



Del Rey Homeowners & Neighbors Association

Community

NEWSLETTER

1st QUARTER 2009

“President’s Message”

Chris Nevil

It’s a humorous cliché in volunteer organizations that officers get appointed to their positions when they miss a meeting or make the mistake of stepping out of the room for a moment.

That was not quite the case six years ago, when a wonderful predecessor and phenomenal community member, Charlotte De Meo, asked me to consider chairing our Association. But it wasn’t too far from the truth.

I had been an active member, of course, and subsequently an

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PANEL DISCUSSION ON TRAFFIC, MODERATED BY COUNCILMAN BILL ROSENDAHL

By Chris Nevil

The Del Rey Homeowners and Neighbors Association Spring general meeting will feature a panel discussion entitled “Del Rey Traffic Revisited”. The meeting will take place on Thursday, March 26th, at 7:00 pm at the Playa del Rey Elementary School Auditorium, 12221 Juniette St. at Centinela.

Recently reelected 11th District City Councilman Bill Rosendahl has graciously agreed to moderate the panel, featuring speakers from the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (D.O.T.) and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans).

Appearing for D.O.T. will be Mo Blorfroshan, Transportation Engineer, Western District; Sean Haeri, Senior Transportation Engineer, Planning and Development; and Eddie Guerrero, Transportation Engineer, Planning and Development.

Panelists speaking for Caltrans will be Leon Romero of Caltrans’ Project Management

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DRHNA SPRING GENERAL MEETING:

“Del Rey Traffic Revisited”

ATTEND THE DEL REY HOMEOWNERS & NEIGHBORS ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING

SAVE THIS DATE
Thursday March 26th, 2009
at 7:00 p.m.

Playa Del Rey Elementary School Auditorium

12221 Juniette St.
(Corner of Juniette and Centinela)
On-street parking is available

For further information
call (310) 390-0370

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THE DRHNA BOARD
 GRATEFULLY THANKS THOSE
 MEMBERS WHO HAVE MADE
 GENEROUS DONATIONS IN
 ADDITION TO PAYING
 THEIR DUES. YOUR ADDITIONS
 MAINTAIN DRHNA AS A
 "FORCE IN READINESS."

**Del Rey Homeowners
 and Neighbors Association**

P.O. BOX 661450
 Los Angeles, CA 90066

www.delreyhome.org

**"A FORCE IN READINESS"
 BOARD MEMBERS**

- President* Chris Nevil
- 1st Vice President* George Gross
- 2nd Vice President* Wendy Averill
- Recording Secretary* Elizabeth Pollock
- Corresponding Secretary* . Tobyann Mandel
- Treasurer*..... Michelle A. Rudo
- Parliamentarian*..... Janice Santos
- Director* Casey Anderson
- Director*..... Aaron Bernardin
- Director*..... Elizabeth Zamora
- Director* Marlene Savage
- Director*..... Mary Anderson
- Advisor* Lillian Jenkins
- Advisor* Steve Knight

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- Membership*..... Casey Anderson
- Newsletter* Mary Anderson (Editor)
 Chris Nevil
- Website* George Gross

Newsletter layout and printing
 West Side Graphics- 310.398.0518

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**WE INVITE YOU TO ATTEND
 BOARD MEETINGS
 1ST MONDAY EACH MONTH
 EXCEPT HOLIDAYS
 VENICE - JAPANESE
 COMMUNITY CENTER**

12448 BRADDOCK DRIVE - 7:00 PM

Opinions expressed in this publication are, unless otherwise noted, those of the columnists, and are not necessarily the views of the Association's Board or members.

Alley Closure near Starbucks Enhances Safety for PDR Elementary Kids

By Chris Nevil

A potentially dangerous situation for Playa del Rey Elementary schoolchildren has been resolved with the decision by the Los Angeles Department of Transportation to install northbound "no turn" signs at a short alley just north of the busy Starbucks coffee shop at Jefferson Blvd. and Centinela Ave. Drivers juggling coffee, cell phone (until the recent law change) and other tasks have often been seen using the alley when leaving the location.

The alley directly faces the school entrance on Juniette, and

parents often use both sides of the street when delivering their children in the morning.

"The process involved many months of the Del Rey Homeowners and Neighbors Association working together with the Cindy Mejia of Councilman Bill Rosendahl's office and the Department of Transportation", according to DRHNA 1st Vice President George Gross, who along with fellow director and wife Casey Anderson Gross, spearheaded the effort to close the alley to northbound turns.



Mar Vista Family Center Debuts Every Child Youth Foundation Building

By Chris Nevil



Visitors line up to tour the Everychild Foundation Youth Center after its dedication on Saturday, March 14.



Lucia Diaz, Chief Executive Officer of the Mar Vista Family Center addresses the audience at the Everychild Foundation Youth Center's grand opening.

S kies were overcast, but spirits decidedly sunny as the Mar Vista Family Center in Del Rey celebrated the grand opening of its Everychild

Foundation Youth Center on Saturday morning, March 14th.

The 11,500 square foot, \$6.5 million facility, directly across from

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ELECTION NOTICE

The following individuals have announced their intention to run for the following Officer positions:

- Elizabeth Zamora President
- George Gross 1st Vice President and Webmaster
- Wendy Averill Second Vice President
- Michelle Rudo Treasurer
- Corresponding Secretary . . . Tobyann Mandel
- Recording Secretary Elizabeth Pollock

In addition, if Elizabeth Zamora is elected president, her directorship will be open. Our current president, Chris Nevil, has indicated his willingness to serve the final year of the directorship.

All five directors will be up for re-election in March 2010.

Candidates may be nominated from the floor, and written ballots will be provided at the General Meeting if there are any contested positions.

Park News



Culver/Slauson Park will be getting a new, badly needed baseball diamond. This is welcomed news for a community that is in dire need of recreational facilities of all kind. Not surprising, however, given Del Rey's shortage of parks, there were those in the community who hoped that the area dedicated to the baseball diamond could have been turned into a soccer pitch. Without taking a stance on the baseball-versus-soccer issue, the DRHNA notes that the on-going competition for Del Rey's very limited greenspace merely shines a spotlight on the fact that this community is in desperate need of more recreational facilities. (And don't even get us started on the dog park issue!)

School News

Over the past several months, the Los Angeles Unified School District has made two important decisions that have a direct impact on Del Rey.

In December, the LAUSD tabled a decision on the possible closure of Playa del Rey Elementary, assuring that the school will remain open next year. As a cost-saving measure in these trying times, the Board of Education has considered closing schools with a student population of under 300 – Playa del Rey's enrollment is 239 according to its web site – but thanks to a spirited effort by teachers, parents and concerned members of the community, the school has been given a reprieve. Budgetary pressures are likely to get worse before they get better, so parents and faculty alike warn against complacency.

Playa del Rey Elementary School's vulnerabil-

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Del Rey Residents: Make Your Voices Heard!

April 30, 2009: Comments are due on the Recirculated Sections of the Draft EIR for The Village at Playa Vista. (See http://cityplanning.lacity.org/eir/PlayaVista/DEIR_RS/issues/Volume%20I%20-%20RS%20DEIR.pdf) . This proposal, as described in the document, includes 2,600 dwelling units, 175,000 square feet of office space, 150,000 square feet of retail space, and 40,000 square feet of community-serving uses, on a 99.3-acre site consisting of 87.5 acres of development, 11.4 acres of parks, and 0.4 acre of other passive open space. Note that the original deadline for comments was March 16th. We have confirmed with the City Planning Department that the new deadline is April 30, 2009.

DRHNA Board opinion: Opposed. According to the California Court of Appeal, this proposal represents an "upzoning" that would greatly increase the

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PANEL DISCUSSION ON TRAFFIC, MODERATED BY COUNCILMAN BILL ROSENDAHL

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Division; Jose Ventocilla, from Caltrans' Construction Division; and Judy Gish, Caltrans Public Affairs.

DRNHA President Chris Nevil noted that the panel will address a perennial concern of Del Rey residents. "Traffic has always ranked at or near the top of community issues for our members. It has been several years since we last had a meeting focusing on this subject. Meanwhile, development and traffic counts have only increased". He continued, "This panel presents an opportunity for the public to share its concerns about traffic problems directly with knowledgeable representatives from both major transportation agencies, and with our City Councilman. We urge all interested residents to attend."

The meeting will also include a biannual Officer's Election. More information is available at the Association's Web site, www.delrey-home.org.

School News

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ity is likely to continue due to a separate but related decision by LAUSD, namely the School Board's decision in early February to approve a new school in Playa Vista. The proposed 650-student campus is slated to be built at the base of the bluffs, below Loyola Marymount University.

Everyone isn't in agreement with the Board's decision. Environmental groups, some of which have been involved in lawsuits against Playa Vista, point to issues such as methane gas and oil remnants from the site's industrial past as reasons why it is unsuitable for a school campus. LAUSD school board member Marlene Canter, who represents the area, is on the record supporting the school, defending the decision and pointing out that the District, having learned some hard lessons from the Belmont Campus debacle, is not about to make a similar mistake again.



In recognition of the current economic difficulties and the increased burden times like these place on charitable, organization the DRHNC is encouraging its members who attend the Spring general meeting to bring canned goods which have not passed their expiration date. The food stuff will be donated to the Mar Vista Family Center. Thank you for your generosity.



DEL REY HOMEOWNERS & NEIGHBORS ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 661450
Los Angeles, CA 90066

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

To join, renew or change your address, fill in below: _

Date _____ E-Mail _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phones (Home) (____) _____ (Work) (____) _____

**Please return this form with your dues: \$10.00 per family, per year. Additional contributions are welcome.
Mail the completed form along with your check to the above address.**

“President’s Message”

Continued From Page 1

appointed Director. But I had not envisioned myself in this role at all, much less the privilege of three terms in office!

I am grateful to you, the members, and to my extraordinary Board colleagues for this terrific experience.

To be sure, we’ve had our challenges. Perhaps the thorniest issue has been to honor DRHNA’s decades-long heritage of representing residents’ interests, while attempting to refine our objectives to complement, rather than duplicate, the work of the emergent Del Rey Neighborhood Council. And in pursuing ambitious goals, such as the significant effort several years ago to secure the U.S. Postal Service Distribution site on Jefferson Blvd. for desperately needed recreation and park space, we found ourselves flying into the headwinds of an anemic post-9/11 economy and elected representatives who were stymied by being the minority party in Congress and the White House (at the time).

But throughout, I believe DRHNA has continued to contribute to the evolution of Del Rey in a very healthy variety of ways. And I know that the Association and your Board will continue to work for a more livable, pleasant, and safer community. I personally hope to devote much more time to organizing our emergency response plans, training, and supplies to deal with the disaster risks that are an unavoidable fact of life in Southern California.

In my final Board meeting as Chair, I told my fellow officers and

directors that it was their remarkable passion and compassion, wit and wisdom, civility and kindness that made each meeting something to look forward to. Space doesn’t permit proper tribute to each of their efforts here. But please know that all of us who live in Del Rey are so very fortunate to have their energy invested in our well being! And I could not be more confident in the candidate pursuing this office, as well as the rest of the terrific group of DRHNA officers who are once again offering to continue their service to you.

Thank you, fellow members, for supporting us with your dues and contributions, your presence at our meetings, your comments, and your encouragement.

May all of our dreams and ideals for Del Rey come to pass!



Mar Vista Family Center debuts Every Child Youth Foundation Building

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the existing MVFC building on South Slauson Avenue adjacent to Ballona Creek, will allow the Center to greatly expand its services to disadvantaged youth in the area, according to Chief Executive Officer Lucia Diaz. “The Everychild Foundation Youth Center is a dream come true for us!”, Diaz happily noted. “It will allow us to serve up to 300 more children and teens”, she said, adding that “many youth have been on a waiting list because we haven’t had enough space.”

The new building offers a myriad of resources, including a classroom, a college prep area,

library, dance studio, game room, fitness room, counseling space for at-risk youth, and a community meeting room. It will allow MVFC to offer expanded programs in academics, music, dance, photography, computing, and new media, as well as recreational opportunities such as ping-pong and chess tournaments.

The teens of MVFC’s popular *By Youth, For Youth* leadership program feel that with the Everychild Foundation Youth Center, they finally have their own home at MVFC. The existing MVFC facilities adjacent to Culver-Slauson Park were designed as a pre-school. BYFY participants joked at the Saturday ceremony that until now, they had often had to sit in chairs meant for toddlers! A number of these motivated teens were celebrated during the Saturday ceremony as they confidently introduced representatives of elected officials who were present.

City Council Member and City Controller-Elect Wendy Greuel was a featured speaker at the event, along with many other VIP’s who played a role in the realization of the new building. Visitors also saw performances by MVFC youth and took tours of the new facility.

Lucia Diaz summed up the delight of all who were connected to the Everychild Foundation Youth Center, saying “with this building we will greatly expand our mission to help the youth in our community complete their educations, go on to college, and be better leaders in their schools and, on a larger scale, in society!”.



Del Rey residents: Make Your Voices Heard!

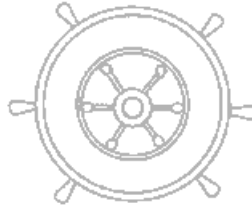
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amount of development allowed under the existing specific plan.

April 9, 2009: Hearing date before the Los Angeles City Planning Commission at L.A. City Hall, sometime after 8:30 pm in room 1010, 200 N. Spring St., Los Angeles 90012; for the proposal by Thomas Safran & Associates to construct 168 one-bedroom and 10 two-bedroom affordable apartments for senior citizens on the 11900 block of Culver (just east of Inglewood). The proposed structure will reach five stories in height, and borders a single-family neighborhood to the rear. For more information on the hearing, please check the

DRHNA Web site, at www.delrey-home.org.

DRHNA Board opinion: under review at this time. Concerns have been expressed about the proposed height of the project and its impact on neighbors' light and privacy, as well as parking overflow. None of the parking will be underground.



**STAY UP TO DATE!
VISIT OUR DRHNA
Website**
www.delreyhome.org



"It only seems as if Del Rey is becoming an RV park!"

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