The Bells Are Ringing in Lafayette Square for WAHA Holiday Tour
by Mitzi March Mogul

Lafayette Square was the vision of George L. Crenshaw, although he spent ten years thinking about it before it came to fruition. Like many others, he saw westward expansion as the future of Los Angeles, and this area seemed ideally strategic—close enough to the downtown center, equally easy access to the ocean. Washington Boulevard was called the “great highway” between Los Angeles and Venice, which had opened in 1905.

Crenshaw’s concept for the Square was based on traditional European plans. In a 1913 promotional article in Out West Magazine, Charles Crenshaw described St. Charles Place as a “Spanish pasear,” a place where residents could stroll and meet socially. The original gateways were classical, “of the Parisian type”—moulded granite balustrades topped with electric light fixtures. The light fixtures, made of the same granite, were repeated along St. Charles Place. The inspiration of foreign cities, in particular those with a reputation for elegance and high style, was a deliberate one: “This elaborate plan of ornamenting the Pasear is a direct reproduction of the beautiful park effects that surround the magnificent Teatro Municipal at Rio de Janeiro, South America, and has created widespread admiration.”

West Adams Demolitions: One Down, One May Follow
by Jean Frost

As was reported previously in the WAHA Newsletter, on Thursday August 8, the USC-owned Van Cott House at 921 West 30th Street was demolished without permits. Located within the Hoover Redevelopment Project Area, the Hoover Project Area Committee had not reviewed the demolition, and no permits had been issued with the required CRA sign off.

In addition to the 30th street site, demolition is being proposed by USC for 3014 Royal Street, a block away. The development proposal is described as demolition of the historic residence to provide for 22 surface parking spaces. Chattel Architecture, USC’s consultant, found that the build...
**WEST ADAMS HERITAGE ASSOCIATION**
2263 S. Harvard Boulevard
Historic West Adams
Los Angeles, California 90018
323/735-WAHA
www.neighborhoodlink.com/la/westadams

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**Meeting Notice**

The quarterly meeting of WAHA’s Historic Preservation Committee is scheduled for Monday, October 14, at 7 p.m. at the offices of City Living Realty, 2316 1/2 Union Avenue, Suite 2. Contact Jean Frost, Eric Bronson or Colleen Davis for more information.

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**WAHA Committee Chairs and Standing Meetings**

**Community Relations** Contact Jennifer Charnofsky if you’d like to get involved with this activity 323/734-7391

**Historic Preservation** Chairs: Eric Bronson 323/737-1163, Jean Frost 213/748-1656 and Colleen Davis 323/733-0446

**Zoning & Planning** Chair: Jim Dugan 323/732-7233 - Meets third Mondays at City Living Realty, 2316 1/2 South Union

**Newsletter Publications** Director Anna Marie Brooks 323/735-3960. Newsletter Committee Chair: Laura Meyers 323/737-6146 Meets second Mondays

**Holiday Tour** Chair: Jacqueline Sharps 323/766-8842

**Membership** Chair: John Kurtz 323/732-2990 - Meets the Wednesday before the WAHA Board Meeting

**Fundraising** Call Catherine Barrier 323/732-7233

**Web Site** Call Clayton de Leon 323/734-0660

**By-Laws** Call Tom Florio 213/749-8469

**Programs and Events** SeEley Caldwell 323/291-7484 and Clayton de Leon 323/734-0660

The WAHA Board meets on the fourth Thursday of each month. Contact Jacqueline Sharps for location.

All committee meetings begin at 7 p.m. All WAHA members are encouraged to join one of the committees!
Cell Antennas on Historic Church?

We all know there are plenty of dead zones for cell phones in the West Adams area. Now, though, AT&T Wireless wants to rectify one of their’s by erecting three facade-mounted antennas at a height of 65 feet on a local landmark, the Westminster Presbyterian Church at 2230 West Jefferson Blvd. in Jefferson Park. Founded in 1904, this was the first Black Presbyterian congregation in Los Angeles.

The hearing before a Zoning Administrator (who will decide whether or not to issue the required conditional use permit) is scheduled for THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3 at 9 a.m. in City Hall Room 1020. You may send your written comments to: the Office of Zoning Administration, 7th Floor, 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012 (reference Case No. ZA 2002-3482 (CU)). For fax or e-mail submittal information, call 213-978-1318.

Unfortunately, AT&T Wireless bypassed Building & Safety, so the case file does not include information on the historic status of the property, nor has the project yet been submitted to the Cultural Heritage Commission for review. The environmental impact will be considered at this hearing.

What’s In A Name?

Now that the South Seas House renovations are well underway, nearby residents are turning their attention to the adjacent 2nd Avenue Park itself.

There are currently several proposals to rename the park. A petition was presented to rename the park in honor of a local community activist, Benny Potter. Another proposal is to simply rename it “West Adams Avenues” Park and dedicating individual trees with markers to people who have dedicated themselves to the neighborhood and larger community. In recent months there has been some degree of debate over these two choices. It is unclear how the renaming (if it is approved) will affect the historic name of the Joseph Dupuy/South Seas House.

A hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, October 16, before the Board of Commissioners of the Department of Recreation and Parks to consider the renaming of Second Avenue Park to the “Benny Potter -West Adams Avenues Memorial Park.” Location: City Hall East, 200 North Main, Rm 1325. Time: 9:30 a.m. At press time, a staff report was not yet available. To submit a letter stating your opinion, call the Commission office, 213/473-5888.

Haunted Halloween

The Venice Historical Society hosts a night-time tour of Woodlawn Cemetery on Sunday, October 27th, at dusk. Cost: $15. The ghosts of famous Venetians come alive to tell their tragic tales of death -- in the dark. Flashlights, and reservations, are mandatory. (310/676-0020)

Newcomers Dessert

WAHA hasn’t had an official “Newcomers” Dessert in a long while, so the Membership Committee decided to host one. All new members of WAHA and/or new residents of West Adams are cordially invited for dessert and a chance to meet other new neighbors. Of course, long-term residents of West Adams are also encouraged to attend. If you would like to, bring a dessert or a new member and join us!

WHAT: Newcomers Dessert
WHEN: Wednesday, October 23, 7:30 - 9 p.m.
WHERE: 2273 W. 20th Street (Don Lynch’s home) between Western and Arlington
For more information, call John Kurtz, Membership Chair, 323/732-2990.

Heritage Events to Enjoy

Pasadena Heritage presents its annual Craftsman Weekend on October 18-20. The event is the largest and most comprehensive celebration of the Arts and Crafts Movement in the Western U.S.

Indulge in a Greene & Greene walking tour or bus tour, a Pasadena and/or Altadena bus tour; lectures; private receptions at the Historic Ruth House and the Simpson House; dinner at the Raymond; plein air painting; furniture, and decorative arts exhibitions and sales and much more. Call for a registration brochure: 626-441-6333 or log on: www.pasadenaheritage.org.

USC Thornton Plays the Orpheum: Built in 1926 and serving originally as both a movie house and performance hall, the newly restored Orpheum Theatre will host performances by the USC Thornton Symphony and Thornton Wind Ensemble this fall. On October 18, Sergiu Comissiona conducts Rimsky-Korsakov’s “Scheherazade.” On November 15, John Barnett performs music from Strauss’ “Der Rosenkavalier” and Wagner’s “Lohengrin.” And on November 17, the Thornton Wind Ensemble performs Mozart, among other pieces. All concerts are at 8 p.m. and cost $15 general public, $12 for students, alum and seniors. Located in Downtown, 842 S. Broadway. Reservations: 213/740-4672.

All Aboard!

The Brentwood Historical Society & Electric Railway Historical Association of Southern California have planned a trip down Red Car Lane on Saturday, October 12, from 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

With the expertise of the Electric Railway Historical Association, a trip back to the days when the Red Car went everywhere in Southern California will happen once again. Bring your camera and tennis shoes!

There are two different guided bus tours offered lasting about three hours each. You can take either one tour or both tours. All tours start and end at the Camera Obscura (site of the Pacific Electric Santa Monica Depot), 1450 Ocean Ave., Santa Monica. Cost $30 each or $50 for both.

Reservations are required by Monday, October 7. Contact Barbara Smith, Brentwood Historical Society, 310/820-5070 (a flyer with details is enclosed). For more information about the rail lines, visit the ERHA website at http://www.erha.org
Hello and welcome to “Bolts and Nutz” – a column dedicated to matters of home renovation, beautification and the art of restoration within the WAHA community. If you have a question, or you have an area of expertise and would be interested in sharing your knowledge by answering the questions, please contact me at Linda_Toshua@hotmail.com

Q. So tell me.... Is there an easy way to remove wallpaper from plaster?
Mark, Los Angeles

A. Easy huh? Well, let’s give this a shot. If you want to keep it simple, hot water may be enough. The best thing to do is to keep it really hot on the stove and apply it with a roller. Before you start, scrape a test area, then go to work, but make sure that the hot water doesn’t get onto any other surface except the walls. There are also commercial wallpaper removers available, which are simply added to warm water. If you have several rooms to strip, then you may want to rent a steamer. A word of warning - if the paper is vinyl coated or painted, the above methods will not work because the vinyl or paint prevents the penetration of the steam or water or additive to allow the stripper to soften the paste. If this is the case you will have to score the paper by drawing a hand saw’s toothy edge down the wall horizontally, making many score marks in a row, and peeling the paper off.

Q. I spilt candle wax all over my living room carpet (don’t ask). How in the world do I get it out? L.R., 7th Avenue

A. Let me tell you that I have had more than my fair share of spilt wax! Here is a nice easy solution. Firstly, heat your iron up and have a few sheets of clean brown paper on hand. Place the paper on the spot with the stain and place a few sheets around the stain too in order to prevent you from burning the surrounding carpet. All you have to do is iron the sheets of paper.

As you iron the sheets of newspaper, you should start to notice that the wax is absorbing into the sheets of paper. This will look like little spots of water or grease. Once you’ve seen these little spots of grease, you know the wax is coming out of your carpet.

Q. Someone told me that paint thinner is reusable.
Lilah, Jefferson Park

A. Paint thinner can indeed be recycled. It never loses its strength; it just fills up with pigment from cleaning brushes. Let the can of dirty paint thinner set a while so the pigments settle to the bottom, leaving a nearly clear (and still very potent) thinner. Carefully pour this off into another can and reuse it. The pigments can be disposed of at a hazardous waste collection. Go to http://dpw.co.la.ca.us/epd/hbw/schedule.cfm for more details on scheduled household hazardous waste collection events.

Resources

We are please to tell you that the newsletter has a new Resources Columnist, Dorrie Popovich. She will introduce her new column next month, and we just can’t wait! Dorrie is an expert at ferreting out great crafts people, artisans and supply sources.

If you have any resource leads for her, please contact her via e-mail (BEST) at popovich22@aol.com, or fax 323/732-8027.

In the meantime, regular Resources contributor Diana Weihs offers this new resources to us:

“We had a water leak at the DWP turn off at the curb. Water company arrived and checked it out and reported it was on our side, not theirs. He told Michael how to repair it, gave him some tubing and went off into the sunset. Michael made the repair and we went off to Israel to see our new granddaughter, daughter and son-in-law. We arrived home to a small lake.

“Rather then build a moat, we called three different plumbers to investigate. All three had been recommended by people in the neighborhood. The first two, with barely a look, announced it was the main at a cost of $1,100 and $1,600. The third arrived and smelled the water, watched its flow and then dug to see where the problem originated...after about fifteen minutes, he discovered the leak. $50 later, the situation was remedied.

“We were so impressed, we spoke about our lack of hot water pressure in the shower and tub. He bid on repiping all the hot water - $1,400. Since we were prepared to spend the money on the main, we went ahead with the project. He only charged us $1,000...it turns out he needed fewer supplies and less time than originally anticipated. When was the last time someone charged you less than the original bid? He is professional, on time, honest and cleans up after himself. He loves what he does and takes pride in a job well done.

“And to top it all, he is sweet.”

PLUMBER:
Brian A. Kaiser
2629 Glendale Blvd. L.A., CA 90039
213/706-1743 Fax: 323/644-0073
Greetings, my fellow West Adams gardeners! I would like to take the time to introduce myself and my new column for the West Adams Heritage Association’s monthly newsletter. I have been a member of this wonderful Historic West Adams community now for 3+ years. Originally, I am from Southeastern Connecticut in New England, a great repository of garden enthusiasts. I come from a long line of garden fanatics — and I mean that in a gland, a great repository of garden enthusiasm. I have been a member of this wonderful West Adams Community Garden Association’s monthly newsletter. I have been a member of this wonderful West Adams Community Garden Association’s monthly newsletter.

One way, for we Rowes are a breed of garden nuts with not only green thumbs and fingers but green toes as well. Now, I am not totally sure if that’s because we mow the lawn in our barefeet (I in no way recommend this) or because we actually know what we are doing.

I must give credit to my paternal grandmother, Bryde O’Connor Rowe, for my appreciation of all things in the garden. Gram, who I believe had the most beautiful gardens in Southeastern Connecticut, was the best gardener that I have ever known. Her rock gardens inspired poems. Oh, if only you could have seen the bountiful paradise that she created. My dad, David Rowe, inherited her love of all things in the garden, as well as a crazed passion to preserve nature. This is a man who would wander the Connecticut woods seeking sick American chestnut trees, whereby he would concoct a mud patch to apply to the diseased part of the infected tree. A remedy cure that he acquired from an East Coast arborist. Believe it or not, it really worked.

Nuts! Yes, we are, one and all. And proud of it.

Now, getting back to my column. I would like to inspire the desire in all of you, my West Adams friends, to immerse yourselves in one of the most wonderful joys that I believe can and will make our beautiful Historic West Adams District a paradise in Los Angeles. I would like this column to discuss all things of the garden as well as to answer any questions that you might have.

A Garden Disaster
by Jennifer Charnofsky

Something bad happened to my vegetable garden this summer. As you may know, I take pride in my garden being organic. I make lots of compost, which over the years has turned our hard clay soil into rich loam. But since I have no lawn I use my neighbor, Mr. G’s, grass clippings to help make the compost. In the summer I spread some of the grass out to dry and then use it as a mulch on the vegetables, which saves lots of water and work.

This summer started out as usual. The cucumbers, squash, beans, tomatoes, sweet peppers, sweet basil, and eggplant were growing beautifully and starting to bear heavily. Suddenly most of them began to die. After several weeks I realized that I had a serious problem. I was reading articles in the Los Angeles Times (written by West Adams’s own Emily Green) about an herbicide that is widely used in lawn products and which doesn’t break down for years, clopyralid. It’s also not affected by the composting process. City made compost in Washington state, Oregon, and California was killing people’s gardens when they used it. I contacted Emily and she sent me to a website post by Washington State University.

After learning about clopyralid, asked Mr. G what he had been using on his lawn. It turns out he had used Bandini Weed and Feed one time only. We looked up that product on the web and found that it contains, not clopyralid but three other herbicides: 2,4D, dicamba, and MCPP (mecoprop). We researched those, both on the web and in a book called “Toxics”, and found that they are fairly short-lived herbicides and will eventually be broken down by lots of organic matter and water. But did you know that 2,4D is one of the two ingredients of Agent Orange?!

Those people at Bandini, as far as I’m concerned, should be taken out and executed!!! So what happened is that I spread the affected grass out to dry and then I spread it as a mulch on the vegetables. Most of them are dead, and the few that survived (peppers and eggplant) are producing poorly.

I bought Mr. G. an organic product put out by Gardens Alive called “Wow Plus,” which is an organic version of weed and feed made from corn. He’s used it already, and he promised never to use the Bandini product again. We’re eating few garden vegetables this summer. I’ve really tried to take this in stride and not let it make me crazy, tried to think how it could have been much worse. With clopyralid we might have had to discard all the topsoil and compost!!! I’ve pretty much succeeded in keeping my cool. But to have Agent Orange (almost) in my organic garden! And all my beautiful heirloom Cherokee Purple tomatoes......

Continued on Page 7

In the Garden: A WAHA Tour

West Adams Heritage Association will be participating in next year’s Open Days Program sponsored by the national Garden Conservancy. The Garden Conservancy’s Open Days program invites the public to visit America’s very best private gardens. Since it began in 1995 with 110 gardens in New York and Connecticut, it has grown to more than 450 gardens across the country.

We are opening a half dozen gardens here in West Adams during the Los Angeles Open Day on Sunday, April 27, 2003. This is WAHA’s chance to put another “best foot forward” for Historic West Adams to the rest of the L.A. world. BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW! If you are knowledgeable about gardening and can devote some time this fall as well as on April 27, please volunteer to be a Garden Captain paired with a home/garden owner.

For more info, or to volunteer, contact Jennifer Charnofsky (323/734-7391) or Ed Trosper (323/734-2010).
Demolitions in West Adams
Continued from Page 1

ing was not historic, in contradiction to the survey assessment by the CRA consultants. In their official survey, Johnson/Heumann Research Associates described 3014 Royal Street as a two story American Foursquare residence and an intact example of craftsman style in a multi-unit building (which) contributes to intact streetscape.

Since the last reporting the following has occurred.
A meeting was held on Tuesday, August 20, of an Environmental Task Force convened by CRA staff, and attended by USC, City Planning, WAHA, NUPCA, ADHOC and the CD 8 council office. But, to date the issues have not been resolved. (Charles Rausc and Linda J. Smith from City Planning, Jennifer Barrera, Oscar Juaregui, Sanders Ishisaka, and Ono Ujor, from CRA, Jim Childs from ADHOC, Laura Meyers from NUPCA, Allen Ono and Jon Soffa from USC, Jane Frost from WAHA, and David Roberts from CD 8 attended the Environmental Task Force meeting at CRA.) The meeting demonstrated the severity, importance and complexity of the issues raised by the recent demolitions. The preservation organizations present reiterated their desire to resolve the instant issues in a positive and cooperative manner; the meeting served to elucidate some issues and clarify the options present for the all parties present.

As the Environmental Task Force was meeting, comments on the circulating MND and recent demolition were pouring in to CRA from diverse stakeholders. Following is a sampling of the comments that have been provided by organizations:

NUPCA (North University Park Community Association - NUPCA has a seat on the on the Hoover Project Area Committee and is represented by Laura Meyers):

NUPCA and its members have been working hard to document and save the historic fabric in the neighborhood surrounding and including USC for more than 30 years. To USC's credit, it, too, has been a force for historic preservation for many of those years, and has done a creditable job preserving, for example, both the Forthmann House and the Cockins House, two individual landmarks. ...And that is why, first and foremost, we have been dismayed by a series of demolitions of lots, for use by the university's faculty, staff and students.

WAHA:
With USC's supportive funding of homeowner purchases by staff, and with preservation alternatives clearly present (there have been preservation buyers for the site) parking cannot be justified....At the heart of the matter, is an MND that is legally insufficient to meet the requirements of CEQA in protection of our environment. The failure to recognize impacts, significant and cumulative, and failure to recognize the importance of the resource leads to a flawed environmental document where impacts are not mitigated, alternatives are not explored, and the community loses yet another part of its very important history. We ask that CRA immediately rescind the MND. We look forward to working with the developer to devise a preservation alternative to its present plans.

West Adams Normandie HPOZ:
The current actions of USC and/or its agent are in complete disregard of City regulatory procedures, the historic nature of the community and the community as a whole. In order to retain the confidence of the community it is imperative they reveal their long term plans by producing a master plan thereby avoiding further adverse situation detrimental to the community.

North University Park Design Review Board, (Art Curtis):
My own experience as a former President of NUPCA, a board member of West Adams Heritage Association and as a PAC member for 7 years with the CRA, is that USC properties are poorly maintained by USC and then when they decide to use that location for a parking lot or whatever misguided planning idea they conceive, they announce that the property is in such poor condition that the only thing they can do is to demolish it.

University Park HPOZ:
There is now an apparent pattern of demolition that USC has embarked on in University Park. This pattern of incremental demolition of historic housing stock for surface student-parking lots must be dealt with under the provisions of CEQA. The off campus USC student-parking demands are a "project" and the impacts of such a project should be reviewed in an EIR for a Master Plan.

Los Angeles Conservancy:
A single demolition (or in this case two sequential demolitions in close proximity) while appearing insignificant at first, can have an enormous cumulative effect on the aesthetic character of an area. Eventually the few forlorn historic buildings that remain are out of context with the surrounding built environment.

City of Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission:
Could the house be adapted for your (USC's) use rather than be demolished....The University of Southern California is located in an area that includes homes that represent an era of fine historic architecture. We earnestly recommend that you continue to support historic and cultural resources of the City of Los Angeles by maintaining our historic structures.
These excerpts are representative comments, which are a portion of the comments received by CRA. The CRA is in the process of evaluating all the comments that have been made and determining what course of action is appropriate: adopting the MND or requiring an EIR. Deputy Director Edward O. Saulet and Project Manager Oscar Juaregui have given their assurance that the issues are very serious and the comments received will be carefully considered.

It should also be noted that the August 22nd Board of Directors meeting, the WAHA Board by unanimous vote recommended that:

* a replacement historic property be moved onto the illegally demolished 921 W. 30th Street site;
* the developer, USC, pursue a preservation alternative for 3014 Royal Street;
* CRA not adopt an MND for the demolition of the historic 3014 Royal Street property;
* the Hoover CRA historic survey be updated.

In addition to the Board motion, community members have also asked that the series of small demolitions to make scattered site surface parking be instead considered as a single project under CEQA, that is, expansion of parking capacity for the University (students, faculty and staff); that USC be required to prepare a full fledged master plan (covering not just its parking needs but expansion plans beyond parking) and that an EIR be prepared for such expansion.

The USC actions to demolish are all the more mystifying when the newly elected Chairman of the USC Board of Trustees, Stanley P. Gold, was quoted in the August 30 issue of the Daily Trojan, in the article “Board Entering Golden Era,” as stating “The University isn’t anti neighborhood. The University is pro neighborhood. We don’t end up taking over peoples’ residences.” Further, there is a win/win opportunity to make 3014 Royal Street the subject of a class in the Preservation Masters program; it is my understanding that there is a willingness by at least one teacher to use the 3014 Royal House as a study for the preservation class. Preservation 550 is a class that studies the economics of Preservation and commenced August 29, 2002 and could adopt this as a project. It is my understanding that WAHA and other preservation and community organizations hope to work with USC and its departments and schools, for mutual benefit and cooperation and are available to meet and resolve these issues in a constructive manner, to develop planning which allows for long-range growth and development while protecting our historic streetscapes and the unique sense of place that our architecture, history, and people provide.

For this column, since it is October, I would to start by noting that this is the perfect time in Southern California to plant many of the perennials, bulbs, shrubs and trees that will help make your garden a star. Unlike the earth of my Connecticut forbears, the soil here stays warm all winter, allowing autumn-planted plants to deeply root and thrive the following spring. But for today, I’d like to discuss lawns. October is also the perfect month to put in a new lawn or to overseed an existing lawn. Since the temperature has started to cool, now is the best time for grass seed to germinate. Temperatures higher than 75 degrees prevent grass seed from germinating properly.

If you are planning to overseed an existing lawn, I recommend you first mow what is already there using the lowest setting on your mower. Then the lawn should be aerated, either by using a machine that you can rent at your local garden center, or by using a pitchfork to poke holes all over the lawn. Be careful. Watch those toes! The reason we aerate is so that the roots get oxygen, fertilizer and moisture.

A healthy root system means a healthy lawn.

After all the prep work is done, find the desired seed mixture. I recommend either a sun and shade combination, or a perennial rye mixture. Both will give your lawn a lush and healthy carpet of green all through the fall, winter and spring. Spread the seed evenly over the lawn using a seed and fertilizer spreader – or, if you have a steady hand and do not want to spend your money on a mechanical spreader, use your hands and do an even job. After the seed has been spread, I recommend that you buy enough steer manure to cover all the seed. This not only will fertilize the lawn but will cover the seed from marauding pigeons.

The next step is to water the lawn every day if it is not raining. This will allow more seed to germinate.

I hope you all have great success with this process. It has worked for me every time. Remember, we can all create paradise in our own gardens. Just think green!

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Budlong, Juliet and Catalina Neighborhood Assn. (BJCNA)

Hello - My name is Yvette Jones and I am the President of a newly formed block watch association named "Budlong, Juliet and Catalina Neighborhood Association (BJCNA). We held our first meeting this past Saturday, August 24th, and second meeting on Saturday, September 21. Our current coverage area will be North of Adams to the 10 freeway, east of Normandie and west of Vermont. At our 1st meeting we had approximately 22 residents in attendance, along with our special invited guest from the LAPD, LAUSD Police and LAFD. They did a great job disseminating information. We anticipate many more to come on board as the word gets out about the new group. The topics of discussion were issues regarding lighting, street signs, gangs, drugs, graffiti and garbage pick up. After standing committee reports we agreed to hold our annual Garage Sale on Saturday, October 19 at 1656-60 W. 25th St. from 9 AM to 2 PM. It did complain during the 1994 earthquake, but settled down shortly thereafter with a few groans and minor wrinkles. Our very serene house did not at all care for the riots of 1992 that left ashes and cinders from burning shopping centers on her roof, but the gallant picket fence held firm and no damage occurred to us during those several days.

A Thought for Food by Alan Schoening

JUST DESSERTS, i.e. YOU'LL GET YOURS

Sitting here among the packing crates, wrapping paper and wide tape, it has dawned on me that Judie and I are actually leaving Historic West Adams after 14 tumultuous and at times joyous years.

Our house, dear house, has been completely, very much, and sort of restored, even if not up to par with the conservative traditionalists who also inhabit our neighborhood. We truly enjoy white painted wood surfaces and 100 watt light bulbs. You see, we tend to read a lot. And even if the exterior paint is a little jazzy for an old Craftsman, we like it.

I built a deck covering the backyard, while an ancient Magnolia grew extra branches, covering the deck with welcoming shade for the many parties and barbecues that we have enjoyed there. Our house, poor house, has also had to endure many raucous parties, dinners and soirees with nary a complaint. It did complain during the 1994 earthquake, but settled down shortly thereafter with a few groans and minor wrinkles. Our very serene house did not at all care for the riots of 1992 that left ashes and cinders from burning.

ADAMS-NORMANDIE Neighborhood Assn. (ANNA)

ANNA is back in the swing of monthly meetings having enjoyed the lighter summer schedule of bowling night and crime fighting night instead of our meetings. We're gearing up for the last quarter of the year which is filled with activities.

Many thanks to the USC Good Neighbor Campaign who have donated tickets to ANNA to attend the USC VS Oregon State football game. We will meet prior to the game to enjoy a light supper with our neighboring block clubs, Van Buren Place and BJC Block Club.

Due to redistricting as of July 1 ANNA is now in Council District 1 represented by Councilman Ed Reyes. We look forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship with the councilman and his Field Deputy Angie de la Trinidad 213/485-7063.
United Neighborhoods Neighborhood Council - Election Notice

The United Neighborhoods of Historic Jefferson Park, West Adams and Arlington Heights Neighborhood Council has scheduled its election for its Governing Board for Saturday, October 12, 8:30 a.m. - 8 p.m. at the Washington Irving Library, 4114 W. Washington Blvd. A Candidates Networking Forum is scheduled for Monday, October 7 at 6:30 p.m. at the library.

West Adams Heritage has selected Don Lynch as a candidate to run on behalf of the organization. The Council meets monthly at the Washington Irving Library, on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

All WAHA members are "stakeholders" because of their involvement in an organization (WAHA) that is active within the geographic boundaries of this council, roughly the areas between Normandie and Crenshaw north of the 10 Freeway to Pico, and from Western to Crenshaw south of the 10 Freeway to Exposition Place. Stakeholders vote in the "at large" non-resident stakeholder section of the ballot, where business owners and representatives of stakeholder organizations and interests may run for office. If you live within those boundaries, you'll also be able to vote for regional reps. Do bring your WAHA membership card with you if you intend to vote as a non-resident stakeholder.

WAHA member Stevie Stern (323/737-7225) is currently secretary of the Neighborhood Council. Contact her for more info, or just come to the candidates meeting on October 7.

North Area Neighborhood Development Council

Elections for this soon-to-be-renamed Neighborhood Council have tentatively been slated for December 7, with a Candidate's Forum set for November 21. In the meantime, the North Area Neighborhood Development Council is meeting twice a month. The regular monthly meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at the Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic, Weingart Room, at 3787 South Vermont (at Exposition). The meetings being promptly at 6:30 p.m.

On the third Thursday of each month, the Council is currently also meeting to establish the rules and procedures necessary to elect a governing board (the rules are altered now that this Council has been certified as a Neighborhood Council by the City). The agenda for these meetings is limited to establishing the procedures, plus a discussion on the renaming of the Neighborhood Council itself. The meetings are also held at the Child Guidance Clinic at 6:30 p.m.

This Neighborhood Council is open to all WAHA stakeholders, and generally covers the eastern portion of the Historic West Adams District, roughly from Figueroa to Western, south of the 10 Freeway. For more information, contact Adrianna Mendez at 213/485-7616.
The Mid-City PAC is monitoring the status of the following projects:

**MID-TOWN PLAZA (FORMERLY PICO PLAZA)**
- At the triangle of Pico, San Vicente and Venice a HOME DEPOT AND COSCO will be the anchor tenants of a new development. Money is still not all in place. They have only one letter of intent from one of the anchor tenants and are waiting for the other. Design elements are still being revised. The neighbors’ input provided adjustments to the project plan which include: multiple entrances/access and a truck only exit to control traffic and a setback along Pico for landscaping with a pedestrian entrance. The Bus Depot will be incorporated into retail space with a personal storage facility on top. The PAC has repeatedly requested the property owner to maintain the property and provide security and clean up until the demolition of the old Sears/Builders Discount store is started.

**ADAMS/LA BREA** - Federal Express and Kmart, the original potential tenants for the site, have withdrawn. A large contingent of neighbors have attended the PAC meetings twice to protest this project and obtain information. At August’s meeting Agency staff, representatives from the developer, Ralph’s Food Store (Food 4-Less) and Pacific Relocation, the Mayor’s Office of Economic Development, Council District #10 and the community at large discussed the plans. Now the plan is for a Food-4-Less and Fry’s Electronics as the major tenants with emphasis on hiring from the community for the additional jobs created. Concern about the destruction of the existing homes was expressed and the potential for adding a housing component to the project was mentioned. Concerns that Food-4-Less is not the ideal tenant, how to improve the quality of life for the people who are living there and would be relocated (74 families), how relocation plans are viewed since affordable housing in Los Angeles is at a low ebb, existing housing living conditions and other issues were raised. The PAC recommended in a motion carried by a majority vote to extend the 90-day Exclusive Right to Negotiate and in exchange for this support the PAC requested of the developer: two community meetings within the 90-day period, meet with a PAC committee every 3-4 weeks, complete a Community Impact Report in addition to the Environmental Impact Report, and provide supporting documentation as needed.

The first community meeting was scheduled for Thursday, October 3rd at 6:30 pm. St Agatha Catholic Church, 2646 S. Mansfield Ave (corner of W. Adams and S. Mansfield Ave), child care, snacks and Spanish translation provided.

**WASHINGTON BLVD PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS** and **WASHINGTON BLVD PERFORMING ART CENTER** - Washington between La Brea and West Blvd is a Targeted Neighborhood Initiative area and ongoing projects are progressing. The streetlights have been installed. Trees have been planted. Ten of the Commercial Façade Program grants are out of plan check. The construction of the theatre is on target for completion in March 2003. 110 parking places on three lots have been targeted. One lot (Oasis) has been purchased and the other (Tiger Club) will be taken by eminent domain. The buildings were determined to not be historic structures. The 3rd lot is being use for construction setup until the building is complete. The lots will be surface public lots and run by the City for use by all the businesses in the neighborhood as well as the theatre.

**COLISEUM CENTER ON CRENSHAW** - (Bowling Alley) The comment period for the approved draft EIR is up 10/19/2002. A Starbucks (in the Café site, retaining the historic façade and most of the cafe), a Denny’s (in the south part), and Walgreens (east of café and in the bowling alley site) are slated. Other tenants are being sought. Demolition is set for late November 2002.

**ELECTIONS** - Business or property owners or residents who live directly on the major commercial corridors in WAHA and surrounding areas are needed to fill PAC positions. Many are still vacant after the election. Do you know any business owners/neighbors who might be interested? Let me know 323-733-3515. 4th Tues of the month meetings from 6pm-7:30pm.

The Community Redevelopment Agency has assigned Kiara Harris as Public Director of Information 213/977-1951 if you wish more details.
The first impact is obvious, the loss of historic homes and businesses. USC issued a Stop-Work-Order on August 10th. It was then when the demolition of the Van Cott Residence began (despite a protest). This was immediately confronting a different movement of preservationists. The loss of historic neighborhoods has been largely unnoticed and unchallenged until the 8/10 demolition of the Van Cott Residence.

In response to the proposed Royal Street demolition, I made a quick photographic research study of that neighborhood. It was then that the impacts of Student-fication, which I now know run deep into the core of my neighborhood, began to become clear. I finally began to see the forest and not just the trees.

The University Park neighborhoods of West Adams have been inextricably linked to the University of Southern California since the 1880's. It has been a marriage of convenience that has been fluid and always in negotiation. The community needs the economic engine of USC, which is the largest private employer in the City, to provide residents and investors with economic opportunity. USC needs a community that is economically healthy and socially stable in order to compete in the collegiate marketplace. Both the community and USC unequivocally acknowledge that bad things in the community or bad things in the University can have bad impacts for everyone.

Bad things have happened. The community rioted in frustration in 1965 and 1994. Riots are not good for student recruiting. USC was on a large-scale demolition binge during the 1960's, 70's and 80's, wrecking incalculable damage to our historic core and building "fortress-SC" stucco boxes. Bad planning through demolition is not conducive to establishing a healthy community. Bad things however seemed to be in the past after the appointment of Steven Sample to the Presidency of USC. He charged the University to outreach to the neighboring community and the community responded, an era of glasnost was at hand, or so it has seemed.

The illegal, un-permitted, demolition of the historic Van Cott Residence was a wake-up call for the University Park community. USC had been quietly and incrementally demolishing historic structures to provide parking lots around their fraternity-row enclave for years. It had gone largely unnoticed and unchallenged until the 8/10 demolition of the Van Cott Residence. In response to the proposed Royal Street demolition I made a quick photographic research study of that neighborhood and found 15 sites where historic buildings had been demolished to provide ancillary student parking.

These demolitions have a frightening double impact. Where when the context is lost the whole street will be lost to demolition. The second impact is more nefarious for when the housing units are demolished for parking the student-tenants must move elsewhere. In University Park this movement has been north of Adams. This migration north is the Student-fication that causes my concern.

For decades Adams Boulevard had been the silent, unofficial, recognized boundary between the USC student turf on the south and the residential working class community to the north. Early University Park urban-pioneers of the 70's and 80's helped stabilize the struggling north-neighborhood, restoring homes, painting-out graffiti and challenging gang control. As the neighborhood became cleaner and safer more residents moved in; they were, however, mostly eclectic students, seniors and graduate students, from the schools of cinema, theater, and music, who listened to a different drummer. They sought out alternative student housing opportunities and melded in with the community population.

Things change though, and the current supply and demand market driven economics has significantly altered demographics. Student rentals are now at an all-time high premium. For example, the price for a new two-bedroom unit on Adams and Orchard is $2,400 a month. The opportunity for rich profits from student rentals is something few would resist; the result has been the recent wholesale evictions of tenant working class families in buildings and their replacement with affluent students. This sudden dynamic shift, caused by the Student-fication process, is stressing the social infrastructure of the community to the point of rupture. Both large corporations and small absentee investors as well as some local entrepreneurs are seizing this moment to acquire as much property as possible. Many of these investors are USC alumni who understand the golden opportunity of student-tenant income-rentals.

It is true that some of the historic housing stock is being revitalized and restored to facilitate the immediate profitability from the student-rental market. However those single-family homes that are now being turned into transient student tenements will be lost as potential owner-occupied homes for years to come.

There is some irony in that the once possible gentrification of University Park has now been usurped by the Student-fication of University Park. Whatever one's philosophical views might be on the complex issues of gentrification the undeniable fact is that homeowners can change a neighborhood by empowering their community, politically, socially and economically. Conversely transient student-tenants are simply not vested in the community.
Historic Preservation Overlay Zones (HPOZs):
Five in West Adams with Six More in the Works

Currently there are five HPOZ’s (Historic Preservation Overlay Zones) in West Adams: University Park, West Adams Normandie, Harvard Heights, and Lafayette Square. HPOZ’s are city designated historic areas that have special design controls over exterior alterations to prevent inappropriate demolitions, alterations and additions.

As reported in the Los Angeles Conservancy News, according to numerous studies nationwide, homes and structures within historic districts experience greater property value increases than do similar properties not protected by a historic district designation. But the real impact is far more than economic: the quality of life, the character and ambience that drew one to a neighborhood, will be conserved for generations to come. As Chief Deputy to Councilman Mark Ridley-Thomas, Dora Leong Gallo was quoted in the April 16, 2000 L.A. Times, “I think people started looking around and saying Where’s the history?”

In various stages of HPOZ designation are:
* Pico Union: survey nearly completed;
* West Adams Terrace: survey completed and meetings have been held;
* Wellington Square/Upper Avenues: motion initiated by Council;
* East Jefferson Park Bungalows: motion initiated by Council;
* Victoria Park: motion initiated by Council.

Historic Resources Group has completed or nearly completed the surveys for Pico Union and the West Adams Terrace. For the other areas’ (while motions have been initiated in City Council) the surveys have not yet commenced.

The HPOZ Ordinance was adopted by the City Council in 1979. Angelino Heights was the first HPOZ to be designated in 1983. Since then fourteen other neighborhoods have been deemed worthy of designation for a totals of fifteen to date.

-Jean Frost

The Bells Are Ringing in Lafayette Square
Continued from page 1

Development of the site began in the summer of 1912. The improvements totaled $15, 000. In addition to paved streets, the gateways and balustrades, street lights, and the parks of St. Charles Place, the Crenshaw Security Company built a sample house “as a material demonstration of the high-class character of La Fayette Square.”

The 1920’s was a decade of incredible growth and development in Los Angeles. As the city moved inexorably west, Lafayette Square’s strategic location proved even more attractive than it had when first opened. Keeping pace with the international appeal, homes were built in a myriad of styles: Italianate, Spanish Colonial, Mediterranean, English Tudor, and Neo-Classical dominated the Square. The 1930’s brought renewed Nationalism which was reflected in architecture. American Federal, Cape Cod, and the new international language of Modernism flourished. The architecture of Lafayette Square is a microcosm of American social history from the turn-of-the-19th century.

Although Lafayette Square is dominated by various Period Revival styles, there are a few Craftsman and Prairie examples, evidence of evolving tastes even before the Great War. What is consistent is the quality of the homes and the commitment to maintaining the graceful ambiance of the enclave. Deep set-backs and a uniform street-tree pattern contribute to the dignity and elegance of the area.

Once Lafayette Square was laid out and “open for business,” it attracted a variety of entrepreneurs and established citizens, whose names are both obscure and noted. Some sought new business investments, others merely a quality neighborhood or the prestige of the new.

Over the years, the list of famous residents reads like “Who’s Who,” and indeed many were included in that publication. Joseph Nadeau, Exupere Sentous, David Hamberger, Orlando and Henry Boos, George Peppardine, Alan Hancock, Jr., Fatty Arbuckle, Alexander Pantages, Joe Louis, Norton Simon, Paul R. Williams and of course George and Charles Crenshaw, are a few of the many prominent people who lived here.

The majority of residents, however, though financially well-situated, were not famous. They were not written up in either business or social periodicals of the day and they certainly never did anything which qualified them for history books. They merely had the good luck or taste or financial resources to elect to live here.

Crenshaw, along with his son, Charles, was instrumental in developing Los Angeles, but theirs were not the first homes built in the Square. During the first few years of development Charles lived on Crenshaw Boulevard, finally relocating to Buckingham Road in 1915. George continued to reside on Wilton Place until 1925. When he did build for himself it was a fairly modest house. That same year Charles left the Square for Santa Monica, no doubt with new investment plans.

As an enthusiastic booster of Los Angeles, George saw this residential park as a contribution to the city as much as a personal investment—in his words, “something of real merit and permanent beauty.” In 1913, Charles Crenshaw called it “A veritable ‘Royal Domain,’ exclusively restricted for beautiful homes.” It remains a testament to their vision and confidence.
Holiday Tour Volunteers Needed!

WAHA's annual Holiday Tour, scheduled for December 7th and 8th, is not only our biggest fundraiser of the year. It's also our biggest volunteer event. By the time the weekend is over, we will have thanked, literally, hundreds of volunteers who have served as docents, tour guides, greeters, reservations and check-in team, logistics managers, house captains, kitchen captains and assistants (and, yes, dishwashers), food servers, researchers, costumers, decorators, babysitters, schleppers and clean-up crew. We hope one of those volunteers will be YOU.

Please be assured, we are working very hard this year to pay great attention to the care and comfort of our volunteers. There will be plenty of food, plus work breaks (well, we hope!), and time set aside (on Sunday afternoon, before the second day's tour begins) for all volunteers to tour this year's houses. WAHA will also, as always, schedule a lovely holiday fete on December 15 for all WAHA members before the second day's tour begins) for all volunteers to tour these houses safely and on time, and to present historical information along the way. We will be scheduling three or even four shepherds per tour this year, so please do contact us (Lisa Schoening, at 323/666-8617) if you're interested in this task and haven't had the opportunity to do it in the past;

Childcare volunteers, to help free up other WAHA parents by watching their children while they volunteer on the Tour itself (ideally, pairs of parents could team, so one set could volunteer on Saturday and the other on Sunday).

Remember, this Holiday Tour is WAHA's major fundraiser for the year. Our budget, especially to cover the costs of this newsletter and our preservation activities, is heavily dependent on a financially-successful event. If you are simply not available on the tour days but would like to help, please consider a contribution to help offset the myriad costs associated with the Tour, from printing and flowers to festive nametags and napkins.

Please contact SeElcy at 323/291-7484 if you'd like to volunteer on the tour. If you can help in advance, please contact Tour Chair (and WAHA President) Jacqueline Sharps at 323/766-8842.
Become a member (or renew)! You can do it today!
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Member Discounts
Reminder: The following companies and organizations offer discounts to WAHA members. Show your WAHA membership card when you make your purchase.

Best Lock and Safe Service  contact: David Kim
2203 W. Venice Blvd. Los Angeles  323/773-7716
10% discount on lock and safe labor and materials

Washington Dog & Cat Hospital
1692 W. Washington Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90007  323/735-0291
50% off office exams

Meyers Roofing
5048 W. Jefferson Blvd. 323/733-0188
10% discount

Cafe Club Fais Do Do
5257 West Adams Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90016  323/954-8080
No cover charge at door

Lady Effie's Tea Parlor  Contact: Jacqueline Westlund
453 East Adams Boulevard, Los Angeles  213/749-1437
10 percent discount on all food purchases

Lucky Chimney Sweep  Contact: Susan and Alfredo Johnson
249 N. Brand Blvd. Glendale, CA 91203  888/625-8259
15% discount

Magic Care Termite Service
1840 W. 220th St., Suite 320, Torrance CA 90501  310/320-6700 (fax 310/320-6794)
15 percent discount

Sherwin-Williams
1367 Venice Blvd. L.A. 90006  213/365-2471
20% discount off regular product price (you must have a special discount card)

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Dealer's pricing on all tires and full line of custom wheels (See Bill Fuqua, Jr. for this discount)

Papa Cristo's Tavern
2771 West Pico Blvd. Los Angeles CA 90006  323/737-2970
10% discount on catered food orders

Vintage Plumbing Bathroom Antiques
9939 Canoga Avenue Chatsworth, CA 818/772-1721 (hours: by appointment only)
10% discount on purchases at Chatsworth facility

Boulevard Vacuum & Sewing Machine Company, 5086 W. Pico Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90019, (323) 938-2661
10% discount on sale of new vacuums, and vacuum service & repair

Wholesale Carpet Liquidators, 1225 E. Washington Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90021, (213) 747-7474, mailto:Wholesalecarpetla@Yahoo.com Contact = Linda Or Parisa
Discount of between $10%, on the purchase of 150 square yards or more of carpet, ceramic tile, wood flooring, and/or vinyl floor covering.

A Call to Members
If you frequent a local business -- retail store, restaurant, service provider, etc. -- ask them if they would like to offer a discount to WAHA members. Explain that they would benefit from the increased exposure to many local consumers, and would be listed monthly in the WAHA newsletter. Or, call me at 323/733-6869 and I would be happy to contact them. -- Steve Wallis
Please Note:
WAHA does not endorse or claim responsibility for any of the services, products or "for sale" items advertisers have listed in these pages.

ADVERTISE HERE! WAHA classifieds are free to paid members. To place a display or classified ad, call Lisa Schoening (323/732-5108). Classifieds will be for one month only. If you wish to repeat your ad, please call Lisa Schoening by the deadline. After 3 issues for the same ad, there will be a charge of $.25 per word.

WAHA CLASSIFIEDS

WAHA has a new e-mail address for all your classifieds! If you can, please send your classified ads to: wahaclassifieds@yahoo.com


Late 19th century wicker rocker - dark, never painted Fine condition $400

Late Qing dynasty side chairs. Black lacquer with floriate and landscape decorations. Very good condition. Pair $1,000

Please contact through email: sparrowsl@earthlink.net All prices are half the appraised value. Appraisal will be furnished to prospective buyers. Prices are firm. I will send digital photos to prospective buyers. I live in Redondo Beach. Buyer to arrange transportation.

Fabulous faux and texture finishing - Call Lynda Reiss 323/735 2986

The Women's Shelter at Adams & Hoover is grateful for donations. TAX DEDUCTIBLE Please call Florence at 213/747-7419.

Ear Candling - by Corrine Dixon, holistic practitioner. A safe and effective Holistic alternative to conventional ear care for minor outer ear canal maladies. By appointment - 323/ 732-9847

BABYSITTER AVAILABLE. Brittany Cabrales (granddaughter of Lucy Nigh, longtime WAHA member), age 14 - very experienced, toddlers and older. 323/933-9779.

PRUNING, TRANSPLANTING, REVITALIZING - roses, fruit trees, grapevines, & other plants that need special care. European gentleman with a lifetime of garden & orchard experience. Very reasonable fees. Recommended by Jim Barth. Call George at 323/731-5222 or 310/838-3587.

Roommate Wanted? Vintage Stove for Sale? Garden Plants in Search of New Home? Place your classified ad here to reach preservation-minded readers. Contact Advertising Director Lisa Schoening (wahaclassifieds@yahoo.com) NO LATER THAN the first of the prior month.

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The WAHA Newsletter is published 11 times a year
Full Page .... $150 monthly, $1,800/annual
Quarter Page (5 3/4 x 4 5/8).... $35 monthly, $295 / annual
Business Card ..(3 1/2 x 2).....$15 monthly, $125 /annual
Remember, the deadline is the 1st of the prior month!

ADAMS-NORMANDIE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSN.
(ANNA)
ANNUAL YARD SALE
The annual ANNA fundraising garage sale is slated for Saturday, October 19 at 1656-1660 West 25th Street (just east of Normandie), from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you'd like to donate "stuff" please drop it off the day before at 1656 West 25th Street (leave your name and address if you want a tax donation letter).

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<td></td>
<td>Craftsman Weekend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craftsman Weekend</td>
<td>Zoning/Planning Committee</td>
<td>Membership Committee - Newcomer's Dessert</td>
<td>Board Meeting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>WAHA Halloween Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Venice Historical Society Cemetery Tour</td>
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<td>For details on Calendar Events, see pages 1 - 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For details on Calendar Events, see pages 1 - 3