

President Elect's Message

by Alisa Smith

Dear GPIA Membership-

Thank you so much for this privilege of serving as your president for the year of 2012. I am depending on the longstanding relationships I

have with many of you since I moved here in 2000, to make this a successful year for the GPIA. I especially thank George, whose gracious footsteps I hope to follow, and the board members who have agreed to serve with me this year. We have so many involved community members, and that is what makes the GPIA so amazing in a world of fleeting popularity and changing times. For 43 years GPIA has been setting the tone for what the world is finally catching up to: that "acting local," while "thinking global," is the way of a sound and sustainable future. I am feeling very honored to continue the responsibility of what a small group of citizens can accomplish, by serving as your president, thank you again.

Following is a list of my priorities, but the GPIA is depending on your support and involvement, so if there is a project you would like to work on please let the board know!

- 1) Naming of the new Early Education Center (scheduled to open this fall) after Joan and Bill Lundy
- 2) Expand the Membership-including holding at least one meeting at an alternative (i.e., fun) location. I would like to make our Facebook page more vital, to help increase membership, and our webmaster will appreciate contributions. The newsletter will benefit from having Marge Piane as our designer/publisher, but we always value pictures and articles submitted by you.
- 3) Inform our members-GPIA is your resource for what is going on in our community as well as beyond our boundaries. For the March meeting I am hoping to have a candidate forum for the folks running for Assembly for our district.

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4) Clean-up Schedule-we have our monuments and also joint opportunities with the schools, and will set dates as early as possible

5) Support Community Events-schedule and include such as the GP Recreation Center's holiday festival and the tree lighting.

Support the 100th birthday of our GP Elementary School-June 8th (I have been asked by the principal to be part of their organizing committee) including fund raising for the plaque for the National landmark Designation (about \$800 is needed)

6) Co-ordinate and expand our historical resources (thank you in advance Paul McDermott!)

7)Support community improvements such as:

A) after school programs-that help keep the kids safe and off the streets (LAPD-Boxing program Irving Middle School music program)

B) NEW FARMERS MARKET!!

C) Status of Walnut Canyon and Moss Canyon

8) Support other organizations in the Northeast--we are longtime supporters of the Save the Southwest Museum--please let us know if you would like to represent the GPIA at other organizations meetings.

Think about which aspects or areas, you would like to help co-ordinate, act as our representative, or support in some way.

Thank you all for helping to keep the GPIA afloat!! I am really looking forward to serving you this year-please feel free to call me (213) 910-3491 or write me at: coloursmith@gmail.com

Yours truly,

Alisa Smith

Past GPIA President, Mitch O'Farrell, Announces He is Running For City Council

Mitch O'Farrell served as GPIA president in 2002. Currently he is Senior Advisor to City Councilmember Eric Garcetti, and has announced he will run for Garcetti's seat in the March 5, 2013 election. Garcetti has termed out as council member and is running for Mayor. In a letter to community leaders throughout the district, O'Farrell explains why he is running to represent residents in Council District 13 :

"Because I want to continue working for the constituents of the 13th District. After working here for 9 and 1/2 years, I feel there is no one more qualified to take this district to the next level.

There is so much more to do and everything up to now has prepared me to take this next step. You know from working with me that a focus on the delivery of services, creating solutions to chronic neighborhood problems, a collaborative, community approach in all public and private projects, and direct personal involvement in matters large and small, has always been my approach -- and that approach has produced positive results. As councilmember for the district, I will hire and train a staff of professionals that will help me deliver more for the district than ever before. We will make things happen! I also look forward to sharing my policy goals and plans of action for helping to make city departments, and public agencies more efficient, more responsive, and more accountable to the public."



Mitch O'Farrell lends a hand at the last GPIA clean up in November.

Martin Luther King Day of Service Saturday, January 14, 2012

If you'd like to honor the legacy of Dr. King, please take part in the Martin Luther King day of service in Glassell Park. Meet at the Glassell Park Recreation center at 8 am for a community clean up.

Incoming GPIA Board Members

At our next meeting on January 19th the GPIA 2012 board will be sworn in. Here is the roster of those valiant and true Glassell Park residents who have volunteered to serve:

Alisa Smith	President
Janis McCarthy	Vice President
Jim Kiehl	Treasurer
Bob McCarthy	Secretary
Joan Potter	Improvement Chair
Toni Livingston	Area representative #1
John Geary	Area representative #2
Scott Piotrowski	Area representative #3

North Monument Gets Some TLC



GPIA Volunteers: (Back row:) Janis Mc Carthy, Jim Kiehl, Rudy Esquivel, Joan Potter, George Brauckman
(Front Row:) Dorothy McCain. Not pictured: Bob McCarthy, John Geary, Mitch O'Farrell

Next GPIA Meeting – Redistricting Update

By George Brauckman

Every ten years, after the nation's census is taken, our great nation, state and city get to partake in redistricting. Redrawing the boundaries of our federal, state, and local legislative districts. All in the name of democracy and fairness, to make sure that all citizens are equally represented by our elected officials after any notable shifts or migrations of population uncovered by the census.

You probably know the name of your congressperson. Xavier Becerra has been representing all of Glassell Park for many years (and we think GP is still well within the Becerra border). But can you name your state senator? How about state assembly member? Better yet, do you know your state assembly district *number*? How about your state senate district number? Did you know the senate districts and assembly districts each have different numbers? Glassell Park has traditionally been split into two districts for both State Assembly and State Senate, and three districts for City Council. It's no wonder we seem dazed and confused when discussing our electeds at the Verdugo.

To complicate matters further, everything you have known (or not known) about your state and city elected officials' district boundaries may change in the latest round of redistricting. Redistricting committees on both the State and City levels have been hammering out new district maps. The LA City Council Redistricting Commission is required to submit its final redistricting maps to the Los Angeles City Council by March 1, 2012. This month they have been holding community input meetings to listen to the opinions of residents from each district on the matter.

We think the State's Citizen's Redistricting Commission has completed its redistricting, in spite of legal challenges to the maps. Final redistricting maps have been posted on the State's redistricting website at:

<http://wedrawthelines.ca.gov/maps-final-drafts.html>

However, when you go to the California Legislature's website and type in 90065 (our zip code) to see who your representatives are, the results show:

State Senators: Carol Lui and Kevin De Leon

State Assembly members: Gil Cedillo and Anthony Portantino

But at the last GPIA meeting, a representative from Anthony Portantino's office told us that Glassell Park was no longer in his district...still confused? So are we.

That's why President Elect Alisa Smith is trying to find someone who knows exactly what is going on to give us an update at our January GPIA meeting

Elysian Valley and Cypress Park Residents Advocate for Clean Air and Quiet Neighborhoods

by John Geary and Alisa Smith

On Thursday, January 5, GPIA members Alisa Smith and John Geary attended a Community Leaders & AQMD Meeting at the Dickerson Employee Benefit Center on Riverside Drive. The meeting was organized as part of series of meeting to address the health issues for the communities located by the Taylor Yards Metrolink Maintenance Facility bordered by San Fernando Road and Riverside Drive. The meeting was attended by several AQMD (Air Quality Management District) employees, city and state political representatives, as well as residents and community activists from Elysian Valley, Cypress Park, Lincoln Hts., Mt. Washington and further afield.

A coalition of Elysian Valley and Cypress Park residents are spearheading an effort to reduce the toxic air pollution that they feel the community is subjected to on a daily basis, allegedly resulting from operations conducted at the Metrolink Facility. Metrolink representatives were not present at the meeting.

We were told that up to 30 trains per day in the Metrolink yard are left to idle for up to 5 hours each. The discussions were informative and the meeting lasted for 2.5 hours, regarding the potential health hazards of breathing the exhaust from these trains on a daily basis, and how the exhaust affects the surrounding environment. AQMD also gave information on the remedial actions they have been taking and the parameters of their responsibilities. The discussions included possible future goals and actions. Although Metrolink has some responsibilities, it is also the freight trains that may be the heavy polluters.

A further meeting on this subject will be held on Wednesday January 25th, 6:30pm, at the LA River Center, 570 W. Ave. 26. just off of San Fernando Road.

AQMD and Metrolink representatives will be present at this meeting. The public is encouraged to attend. For more info see: www.LAMetrolinkPollution.com.

No Tree Giveaway This Year

The GPIA is sad to report that Tree People informed us that they are consolidating their efforts to offer free trees to people in South Los Angeles, one of the “tree-poorest” areas of our city and won’t be able to co-sponsor a tree giveaway with us this year.

However, we should be grateful to Tree People for all of the years that they supported our Fruit Tree Giveaways in Glassell Park, and to the many GPIA volunteers who braved the cold dawns to head out to Hansen Dam or to Tree People’s Mulholland Drive headquarters to prepare and wrap up the bare root trees to hand out at our annual event.

Many thanks to GPIA member Alonso Calderon who always championed this effort. There is always the possibility to arrange for other resources to obtain trees, if this is something our Association members want to pursue.

Cut Here

Please Become a Member of the GPIA! You will receive our quarterly newsletter, invitations to our meetings and to participate in our projects; and become engaged with our community. The GPIA meets on the third Thursday of January, March, May, Sept. and Nov. at 7pm at the Glassell Park Community and Senior Center, 3750 Verdugo Road (on the south side of the Public Storage Building next to the Glassell Park Recreation Center).

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ Send My Newsletter by

Email? Yes / No

Phone (home) _____ (work) _____

Please remit this form with your check, to: GPIA — P.O. Box 65881 Los Angeles, CA 90065

Please Check ALL That Apply:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership \$15.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Household Membership \$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (60 or older) \$12.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Business Owner \$25.00 |

The Community Center is located in the rear of the Public Storage Building. Parking entrance on Verdugo Road between Public Storage and the Rec. Center pool.

Glassell Park Community and Senior Center
3750 N. Verdugo Road Los Angeles, 90065

Join us to learn more about new legislative districts for State and City levels. Every ten years, after the national census, comes redistricting. Are we in or are we out? Will this change who our elected representatives are?

Redistricting 2012, What Does It Mean For Glassell Park?
Thursday, January 19, at 7:00 PM

NEXT GPIA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Glassell Park Improvement Association

P.O. Box 65881

Los Angeles, CA 90065

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED