



**WESTWOOD  
HIGHLANDS  
ASSOCIATION  
February 2008  
NEWSLETTER**

[www.westwoodhighlands.org](http://www.westwoodhighlands.org)

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

Westwood Highlands Association Meetings –  
March 18, May 20, July 15, September 16, November 18 7:30 p.m. at 120 Brentwood

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Westwood Highlands Homeowners Association Dinner  
Friday, May 2 at the Golden Mirror

Westwood Highland Homeowners Association Garage Sale  
Saturday and Sunday, September 13 and 14

**BE AWARE, BE ALERT**

We in Westwood Highlands are fortunate to live in one of the finest and safest neighborhoods in San Francisco. Unfortunately we have had a couple incidents recently, including an armed robbery and attempted home invasion on Brentwood, as well as a number of car break-ins. Please be aware of any strange happenings or suspicious characters.

The Board has established an email hotline so that we can quickly alert residents of any such incident in the future. As a resident of Westwood Highlands, you can sign up for this mailing list, which will have an extremely low volume, at <http://groups.google.com/group/westwoodhighlands>. When you request to join the list at this Web page, please state that you are a resident of Westwood Highlands. Or, you can send a note to our Webmaster, Jennifer Dees, at [jdees@peregrine.net](mailto:jdees@peregrine.net), and she will add you to the list.

Westwood Highlands Board members will use this Announcement-Only list to alert you only when there is an important situation in which we would like to contact all neighborhood residents as quickly as possible. Please sign up for the list as soon as possible, or if you have questions about it, contact Jennifer Dees.

You can also report cases of property damage online at [http://www.sfgov.org/site/police\\_index.asp?id=20212#online](http://www.sfgov.org/site/police_index.asp?id=20212#online). Also check out the article on graffiti for ways to report property damage.

## **February 2008 - Westwood Highlands Hits 84 and So Does Jimmy Carter**

Up until a few years there were actually a few West Highlands residents still here that purchased their houses 'new.' They'd love to tell you that they only paid 6 or 8 thousand dollars before they'd snicker when they asked what you paid. Of course they wouldn't bother to mention that in the 1920s a loaf of bread went for a nickel or ten cents tops, or that, no matter what, they could barely afford their homes anyway.

In the 1920s, freshly rebuilt from the ground up after the quake, San Francisco was a new city, all new buildings, new City Hall, no more horses on Market Street, and right out of central casting came everyone's favorite mayor, Sunny Jim Rolph. San Francisco was upbeat, the hub of the west coast, no war going on, and no depression (yet). San Francisco's population of roughly 575,000 was just slightly less than rival Los Angeles. 1924 also saw the concept of chain stores when Skagg's Stores and LA's Sam Seelig's chain would soon join to become Safeway. Whitney's Playland-At-the Beach was expanding and scores of movie theaters popped up all over town. The following year, the first of over 17,000 Doelger homes was built in the Sunset.

That's your history lesson for today. I had to look some of it up. I wasn't alive in 1924 although my mother's parents lived in a new house down on Urbano Drive at the time...

Anyway, the directors welcome all new residents to Westwood Highlands. All are invited to our bi-monthly general meetings; they're painless, actually interesting and include useful and important information not only about Westwood Highlands but also the surrounding areas and commercial districts in this part of town. Our next meeting is March 18<sup>th</sup>.

Dave Bisho  
President

## **Welcome New Neighbors**

Westwood Highlands Directors would like to welcome new neighbors to the Association and our Neighborhood. Anyone who moved to Westwood Highlands in 2007 and has not been contacted by Charles Leach, VP and Welcome Wagon Chairperson, please contact him at [crleach@sbcglobal.net](mailto:crleach@sbcglobal.net). so he can drop off an informative packet. This packet includes Westwood Highlands CC&R's, local information, local map, and store discount information.

**Neighborhood Markers** have all been taken down, powder-coated and put back. Next is to repaint the black poles that some of them sit on.

## **Helpful Links**

Westwood Highlands Association  
[www.westwoodhighlands.org](http://www.westwoodhighlands.org)  
West of Twin Peaks Central Council  
[www.westoftwinpeaks.org](http://www.westoftwinpeaks.org)  
San Francisco City Government Services  
[www.sfgov.org](http://www.sfgov.org)  
San Francisco News/Weather/Traffic/SF Chronicle, etc. [www.sfgate.com](http://www.sfgate.com)

**Westwood Highlands Semi-Annual Dinner**  
**Friday May 2, 2008 at**  
**The Golden Mirror Restaurant, 800**  
**Taraval St., San Francisco**

**No host cocktails @ 6:30PM**  
**Dinner @ 7:30PM**

**Join us for a fun evening and a chance to get to know your neighbors better.**

**Space is limited, so please RSVP as soon as possible (see attached flyer).**

**Tagging and graffiti, what to do. -- Blue Mudbhary**

As you may have noticed, our beautiful neighborhood has been "tagged" by graffiti vandals in the past few months. Many of these tags are used to promote and establish the presence of gangs, so it is imperative that we do not tolerate their presence and wait for someone else to address it. It is up to us to keep our neighborhood beautiful.

Although most of these tags have been removed by concerned residents, here is some information on what to do in the future.

(1) Call the city services hot line at 311. A dispatcher will take a report from you and file it with the Department of Public Works (DPW). Obviously, the more calls on file about a specific problem, the more likely it is that the city will remove the graffiti.

(2) Each block can band together to remove graffiti via paint and graffiti remover (a gel) as soon as possible. The longer the tags stay up, the more the vandals have succeeded in promoting themselves as well as sullyng the neighborhood. A digital photograph should be submitted to the Ingleside police department to record each tag to build a case when vandals are finally caught. I am planning to ask the residents of my block (Brentwood between Hazelwood and Mangels) if they wish to act together so we can remove graffiti as soon as it happens next time. I was able to purchase graffiti remover spray and wipes quite easily on the web; for mailboxes and walls, any paint close in color to cover the graffiti should suffice. The important thing is to get the tags off or painted over quickly.

(3) If interested, there is a volunteer group, Graffiti Watch, run through the DPW. Clearly, the thoroughfares near us, such as Monterey and Ocean Boulevards, could use all the graffiti abatement help they can get! There is information about joining this program on the DPW web site.

My husband (Bhushan) and I were so happy to move to this friendly and gorgeous neighborhood a year ago, and I am looking forward to working together with our like minded neighbors to keep Westwood Highlands a safe and happy place. -- Blue Mudbhary, Brentwood Avenue

**Westwood Highlands Fun Fact**

Westwood Highlands Association was originally to be over 500 homes (we have 283) but the depression hit and the developers stopped building mid-block on Hazelwood (a Westwood Highlands border sign marks the spot).

**San Francisco Fun Fact**

John White Geary was the last San Francisco Alcalde (town administrator) in 1849 before becoming the 1<sup>st</sup> San Francisco mayor in 1850. His parting gift to the City was the land that would later become Union Square. Then in 1856 he became governor of the Kansas territory.

## Blackwood Acacia Trees of Westwood Highlands

by Rick Williams

All across San Francisco one can find beautiful examples of full-grown, mature Blackwood Acacia trees gracing various neighborhoods, providing an attractive foreground to neighboring buildings, enhancing nearby property values, and quietly helping to combat climate change. Yet in our own Westwood Highlands neighborhood, these attractive trees are routinely butchered by well-meaning homeowners who pay to have their limbs hacked off, in the belief that Blackwood Acacias require this kind of extreme “pruning” to improve their appearance and maintain their long-term health.

This belief is completely mistaken. The kind of brutal pruning routinely imposed on Blackwood Acacias by some of our Westwood Highlands neighbors not only prevents these trees from ever attaining their full natural beauty and stature, but severely weakens them and renders their limbs far more susceptible to decay and breakage.

This unhealthy style of pruning Blackwood Acacias now seems to have become a local tradition in Westwood Highlands. And it has caused problems. The kind of brutal “hacking off” of limbs visible on trees in our neighborhood has permanently damaged the trees, actually shortening their life span. Once mature limbs are hacked off, the new branches that eventually grow back are weaker, and much more susceptible to decay and easy breakage in the wind. Trees “pruned” and hacked off in this manner are also unsightly—they simply don’t look natural or as beautiful as full-grown trees do.

The principal pruning of these trees must be done when they are very young—no more than three or four years old. Older trees need different kinds of pruning—much less invasive or dramatic. Properly cared for by a knowledgeable tree pruner every two years or so, the limbs of a Blackwood Acacia will not die and fall off prematurely. Instead, the tree will grow naturally into a beautiful specimen, with strong limbs and branches. Such a tree enhances the value of the property on which it grows.

Homeowners should be aware of an additional reason for properly pruning and caring for their trees. Under recent revisions of the Urban Forestry Ordinance in the San Francisco Municipal Public Works Code, “significant trees” located on private property are now given the same protection as public street trees, so that a permit is required before any such tree can be removed. Such “significant trees” are defined to include any trees, whether or not on private property, that are within 10 feet of a public right-of-way, and are **either** 20 feet or greater in height, 15 feet or greater in canopy width, **or** having 12 inches or greater diameter of trunk measured at 4.5 feet above grade. For more information, call 3-1-1 and ask for DPW’s Urban Forestry Division.

For good advice on proper pruning of Blackwood Acacias, contact Frank Fredericks of City Trees, tel. 415-626-8535. See also: Trees of San Francisco, by Mike Sullivan, published by Friends of the Urban Forest. [http://www.sfnpc.org/sullivan\\_mike](http://www.sfnpc.org/sullivan_mike)

Locations of well-established mature Blackwood Acacias in San Francisco:

1. Claremont Avenue @ Allston
2. Santa Monica between Santa Paula and Yerba Buena
3. Masonic between Frederick and Page
4. Masonic at Hayes and between Hayes and Geary

Note: This article was edited to fit on one page. The complete article and the full list of mature Blackwood Acacias can be found on the Westwood Highlands website: [www.westwoodhighlands.org](http://www.westwoodhighlands.org)

### Tree Report

Please be advised that HOA will keep planting trees for the residents free of charge. But based on the several years of experience of watching what grows and what doesn't in our neighborhood, WHA Board of Directors with a help of an arborist voted to narrow down the list of the trees that will be suggested.

These trees are:

- 1) Black Wood Acacia is still number one choice. Other than doing very well here, it has become a signature tree of Westwood Highlands and would be lovely if the residents keep planting these beautiful trees
- 2) Strawberry Tree
- 3) New Zealand Christmas Tree
- 4) New Zealand Tea Tree
- 5) Flaxleaf paperbark
- 6) Cajeput Tree

### **WHA Directors**

David Bisho, President  
Charlie Leach, Vice President  
Jane Vincent Corbett, Secretary  
Anya LeGault, Treasurer  
Vince Scardina, Parliamentarian  
Webmaster: Jennifer Dees  
Editor: Robert Wisotzkey

### **Treasurer's Report**

Bank Balance as of 12.31.2006		<b>19297.39</b>
Dues Received		7186.49
West of Twin Picks Dues	90	
West of Twin Central Council	100	
Deposit check books order	98.82	
Trees Removed and Planted	995	
Restoration of 5 Westwood Highland Signs	750	
Treasurer	1000	
Money transfer		729.12
Newsletter printing	276.68	
Envelopes & Stamps	443.78	
Sweet&Baker Insurance	2079	
Annual Neighborhood Block Party	738.10	
Annual Block Party Permit	150	
Annual Garage Sale Ads	23	
SF Assessor-Recorder	10	
Subtotal as of 12.31.2007	<b>6754.38</b>	<b>7915.61</b>
Bank Balance as of 12.31.2007		<b>20458.62</b>

If you would like to have something included in the newsletter, send it to Robert at [wisotz@myway.com](mailto:wisotz@myway.com), or bring it to the next board meeting. We welcome any information that impacts the neighborhood or general announcements you would like to share with your neighbors.