

# Cheviot Hills News

Cheviot Hills Homeowners Association

Fall 2005

## President's Report

Your Homeowners' Association Board is committed to improving communications between the association and its membership, to include members in the Board's decision-making, and to find out what issues concern you most. To this end, we have revamped the website ([www.cheviot hills.org](http://www.cheviot hills.org)), we have brought back this quarterly newsletter, we invite public comment before, during, and (time permitting) at the close of each monthly Board meeting. We also hold frequent Traffic Committee meetings, which are publicly noticed and open to all members. Most recently, on October 20th, we held a general meeting at which members took turns behind the podium to tell us what they wanted their Association to do.

**Hot topics:** Two issues are particularly important right now. First, our City Councilmember, Jack Weiss, has advised us that he will soon submit a motion to the City Council asking that Motor Avenue northbound at Pico Boulevard be restriped *from* (a) two left turn only lanes and one right turn only lane, *to* (b) one left turn only lane and two right turn only lanes. In other words, the proposal would return the striping to how it was before the recent traffic mitigations. The intended effect is to free up congestion at the Motor-Pico intersection. Many fear that the

change will bring more cut-through traffic into our neighborhood. As always, we want to hear your views on the subject. If you have a strong opinion in favor or opposed to this change, please email me through the website. (More generally, if you have a strong opinion about traffic in our neighborhood and/or any of the recent measures taken to calm traffic on certain of our streets, please email me and let me know.)

The other hot topic is disaster preparedness. One way in which this Association can serve its membership is by providing a means for neighbors to get in touch with each other in times of crisis. Please see the article in this issue about Block Captains and please e-mail or write us to let us know if you have emergency medical training.

Our Board meetings are held at the Riddick Center (corner of Overland and Ashby) from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month. All are welcome!

□ by *Kevin Hughes*, CHHA President  
([President@cheviot hills.org](mailto:President@cheviot hills.org))

### Inside this Issue

Palms Park Gate	Page 2
Lights	Page 3
Crime	Page 4
Block Captains	Page 5
Survey Says	Page 6
Schools	Page 7
Riddick Center	Page 8

## ***CHHA protects our community by supporting the Dunleer/Northvale Neighborhood Watch***

With crime, vandalism and graffiti rising in their area, Ben Cate, (former president of the CHHA) and his neighbors formed the Dunleer/Northvale Neighborhood Watch in the early 1990s to address the problem. The bridge from Palms Park to Northvale Road, over the Southern Pacific railroad tracks, had become an easy way for troublemakers, vandals and noisy teens to enter our community at



night. Through its annual dues, the Neighborhood Watch raised enough money to install a gate, which is locked from 9:30 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. They also got the City to install lighting on the bridge. The area is now safer, graffiti-free, and the gate a big success. The Neighborhood Watch now uses its annual dues to beautify the neighborhood with trees

and plants along Northvale and pays ADT, our neighborhood security company, \$800 to lock and unlock the gate every day of the year.

Recognizing the importance and success of this gate in protecting our entire community, the CHHA voted at its November meeting to assume the ADT payment for locking and unlocking the gate. Thanks to the 25 dues-paying members of the D/N Neighborhood Watch and Block Captain Ben Cate for leading the way in protecting and beautifying our community.

□ by *Carol Bahoric.*

## ***Toys for Tots***

Our local fire station No. 92 will be collecting toys for needy children from December 1st until December 23rd. Toys should be new and unwrapped. Please support this



great cause by bringing your toys to our local fire station at 10556 West Pico Boulevard.

□ by *Alisa Griner*

### ***Trivia Question:***

What was the previous name for Northvale Road?

## *Lights Out...Not a Good Thing*

At the October 19th LAPD crime summit, our police officers gave a few tips on reducing crime. They said that it is very dark when they drive through our streets at night. They strongly suggested we leave outside lights on all night, even if it costs another \$15 for electricity. They say that most thieves enter homes through a side or back door. If you have your light on, your neighbor, a passerby, or you can see the suspect – making it easier to describe the suspect to police. Also



if a house is well lit, a thief may skip your home and move on to another “dark house.”

Light timers are also good and can be used to turn lights on for a few minutes at different intervals in the evening or the middle of the night. Another suggestion was to have your outside motion detecting lights wired to trip a light to go on inside your home. That way if it is in the middle of the night, a thief may think someone inside the home turned on a light to investigate. This alone is a great deterrent and may scare off a thief almost immediately.

Although we feel very safe in Cheviot, BURGLARIES on are the increase. Please remember to lock your doors when you are home and away, and thank you for your interest in our neighborhood.

□ by *Alisa Griner*

## **OPERATION BRIGHT LIGHTS**

*Operation Bright Lights* is an on-going community outreach program designed to encourage City of Los Angeles residents to report streetlights in need of repair to the Bureau of Street Lighting.

You can call 3-1-1 to report damaged light poles, exposed wiring, burned out bulbs, or any other street lighting problems. You can also fill out an on-line service request form: [http://www.lacity.org/BSL/serv\\_req.htm](http://www.lacity.org/BSL/serv_req.htm)

## *Electroliers*

Until the mid-1950s, the City did not require developers to install street lighting. Therefore, in the older areas of the City, most streets do not have streetlights unless the developer voluntarily installed them or a neighborhood installed them at the property owner's expense.

Ours is one of the neighborhoods where developers *did* install streetlights (or “electroliers”). An easy, if imperfect, guide for telling the original tracts apart: the street lights. “Cheviot Hills” has concrete lampposts. “Country Club Highlands” has more ornate metal lampposts. “Monte Mar Vista” has fluted metal lampposts. And *Cheviot Knolls* has concrete lampposts with ornate, grooved bases.

□ by *Jonathan Weiss*

## **REPORT GRAFFITI**

Operation Clean Sweep operates a graffiti hotline (800-611-CITY) through which residents may report graffiti. Work orders are referred to community-based graffiti removal programs that supervise community volunteers, as well as juveniles and adults who have received community service time from the courts. Work is performed using paint, chemical solvents or sandblasting, depending on the type of surface. All services are free of charge.

To report graffiti:

- Note the details of the graffiti, including the street, the cross street, the surface, and the color.
- Report the graffiti online (<http://www.lacity.org/bpw/ocs/grsr.htm>) or call the graffiti hotline at (800) 611-2489. If you wish to leave your name and number, please be assured that your personal information is kept confidential and may only be used to clarify the details of the incident.
- Write down the date and time you reported this incident. The graffiti should be removed within four business days.

## **Smash & Grab**

Just last week (Sat., 4am) my neighbors' cars were broken into. Empty handbags were stolen then dumped down the hill. This is the second car theft on my block THAT I KNOW OF in the last 6 months. The

MO is the same: In the early morning hours thieves walk through our neighborhood looking inside cars for handbags. They break into the car, hoist the bag, take out the cash and dump the bag down the street. Never leave anything of value in your car, especially handbags, especially overnight! Otherwise, you WILL be burglarized.

□ by *Carol Bahoric*

*Editor's note:* Thieves steal from cars *even in broad daylight*. One recent morning, my neighbor left her purse in her car and ran into the house to get "one more thing." Her purse was stolen in the few seconds she was gone.

## ❖ ❖ **CRIME BLOG** ❖ ❖



On a weekly basis, our Police and Fire liaison, Alisa Griner, receives a report from our lead LAPD officer on the crime in our neighborhood and the areas to the east and west of us. If you would like to receive this information via email on a regular basis, please e-mail Alisa Griner: [CheviotHillsHOA@aol.com](mailto:CheviotHillsHOA@aol.com) and put "ADD ME TO CRIME BLOG" in the subject line.

□ by *Alisa Griner*



## **WE NEED YOU TO BE A BLOCK CAPTAIN...**

In light of the recent New Orleans disaster, the CHHA has decided to establish neighborhood block captains. Block captains will establish a list of neighbors on your block so that you can easily communicate with each other in the event of a major disaster. There are other reasons why it might be nice if your neighbor was able to get a hold of you – for example, if your house was on fire or your dog accidentally escaped from your yard. (Block captains can also gather input from neighbors regarding issues facing our community.)

If you are interested in being a block captain, we will provide you via email with a cover letter and form to send to your neighbors. If a block captain contacts you, please consider giving an emergency phone number (work, cell phone, or a relative who might know your whereabouts). We are looking for 1 to 2 volunteers per street for the following streets:

Aiken Avenue  
Anchor Avenue  
Bannockburn Drive  
Beverlywood Street  
Bradbury Road  
Butterfield Road  
Cheviot Drive  
Clarkson Road  
Club Drive  
Draper Avenue  
Dumfries Road  
Forrester Drive

Gilmerton Avenue  
Ivy Glen Way  
Kilrenney Avenue  
Krim Drive  
McConnell Place  
Monte Mar Drive  
Monte Mar Place  
Monte Mar Terrace  
Motor Avenue  
Oaklawn Road  
Patricia Avenue  
Prosser Avenue  
Putney Road  
Queensbury Drive  
Rountree Road  
Walavista Road  
Wigtown Road  
Wicklow Road

Please email Alisa Griner at: [cheviothillshoa@aol.com](mailto:cheviothillshoa@aol.com) to register for your street or you can call Alisa at: (310) 839-7447. Thanks for volunteering! ☐ by *Alisa Griner*

## **Say What?**

The original Cheviot Hills straddle the England/Scotland border, and the proper pronunciation of Cheviot straddles the border as well. It is chēv'ē-ət (long e as in cheese) on the English side and chēv'ē-ət (short e as in check) on the Scottish side.

On whichever side of the Hills you choose, the locals pronounce the ch as in cheese, check, and chatter. That explains the name of Cheviot Hills' weekly newspaper (until about 1960) the Cheviot Chatter. (Loyola Marymount University maintains copies; see [www.lmu.edu/Page8979.aspx](http://www.lmu.edu/Page8979.aspx).)

## Survey Says . . .

We received over 130 comments on dues envelopes which we categorized by general theme to better understand homeowners' concerns. The themes, weighted by number of comments, were: Traffic, Building and Development, Board and General Meeting Issues, Security and Safety, Airport, Trees and Parks, Freeway and Soundwall, Light Rail, Local Schools and Century City.

Most comments involved traffic. Many involved Motor Avenue, with those that were against the mitigations (e.g., new curbs and/or bumpouts) in greater number than those for, or pleased with, the effect of mitigations (e.g., reduced traffic). There were also concerns about the resultant traffic flow, especially through other parts of Cheviot Hills – particularly along Manning and Patricia Avenues and Butterfield Road. A number of homeowners made suggestions about improvements or other mitigations they would like to see or like to be considered. Some noted problems with potholes and street disrepair in the neighborhood.

The second greatest area of concern was overbuilding in Cheviot Hills – what many termed “McMansions.” Board and General Meeting issues were the next most common theme, with requests for civility and reduced rancor. Security and safety was the next largest category, with several comments about graffiti.

Airplane noise generated as many comments as found under Parks and Trees. With regard to the latter, the need for tree-trimming and plantings were relatively common. Soundwall issues came up periodically as did concern about light rail – though it was not always clear whether the comments were for or against rail. The remaining comments regarded schools, Century City development, and other topics.

This summary of our unscientific survey will help the Board set our agenda. We thank all who took the time to write and encourage all homeowners to continue contacting us with their concerns and suggestions.

□ by Peter Glassman

### CASTLE HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY

**BOOK FAIR** *November 30 – December 9* from 7:45 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. in the school library. Contact: Judy Rosenzweig 836-9912.

**CUB SCOUT SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER** December 2, 5:30pm-7:30 p.m. (\$5) The book fair will also be open during this time. Questions: Jenny Jones 837-2689.

**WINE & CHEESE FOR PROSPECTIVE PARENTS** December 6, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at 2618 South Beverly Drive. RSVP/Questions: Lori Berman 837-4898 or Elan Levey 845-9474.

## OVERLAND AVENUE ELEMENTARY

### *Overland Avenue Elementary School Celebrates 75 Years of Service and Commitment to Cheviot Hills*

Celebrating its 75th anniversary, Overland Avenue Elementary School is launching a bi-annual community newsletter and is asking graduates to get in touch. What are your memories of Overland? What are you doing now? Still living in our community? Join your former elementary school in celebrating 75 years of service to this community! Please contact: Linda Beugg, Friends of Overland president, at [lbeugg@comcast.net](mailto:lbeugg@comcast.net).

### *Overland Avenue Elementary Receives Major Grant*

Overland Avenue Elementary School is the proud recipient of a *Wonder of Reading Grant* that will enable it to expand its library, hire a full time librarian, enlarge its tutoring program and offer exciting new programs to the community at large. Principal Anna Born, dedicated teachers and parent volunteers worked tirelessly to secure this prestigious award however the grant will only supply half the cost of the new library facility, the rest of the necessary funds are to be raised thru

the school's "Capital Campaign for Literacy." Please consider becoming a Library Patron and supporting literacy in your neighborhood. Please contact: Sherry Hanover, Library Chair, at [hanoverfamilyla@comcast.net](mailto:hanoverfamilyla@comcast.net) to help create a legacy for the children of Overland Avenue Elementary School!

### SCHOOL WEBSITES

Check out the websites for our excellent local schools:

[www.castleheightsschool.org](http://www.castleheightsschool.org)

[www.overlandschool.org](http://www.overlandschool.org)

[www.palmsmiddle school.org](http://www.palmsmiddle school.org)

[www.hamiltonhighschool.net](http://www.hamiltonhighschool.net)

### **Trivia Answer:**

Exposition Boulevard

### *Riddick Center Celebrates 60th Anniversary*

Very few communities are lucky enough to have their own youth center. For over 60 years, from Boy Scouts to bar mitzvah classes, from sock hops to sewing classes, the Marshall P. Riddick Youth Center has been our community's gathering spot. And this month marks the 60th anniversary of the opening of the Riddick Center.

The Cheviot Hills News is published by the *Cheviot Hills Homeowners Association*, Post Office Box 64458, Los Angeles, California 90064-0458. Board: Steve Andelin, Stacy Antler, Carol Bahoric, Pam Bentz, Michael Beugg, Jeff Berman, Peter Glassman, Alisa Griner, Kevin Hughes (president), Abby Kuppin, Tony Padilla, Greg Pulis (vice president), Scott Schomer, Robert Simon, and Jonathan Weiss (secretary). Editor for this issue: Jonathan Weiss. Contributors: Carol Bahoric, Peter Glassman, Alisa Griner, Kevin Hughes and Jonathan Weiss.

(Cheviot Knolls ad on back page from Los Angeles Times March 19, 1939)



Priced for all... Available to Only a Few! Cheviot Knolls...

Home... on a Sunday. Breakfast in the sun room with tangy air from the ocean giving zest to appetites. The Hollywood hills framed in the window in mauve grandeur. A round of golf... a spot of tennis at the club. Company... so a swim at the beach. The assembled young stars having the time of their lives at badminton in the outdoor living room. Dinner... the lights of Beverly Hills and Westwood twinkling playfully... Theater... midnight snack... Home... Two Tired But Happy People. That's...

Cheviot Knolls...

That sounds too good to be true... but it IS true! It sounds too expensive... but it isn't! Here the family of \$2000 to \$2500 income need make no compromise for the sake of a budget. The home that you hardly dare dream of... in a location that will make your shoulders square in pride... can easily be yours, for extra-large, fully improved homesites in this beautiful park-like community are offered at opening prices beginning at only \$1450 with easy terms. FHA approved. That's...

Cheviot Knolls...

This compact area of surpassing natural beauty, affording true seclusion yet surrounded by metropolitan life, is enhanced by winding roadways, verdant landscaping and exclusive country club atmosphere. That's...

Cheviot Knolls...

Every outdoor sport and recreation is literally at your doorstep... Famous California Country Club and the Westside Tennis Club with a membership of champions and motion picture stars adjoin these gently sloping hills, with Rancho Public Golf Course 5 minutes away. Bikes and bridle paths and polo nearby. Just ten minutes from the beaches. What, only 25 minutes to downtown Los Angeles. That's...

Cheviot Knolls...

Here too, is the perfect place for growing children... No traffic passing through... Every residential street as quiet as a country lane... Finest school facilities, public and private, from kindergarten through high school... U.C.L.A. and Loyola Universities five minutes away... The finest home and neighborhood environment protected by sensible restrictions... That's...

Cheviot Knolls...

After comparison with scores of other properties, Cheviot Knolls was finally chosen as the one location worthy of following in the footsteps of former Lamerit communities which have become synonymous with "lasting value." Truly, the prospective home owner will find here everything to make for the happiness of every member of the family. Why be satisfied with less when homesites are priced for as little as \$1450 in...

Cheviot Knolls...

Waiting for you today at our tract office is a copy of a beautifully illustrated new magazine "Plans for Living." This booklet of pictures, plans and descriptions of new moderate priced homes has been published and is being issued solely by the Walter H. Leimert Co. and can be obtained through no other source. Yours for the asking, while they last!

Cheviot Knolls...

HOW TO GO... West on Pico Boulevard to Motor Avenue at Twentieth Century. For Westwood Studios, then left to tract office at 3131 Motor Avenue. See map below for other direct routes.



Cheviot Knolls...

WALTER H. LEIMERT CO. Developers 3131 MOTOR AVENUE Phone SEQuoia 29121

Riddick Center Celebrates (cont'd)

The Riddick Center was named after Marshall P. Riddick, the first Overland Elementary School graduate killed in the line of duty in World War II. The Army donated the actual building (which had been the Anti-Aircraft Artillery Gun Battalion building at Exposition and Overland). The Center remains a tribute to Marshall and to all those who gave their lives in that war.

For the last 60 years, the Riddick Center has provided a meeting place for our community, especially the children of Overland Avenue Elementary School. There are currently 12 troops (Cub, Boy and Girl Scouts) that hold meetings at the Center. Community organizations like Cheviot Hills Homeowners Association, Westwood Gardens Civic Association, Overland PTA and Friends of Overland (FOO) also use the facility. Given that the Riddick Center is a non-profit organization, these organizations kindly contribute to its upkeep.



Time has begun to take its toll on the building and, unfortunately, the cost of fixing it up begins to approach the cost of rebuilding the entire Center. The Riddick Center Board has started to formulate a plan to rebuild, but it would take considerable time and money to accomplish. In the meantime, small-scale improvements are constantly being made.

The Riddick Center is available for rent for a single event or on weekly or monthly basis. It can host assemblies of up to 75 people. With two meeting rooms, a kitchen, bathroom and playground, the Riddick Center can be your home away from home. It is located at 2634 Overland Avenue, on the northeast corner of Overland and Ashby Avenues, across the street from Overland Avenue Elementary School.



Please visit [www.riddickcenter.org](http://www.riddickcenter.org) for more information.

□ by Jonathan Weiss