

The Argonaut

Grass Roots Neighborhood Council board election June 28

BY HELGA CARR

The election for Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council board seats will be between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., Saturday, June 28th, in the Westminster Avenue Elementary School Auditorium, 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd., Venice.

Los Angeles city services departments will also have a fair during the event to give residents information about water, power and street maintenance services.

Nominations were made at a council Spring town hall meeting Wednesday, April 30th, for seven at-large seats, secretary, communications officer and treasurer.

Candidates are asked to send a 100-word statement and a digital photo to the council Web site before noon Sunday, June 15th, to be on the printed ballot, said Tisha Bedrosian, president.

Ten of 16 nominations are by current board members seeking re-election.

LAPD UPDATE — Los Angeles Police Department Pacific Area Capt. Wally Graves told Neighborhood Council members that for the first time narcotics officers will be deployed in the LAPD Pacific Area.

Graves said that many local narcotics-related problems have not been addressed for some time, but will now be addressed. A community meeting with 20 Oakwood residents was held Tuesday, April 29th, regarding an incident Friday, April 18th, at the Oakwood Recreation Center that involved 60 to 70 angry people whom police tried to subdue with tear gas and Tasers.

A second meeting is planned that would include police officers assigned to cars in the Oakwood area.

Graves said 13 new police officers would be assigned to the Venice Beach area, with a commitment of additional resources at the beach throughout the summer.

Although violent crime has declined in the LAPD Pacific Area, Graves said that burglaries and robberies have increased, especially in the Palms and Westchester areas.

Graves said that in a 24-square mile area of approximately 220,000 people, the Pacific Area ranks 17th among the 18 LAPD police areas in the number of violent crimes, and ranked fourth of 18 such LAPD areas in the number of arrests.

Graves also noted that for the first time in years LAPD Police Academy classes are at full capacity.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES —In other business, chairs of various Grass Roots Venice committees gave reports:

Parking — Bonnie Cheeseman reported that between 60 and 100 potential parking spaces on Electric Avenue have been identified as part of a study that will be presented to the California Coastal Commission to seek approval for permit parking in the neighborhood.

Land Use and Planning — Darryl Dufay said a meeting Monday, April 21st, was very gratifying because 200 people attended, to voice concerns about the size and traffic impact a proposed Lincoln Center development could have on the community.

Dufay said his committee voted to reject the current proposed development plan and will recommend that the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council board of directors also reject existing plans for the project.

Outreach — Chris Bedrosian, communications officer, said an election outreach program will be "kick-started" and asked community members for their voluntary assistance.

Public Safety — Lynn Hurst announced the formation of a new public safety committee. Hurst is a member of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), working with the Los Angeles City Fire Department.

Hurst said that the CERT serves as "eyes and ears of the fire department" in cases of emergency and can assist in directing fire department resources where needed.

Hurst and Chris Williams, a board member and Burglar Alarm Task Force member, said they would work closely with the LAPD on Neighborhood Watch and general safety issues, as part of the public safety committee.

Information,

elections@grassrootsvenice.or from Carolyn Ward, election event planner, (310) 281-1943.