, then the bill can really add up quickly ordering by the piece.

Since this is old school traditional sushi, there is no tempura or California rolls offered. However, the homemade soy sauce which has a hint of citrus and/or ginger is perhaps the best that I've ever tried. Along with outstanding sushi, miso soup and alcohol are served with politeness, graciousness, and efficiency. A must try for true sushi connoisseurs. Reservations recommended.

**** Sushi Zo - 9824 National Blvd. Unit C (310) 842-3977 (Closed Sundays) ****



Contact Information



Important Numbers:

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Directory of Citywide Services | 3-1-1 |
| Emergencies | 9-1-1 |
| Non-Emergencies | 877-ASK-LAPD |
| 5 TH District Councilmember Jack Weiss | 213-847-4467 |
| Abandoned Vehicles | 800-ABANDON |
| Bulky Item Pickup | 800-773-2489 |
| Graffiti Removal | 310-204-2749 |
| Parked Vehicles Exceeding Time Limit | 800-996-2489 |
| Poison Control Center | 800-876-4766 |
| Robertson Library | 310-840-2147 |
| Sidewalk / Pothole Repair | 800-996-2489 |
| Soro Neighborhood Council | www.SORONC.org |
| Street Lights Out | 800-996-2489 |
| Vehicle blocking street, driveway, etc. | 800-996-2489 |
| West L.A. Police | 310-444-0701 |
| Illegal Dumping | 800-996-2489 |
| Commercial Vehicles Parked In Res. | 800-222-6366 |
| Residential Trash / Dead Animal Pickup | 800-996-2489 |
| Sewer or Storm Drain problems | 800-996-2489 |

Quarterly Quote:

"Life does not have to be regarded as a game in which scores are kept and somebody wins. If one is too intent on winning, one does not enjoy the playing." – **Thomas Merton**

CASTLE HEIGHTS

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

PO Box 642456 ~ Los Angeles, CA 90064
Phone and Fax--UPDATING

WWW.CASTLEHEIGHTS.INFO

A Membership of Concerned Residents & Neighbors
Since 1979

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| President | Laurence DeMers |
| Vice President | Open |
| Treasurer | Istvan Kerekes |
| Secretary | Open |
| Neighborhood Watch | Tony Pethebridge |
| Patrol Service | Jonathan Steier |
| Newsletter | Joezen Punongbayan |

Susan Bursk, Julia Maher, George Olah, Joya Ovadya,
Kim Warwick, Marlene Winston

We represent about 1,200 single-family homes, a few apartments, some businesses, a senior home and a great elementary school. As a volunteer group started in 1979, we have worked steadily to ensure that our neighborhood remains a clean, safe and enjoyable place to live. The boarders are approximately Robertson Blvd, 10 Frwy, Shelby, Beverlywood/David. If you receive this newsletter, you live within the association's boundaries and are a member.

Reminder: Please pick up after your dogs when walking them. On several occasions, I have seen owners not picking up after their dogs and on some instances they were left right on the sidewalk.

Have You Remembered to Pay your Neighborhood Association Dues?

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 - Member | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 – Bronze Sponsor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 – Silver Sponsor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 – Gold Sponsor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 – Patron | <input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ - Other |

Name _____

Street Address _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Can we put your name in our newsletter to thank you for your donation? _____

What would you like to see fixed or improved in our neighborhood? _____

Would you like to volunteer your time and effort to improve our neighborhood? _____

Mail To: Castle Heights Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 642456, LA, CA 90064