

WESTWOOD PARK ASSOCIATION

Newsletter ~ Winter ~ 2009



Letter from the President

I want to welcome our newest board member, Kate Favetti, to the Association's Board of Directors. Kate is a long-time resident of Westwood Park and has been active in helping the community in countless ways over the years. Kate brings a great deal of experience in working with the city and with local groups. Her energy and spirit make her a pleasure to work with. We are very fortunate to have Kate on our board.

If any of you are at all interested in getting involved with the neighborhood, drop in on one of our board meetings. You can get a sense of what goes on at the meetings, how the board works, the kinds of things that we do, and so forth. You can just be a fly on the wall or you can jump in with ideas. Because we volunteer our precious discretionary time, it's really important that we enjoy what we do. So while we work to help take care of the neighborhood, we also have fun doing it.

We usually meet on the third Tuesday of the month. Check out westwoodpark.com/meetings.htm to find out when the next board meeting is, or you can email us at board@westwoodpark.com.

Greg Clinton, President

board@westwoodpark.com

Westwood Park Association Board Members

Greg Clinton
President (term expires 2011)

Anita Theoharis
Vice President (term expires 2011)

Kate Favetti
Secretary (term expires 2011)

Julie Hagelshaw & Grant Edelstone
Co-Treasurers (terms expire 2010)

Anne Chen
Member at Large (term expires 2011)

Nanette Asimov
Member at Large (term expires 2010)

Members of the Westwood Park Association Board of Directors are volunteers elected to serve three-year terms.

Board meetings are usually held on the third Tuesday of each month at the home of a board member, and begin at 7 p.m.

Contact us via e-mail at:
board@westwoodpark.com,
or by voicemail at:
415-333-1125
or by mail at:
P.O. Box 27901 #770
SF, CA 94127

Want to Save Money on your Commute? Try Rideshare!

Rideshare is two or more people driving together to and from work.



You can find commute partners who live and work near you through the city's free 511 service. New carpools and vanpools are forming every day. "The benefits of ridesharing include driving in the HOV lane, being exempt from paying bridge tolls during commute hours, receiving discounted carpool parking, and sharing the expenses of driving," said Lillian Chan, whose title with the city is "transportation demand management coordinator."

To participate, call 511 8am to 6 pm Monday through Friday and say "Rideshare." Or visit SFenvironment.org/RideshareMatch. Instant updates are also available on Twitter, at twitter.com/511Rideshare.

Halloween Contest Winners

By Nanette Asimov

Something scorched those trees.

Yet the only clue about what had sizzled the saplings lining the walkway of the neat home at 700 Faxon on the evening of October 31 was the air of death—it was everywhere.

It was in the chalk outlines police had drawn on the sidewalks to show the position of each body when it died.

It was evident from the yellow caution tape stretched across the front lawn to prevent the living from mingling with the dead.

And, most chilling, it was there in the coffin that would not stay closed. Its gruesome occupant emerged again and again to survey his ruinous realm.

Ablaze on the lawn were firey red letters that summed it all up: B-E-W-A-R-E!

Congratulations to 700 Faxon, our First Prize winner in this year's Halloween contest! The prize is \$50.



700 Faxon

SECOND PRIZE — \$30. To 91 Eastwood, where skeletons delighted in a Halloween picnic. Seated on lawn furniture, the bony ghouls and boys crunched on barbecue ribs and sipped formaldehyde punch spiked with tasty body parts.



91 Eastwood

THIRD PRIZE — \$20. To 29 Eastwood, where a ghoul in a gossamer cape stood, long and smoky, at a height of nearly one-and-a-half-stories to preside over a crew of cadavers stuffed neatly in bushes with only their heads poking out.



29 Eastwood

HONORABLE MENTIONS: 11 Ridgewood (great lady ghost!) and the entire ghostly 500 block of Staples!

HALL OF FAME: Last year's winners 549 and 555 Miramar, and 779 Faxon for excellent levels of creepy, crawly chaos.

Photos: Anne Chen

NERT Developing Westwood Park Disaster Plan

By Annette Donjacour

If you think that "NERT" is a misspelled synonym for geek, then it's high time you were acquainted with Westwood Park's active and welcoming NERT: Neighborhood Emergency Response Team. It's a city-wide program of the Fire Department that trains citizens to help their neighbors in the event of a disaster.

The Westwood Park (WP) NERT has been busy, meeting monthly and developing a detailed disaster plan, posted at <http://wpnert.ning.com>.

In addition, WP NERT members have been gathering supplies, participating in drills, connecting with Fire Department personnel, building the website and, best of all, getting to know each other.

On October 17th, several WP NERT volunteers joined hundreds of folks at a biannual city-wide drill. They practiced putting out fires, rescuing trapped victims, treating injuries and figuring out how to get mobilized in a disaster.

Our team had put on our own local drill in June, meeting at our designated NERT assembly spot on the Montecito green to test our walkie-talkies (they worked great!) and practice how to care for residents in an earthquake.

WP NERT is fortunate to have our own HAM radio operator volunteer, Michael Barbita, who will link us to the Fire Department when the big one hits.

WP NERT members were briefed last spring at Fire Station 15 on Ocean Ave. at Phelan, which will be a command center during a disaster. Program coordinator Lt. Erica Arteseros showed us our neighborhood supply box and tent and introduced us to station staff members.

WP NERT is always looking for new members, whether you have taken the NERT training or not. Please contact Anne Donjacour at 334-5655 if you would like to get involved.

From Iguazu Falls To Westwood Park

By Nanette Asimov

At the northeastern tip of Argentina thunders a waterfall so magnificent that when Eleanor Roosevelt saw it she cried, "Poor Niagra!"

During Roosevelt's visit to Iguazu Falls more than half a century ago, she may have sipped locally grown coffee—another wonder of that lush region on the border with Brazil—prepared by Agustina Marecco, who roasted coffee beans there with a hand crank over an open fire.

That's some wild speculation. What is certain is that Senora Marecco taught her young grandson, Melanio Duarte, the art of roasting coffee. He brought his expertise to San Francisco in 1985, and for the last 10 years the Master Roaster has presided over Caffè D'Melanio on Ocean Avenue at Plymouth – a lush coffee-drinking region on the border with Westwood Park.

"Here's this guy who roasts coffee—and he's damn good at it—who's got a vision of what great coffee should be," said Hugh Byrne of Plymouth Avenue, who said that after tasting Melanio's "Obama Blend" (now "El Presidente Blend"), he quit buying coffee from anyone else.

Anyone looking for "Bush Blend" or even "Schwarzenegger Blend" won't find it at Melanio's. A portrait of Barack Obama hangs alongside images of Iguazu Falls, where his mother still lives on the family ranch. A neighborhood activist himself, Melanio has hosted fundraising galas for schools, and raised more than \$200 for the new library (and is still collecting!) But amid strains of Brazilian samba or Frank Sinatra from the speakers, customers will find more than coffee and politics at Melanio's.

Little kids run up to greet the tall man with curly, shoulder length black hair, who never fails to lean over from behind the deli counter and high five his young fans.

"It's a nice, warm place to come to," said George Lewandowski, a local gallery owner and Saturday morning regular.

Daniel Curzon-Brown, a retired English professor, calls the fresh scones "outstanding." Scones, scrambled eggs and more are prepared by Yoko Takeda, a chef trained at the California Culinary Academy.

City College students stop by for deli sandwiches and to use the free wifi.

On Friday and Saturday nights the white tablecloths come out, as Yoko puts her talents to work on fine Italian cuisine.

"And I thought that there was no haven for the sophisticated palate on Ocean Avenue," wrote Amy A. on the review site Yelp.com. "WRONG!"

Often, there's live music and dancing, from Argentinian tango to Cuban son. The other night featured romantic boleros and son by Johnny Escobedo himself, with Norman Downing on percussion and Roberto Razon on guitar and the "tres" -- a guitar with three pairs of strings.

"It's fun when you see your customers eat, drink and have a good time," Melanio said, as he fired up a decaf Africana for an old-timer. "It's the satisfaction you get back. It's not the money. It's the pleasure of serving people and seeing them happy."

Westwood Park Picnic



Photos: Hugh D. Byrne

Supervisor Sean Elsbernd stopped by to address the crowd under sunny skies.

Everyone enjoyed the tasty grub, with Joe Koman and Geoff Williams manning the grill.



Ingleside Station Police Take Problem Solving Seriously

By Captain David Lazar

In April of this year, I was assigned to Ingleside Station to serve as the Commanding Officer. Months prior to my transfer, there were eight organizational studies conducted on the Police Department, resulting in approximately 350 recommendations. Of those, 47 were directly related to district station operations, and so the Department decided that Ingleside Station would be the best place to begin new strategies around community engagement, fighting crime based on data, and problem solving.

In the last six weeks we developed a new problem-solving model for the Department, based on national best practices in policing. These formalize methods

so that problems such as drug sales, robbery and gang problems, nuisance properties, etc. can be better addressed and abated. This process involves what is called the S.A.R.A. model—an acronym for Scan, Analysis, Response and Assess. Unlike the more informal way we dealt with problems in the past, we now look at a problem from all aspects and then develop a comprehensive response plan to eliminate it.

For example, say a resident were to report a nuisance house which was selling drugs and being used as a place where illegal activity was taking place. We would first Scan the problem to identify the issues. Next, Ingleside Station's Problem-Solving Team would perform a complete

Analysis to determine who is involved, what is occurring and why. We would then move this problem to our weekly Problem Analysis Committee meeting to determine what our formalized response would be to this problem. In this case, it might be narcotics enforcement, assistance from the City Attorney, and so on. After an agreed upon time frame, we would reconvene as a committee to Assess our work and determine if the problem was actually solved. This model is used all over the United States and is effective in solving problems, increasing community satisfaction with the police and reducing crime. We look forward to seeing great results in our community using this model.

WESTWOOD PARK
ASSOCIATION

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