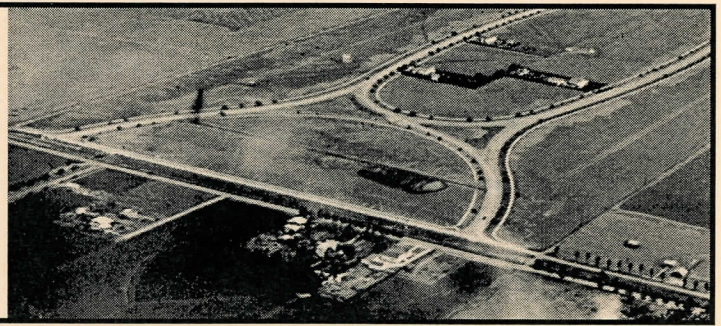


# SOMAR

South Mar Vista Neighborhood Association



## Mar Vista Community Council Funds Grand View School Computer Lab

At their monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 14th, the Community Council Board of Directors approved a funding motion granting Grand View Blvd. Elementary school \$2500 for additions to their brand new computer lab.

David Stanton, Grand View's Technology Teacher, says he plans to use the money to purchase supporting items for the lab in order to make it ready to serve all 700 Grand View students starting this Fall. "Because we will be serving as many as six full classes of students each day we want our lab to be neat and orderly, we want to be able to maintain the cleanliness of the room and computer stations, and we need to minimize the time it takes to transition from one group to another. To keep the lab spic and span we plan to purchase iSkin keyboard covers, additional headphones so that each station has a headphone, headphone hooks for storage, optical mousepads, cable management devices, and (most important!) a hand sanitizer/cleaner dispenser to ensure that everyone who enters has clean hands," says Stanton.

"The Grand View community is very grateful for these funds," says Principal Alfredo Ortiz. "The lab will enable us to give all our students access to technology in their academic work."

## "MAR VISTA GOES GREEN!"

Mar Vista Park is holding its annual Community Fall Festival this year with a focus on our environment. On Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10 am to 4 pm the Park at 11430 Woodbine will burst with fun for the whole family during "Mar Vista Goes Green!"

Starring on stage will be the West side's very own Stilt Circus performing "Critical Sprout," a new eco-friendly show with the Circus' favorite players. Star Child and her band of stilt walkers and acrobats will be joined by

an aerial performer in this year's 45 minute show. Also featured on stage will be some home-grown entertainment by the "Red Ribbons" a local square dance group, Rock Bands from West LA, free yoga instruction, student choral groups from schools in the area, several contests for children, and a morning Puppet Show, "Kiddle Karoo Goes Green." Opening Ceremonies at 12 noon will include representatives from the Council Office, Department of Recreation and Parks, and the Mar Vista Community Council. The 2009 Festival Honoree will be announced by Recreation Center Staff.

Every year the festival offers children a variety of activities and this year's Kidz Go Green Zone will have nine inflatable slides, games, and bouncers, an arts and craft area, face painting, and a petting zoo.

We are very proud to have a wide variety groups with eco-friendly messages providing the festival crowd with the latest information on issues such as recycling, composting, water conservation, and drought friendly landscapes. In addition, the following organizations will be on hand with demonstrations and exhibits: Heal the Bay, Surfrider Foundation, Ballona Institute, Buy Green, EcoPlum, LA Rainwater Harvesting Program, The Garden Nerd, Certified Wellness, and RARN, the Reptile and Amphibian Rescue Network.

This year we are also adding an artistic element to the Festival. Students from local preschools, elementary and middle schools will have an opportunity to show artwork at the student art show. In addition, we are pleased to include more seasoned art professionals in an outdoor art exhibit and an artisan marketplace where arts and crafts can be purchased by the public.

Join us for a day of fun, entertainment, lot's of yummy festival food, and tons of information on how you, too, can do your part to make sure "Mar Vista Goes Green!"

If you would like to help sponsor the event, are interested in volunteering, have an eco-friendly business, or create unique natural crafts to sell, please call Laura Island, Park Director at (310) 398-5982.



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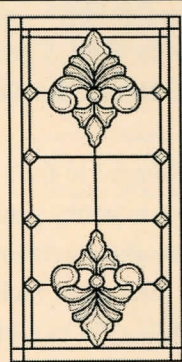
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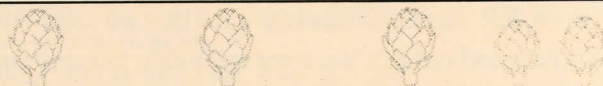
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## **NEIGHBORS PRESENT TO BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS**

Two South Mar Vista neighbors were invited to speak at a recent Board of Public Works meeting in City Hall by Commissioner Paula Daniels. Sherri Akers, Mar Vista Community Council Green Committee Co-chair and Christopher McKinnon, Zone 5 Director of the MVCC and member of the Green Committee presented a 20 slide PowerPoint to the board and the public.

Commissioner Daniels had attended the MVCC Green Garden Showcase in April and was impressed by the water savings that most of the participating gardens evidenced. She asked if a presentation could be put together of the process of removing a lawn and replacing it with drought tolerant plants with a calculation of the difference in before and after water usage. She was also interested in homemade Rain Barrels and city subsidized Compost bins.

Highlighting the mission of the Green Garden Showcase and using 11837 North Park Avenue as a Case Study in lawn removal the presentation had the desired impact of showing the Commissioners what a self motivated group of citizens could accomplish without incentives from the city and proved how much water was saved. Commissioner Daniels spoke afterwards conveying how impressed she is with Mar Vista and the efforts of the community.

In attendance were two executives from Department of Water and Power who asked for a copy of the presentation and who by the way have instituted a rebate program for lawn removal. For more information on that call 1- 888-376-3314 or download the application at: [http://www.socalwatersmart.com/images/PDFs/mwd\\_rebate\\_form\\_turf\\_removal.pdf](http://www.socalwatersmart.com/images/PDFs/mwd_rebate_form_turf_removal.pdf)

Also were representatives from the new Green Gardener program that Ms. Daniels is spearheading to train new and veteran gardeners in the care and maintenance of drought tolerant gardens. The Commissioner distributed printouts of the PowerPoint to a Green Gardener organizing meeting the next day.

## **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)

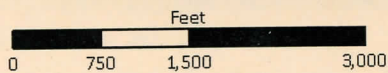
## **Mar Vista Community Council Email Notification System**

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.

**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

## **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).



-  Original Extent
-  Sawtelle Neighborhood
-  LACO\_Roads
-  Parcels

## Proposed Target Area for Los Angeles Rainwater Harvesting Project

June 2009



## Are You Eligible for the FREE Rainwater Harvesting Program?

### In Brief:

- City of Los Angeles calls for sign-ups for the Rainwater Harvesting pilot program
- Rainwater is a natural resource that can be used locally by collecting it onsite
- 600 property owners will be chosen to participate
- Sign up at [LARainwaterharvesting.org](http://LARainwaterharvesting.org) or (562) 597-0205

### What's the Rainwater Harvesting Program?

Last month, the Stormwater Program rolled out the City's first Rainwater Harvesting pilot program that will provide free assistance to residents and commercial businesses willing to collect rainwater for storage and use for their private property irrigation. The program aims to reduce the polluted rainwater that goes into the ocean and help conserve the use of potable water.

"Rainwater is a natural resource. Harvesting that resource locally by collecting rainwater is one of the easiest and most profoundly important things a person can do." said Lisa Cahill, Citizen Forestry Manager for TreePeople. She adds, "Safely collecting the water is the first of many vital steps of water conservation. When neighbors work together to help each other with this effort the results can be amazing."

Residents that sign up for the program will be eligible for complementary installations of rain barrels and downspout disconnections, or planter boxes for businesses. The captured rainwater will then be either routed to pervious surfaces or used for on-site irrigation. The program allows residents and businesses to become part of the solution in transforming rainwater from urban runoff to a natural commodity.

### Who is Eligible?

The program aims to enlist 600 Los Angeles property owners in the targeted neighborhoods by fall 2009, and will set goals for citywide participation (see map – please hyperlink to image attached).

### What are the Environmental Benefits?

A typical Los Angeles home directs an average of 14,000 gallons of water down its downspouts and into the storm drain system annually. This water may collect pollutants,

including trash, pet waste, oil and grease or other chemicals. As an alternative, the Rainwater Harvesting program will allow homeowners to collect the rainwater and reduce the amount of rainwater pollution entering the Santa Monica Bay. The captured rainwater will be maintained on individual properties to irrigate lawns and gardens thereby also helping residents comply with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's recently-mandated water conservation requirements.

Wing Tam, City of Los Angeles Rainwater Harvesting program manager says, "This program sets an important first step for future citywide roll-out. Our hope is that the pilot areas will begin the momentum needed to generate interest in harvesting rainwater throughout the entire community. Ultimately, the beauty of the program is that it establishes community members and the City as collaborators, both working together for a more sustainable water supply and a clean ocean."

### How Do I Sign-Up?

For more information about the Rainwater Harvesting program and enrollment, including an online sign-up option, please visit [LARainwaterharvesting.org](http://LARainwaterharvesting.org) or call (562) 597-0205.



**MVCC Board Meetings**  
Second Tuesday of every month  
Mar Vista Rec Center  
11430 Woodbine  
August 11 at 7 PM  
September 8 at 7 PM  
...

Visit us weekly at the  
Mar Vista Farmers' Market  
EVERY SUNDAY  
9 AM – 2 PM  
Corner of Venice & Grand View

SoMar is served by MVCC Zone 5 Director  
Christopher McKinnon, [chrisPM@marvista.org](mailto:chrisPM@marvista.org).  
Sign up to receive email announcements at  
[www.MarVista.org](http://www.MarVista.org)

# FRONT YARD VEGETABLE GARDEN

Patricia Karasick

As part of removing the lawn and parkway grass in the front of our South Mar Vista home we knew we wanted part of it to be a vegetable garden. The rest is California native drought resistant plants and rocks, gravel, decomposed granite and more rocks! They blended with our existing rock and wood picket fence we designed 10 years ago. The vegetable garden was a collaborative effort between a Pisces gardener and a Virgo non-gardener. My husband constructed raised beds from river rock like we had seen at the 1620's Pilgrim Village in Plymouth Massachusetts years ago. They were filled with free mulch from the City of Los Angeles that can be shoveled from their pile at the rear of 6000 Jefferson.

I had sent away to Park Seed Company in December for their Victory Packet of seeds. However, it was sold out until May. The Mar Vista Community Council Green Garden tour was at the end of April and I wanted at least a few vegetables in the beautiful rock beds. I went to the Culver City Tuesday Farmer's Market and bought seedlings. I purchased heirloom tomatoes, Roma tomatoes, one zucchini plant, one pattypan squash, one Japanese cucumber and a 4 pack of mesclun greens. When my seeds finally came, I put in lettuce, beans, green peppers, corn and more tomatoes.

The crows and squirrels seemed to eat most of the seeds. The hot weather that we had in May didn't help the germination either. The seeds almost all failed. However, the seedlings have exploded into fabulous looking plants yielding large amounts of food. I have added a few more tomatoes: yellow boy, green zebras, pineapple and red cherries. I added marigolds as companion plants to repel bugs. I replanted corn and basil seedlings recently. The original tomatoes are just now ripening in time to cook with the zucchini.

The Japanese eggplant and cucumber are the sorriest looking plants, but still surviving.

We hand water on Monday morning before 9 am and the old sprinklers timed for Thursday early. Some additional water is necessary when the weather is extremely hot. The city mulch has not harbored any weeds and newspaper layered under the mulch suppressed any remaining grass. A few strange mushrooms sprouted at the beginning. The

mesclun pack turned out to have two varieties of swiss chard and kale, less lettuce than expected, but they have not bolted like the lettuce in the hot weather.

Our garden is an intensively planted French garden. The tomatoes have grown as tomatoes do, up, over and out of the structures, not spaced as neatly as the non-gardener wished them to grow. It is very exciting to see how many potential tomatoes that we have in our garden and provides extra to gift and trade at our block club fruit, vegetable and plant exchange at the bi-monthly meeting.

My verdict is that seedlings win over seeds and are more fun to plant anyway. They become a better bargain when you factor in shipping cost and failure rate for the seeds. We are already talking about expanding the garden for next year along the other fence.

## PATRON CIRCLE

Ginger and Bob Emerson  
Claus Best & Lisa Gimmy  
Gary Duboff  
Liberty and Ray Conboy  
Peter and Sandra Bovey  
Bertram Balch  
Jill and Gary Bryman

Many thanks to our Patron Circle members please renew your 2009 dues and consider supporting SoMar's work with a larger donation.

## Want to be a Block Captain?

It is important to have active members on each street in the form of a Block Captain for safety, security and emergency preparedness. Block Captains are still needed for most blocks in the neighborhood. For information on becoming a Block Captain contact Steve Wallace at [stevew@marvista.org](mailto:stevew@marvista.org).

Responsibilities of a Block Captain Include:

- Serving as a liaison between the block residents and the Police Department and neighborhood association as well as distributing newsletters, crime prevention and association news.
- Maintain a map and list of neighbors, including names, addresses, phone numbers and vehicle information.
- Alert neighbors in the event of crime or an emergency situation which could require an area evacuation.
- Greet new neighbors and educate them on the community watch and the neighborhood.
- Co-ordinate and host an initial block meeting and then at least one yearly block meeting.

If you are interested in becoming a Block Captain or starting a Neighborhood Watch Committee on your block contact our LAPD Lead Officers: Drake Madison at [33997@lapd.lacity.org](mailto:33997@lapd.lacity.org) or Heidi Llanes at [26837@lapd.lacity.org](mailto:26837@lapd.lacity.org).

## 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)  
Los Angeles Fire Department  
[www.lafd.org](http://www.lafd.org)  
City of Los Angeles – Emergency Prep. Dept.  
[www.lacity.org/epd](http://www.lacity.org/epd)  
Red Cross  
[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)  
[www.redcrossla.org](http://www.redcrossla.org)

Join the South Mar Vista Neighborhood Association!

Your dues help improve our neighborhood.

*Standard Membership* — \$15.00 per year

*Patron Circle Donation* — \$50 per year

*Sponsor Circle Donation* — \$100 per year  
(Patrons and Sponsors will be recognized in the newsletter)

South Mar Vista Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 66756

Mar Vista, CA 90066

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in being a Block Captain \_\_\_\_\_

Para juntarse con la Asociación del Barrio de Mar Vista del Sur

Se utilize la cuota en el barrio de Mar Vista para proyectos de mejoramiento.

*Standard Membership* — \$15.00 per year

*Patron Circle Donation* — \$50 per year

*Sponsor Circle Donation* — \$100 per year  
(Patrons and Sponsors will be recognized in the newsletter)

South Mar Vista Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 66756

Mar Vista, CA 90066

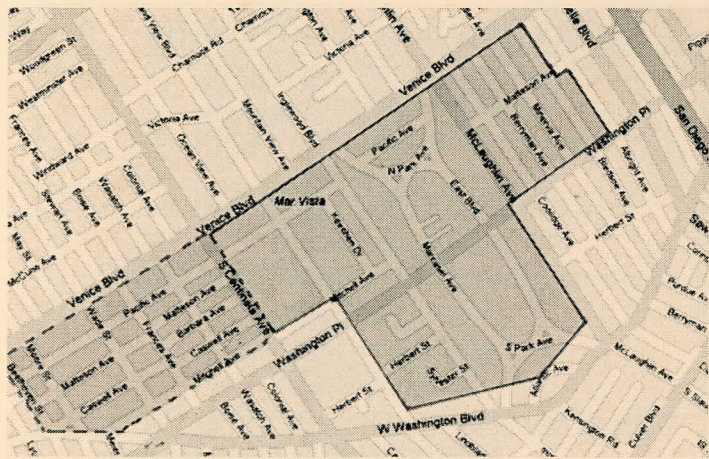
Nombre \_\_\_\_\_

Dirección \_\_\_\_\_

Teléfono \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Me gustaría ser un Block Captain \_\_\_\_\_



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 - [steveuw@marvista.org](mailto:steveuw@marvista.org)  
 Vice President - TBD

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 - [julijaj@mac.com](mailto:julijaj@mac.com)

# SOMAR

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>

## 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.