

Robertson to La Cienega - Pickford to Sawyer

The Newsletter of the Crestview Neighborhood Association

CRESTVIEW GENERAL MEETING

Crestview will host a General Meeting on Thursday, September 12, 2002, at the Robertson Recreation Park Gymnasium from 7:30pm to 9:00pm.

The guest speaker for our meeting will be Councilman Jack Weiss from the Los Angeles 5th Council District.

Come meet the new Board Members of Crestview.

Also in attendance will be our new Senior Lead Officer, Warren Porche, who will be officially introduced to our neighborhood.

Bring your friends and family, along with your questions and comments for both our Councilman and our new Senior Lead Officer.

We look forward to your attendance and participation at Crestview's General Meeting.



Mary Gurguis and the entire SoRo Festival Committee hope you enjoyed "It's a SoRo World" Festival on June 9th. The food was wonderful, as was the entertainment, said many of your neighbors who attended SoRo's fifth festival and first at the north end of Robertson Blvd.

We thank all the Crestview Neighbors who got involved. If you have any questions or comments, please send them to: micromary4@aol.com. I look forward to hearing from all of you. Mary Gurguis, Chairperson



The Great Pumpkin Growing Contest

The Great Pumpkin Growing Contest is being sponsored by a few of our local farmers' markets, including, of course, La Cienega.

You must live within the zip code of the participating farmers' markets (90035 is one), and not be affiliated with the markets.

The markets provide the pumpkin seeds, which grow the 200-plus pound type of pumpkins. You must come into the market to fill out a registration form, and consent to a visit to the sight where you'll be growing your pumpkin to verify that you are, in fact, growing it!

The Contest will end the second or third week before Halloween. It is the grower's responsibility to bring their pumpkin to be weighed. There will be more information on where the weigh-in will be at a later date.

First place winner receives a prize of \$750.00, second is \$450.00, and third is \$250.00.

People are already sprouting their pumpkin seeds, so hurry in. Get your seeds before it's too late!

Call Cynthia with any questions: 310 398-1786.

Mark your calendar now...

A meeting with "DONE" (Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment), in support of SORO's recognition as a City Recognized Neighborhood Council is scheduled at Webster Middle School on Tuesday, August 13th, at 6:30pm. Please make yourself available to attend this important meeting for our neighborhood. For more information...

Contact Terry (310)836-0644

CRESTVIEW

Neighborhood Association

President	Terry Ring Schonwald	836-0644
Vice President	Judy Larson	202-6620
Secretary	Michelle LeBrun	839-6376
Treasurer	Sant Kaur Khalsa	278-7403
Blocks Captain	Sat-Sangeet Khalsa	278-6078
At-Large	Patty Kritzberg	275-6824
At-Large	Sheila Bayne	202-7755
LAPD Stop-in	Sant Kaur Khalsa	278-7403

Block Captains - Your daily contact with CNA		
Airdrome	Linda Leffal	271-8009
Airdrome	Ingrid Salcedo	550-0349
Airdrome	Miriam Bachrach	274-7972
1600 Bedford	Mary Earl	275-8098
1700 Bedford	Jeanni Tavlin	559-5326
1800 Bedford	Helene Slavin	202-0321
1600 Corning	Georgia Horswell	276-5112
1700 Corning	Steve & Sally Green	838-3595
1600 Garth	Karen Gartz	839-3403
1700 Garth	Robert Munic	815-0775
1600 Holt	Ruth Gerdes	276-7647
1700 Holt	Ro Campbell	837-1310
1800 Holt	Gizelle Nordon	837-1359
1600 Preuss	Sant Kaur Khalsa	278-7403
1700 Preuss	Dennis Brown	836-4716
1800 Preuss	Sat-Narayan Khalsa	836-2207
1600 Shenandoah	Patty Kritzberg	275-6824
1700 Shenandoah	Kimberly Foy	558-3154
1800 Shenandoah	Maxine Goldberg	202-6618
1600 Sherbourne	Tonyia Jordan	559-4051
1700 Sherbourne	Neal Shapiro	836-6484
1800 Sherbourne	Nate Sacks	839-7892
1600 Wooster	Robin Dominguez	275-0808
1700 Wooster	Debra House	204-5695
1800 Wooster	Vivian Chinelli	204-0086

PUBLIC SAFETY

For Emergencies - Immediately Dial 911

Non-Emergencies – 877-ASK-LAPD. Ask that they notify LAPD Patrol 8A59 of your concerns. If you see something suspicious & think it warrants investigation, call. When you want to speak with an officer responsible for this neighborhood, call Senior Lead Officer Warren Porche - phone: 310-575-8423, or voice mail to leave a message: 213-509-4659. www.LAPDonline.org

Newsletter Editor - Terry Ring Schonwald

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1800 S. Robertson Blvd. PMB2027, L.A. CA 90035

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Gardens	Pieter Severynen	838-6744
Graffiti	Position Available	
Tree Project	Pieter Severynen	838-6744
Traffic & Parking	Mary Earl	275-8098
	Ellen Benkin	275-8098

UPDATED CITY SERVICES

Building and Safety (gen. info.)	888-LA4-BUILD
Burned-out Street Light	800-303-LAMP
Dead Animal Pickup (Bureaus of Sanitation)	800-773-2489
Emergency Sewer Repair	213-485-5391
Emergency Street Cleanup	213-473-8410
After Hours	213-485-7100
Hazardous Waste Hotline	800-988-6942
Large Item Pickup	800-773-2489
Poison Control Center	800-876-4766
Post Office Main Office	800-275-8777
Post Office – Preuss Station	323-655-2568
Public Works Complaints	800-773-2489
Rape and Battery Hotline (S.M. Hosp. Treatment Center)	310-319-4503
Robertson Library	310-840-2147
Robertson Recreation Center	310-278-5383
Street Maintenance (replace cans)	800-773-2489
Street Services	213-473-8410
Streetlights	800-303-5267
WLA Police	310-575-8401
TRAFFIC AND PARKING	
Parked vehicle exceeding time limit	323-906-7973
Commercial vehicle parked in residential area	
Car blocking alley, street, driveway	
fire hydrant, etc.	800-222-6366
Parking on lawns	818-756-9418
Polluting vehicle	800-CUT-SMOG



Suspected stolen car 310-575-8401

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

5th District - Pickford to 18th Street
Jack Weiss 213-847-4467

10th District - 18th Street to Sawyer
Nate Holden 213-485-3323

REAL ESTATE UPDATE

BY ANNE AUSTIN

Housing has literally pulled the U.S. economy through a very dicey year. When the stock market started its dive, consumer spending didn't miss a beat. Many investors, who pulled their money out of the stock market, have put it into the real estate market as a safer alternative. While several trillions have evaporated from stock valuations, the home equity market has appreciated by about half as much. This appreciation of home values and the ability to monetize it through refinancing have allowed owners to pull cash from their home equity and spend it. Low mortgage rates have also made home ownership more affordable for more people and have kept the demand for houses growing. With strong demand, of course, home values keep going up. You might ask "how does all of this affect me and those of us who own property in Crestview"? Well, it affects your value very nicely. Just look at the sales that have occurred this year.

There have been eight sales so far this year in Crestview. Five more are waiting to close escrow. The lowest price was a two-bedroom, one-bathroom home, which needed work that closed at \$380,000. The highest price was obtained on Shenandoah Street. A completely remodeled large home with four bedrooms and two bathrooms closed at \$570,000. There are some amazing stories to tell about the process of some of these transactions. For example, an adorable house on Holt came on the market with two bedrooms, 1.5 bathrooms, priced at \$419,000. There were eighteen offers!!!! It naturally got bid up and sold for \$450,000!!!! Another two-bedroom, 1.5 bathroom home on Sherbourne was priced at \$429,000. It had fourteen offers and was sold way over the asking price. I will have to wait until escrow closes to tell you the sales price, but my guess is that it was around the mid four hundreds!! There is another great sale in escrow on Shenandoah that sold close to the asking price of \$585,000. How about that for appreciation??

REMODELING YOUR KITCHEN

If you are thinking of remodeling your kitchen, you might want to look into the latest in kitchen designs. Today's kitchen reflects "growth, sociability, individuality and entertainment". The new kitchen may have varied cabinet heights and surfaces. Larger kitchens can have desks, computers, entertainment centers and several sinks and appliances. The varied heights for cabinets or counter tops can accommodate the various functions and family members in kitchen usage. Cabinets are not only being raised and lowered, but are being pushed in or out. They are even being staggered, to create a great visual impact. Pull out shelves in key areas near microwaves and ovens help with safe removal of hot foods. Get advice from your contractor, architect or interior designer before starting your project. Enjoy your beautiful functioning new kitchen.

Until next time.....

Anne Austin is a resident of Crestview and has lived and sold real estate in Crestview for over seventeen years. She is a Coldwell Banker agent and can be reached at 323-860-4260. This is intended as a service to the residents of Crestview and is not intended as a solicitation. The information contained herein while deemed reliable is not guaranteed.

Crestview Area Movie Theaters Remembered

Ralph Cantos (310) 839-6174

These days, anyone living in the Crestview area, wanting to go see a movie at a “local” theater, usually has to get into their car and schlep to one of the malls on the Westside. Our choices are the Beverly Center, Beverly Connection, Westside Pavilion, or Century City Shopping Center. The drive to one of these malls can be nerve wracking at best or exasperating at worst, especially when La Cienega Boulevard has to be traversed.

But there was a time, not too many decades ago, when there were THREE movie theaters within WALKING distance of Crestview and two others just a short five or six minute drive from our area.

On Pico Boulevard at Livonia (across the street from today’s Wells Fargo Bank) was the impressive *Stadium* Theater, with its large balcony.

At Pico and La Cienega was the *Lido* Theater, which in my recollection was a little more upscale than the Stadium, and charged a little more than the other theaters. It usually showed first-run movies.

At Pico and Fairfax was the *PicFair* Theater. I remember seeing more movies there than at any of the other theaters, as they tended to show such popular movies as *Francis The Talking Mule* and the *Abbott and Costello* comedies. They also had cartoon marathons on Saturday afternoons.

A short drive east on Pico, just east of Redondo Boulevard was the *Del Mar* Theater.

Another short drive to the corner of San Vicente and Cabrillo Way (Crescent Heights Boulevard), brought you to what was by far the grandest and most unique of our five local theaters, the *Carthay Circle* Theater. It was set back from San Vicente and you walked under a long canopy to enter the theater. The last “Big Magilla” for the Carthay Circle occurred in 1956 when *Around The World In 80 Days* premiered there. And a “Big Magilla” it was! San Vicente was completely blocked off at Cabrillo, in both directions; a red carpet was laid underneath the canopy. Large World War II vintage searchlights scanned the sky. Limousine after limousine brought the rich and famous celebrities of the day to view the movie for the first time. It would be the final curtain call for this theater. After *Around The World In 80 Days* had its initial run, the Carthay Circle closed its doors and despite protests from preservationists, was demolished and replaced with an office complex.

The next theater to fail was the *Del Mar*. It lasted until about 1962. After showing its last movie, it was converted into a recording studio. Later it became a church. It stands today abandoned and forlorn with its marquee displaying a For Rent sign.

The *Stadium* was the next one to call it quits. It showed its last movie about 1968, when it was converted to a synagogue, and it still serves in this capacity to this day.

1977 was the last year for the *Lido* at Pico and La Cienega. I remember, at least one movie premiering there, again with the large searchlights and red carpet. This time, Pico was closed between La Cienega and Corning and the red carpet was laid out across Pico. The last film I saw there was 1977’s *Telefon* with Charles Bronson and Lee Remick. Shortly afterward, I was stunned to see “CLOSED” on the marquee. Soon after, the *Lido*, which was located wall to wall with the Bank of America, was demolished to enlarge the parking lot for the bank.

The last theater in our area to show movies was the good old *PicFair*. It continued showing movies into the early 80’s when it too, finally called it quits and became an appliance store. It served in this capacity until gutted by fire during the Rodney King riots. The gutted and burned out block long theater and small business building was finally torn down about a year after the riots and replaced with a new building housing a wholesale electrical parts business. Of all the five theaters, only the *Stadium* and the *Del Mar* remain standing, and of those two, only the *Stadium* still serves a useful purpose.

In a time of multi screen theaters and parking structures, the old-line theaters with no dedicated parking and only one screen, could not compete with the demands of today. Only the *Lido* had any type of off-street parking. BUT, who needed parking lot when you could WALK to a local Crestview area theater and see a first-run movie. Yes, those were the days.

*City of Los Angeles
Department of Recreation and Parks
(310)278-5383*

*Robertson Recreation Center
1641 Preuss Road, Los Angeles, CA 90035*

Summer Schedule of Activities at Robertson Recreation Center

For details and continuing classes and activities, check with Dana.

As of September, New Schedules offering 10 week classes will be available.

Contact Dana Greek for dates and fees (310) 278-5383

BASIC CAR A59 CRIMES BY CRIME TYPE 06/01/02– 06/30/02

*This crime map, provided by the LAPD, shows incidents of **reported** crime in Crestview and adjacent areas. The symbols show the blocks where crimes occurred, not the exact locations. The number of crimes shown is for the entire area covered by the map for one month.*

The map shows crimes within the LAPD's patrol boundaries of Robertson, Gregory, La Cienega and Cadillac. Crestview is the area in the center, between Pickford on the north and Sawyer on the south.

(Crimes by type key abbreviations – AGG: aggravated assault; AGG OTH: aggravated assault specific type; BTFV: burglary or theft from Vehicle; BURG: burglary; BURG OTH: burglary specific type; GTA: grand theft of vehicle; GTA RECVD: recovered vehicle; ROBB: robbery ROBB OTH: robbery specific type)

COMMUNITY NEWS – The next Pico Revitalization Project meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 26, 2002, at 7:00pm at the Westside JCC, 5870 Olympic Bl. Discussion on Street Furniture with or without advertising. All interested parties are invited to attend.

MORE NEWS – New at Farmers' Market - Come see the "fresh fish" vendor. Then ask Cynthia for your pumpkin seeds. Open Thursdays between 3:00pm and 7:00pm. At Plaza La Cienega. Tell your friends about the new fresh fish! You're sure to find lot's of goodies along with "Live" music every other week. Check it out!

MORE NEWS – Thanks to those who have paid their dues. Dues are 'Still Due' for Crestview \$25 for the Year. Please send to 1800 S Robertson Bl. PMB2027, L.A., CA 90035

MORE NEWS – If you have an article to submit for the Newsletter, or an idea for the "Best Kept Secrets" in/for Crestview, please call Terry – (310) 836-0644

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**TO PUT 'YOUR CRESTVIEW AD' HERE,
CALL TERRY AT (310) 836-0644**

EASY YOGA FOR HEADACHE RELIEF

Lie on your back on a carpet or padded mat.

Raise only your head off the floor as if you are looking at your toes and hold this position.

Breathe slowly and deeply through your nose.

Continue for 1-3 minutes.

Then lower your head, take a few deep breaths and relax.

Before doing this exercise or participating in any exercise program, consult your physician.

For more information, call Sant Kaur Khalsa (310) 278-7403

Crestview Neighborhood Association (CNA)

Report of Activities from April, 2001 through June, 2002

1. **Newsletter.** Crestview's Spring 2002 newsletter was issued and distributed in May, 2002.
2. **SoRo Festival.** Crestview neighbors had a great time at "It's a SoRo World" festival on June 9th, since it was held at the northern end of Robertson. Many who have attended the last four years of SoRo festivals, were happy to see the venue change this year to include the vendors and restaurants from our area.
3. **The Plaza on 18th Street.** The building which held the Adair Furniture Store has been demolished and construction will begin soon on the building to house McDonald's and The Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf.
4. **Officer Brian Morrison.** Officer Morrison has been promoted to Sergeant and has been relocated to a Valley precinct.
5. **Officer Warren Porche.** Officer Porche has been relocated to the West Los Angeles area and is now our new SLO. As Senior Lead Officer, he and his officers patrol Crestview and north and south of our area.
6. **Trees.** Many of the trees in Crestview still need of pruning. Please contact Peter Severynen if you would like to learn more about pruning trees.
7. **Robertson Recreation Center.** The Center has recently been painted and will house Crestview's upcoming General Meeting.
8. **Pico Boulevard Revitalization Project.** A large group of interested neighbors is working on an urban planning project to renovate the Pico corridor from Beverwil to La Brea. The major discussion currently is street furniture and whether or not to have advertisement on Pico.
9. **Farmers' Market.** The market is held every Thursday afternoon at the corner of La Cienega and 18th Street from 3:00 to 7:00p.m. It is directly sponsored by the Model Neighborhood Program of which CNA is a member. There is a new fresh fish vendor, very reasonably priced at the Farmers' Market.
10. **LAPD Stop-In Location.** Sant Kaur Khalsa continues to monitor and refresh supplies on a weekly basis at the LAPD Stop-In center located at Robertson Recreation Center. The Stop-In location allows LAPD officers to use a phone, write a report, or have a snack without having to leave our neighborhood. SLO Porch says it is used regularly.
11. **Robertson Recreation Center Park Advisory Board (PAB).** The PAB is a volunteer group consisting of parents and other interested people who actively participate in planning and pursuing funding for activities at the Rec. Center. Sant Kaur Khalsa continues as a member of the PAB for Robertson Rec. from Crestview. The group meets regularly with the park director. Anyone interested in joining, should contact Dana at the Park.
12. **Participation in the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council (SoRo).** SoRo is readying the paperwork to go before the DONE Committee on August 13th.
13. **Participation in the Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB).** Mary Earl continues to be an active member of the West Los Angeles CPAB representing Crestview.

BEST-KEPT SECRETS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

by Terry Ring Schonwald 310-836-0644

(For this column, please let me hear from you so we can share all the best kept secrets)

The Crestview Neighborhood has a new Senior Lead Officer. His name is Warren Porche and he is the latest best-kept secret. Officer Brian Morrison has been promoted and has turned the reins of SLO over to Officer Porche. The following is a letter from Officer Porche to us all.

Dear Residents of Crestview Neighborhood Association:

I am Warren Porche, your new Senior Lead Officer for 8A59. I would like to begin by congratulating my predecessor, Brian Morrison, on his promotion to Sergeant and thank him for all the hard work he has done for Basic Car 8A59.

I would like to tell you a little about myself. I have been a Police Officer with the Los Angeles Police Department for twelve years. I was assigned to Wilshire Division for ten years prior to transferring to West Los Angeles.

When I arrived at West LA, I was assigned to Basic Car 8A59. I am familiar with the area and the concerns of the community. During my career, I have had the opportunity to work several special assignments, such as: Detectives, Community Relations, Parolee to Prison and Narcotics.

I look forward to working with all of you to make our community a safer and a better place to live and work. If anyone needs to contact me, please do not hesitate to phone me at (310) 575-8423.

Thank you and I look forward to meeting all of you at the September 12th, Crestview Neighborhood Association Meeting at Robertson Recreation Center.

**Respectfully,
Senior Lead Officer
Warren Porche**



☺ PLEASE BE NEIGHBORLY TO YOUR BLOCK CAPTAIN ☺

Crestview Block Captains will be around to ask you to fill in needed information for our emergency list. Please make their lives easier by getting the information to them as completely as possible and as quickly as possible, so we can update our emergency list and hope we never have to use it. Your information will not be given out. Our list is private.

Our Street Trees

(By Pieter Severynen)

In this column our street tree and garden expert, arborist and landscape architect Pieter Severynen, discusses soil.

Soil – the Foundation

A tree needs good soil to grow well. Most of our city soils are far from ideal and that causes problems for our trees. In an undisturbed forest environment, you'd find a thick layer of dead and decomposing leaves, twigs and bark on the ground, then a layer of soil rich in organic material, in which most of the roots are located; the A-horizon. Next is an intermediate layer that contains fine textured organic materials that have drifted down from the A-layer, and soil particles eroded from the rocky parent material. This is the B-horizon; it contains some of the roots. A and B together are called topsoil, which can be from a few inches to several feet deep, and is continuously, but very slowly building up. Finally, there is the unchanged rocky material below, the mineral mother material, which is called the C-horizon, the top of which is slowly broken down. Most of the feeder roots are concentrated in the top 8-12 inches of soil. The topsoil is where all the root activity takes place. It, and the organic layer on top of the soil, are full of millions of microorganisms that break down organic matter, assisted by other helpful soil builders, such as earthworms. They improve the soil structure and aerate the soil. All soils need their help, regardless of the mother material. The ideal topsoil consists of only half solids (up to 10% of which is organic material), and half voids or pore spaces. You are reading correctly, only half of a really good soil is solid material. The larger pore spaces contain air, the smaller ones water. We define the mineral solid soil particles by size, and call them clay, silt or sand. Each one has different characteristics, e.g. clay particles are small, with tiny pores, are fertile, are difficult to wet, but cling to water once wet. The breakdown products of microorganisms, tie these mineral particles together into larger clumps, which collectively we call topsoil. Living feeder roots take their minerals, fertilizer and water from this topsoil. They do this partly directly, but they get a lot of their needs supplied by mycorrhizae. These are beneficial fungi that grow on and in the roots in a symbiotic relationship. Mycorrhizae break down the soil particles into elements digestible by the tiny feeder roots, and in return take only a small percentage of the food manufactured by the tree and available from the roots.

The more we replicate these ideal conditions when we plant a tree, the better the tree will grow. A layer of mulch, on top of the soil, helps keep the soil temperatures low, prevents soil from drying out, and provides food for the microorganisms. A uniform, good and loose growing medium around the root ball makes it easy for the roots to spread. But, in our urban areas, the topsoil has often been trucked away or buried, many different soil types may be located directly adjacent to each other, soils are often extremely compacted to 80 or 90% density, harmful debris lies buried, and the planting area may be very small.

To create healthier conditions we make wide, but shallow planting holes, no deeper than the container, and roughen the sides of the holes. We avoid sudden transitions from one soil type to another that hinder roots penetration and, in effect, make the planting hole an underground container without outlet. Knowing that the roots will go after air and water, we anticipate or direct where these will be in the future and then we give the roots room to grow. We may even do a soil test to know what nutrients to supply. And when years from now, we look at the beautiful healthy tree that we planted as a little sapling, we deserve congratulations on establishing the right foundation.

(Pieter Severynen can be reached at (phone) 310.838.6744 or (email) plseve@earthlink.net).

