

WESTWOOD PARK ASSOCIATION

Newsletter → Autumn → 2007



Letter from the President

FRONT YARD PAVING & PARKING AGAINST CITY REGULATIONS

The Westwood Park Association (WPA) has been receiving more and more complaints about residents paving over the front setback—front yard area—of their properties. This is a violation of San Francisco Building Code 106.1.14, passed in 2003. Properties paved over prior to this date are not in violation. However, any properties paved over *after* May 20, 2003, are in violation of the code and are subject to pavement removal and restoration of planted areas.

At least 20% of front setbacks must be devoted to planted material such as grass, plants, or trees, according to the city's Planning Code, Article 1.2 Section 132(g).

The WPA is also receiving complaints of residents parking vehicles, boats, and trailers on the front and side setbacks of their properties. This is against San Francisco Planning Code Article 1.2 Section 136 (30). Parking is not allowed in the front or side setback. Even if paved over, parking is still not allowed in these areas. Parking is only allowed on driveways.

The WPA wants residents to be aware of these regulations and to avoid the hassle and expense of violations. We also want residents to be aware that enforcement is going to increase. **The Planning Department has just assigned a new staff person for code enforcement to the southwest part of the city.**

Residents can report front setback paving violations to the San Francisco Building Department at 415-558-6096. This is especially effective if reported *before* pavement is installed. Setback parking violations can be made to the San Francisco Planning Department at 415-558-6317.

Our goal is to maintain Westwood Park as a very special, safe, and beautiful neighborhood. Adhering to the above requirements will go a long way toward insuring this.

I hope you all have had a nice summer!

Greg Clinton, President

board@westwoodpark.com

Westwood Park Association Board Members

Greg Clinton
President (term expires 2008)

Anita Theoharis
Vice President (term expires 2009)

Asa & Geoff Williams
Co-Secretaries (terms expire 2009)

Julie Hagelshaw & Grant Edelstone
Co-Treasurers (terms expire 2007)

Anne Chen
Member at Large (term expires 2009)

Nanette Asimov
Member at Large (term expires 2007)

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.

For information and the location of upcoming meetings, visit www.westwoodpark.com.

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

Candidate Statements

JULIE HAGELSHAW (Incumbent)

I've served on the Association's board of directors since the late 1990s and I've worked with many fabulous neighbors to increase the quality of life in our neighborhood. I have served as Co-Treasurer and would like to continue doing this job. We continue to maintain an 85% dues payment rate, but I'd like to see it rise to 90%. I would appreciate your vote.

GRANT EDELSTONE (Incumbent)

I enjoy living in Westwood Park and would like to continue serving as an Association board member. As your current Co-Treasurer, I have worked to manage the Board's budget and finances while maximizing interest earned on our reserves. If re-elected, I will continue to help maintain and improve our neighborhood's common areas, lawns and trees. I will also work to maintain Westwood Park's historic bungalow homes and distinctive character, through enforcement of the CC&Rs and the Residential Design Guidelines. I hope to again have the privilege to serve our Association.



OFFICIAL BALLOT

Please use the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope to mail this ballot to:

Westwood Park Association
P.O. Box 27901 #770
San Francisco, CA 94127

Please mail your envelope promptly so that your vote will be counted. Or you may bring your ballot to the Westwood Park Association's annual Homeowners' Meeting and Picnic, where the election results will be announced. The meeting is on Saturday, September 29, 2007, on the Upper Faxon Green, beginning at 11 a.m.

VOTE FOR UP TO THREE

- Nanette Asimov
- Grant Edelstone
- Julie Hagelshaw
- Other _____

NANETTE ASIMOV (Incumbent)

It has been my privilege to serve with the Westwood Park Association for three years. In that time, I hope I've represented your interests at board meetings by supporting efforts to retain our neighborhood's residential character and by endorsing responsible stewardship of your dues. I've also edited the newsletter, keeping you posted on neighborhood news and introducing such features as Perks of the Park, the limerick contest, neighbor profiles, and, most recently, a colorful version of the newsletter sent to those on the neighborhood e-mail list (and available online). I would be honored to have your continued support.

Westwood Park Association Meeting Notice and Agenda

September 29, 2007
11 a.m. Faxon Green

- I. **Welcome Message**
Greg Clinton
- II. **Co-Treasurer Reports**
 - A. Account Balances
Grant Edelstone
 - B. Dues and Lien Collections
Julie Hagelshaw
- III. **Committee Reports**
 - A. Planning and Zoning
Anita Theoharis
 - B. Common Area Maintenance
Greg Clinton
- IV. **Board of Directors Election Results**
Margaret Reed, Inspector of Ballots
- V. **Speaker**
Capt. Paul Chignell, Ingleside Precinct, SFPD
- VI. **Open Questions from Residents**
- VII. **Adjournment**

**Please join us for the annual
Westwood Park Picnic and Potluck,
immediately following**

A New Park in the Park

By Nanette Asimov

Presto change-o: From grubby grass to resplendant reserve, the Upper Plymouth Green has been transformed.

But the green's \$18,000 makeover was no magic trick.

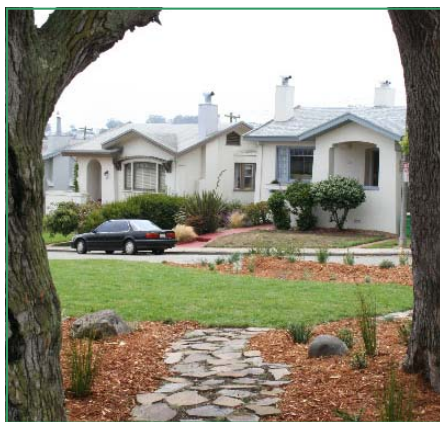
On two Saturdays in July, 79 volunteers took up rototillers and shovels to clear the green of aged pipes, build berms, and plant 400 mainly native shrubs and trees amid yards of gopher guard mesh.

"We're creating the San Quentin of plant protection," said neighbor Hugh Byrne as he slid a penstemon into the new western berm.

During the week between July 14 and 21, Westwood Park's brilliant gardener, Baltazar Gutierrez, with his brother Melchior and friend Israel, worked almost nonstop from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. to further prepare the green for planting, laying turf and stone paths, and installing a Craftsman-style bench.

"I felt my back was gonna break," Baltazar said, laughing. "But I think it's gorgeous."

The story of the new Upper Plymouth Green begins more than a year ago, when Westwood Park's president, Greg Clinton, learned that thousands of dollars were available through the "Community Challenge Grant" program to neighborhoods willing to pitch in with volunteers to improve local parks.



*The New Park at Upper Faxon Green
(all photos courtesy Greg Morris)*

But the deadline was only days away. So Greg pulled an all-nighter to write the grant proposal. He went door-to-door collecting signatures of those willing to volunteer. With just minutes to spare, he submitted a plan.

The effort, though valiant, fizzled.

This year, with more of a running start, Greg tried again. He re-wrote the proposal and contacted Supervisor Sean Elsbernd for help.

In a letter to Lanita Henriquez, who manages the grant program out of City Hall, Elsbernd wrote: "I can say, without hesitation, that every single resident is 100% committed to the beautification of the public spaces throughout Westwood Park."

Winning the grant would depend on the willingness of residents to translate their commitment into sweaty action. But volunteering has been Westwood Park's tradition for years, as exemplified by people like Skip MacDonald, who has watered and often mowed the Plymouth Green himself since 1995.

So Elsbernd didn't hesitate to tell Henriquez that residents would donate 300 hours at the green—and that he would join them.

This time, Greg got the grant.

The green's new design, which like Westwood Park streets has no right angles, came from neighbor Christopher Campbell, who works for the Recreation & Parks Department's Natural Areas Program and has a business specializing in California native garden design.

Three eucalyptus and one strawberry tree remain from the former green, now joined by two California oaks, one toyon and a weeping peppermint. Among the hundreds of new plants are 30 thymus, or wild thyme; nine mimulus pumpkins, whose colorful blossoms are hummingbird magnets; and one Phormium Maori Chief, with authoritative red spikes.

As predicted, dozens of volunteers crowded onto the green to make the new landscape happen. Neighbors Josh and Sharon Weinberg, Claudia Kindler, Anita Theoharis and Elyn and Jessi Hagelshaw provided pizza, cookies, water and other essentials.

On July 14, several volunteers used hulking rototillers to churn the earth for hours at a time, while others took advantage of the loosened soil to dig up a network of aged pipes snaking across the green a few feet down.

One of those who would hit the jacuzzi that night was Supervisor Elsbernd, who spent five hours working on the green.

"Throughout the day, as I was knee high in irrigation systems, I continued to be impressed by the steady stream of neighbors who came to help, whether in the form of picking up a shovel or simply some nods and comments of encouragement," Elsbernd later recalled, saying he plans to share the Plymouth Green story as an example of great neighborhood teamwork.

Of Greg Clinton—whose Westwood Park t-shirt looked like it had been dug up with one of the old pipes by the end of the day—Elsbernd said:

"I could only hope that every neighborhood had a leader like Greg Clinton, who took the initiative and took on this challenge...All the residents of Westwood Park should be grateful to those who volunteered time, but should also be especially grateful to Greg for all his great work on this project."

On July 21, the volunteers reconvened to plant.

At one point, neighbor Dan Joraanstad helped dig a deep hole then lined it with gopher guard, weed guard and enriched soil. He nodded at Baltazar, and at neighbors John Cotter and Grant Edystone. Together they hoisted a tall oak and lowered it into the aperture.

"Beautiful," Dan said. 



Supervisor Sean Elsbernd



*Ginger Trumbour lending a hand;
view more photos at www.westwoodpark.com*

Westwood Park Parents' Group

By Michelle L. Horneff-Cohen



It has never been easier for parents with kids of all ages to connect in Westwood Park, whether for good company and conversation, or for the more practical purpose of sharing babysitting duties.

Our monthly get-togethers are a terrific way for parents and their children to meet neighbors and make new friends. We communicate on our own Yahoo Group (because your fellow Westwood Park Parents are a wonderful resource of information about parenting issues and the neighborhood itself), and we are getting the babysitting co-op running again. We are also considering holding meetings for specific age groups.

The Parents' Group began around 1999, when Beth Bast founded it as the Westwood Park Mom's Group. In 2002, Beth and her family moved to American Canyon in Napa County, and she passed the reins to Kathy Balch.


Kathy, who did a tremendous job coordinating the group until early 2007, changed the name to the

Westwood Park Parents' Group because more fathers were getting involved and the get-togethers had become family affairs.

In 2001, the Westwood Park Babysitting Co-op was spun out of the group, and ran until mid-2003.

It has been my goal to live up to Kathy's legacy by keeping members interested and by increasing involvement.

To residents with children, please let me extend an invitation to you to join the Westwood Park Parents' Group. To subscribe to the Yahoo! Group, please go to WestwoodParkParents-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

I look forward to meeting you at a get-together soon! 

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WESTWOOD PARK ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 27901, #770
San Francisco, CA 94127

Welcome Home!

The Westwood Park Association has a new welcome package for our newest neighbors, who will now receive a special delivery consisting of these items:

- Welcome Letter from the WPA board
- Latest newsletter
- A list of useful city phone numbers
- DVD of the building of Westwood Park, begun in 1917
- CD of photos of neighborhood homes as they were being built
- Map of the neighborhood
- Westwood Park's CC&Rs, and Residential Design Guidelines



Before Photo



Volunteers unearth old pipes and work the rototillers on the Upper Plymouth Green, by Greg Morris



Baltazar Gutierrez and Greg Clinton lay stone paths in preparation for planting day.



Planting day on the green. Baltazar Gutierrez, Grant Edelstone and John Cotter plant an oak; Anne Chen installs gopher guard



Greg Clinton and Baltazar Gutierrez take a break on the new bench they installed on the green



Park designer Christopher Campbell and Nicholas Ukrainiec



The Upper Plymouth Green Complete all photos by Greg Morris