

WESTWOOD PARK ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

Spring of 2014



Tackling the drought . . .

Becoming Water Wise in Westwood Park

by Kathleen Beitiks

BUNGALOWS became popular throughout the United States in the early 1900s, not only because their compact, efficient design afforded the middle class the opportunity to own a home, but a home with its own garden.

Although the formal English garden was popular at this time, leaders of the Arts and Crafts movement encouraged the use of native plants in bungalow gardens to support the movement's philosophy of embracing nature.

Mindful of Governor Jerry Brown's recent declaration of a state of emergency due to drought conditions, the Westwood Park Association, as well as park residents, has taken steps to address the issue on a neighborhood level.

Park residents are "embracing nature"—landscaping with native and drought toler-

ant plants—nearly 100 years after their homes were built.

And, the association, which has the responsibility to maintain the landscaping throughout the park, has instituted the following water conservation measures:

- ◆ Landscape watering has been decreased by 25 percent.
- ◆ Watering systems are turned off when rainfall is predicted.
- ◆ Grass throughout the park was replaced within the past five years with a drought tolerant variety (90 percent fescue, 10 percent rye).
- ◆ A new sprinkler system with precise timers has been installed to dispense an exact amount of water needed for each area.
- ◆ Miramar Circle and other "pocket parks" are landscaped with native,



GOING NATIVE IN SF

Want to see what a drought tolerant garden looks like in the city?

The Yerba Buena Chapter of the California Native Plant Society has scheduled its Annual Native Plant Garden Tour:

SUNDAY, APRIL 27
11 AM – 3 PM (Free!)

Check the CNPS website for details:
(cnps-yerbabuena.org/)

drought tolerant plants.

- ◆ Plans are underway to replace the Monterey/Faxon Triangle plants with drought tolerant, native varieties and a water-saving drip system that saves a significant amount of water.

Some estimates indicate that landscaping

See *WATER WISE* on page 2

Yee meets with WPA Board to Discuss Neighborhood Issues

by Kate Favetti

OUR GOOD NEIGHBOR, Supervisor Norman Yee, attended the November 20 meeting of the Westwood Park Association Board to provide an update on his current and future plans for District 7 and to answer questions submitted by park residents.

Welcomed by members of the Westwood Park board and several neighbors, Supervisor Yee talked about issues affecting District 7: traffic calming, pedestrian safety, parking, burglaries, cracking sidewalks and in-law apartments.

Yee announced his plans to take a three-prong approach to pedestrian safety and traffic calming: (1) brick and mortar capital improvements; (2) enforcement

See *NEIGHBORHOOD ISSUES* on page 3

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Color versions of newsletters are posted on the Westwood Park website: westwoodpark.com

WESTWOOD PARK ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS

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- Greg Clinton, Vice President
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Term expires 2016
- Newsletter Editor: Kathleen Beitiks

CONTACT THE BOARD

email: board@westwoodpark.com
phone: 415-333-1125
mail: P.O. Box 27901 #770
San Francisco, CA 94127



What Do You Think District 7 Needs?

As part of Supervisor Yee's "Participatory Budgeting" plan, District 7 residents have an opportunity to vote on proposed neighborhood general projects and pedestrian safety improvements. Voting will take place in late April. For details and more information, check Supervisor Yee's website.

CONTACT SUPERVISOR YEE

WEBSITE:

sfbos.org/index.aspx?page=15925

EMAIL:

matthias.mormino@sfgov.org



Water Wise *continued from page 1*

WATER WISE PLANT SALES, CLASSES

"Permeable Hardscapes"—Water Efficient Hardscape Design Class; Saturday, March 29, 10 AM–Noon; Garden for the Environment, 7th Avenue at Lawton (Free! Sponsored by the SF Public Utilities Commission).

"Life After Lawn"—Lawn Alternatives; Saturday, April 19, 10 AM–Noon; Garden for the Environment, 7th Avenue at Lawton (Free! Sponsored by the SF Public Utilities Commission).

SF Botanical Garden Annual Spring Plant Sale; May 3, 10 AM–2 PM; SF County Fair Bldg. sfbotanicalgarden.org/plant-sales/annual-plant-sale.html

The San Francisco Succulent and Cactus Society Annual Show and Sale; June 14–15, 9 AM–5 PM; Hall of Flowers, Golden Gate Park. sfsucculent.org/

California Native Plant Society Annual Plant Sale, Fall 2014 (date TBD) cnps-yerbabuena.org/gardens/plant_sales.html

can account for 50 percent of water usage in an individual home. A stroll through Westwood Park shows that many residents are switching from the traditional front lawn to less thirsty native and drought tolerant plants.

Westwood Park residents have access to ample local information about conserving water both inside and outside their homes:

- ◆ The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (sfwater.org) offers free "Water-Wise Evaluations" for city residents, with experts walking through your home and garden, offering advice on water efficient practices. (To schedule an appointment, call 415-551-4730.)
- ◆ Free water saving devices are available to city residents: kitchen or basin aerators, water efficient showerheads and new toilet tank flappers. Devices are available Monday to Friday, 8 AM – 5 PM, at 525 Golden Gate Avenue, 1st Floor, San Francisco, CA 94102. (A copy of your water bill or proof of San Francisco residency is required.)
- ◆ On its website, The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission offers a guide to planting water wise plants in the city, "Low Water Use and Climate Appropriate Plant Use" (sfwater.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=978)



California poppies, Pacific iris, geraniums, coyote bush, ceanothus and flannel bush are just some of the drought tolerant plants that thrive in Westwood Park.

- ◆ In addition, several local nurseries offer a variety of water wise plants, with a few specializing in natives.
- ◆ Volunteers with non-profit organizations such as the California Native Plant Society, The San Francisco Succulent Society and the San Francisco Botanical Garden are all generous with their time and advice on working with natives and drought tolerant plants. ❖



Neighborhood Issues *continued from page 1*

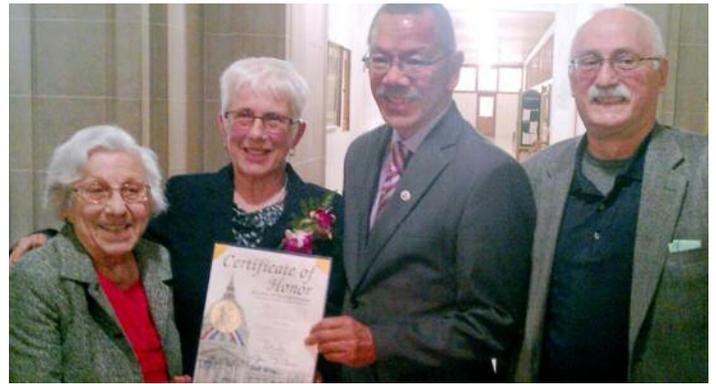
and commitment from the Taraval and Ingleside police stations; and (3) education and possibly bringing back student school crossing guards.

Having secured \$250,000 for pedestrian safety and an additional \$100,000 for general projects in District 7, Yee projected that by February 2014, a process for developing procedures (Participatory Budgeting) for grant applications and significant community input on how to spend the funds will be in place. (*Note: Meetings were held on February 22 and March 5. See Page 2 for voting information.*)

Residents expressed concerns about burglaries and car thefts in recent months. Supervisor Yee emphasized the importance in calling the police not only for personal safety and insurance claims but also for the statistics the Police Department gathers to help make decisions about increased patrols and staffing.

For other concerns (e.g., illegal parking, sidewalk cracks) Yee recommended that residents contact the appropriate city department by calling “311.” If there is no response, residents should email his office: Norman.Yee@sfgov.org.

On other topics, Supervisor Yee reported that the Monterey Boulevard Safeway expansion is back on track. The remodel is targeted for this summer and the store will remain closed for at least a year. Yee added that he is also working to get more parks



“People like Kate build neighborhoods,” said Supervisor Norman Yee, who recently nominated Westwood Park Association president Kate Favetti as District 7’s selection for a citywide award recognizing women of “character, courage and commitment.” The award came from the San Francisco Commission and Department on the Status of Women, in partnership with Mayor Ed Lee, the Board of Supervisors, District Attorney George Gascon and the Friends of the Commission on the Status of Women. Citing her extensive civic activities, including work as a member of the Civil Service Commission and leadership on Ocean Avenue committees, Yee commended Favetti for her numerous contributions to the city and ability to bring diverse community members together for common goals. Pictured above with her commendation, is Favetti (middle), with her mother, Antoinette Roach (left), Supervisor Yee and her husband Ray.

and open space in District 7. In addition, he is considering legislation to limit the number of Medical Cannabis Dispensaries (MCDs) on Ocean Avenue. (*See update below.*) ♦

Planning Westwood Park’s 100th Anniversary

by Kathleen Beitiks

THE FIRST meeting of the Westwood Park Centennial Committee took place in February, with a gathering of park residents who spent an evening “brainstorming” on ideas of how to celebrate the neighborhood’s 100th anniversary in 2017.

Thanks to Frank Kalmar, Norm Batteate, Bruce Welch, Anita Theoharis, Julie Hagelshaw, Caryl Ito, Susan Percal and Greg Clinton for either attending the meeting or contacting the committee with their ideas.

The evening was spent tossing around long and short term ideas for the 2017 observance. Those ideas included:

- ◆ a Centennial commemorative book,
- ◆ photo documentation all Westwood Park homes,
- ◆ retrieving some of the original street lamps that were removed years ago,
- ◆ placing Centennial banners around the neighborhood,
- ◆ selling 100th anniversary commemorative bricks to replace the gravel path in Miramar Circle,
- ◆ conducting a home and garden tour,

- ◆ Centennial commemorative marker,
- ◆ historical home photos contest—identifying existing old home photos,
- ◆ croquet tournament—with participants in 1920s costumes,
- ◆ art/poster contest for neighborhood kids,
- ◆ public lecture in Ingleside Library about Westwood Park history,
- ◆ curating a small exhibit of Westwood Park memorabilia at the library,
- ◆ historical designation for Westwood Park entrance gates.

At least one of the ideas is being developed already—Bruce Welch has taken on the task of photographically documenting all the homes and businesses in Westwood Park. If you see him wandering around the neighborhood snapping photos and taking notes, say hello to him!

The committee will meet again in a few months to solidify some of the ideas presented.

For questions, ideas, or comments about the Centennial Committee please send an email to: board@westwoodpark.com.

MCD HEARINGS SET

A general report on citywide Medical Cannabis Dispensaries (MCDs)—“green zones”—is scheduled at the Planning Commission on March 27.

On April 3, Sup. Norman Yee will make a presentation on his proposed legislation to prevent the establishment of MCDs on Ocean Avenue, within 500 feet of each other, without applying for a conditional use permit.

Contact Yee’s office for additional information:

**415-554-6516 or
norman.yee@sfgov.org**

WESTWOOD PARK ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 27901, No. 770
San Francisco, CA 94127

◆ SAVE THE DATE ◆

Westwood Park Annual Meeting

Saturday, September 13, 2014

Inside . . . Water Wise



Sunday, June 30th
IS
War Garden
Exhibition Day at
Westwood Park

You have heard a great deal about the remarkably rich soil and the mild, sheltered climate of Westwood, San Francisco's Ideal Home Tract. Now you can see the proof in the luxuriant War Gardens, the pride of Westwood residents.

JOHN McLAREN, superintendent of Golden Gate Park, has kindly consented to judge the gardens for prize awards. Come early! Bring your lunch and the kiddie and spend the day in this ideal spot.

Take Municipal "M" Line anywhere on Market street, and transfer direct to WESTWOOD via Ingleside bus; take Mission street car No. 11, Market and Haight car No. 17, or Guerrero street car No. 19.

Baldwin & Howell
318-324 Kearny Street—Phone Kearny 3810
Tract Office Phone Randolph 1454

Gardening has been a big part of Westwood Park since the neighborhood was formed - as seen by this circa 1918 newspaper ad announcing a War Garden contest. The contest was judged by John McLaren, who spent 53 years as the superintendent of Golden Gate Park.

Halloween Spirit Lives on in the Park

by Kay Kalmar

AS USUAL, there were several great scenes and a wonderful spooky, spirit in Westwood Park, so it was hard to choose winners of the 2013 Annual Halloween Decorating Contest.

With my co-judge (and husband) Frank, we toured the neighborhood during the day and at night, managing to select three homes that had not won in the past. All three winners showed well during both daylight and at night.

FIRST PLACE: 99 EASTWOOD (\$50)
This corner home was well lit on two sides. It had scary creatures hanging in the trees and lots of lights.

SECOND PLACE: 29 EASTWOOD (\$25)
This house featured a tall green ghoul on the right and what appeared to be a new grave with bones coming out of it on the left. Creepy at night!

THIRD PLACE: 588 MIRAMAR (\$10)
This home had a graveyard with coffins on the left side of the entry sidewalk. The glassed-in porch was decorated inside with Halloween scenes and glowing lights.

HONORABLE MENTION:
59 HAZELWOOD and 728 FAXON
The decorations were so good, there was a tie. 59 Hazelwood had a great, ghoulish cemetery, and 728 Faxon went all out with a Halloween themed decorated tree.

Our Halloween Hall of Fame now includes 555 Miramar, 130 Hazelwood and 700 Faxon. These homes really get into the spirit year after year!

The streets with the best Halloween Spirit in 2013 were Plymouth and Miramar. Thanks to everyone who decorated for Halloween—even with just a pumpkin or spiders and webs. It all counts for Halloween Spirit! ♦