

The approximate boundaries of The South Mar Vista Neighborhood Association are Venice Blvd., Washington Place/Blvd., Sawtelle Blvd., and Beethoven St. Los límites aproximativos de la Asociación del barrio de Mar Vista del Sur son la Venice y la Sawtelle, la Washington Place y la Beethoven.

**Neighborhood Association Contacts:**

- President - Steve Wallace - [steve@marvista.org](mailto:steve@marvista.org)
- Vice President - Curt Steindler - [curt@marvista.org](mailto:curt@marvista.org)
- MVCC Zone 5 Director & Treasurer - Christopher McKinnon
- Secretary - TBD
- Block Captains - Elise Derby on Keeshen;
- Martha Santana on Mitchell west of Centinela
- Cassandra Rhone at Grand View Town Homes;
- Rosa Hernandez on Mitchell East of Centinela
- Newsletter - Julia Jones - [juliaj@mac.com](mailto:juliaj@mac.com)

**Important Dates**

**Quarterly on April 8, July 9, October 8, 6:30-8:00 pm**

South Mar Vista Neighborhood Association meeting at the Mar Vista Library 12006 Venice Blvd. at Inglewood.  
**Trimestralmente, el 8 de abril, el 9 de julio, el 8 de octubre: 6:30-8:00 PM**, reunión de la Asociación del Barrio de Mar Vista del Sur (South Mar Vista Neighborhood Association), a la biblioteca de Mar Vista (Mar Vista Library), 12006 Venice, cerca de la Inglewood.

**3rd Tuesday of Every Month 7:30 pm**

Mar Vista Park Advisory Board meets at the Mar Vista Recreation Center Auditorium, 11430 Woodbine, near corner of Palms and McLaughlin.

**2nd Tuesday of Every Month 7-9 pm**

Mar Vista Community Council meets at the Mar Vista Recreation Center Auditorium, 11430 Woodbine, near corner of Palms and McLaughlin.

**El segundo martes de cada mes, de las 7 a las 9 de la tarde,**

se reúne el Consejo de la Comunidad de Mar Vista (Mar Vista Community Council) en la sala del Mar Vista Recreation Center, 11430 Woodbine, cerca de la Palms y la McLaughlin. Para más información sobre los reuniones de la comunidad, favor de visitar el website [www.marvista.org](http://www.marvista.org).

**3rd Wednesday of Every Month 7pm**

Pacific Division Community Police Advisory Board at the CenterPointe Club at Playa Vista, 6200 Playa Vista Drive, 90094 off Jefferson.

Spring 2009 — Volume IV, Issue 2

# SoMAR

South Mar Vista Neighborhood Association

**Westside Celebrates Earth Day with Mar Vista Green Garden Showcase**



Twelve of the forty plus gardens on the upcoming Mar Vista Green Garden Showcase are located in SoMar!

**Garden Tour Shows-off the Best of Community's Innovative Water Saving Landscapes**

Mar Vista, CA – The Mar Vista Community Council's Green Committee invites fellow Los Angeles area resident's to see what their water savvy neighbors in Mar Vista are doing to help combat the Southland's water crisis in the first community wide showcase of gardens throughout Mar Vista on Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> from 2 – 6pm. In an effort to help Mar Vista become a model community for reduced water consumption, the Mar Vista Green Garden Showcase seeks to encourage others in the community to be inspired by and to adopt the water saving solutions already in use by green trend setters. Tours through dozens of Mar Vista gardens also offer the benefit of first hand experience and the expertise of those already committed to reducing their water consumption profiles through the adoption of drought resistant landscaping.

Calling the ongoing three-year drought a crisis, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa called for severe water-use restrictions and a tiered rate system that would reward customers who conserve and punish those



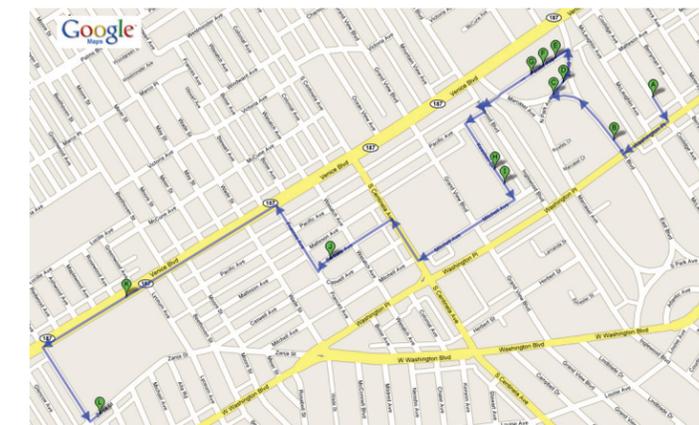
who do not with higher bills (Los Angeles Times 2/9/2009). "Lawn watering would be restricted to two days a week, Mondays and Thursdays, and could be cut to one day a week by summer if the drought continues," Villaraigosa said.

With so much at stake during this summer season's impending water shortage, the Mar Vista Green Committee has organized this first ever event in order to give Los Angeles area resident's a head start towards a beautiful and cost effective way to do their part to conserve. California native plants, succulent gardens and even raised bed vegetable gardens are just a few of the wide variety of beautiful and truly green approaches to be observed on the tour.

Go to <http://marvistagreengardenshowcase.com> for a preview of the gardens and a map of the locations to plan your own tour. Choose a walking, biking or driving tour, or select the gardens that showcase solutions that you are considering. Look for the flags with the MVCC logo in front of each house the day of the tour.

Mar Vista can make a difference!

For more information please see or email [sherri@marvista.org](mailto:sherri@marvista.org). Media is welcome.



Map of South Mar Vista Homes on the tour.



South Mar Vista Neighborhood Association  
P.O. Box 66756  
Mar Vista, CA 90066

Neighborhood Websites

- South Mar Vista Neighborhood Association  
[www.neighborhoodlink.com/la/southmar/](http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/la/southmar/)
- Mar Vista Community Council  
[www.marvista.org](http://www.marvista.org)
- Mar Vista Neighborhood Association  
[www.mvna.net](http://www.mvna.net)
- Mar Vista Arts Guild  
[www.marvistaartsguild.org](http://www.marvistaartsguild.org)
- Culver West Neighborhood Association  
[www.culverwest.org](http://www.culverwest.org)
- Del Rey Homeowners & Neighbors  
[www.delreyhome.org/](http://www.delreyhome.org/)
- Crime Report & LAPD Pacific Area Community Police Advisory Board - [www.pacificbeat.net](http://www.pacificbeat.net)
- Community Emergency Response Information  
[www.cert.la.com](http://www.cert.la.com)
- Mar Vista Farmers Market  
<http://www.marvistafarmersmarket.org>

## Big Sunday Projects in South Mar Vista May 2-3, 2009

What is Big Sunday? Big Sunday started as a community service day. Today it has grown into a full weekend of community building. The idea behind Big Sunday is that no matter who you are, no matter what you do, everyone has some way they can help someone else. It is non-denominational and non-political. All we ask is for your time and talent.

**Project #101** is at the Mar Vista Library to clean up trash and do some light landscaping. We will be meeting at the Mar Vista library 12006 Venice Blvd. Saturday, May 2 from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. We are seeking volunteers who can work on this project part or all of the time.



### Get Involved with MVCC Committees

The Mar Vista Community Council committees are: Website Committee, Education, Culture, & Arts Committee, Election and Bylaws Committee, Outreach Committee, Safety and Security Committee, Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, PLUM (planning and land use mgmt), Green Committee, Santa Monica Airport Ad hoc Sub-committee, Community Concept Plan committee, ROSE-Recreation and Open Space Enhancement Committee. To get involved visit the website at [www.marvista.org](http://www.marvista.org).

Donations of snacks and water are also appreciated. Please sign up.

The Library cleanup was a great success last year as part of Mayor's Day of Service. Head Librarian, Carole Kealoha was very appreciative of the community turn out. We expect out of area Big Sunday volunteers to join us this year too.

Can't make it on Saturday? No problem. Big Sunday **Project #100** will be landscaping and cleaning up outside the Pacific Community Police Station, 12312 Culver Blvd. Sunday May 3, 2009 from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Last year we cleaned up, trimmed bushes and removed 50 bags of trash from the front of the Station. Captain Joseph Hiltner was very pleased with the results. Councilman Rosendahl's office followed up with a truck full of mulch to guarantee that the weeds wouldn't return.

This year we will continue the good work down Culver Blvd. to the corner at Centinela trimming and weeding. Many hands make light work. Big Sunday Volunteers will be joining local community members to make Pacific Station a clean and safe place to visit. Come and be part of the largest citywide volunteer day in America.

Questions can be addressed to Pat Karasick, Team Captain 310-572-7929

### Mar Vista Rec Center

Classes and Events Program now available. Register by mail, online, or walk in.

11430 Woodbine Ave  
Los Angeles, CA 90066  
Phone: (310) 398-5982  
E-mail: [marvistarecreationcenter@lacity.org](mailto:marvistarecreationcenter@lacity.org)

**Mar Vista Seniors Club** meets most Fridays, 10 AM-12 noon, at the Rec Center, 11430 Woodbine LA 90066. Lots of fun. 310-398-5982

### Mar Vista Community Council Email Notification System

To receive emails about important things happening in Mar Vista visit the website, [www.marvista.org](http://www.marvista.org) and click on the email notification system link. You will periodically receive emails about meetings and happenings.

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### Historic Mar Vista Oval Tour

The third in Historian Mark Crawford's highly successful and informative tours in Mar Vista which include Ocean View Heights and Mormon Hill, starts Saturday, **April 18th, 2009** and every third Saturday thereafter.

### Movies! Murders!! Maniacs!!!

You'll get all this and more when you take the Mar Vista Historical Society's walking tour of the Mar Vista Oval neighborhood. Join us for a stroll through the past, savor the architecture of Bungalow, Cottage, Craftsman, and Saltbox architecture from the early 1900s, and learn about the many famous – and infamous – residents of this historic neighborhood. The tour begins at 10 AM on the 3rd Saturday of each month in front of the Mar Vista library, at the southwest corner of Inglewood and Venice boulevards. It covers a mile and a quarter and lasts about 2 hours. Five dollar donations are optional but appreciated. For more information and to make a reservation, contact Mark Crawford at 310-398-2136, or on the web at [dacrawl@gmail.com](mailto:dacrawl@gmail.com). Reservations are required.

### Grand View Elementary Spanish Immersion Program

Kinder Orientation May 28th at 8:30am

How would you like your child to be able to read, speak, and write in two languages? Learn more about our dual language program at our Kinder orientation on May 28th at 8:30am. What is the two-way Spanish Immersion Program? The TWO-WAY Spanish Immersion Program or Dual Language Program is a language program in which children of two language groups (Spanish and English) learn to speak, read, and write fluently in both languages. Who may enroll? Any child whose first language is English and who will be

entering kindergarten or first grade in September. Any child whose first language is Spanish and who will be entering kindergarten or first grade in September. How can I learn more about this program? Call the Principal, Alfredo Ortiz, at (310) 390-3618. or Call Sonia Calo, Dual Language Kindergarten Teacher at (310) 390-3618. You can also visit our website at : [www.grandviewduallanguage.com](http://www.grandviewduallanguage.com) Grand View Blvd. Elementary School 3951 Grand View Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90066 (310) 390-3618



Venice Japanese Community Association Picnic dated July 12, 1941

### Inside the Venice Japanese Community Center

#### Start of the VJCC

By Tiffany Yoshikawa

Like many people, I am fortunate to have the Venice Japanese Community Center as an important part of my life. There are so many people who have had the opportunity to join clubs, play sports, and go to events at the Center. The Center is not only an important place to learn new skills, learn about the Japanese heritage, and form friendships, but it is also an important landmark. There are many people that are so used to driving by the Center and using the Center as one of the landmarks when they give people directions. It would be hard to imagine the Center being anywhere else besides its present location at 12448 Braddock Drive. But, the Center was not always located at its present site. In February 1921, thirty-five families became a part of the Venice-Palms Industrial Association, which is now known as the Venice Japanese Community Center, Inc. The Venice-Palms Industrial Association was located at 12801 Jefferson Boulevard in Venice. Some of the people who helped establish the Association included Fusakichi Amauda, Harukichi Utsuki and Toyoichiro Yoshikawa.



Venice Gakuen - 1934

Then, three years later, in February 1924, community leaders Eizo Maruyama and Tomohei Mikawa formed the Venice-Palms Japanese Language School, which is now known as the Venice Gakuen. The Language School was located at Jefferson Boulevard and Centinela Avenue. At the time, there were thirty-five students enrolled in the classes. In 1929, the Language School signed a ten-year lease when it moved to its new location on the corner of Jefferson Boulevard and Mozart, which is now McConnell Avenue. At this time, the Venice Celery Association, which was composed of farms in the Culver City, Palms and Venice areas, donated money to help the Language School. In 1936, Venice-Palms

Industrial Association changed its name to Venice Japanese Community Association. When the Language School's lease expired in 1939, the Association, in a joint effort with the Language School, purchased the land on Braddock Drive—the present location of the Center. At this time, California continued to use the Alien Land Law, which stated that aliens ineligible for citizenship were not allowed to own or lease land. The title for the land was in the names of Nisei—who were American citizens of Japanese ancestry--Ryohei Nojima, Koji Okamoto and Fumi Utsuki. In addition to the Language School, the Venice Seinen Kai (Young Men's Association) was one of the first organizations created at the Center. On May 10, 1925, the Venice Seinen Kai, which is now known as the Venice Judo Club, was established. It started out with fifteen young men and was headed by Shiro Bunya. During a meeting on October 29, 1925, they decided to build a Seinen Kai Hall. Before World War II broke out, in 1941, the judo club moved its dojo from its location on Jefferson Boulevard between Centinela

Avenue and Lincoln Boulevard to its present location on Braddock Drive.

There was a lot of success and participation with the Language School and the Venice Seinen Kai. The Center seemed to be doing well and growing in

membership. Then, on December

7, 1941, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. Following this event, the United States declared war against Japan. World War II changed everything. The lives of the Japanese Americans would never be the same.

Many thanks to Jack Kurihara of the Venice Japanese Community Center for permission to reproduce this article. For more info and other articles go to [www.vjcc.com](http://www.vjcc.com)

## Parrots, Parakeets, and Bird Diversity in Mar Vista

By Roseann Herman      Photos by Steve Boskin

In the morning or the evening you'll hear them flying and screeching, communicating with each other and announcing themselves to us; parakeets and parrots have established families all over Los Angeles, and Mar Vista supplies them with food and drink: fruit, chewy wood, birdbath water, and seeds. They nest in palm trees (mostly non-native themselves) and tree-holes, eat the seeds and fruits of trees that are also not native. They live a good healthy life in Los Angeles, as do the animal and plant transplants from other parts of the world.

In February, our Mar Vista walking group heard them overhead. First you hear them and then you spot them. The flock—about twenty birds—settled in a magnolia tree and breakfasted on its plump red berries. In a few minutes, it moved on.

An hour or so later, I opened an email from my friend and fellow bird watcher Steve Boskin. His caption said: "African parrots". He had heard and then seen the flock and ran outdoors with his camera. I looked at his remarkable photos. Then I looked at my Peruvian bird book—these birds were NOT North American birds, and I suspected their ancestors hadn't come from Africa.

Steve and I went back and forth: I don't think they're African. Ok, what are they? I think they're South American. But I don't think they're parrots. Why not? Well, parrots have rounded tails, and there aren't any parrots in my book that look like the birds in your photos. Would you happen to have a photo of the tails? Well, as a matter of fact...Pointed tail: parakeet! And the red markings on the heads of the birds made the identification complete: mitred parakeets. We could be wrong, as there

are many similar looking South American birds, but those haven't yet been seen in Los Angeles; this doesn't mean they aren't here, it just means no one has yet spotted them. A whole flock of mitred parakeets. Big, noisy birds thousands of miles from the land of their ancestors. They had joined all of us in Los Angeles who migrated and established a home here. How did they get here? It seems certain that they didn't fly those thousands of miles from South America, where they usually stay put. Ours are the



descendants of escapees; either great-grandpa/grandma flew out an open door or was released after the awful squawking got on someone's nerves. Parrots and parakeets are flocking, social birds. Having just one in a cage can be painful for the bird and just as painful to the ears of its captors. Once escaped, they call each other, and seem to find each other; I truly believe that they communicate in their own language—I've seen flocks of cockatiels, lovebirds, green parrots, canary-winged parakeets, huge white cockatoos, each with



its own species. They must escape one at a time and find true love in the trees of L.A., where they marry and multiply. Here's the description of Mitred Parakeets from one website: Fairly large green parakeet with red forehead grading into scattered bright red feathers on crown, face, cheek, and sometimes on the bend in the wing. Dull green underparts are faintly washed olive. Sexes similar.

Range and habitat: In its native range occurs in mountain valleys in a narrow band from southern Peru to northern Argentina. Populations of escaped birds also established in Los Angeles, California, and south Florida. Prefers dry subtropical forest, but also uses cultivated areas and grasslands with scattered trees.

Frequently found near rocky cliffs. (Huh?)

Breeding and nesting: Little known. May lay two to three white eggs in tree cavities or rock crevices. (Isn't anyone curious enough to find out—could be the subject of a biology student's thesis).

Foraging and feeding: Travels in groups of 2 to 100 in search of fruit, berries, and nuts. Usually feeds in forests, but may visit open areas in search of grain. (They chew wood, too).

Vocalization: Loud screeching "weee weee" or "cheeah cheeah." (Understatement Just keep ears open and you can't miss them).

In San Francisco, there is a flock of wild parrots whose ancestors were escapees. The flock numbers many birds. Mark Bittner studied them, wrote about them, and became an honorary member of the flock. He wrote a book, "The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill", and he and his flock became the subjects of a popular documentary film of the same name. It seems as though he is the only person who studied urban immigrant/naturalized parrot behavior and contributed to scientific literature on the subject.

I have a "flock" of two cockatiels who are free to fly in my house and nest and sleep in our bedroom. They have tried to raise a family here, but for various reasons have been unsuccessful. Twice, there have been escapes. I'm hoping that each escapee called loudly enough to find the flock and raise a family in the friendly skies around Mar Vista.

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### NOW DUE! 2009 South Mar Vista Neighborhood Dues

Help keep neighborhood improvements and our newsletter rolling through 2009. Check out the new Patron and Sponsor categories and send in your membership dues for 2009.

### Safety and Security Websites

Los Angeles Police Department  
[www.lapdonline.org](http://www.lapdonline.org)  
 Los Angeles Community Policing (501c3)  
[www.lacp.org](http://www.lacp.org)  
 Pacific Beat, LAPD Pacific Area Web site  
[www.pacificbeat.net](http://www.pacificbeat.net)  
 Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)  
[www.cert-la.com](http://www.cert-la.com)  
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 P.O. Box 66756  
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