



The Mount Washington Association

Serving the Mount Washington community since 1955.

September 2004

www.mtwashington.org

Two New Additions to Our "Village"

Maria Gray

In case you've been driving by too fast and haven't noticed, we have two new additions to our fast growing "village" at the bottom of the hill on Figueroa.

Our newly renovated gas station has reopened under new ownership with an expanded offering of services for all the busy people living in our community. As well as being able to fill up on gas, we can also visit a fully stocked convenience store to buy milk, etc., or curb our appetite with a delicious sandwich from the Subway store located on the premises. The best bit of news, though, is the new Hand Car Wash featuring a full range of services from hand wash to full detail. Ladies, drop your car off on the way to your workout at Curves and it will be sparkling clean by the time you're done.

If you're not into working out, you could instead visit our second new addition: Mudpuppy, our long-awaited coffee house on the corner of Figueroa and Avenue 43. Mudpuppy offers a wide range of gourmet coffees and teas as well as an excellent menu. The most important thing it offers, though, is the opportunity to commune with our friends and neighbors in a pleasant setting, somewhere you can be sure you'll always meet someone you know, or someone you would like to know.

We hope you will join us in welcoming these two much-needed new businesses to our neighborhood and will support them as they help improve our quality of life here on Mt. Washington.

President's Message

Natalie Seaman

Ahhh, fall. Summer fun is over and we must get serious – back to school, back to the grindstone, for both students and parents! And, at the risk of sounding like a

broken record, I feel compelled to again use this column to ask everyone in Mt Washington to do more this fall and get involved.

Recently while surfing the web I read a great tribute to the volunteers in Northeast Los Angeles that reminded me of the work that we do get done – it inspired me. I want to share the comments of Sheryl Getman of Sycamore Grove, a community that borders on Mount

Washington. She wrote:

"Much of the improvement that you see in the Sycamore Grove area is due to work of a very active neighborhood association (Sycamore Terrace) and the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council. Volunteers have worked on issues and conditions every day for the last ten years or longer. Volunteers have put in thousands of hours for this neighborhood overhaul...

And there are other organizations, too, like Highland Park Heritage Trust, Southwest Museum Coalition, Mount Washington groups, Montecito Heights groups, Audubon, The Lummis people, and Arroyo Arts Collective who have individuals donating umpteen hours for the community. Many groups, many people. I would like to say that

what you are seeing is a burst and bloom from a community with people that care in so many ways. They have persevered without many accolades or many thanks. Often, there is disrespect and difficulties, but the diehards have hung in there. The area is blessed and blooming with active volunteers. "

And in case you are now inspired and looking for an opportunity – Sheryl provided a long list of the organizations that need help. Links to many of these organizations are on our website (www.mtwashington.org). If you are looking for a one day challenge, there is a North East Area Service Day coming up on September 18 – feel free to contact me about it.

I can also tell you from personal experience another reason why each and every one of you should join the

General Membership Meeting

Sunday, September 20, 2004, 7:30 PM
Carlin G. Smith Recreation Center
511 W. Avenue 46

Good Things to Know About

Please join us on Monday, Sept. 20th at 7.30 PM at the Carlin G. Smith Center for an information-packed meeting.

First, Karen Dardick, a renowned, published local author, will be giving a presentation on "Simply Roses". Karen has lectured extensively to many groups around the country and recently was commissioned to visit the Chelsea Flower Show and other areas of England on behalf of a premier publication. She will share her expertise on how easy it is to grow roses in the Mount Washington area and how to select the correct roses for your garden.

Debra Orman, the new Executive Director of Mount Washington Preschools, will then talk about the growth of this early childhood education organization, from its roots as a Mount Washington Association committee to the services it now provides to some 2000 families in Northeast Los Angeles and downtown.

We will round out our program with a short talk from Bill Rumble, who recently served as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. Bill will give us his first-hand observations on the convention and his trip to Boston.

This will be a very interesting program, so please remind your friends and neighbors so they can attend as well.

volunteers: you will make great friends and will become connected in a very real way to this community.

I hope to see all of you this month at the Mount Washington School Pancake Breakfast and the MWA meeting!

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Public Safety Report

Cheri Uno

Northeast Crime

Report – from Capt.

Morris 'Mo' Smith.

We have had 14 homicides in Northeast Los Angeles so far this year. Fortunately, we have had no new ones in the past month. Last year there had been only 9 homicides by this date.

Robbery is down 30.8% and has been going down for three years. Total violent crime is down by 19.3%. Burglary and Grand Theft Auto are down 17.7% and 13.4%.

Burglary theft from auto (BTFA) is still going up, with an increase this year of 4.7%. What you can do to prevent BTFA crimes:

- Do not leave anything in your car; this is an invitation to rob from your car.
- Equip your car with an alarm and use a Club.
- A kill switch is also helpful to prevent auto theft.
- Keep your car in your locked garage at night.

Hondas and Toyotas are the car models most stolen. If you have a high risk car

or one that needs extra protection from theft, call the LAPD Northeast Community Relations Office at (213) 485-2548. They have Clubs available for a donation of \$10. This is a great deal for our communities – if you don't have one already, get one now!

Gunlocks For Free

If you own a gun that is not protected with a gunlock, you can get a **free gunlock** from the LAPD Northeast Community Relations Office at (213) 485-2548. Call them today.

Senior Lead Officers (SLOs) for the Cypress Park, Mount Washington, and Atwater Areas – New Phone Numbers

Recently, Officer Robert 'Red' Falconer was appointed to the position of SLO for Cypress Park and the western portion of Mount Washington. Officer Falconer's phone number is (213) 793-0758. We are very lucky to have Officer Falconer as a SLO: he is relatively new to being a SLO and is very energetic. He hit the ground running and is working hard to clear up many problems in his area. I'm sure you all will find him very helpful, responsive and informative.

We will all greatly miss SLO Ray Rangel who had been covering Red's area for many, many years. Officer Rangel is out on extended leave with a back injury.

Officer Cooper still covers the Northeast section of Mount Washington – east of San Rafael, Moon and Crane. His phone number is (213) 793-0761.

Officer Chovan is the new SLO for Atwater. She has some experience as a SLO, relieving other SLOs in the Atwater area. She knows the Atwater area well and will be a great asset to that community. SLO Chovan's phone number is (213) 793-0713.

Remember the SLOs are on a 3-day work week, so don't expect them to get back to you on the day of your call. They are not for emergencies but to help you with long-standing quality of life issues or to follow up on ongoing problems.

Graffiti – Report it when you see it!

As soon as you see graffiti, dial 311 or call the LAPD Community Relations Office at (213) 847-0511 to report it for removal. The longer graffiti stays up, the more graffiti it attracts to the same area.

The graffiti remover sold at Home Depot and other hardware stores really works for removal of graffiti on hard surfaces – metal, tile, anti-graffiti-coated murals, and glass. But be very careful if you are removing graffiti yourself, as you don't know who may be watching you.

Fires, Fires and More Fires

We are now well into fire season, so please clear your lots as soon as possible if you haven't already done so. If there are any lots in the vicinity of your home that are not cleared, please report them to LAFD Fire Inspector Terris at (818) 374-1111; please have the exact street address or the parcel number of the lot that needs to be

cleared. If you can't find address or parcel number, give me a call and try to give me the exact location; I may be able to find it for you.

Neighborhood Watch

Please report to the LAPD any crimes or suspicious activity you witness. Also, make sure you lock your car and make sure no one is following you when you are shopping or going to and from a store. Neighborhood Watch Programs are very effective against non-violent crimes. If you are interesting in a Neighborhood Watch meeting, please contact the LAPD Northeast Community Relations Office at (213) 485-2548 or phone your Senior Lead Officer.

Watch out for this person

Remember the alert, several months ago, for a white male in a black or dark T-Bird? He was arrested in San Bernardino but is now out again and may be back in the Northeast Area, possibly in or around Montecito Heights or Mount Washington. He is thought to be responsible for breaking into several garages, sheds and out-buildings in these areas. His name is William Seaberger. If you see him, contact your LAPD station. He is still a person of interest to the police in Northeast and Hollenbeck.

Save These Dates

October 16, 2004: Northeast Open House & Crime Prevention Fair from 10 AM to 3 PM. This is great fun for the whole family, with displays of crime prevention information from bomb squad to K-9 units. There are also tours of the Northeast police station all day long. Come out to meet Northeast officers, Senior Lead Officers, fire fighters, and Officers from several of the supporting units to the Northeast area.

November 4, 2004: Northeast LAPD Town Hall Meeting at Occidental College, Lower Herrick Interfaith Center, at 6:30 PM. This is the place to meet Northeast Captain Morris Smith and your Senior Lead Officers. Each year, this meeting is held by each division to exchange information between community members and the police. Communication is important. Please attend to ask questions or just get informed about issues in your community.

Exciting Announcement For AdvertisERS – New Directory

The Mount Washington Association and the Glassell Park Improvement Association have joined together to produce a Directory of businesses and services in the local area. The 5" x 7" directory will provide contact information for government services and non-profit organizations in the Northeast, but the focus is to provide an opportunity for advertising. We want to get our members to use your services, for the benefit of everyone in our area.

MWA and GPIA members will be allowed a few lines of listing to announce their services at no cost. But if you

want to make a big splash and really attract more customers, we encourage you to consider taking out an ad. Pricing is as follows:

- ¼ Page: \$ 50
- ½ Page: \$ 95
- Full Page: \$ 180

Back cover space is also available if you are interested.

The deadline for ad submission is **November 1**.

More information is available on the MWA website (www.mtwashington.org) and also at the Mount Washington Association General Meeting. Michelle Lewis can also be contacted at (323) 258-6874 if you need assistance.

Please pass the word on to anyone else you know who's doing business in our area.

Southwest Museum Concert

On Sunday, October 17, from 2 PM to 4 PM in the Casa de Adobe, the Friends of the Braun Library will present a performance of the New World Baroque Orchestra. Experience the music, dance, costume, and pageantry of an early colonial California festival as the New World Baroque Orchestra brings early California music and dance back to life in the open air of the Casa de Adobe plaza. Played on authentic replicas of original 18th-century instruments, these melodies have been carefully transcribed and edited from the Southwest Museum's Jose Maria Garcia Manuscript (c. 1772).

For reservations, call (323) 667-2000, ext. 354. \$5 for Autry National Center members, \$10 for nonmembers.

The Other Election

Rob Schraff

In less than a year, the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council has had a real impact on Mount Washington and our neighboring communities.

These efforts have included:

- financial support of the PTA to expand the amphitheater at Mt. Washington Elementary School
- joining and supporting the Friends of the Southwest Museum Coalition
- launching a community-wide tree planting program
- monitoring Gold Line noise issues
- and, of course, supporting community efforts to protect precious open spaces in Red Hawk Canyon, Elephant Hill, Flat Top and other areas.

There are also literally dozens of instances where the ASNC has taken a stand and in some cases influenced policy. The most recent example is Jerry Schneider's success in getting the DWP to allocate 30% (instead of 20%) of funding for photovoltaic projects for residential installations.

It's a pretty solid record – and you can learn more about the ASNC's accomplishments at www.asnc.us.

But in November the ASNC will again elect new Board members, so now it's time to think about making even more of a difference next year.

Make sure that you and every eligible member of your household are registered to vote in the election. It's easy to register, and you can even vote by mail. You can download a printable ASNC registration form from our website.

But beyond just voting, please consider becoming a candidate for the ASNC board. Of course, it's not so easy to be a board member, but it is rewarding to be part of such a fine group of community activists who are building a successful Neighborhood Council. In addition to geographic representation, several other board positions will be open representing stakeholders throughout the neighborhood council area. Learn more about these opportunities at www.asnc.us.

ASNC Election Key Dates

September 19 & 21 – Candidate Workshops

September 23 – Deadline to declare as candidate and have your name be printed on the ballot

October 15 – Deadline to declare as candidate and have your information included in the mailer to stakeholders

November 12 – Candidate Forum

November 20 – Last day for mail-in ballots to be received

November 21 – Deadline to declare as write-in candidate

November 22 – Election Day

Again, please remember to register and vote. And please consider becoming even more involved by running for a board seat in the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council.

Incline Station – The Los Angeles And Mount Washington Railway

Pat Samson

On August 3, 1908, A. C. Harper, Mayor of the City of Los Angeles, issued Ordinance No. 16920 granting Arthur St. Clair Perry permission for a period of 21 years to operate and maintain a cable inclined street railway to be operated by electricity commencing at the intersection of Avenue 43 west of Marmion Way.

The Ordinance further provided that cars would be run at intervals of not more than one hour from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM and that the operator had the right to charge a sum not exceeding 5 cents for one passenger up or down with passengers allowed to purchase 100 tickets at one time for \$3.00.

The Ordinance established free rides for the Mayor, policemen, firemen, mailmen, City Council members,

Board of Police Commissioners, Fire Commissioners, Water Commissioners, Park Commissioners, members of the Board of Health and Board of Education, and Directors of the Public Library.

The Los Angeles and Mt. Washington Railway was 2,900 feet long (just 100 feet shorter than the Mt. Lowe line) and ran from the base of the hill at Avenue 43 to the lavish Mt. Washington Hotel (now the national headquarters of the Self-Realization Fellowship) at the peak.

Two cars, named Florence and Virginia, were attached to a counterbalanced table operated in a slot constructed below the level of the rails. As they ascended and descended on the single, three-rail track, the cars passed at an automatic turnout about midway on the incline. The descending car was always without a conductor until it reached this point. The conductor took tickets at the bottom of the grade and then rode up in the ascending car. As the cars passed, the conductor would step out onto a very small platform, then cross the tracks and mount a similar platform to enter the car coming down. His timing had to be perfect because, although the cars traveled slowly, they did not stop.

When children were deemed old enough, they rode the cable car to the one-room schoolhouse on the top of the hill. The older boys were allowed to take their bicycles in the luggage section for the ascending trip and then have an exciting ride hurtling down the hill after school. The roads were narrow, winding, and steep, but fortunately automobile traffic was minimal at the time.

The cable cars were arranged in three tiers so that passengers were seated on a level plane on long seats facing each other. The view along the route was magnificent but the schoolboys preferred to watch the huge cable mechanism, which could be seen through a glass window in the enclosed car.

In the evening after the cars stopped running, and when the weather was wet, walkers would climb the hill on the planking between the rails. This planking later became a popular boardwalk. Even automobile owners traveled on the cable cars when it rained, as the dirt roads would quickly turn into impassable mud.

The railway operated for ten years, from early in 1909 to its last descent on January 9, 1919. Operating deficits of approximately \$3,800 per year in 1916, 1917 and 1918 resulted in a lack of maintenance and repair, so service was discontinued by order of the City of Los Angeles on the grounds that the roadway was unsafe.

In 1921, Mount Washington Drive became the first paved road on the hill.

At the top of the hill, the former electric powerhouse, which held the grip wheel that pulled the cars along the moving cable under the planking, was converted into offices by Self-Realization Fellowship. On June 28, 1983, the Cultural Heritage Board of the City of Los Angeles declared the original confection bar and waiting room at the intersection of Avenue 43 and Marmion Way

(now a private residence) as Historic-Cultural Monument #269. Both of these structures continue to stand as reminders of a chapter in Mt. Washington's colorful past.

Pancake Breakfast at Mount Washington School

Mark your calendars: this year's PTA Pancake Breakfast at Mount Washington Elementary School will begin at 8:30 AM on September 18th. Everyone is invited.

You, Too, Can Be A National Convention Delegate!

Bill Rumble

From July 26 to 29 I had the great honor of representing the 31st Congressional District (Mount Washington and adjacent communities) at the Democratic National Convention in Boston, Massachusetts. Since I returned, several people have asked me how an ordinary citizen can become a delegate. Believe it or not, it is relatively easy to do so. In this column, I'll tell you how the California Democratic Party chooses its national convention delegates. Perhaps, once you know how the process works, you may wish to run for a delegate position in 2008.

The Democratic National Committee, based in Washington DC, is in overall charge of delegate selection, in so much as each state's delegate selection plan must be approved by the DNC. States submit their

plans in the years between presidential elections. The DNC considers and approves the plans by the end of the odd-numbered year preceding each presidential election year. Thus, California's delegate selection plan was approved by the DNC in mid-2003. States choose delegates in one of three ways: by state party convention, by caucus, or by primary election. California identifies convention delegates by congressional district caucus and apportions the delegates based on the results of the presidential primary election. Here's how I won a seat at the national convention.

In January, after deep consideration, I decided to support John Kerry for president and to run for the position of national convention delegate. I logged on to the California Democratic Party's web site (www.cadem.org). I learned that the congressional district caucuses were scheduled for Sunday, February 8. On this date, eight meetings would be held in the 31st Congressional District – one meeting for each of the candidates then campaigning for president. I filled out my application to run as a delegate, promised to vote for John Kerry at the national convention, signed and submitted the application. On February 8 I went to the Kerry Caucus, which was held at Occidental College. I gave a speech explaining why I wished to become a Kerry delegate. Those present voted. I happened to be the leading vote-getter, with forty-two votes out of fifty-five ballots. Four other candidates were rank-ordered behind me.

MOUNT WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____ Phone _____

Email _____ Fax _____

Please check one: New membership Renew membership

Please circle Membership Category and Contribution Level below:

Basic:	Single \$15	Family/Couple \$25	Senior \$12	Associate \$15
Supporting:	\$35			
Business/Professional:	\$50			
Benefactor:	\$100			
Patron:	\$250			

All renewals due at start of calendar year.
Your cancelled check is your receipt. Please make check payable to :
MOUNT WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION

Your name and address shall be kept confidential and shall not be given to other organizations.

- *Membership (Single, Family or Senior) is open to adults who either reside or own property on Mount Washington. Membership includes the right to vote and hold office.*
- *Associate membership is open to any adult who resides outside of the Mount Washington community. Associate members may not vote or hold office.*

In March, California Democrats voted for Senator Kerry by a substantial majority. By this time in the campaign, only Senators Kerry and Edwards were still in contention for the nomination. It was at this point that, as the leading vote-getter at the Kerry Caucus, I was certified for a position as national convention delegate.

Interestingly enough, though our caucus certified five candidates for the convention, I was the only one chosen from the February caucus. This is because the rules of the Democratic National Committee are very strict regarding gender equity at the convention. By happenstance, all of us who ran as Kerry delegates at the first caucus were men. Because no women ran and

because there was no first-round Edwards caucus in the 31st District, the state party mandated a “supplemental caucus” to choose two female Kerry delegates and one male Edwards delegate from the 31st. When this was done, our District delegation was in place.

Attending a national convention is an enlightening and thrilling experience. Many of those who attend are elected officials. Many who are not “electeds” are perennial convention-goers, though this year’s convention had a large number of delegates – like me – for whom this was their first national convention. If you are serious about party politics, you really might wish to consider running for a delegate position.

Coming up...

- September 18 Mount Washington Elementary School *Pancake Breakfast*. 8:30 AM at the school.
- September 18 *Kite Hill Clean-up*. 9 AM to 11 AM.
- September 18 *National Public Lands Day*. All day event at Debs Park.
- September 19 First ASNC board candidate workshop. See www.asnc.us for details.
- September 21 Second ASNC board candidate workshop. See www.asnc.us for details.
- September 23 Deadline to declare as ASNC board candidate and have your name be printed on the ballot.
- September 27 *ASNC general meeting*. 7 PM at Ramona Hall.
- October 15 Deadline to declare as ASNC board candidate and be included in the mailer to stakeholders.
- October 15 *Northeast LAPD Open House & Crime Prevention Fair*. 10 AM to 3 PM at Northeast LAPD station.
- October 16 *ASNC family picnic*. 11 AM – see www.asnc.us for details.
- October 16 Exhibition and Sale of *Contemporary Native American Art*. 10 AM to 5 PM at Southwest Museum.
- October 16 Free *Taste of the Southwest*. 11 AM to 3 PM in the Museum Store of the Southwest Museum.
- October 17 *New World Baroque Orchestra* performance. 2 PM to 4 PM in Southwest Museum Casa de Adobe.
- November 4 *Northeast LAPD Town Hall Meeting*. 6:30 PM at Occidental College, Lower Herrick Interfaith Center.