

The Village Drummer

Jefferson Park Neighbors Association

City Council District 10 Region 6



Joining Hands to Stop the Killing

By Luis South

Just recently a neighbor who lives just across the border south of Jefferson Blvd. called me to report that a youth of 17 years old was shot down in broad daylight out in the street just outside of her house. Though the street where it happened is in the 8th City Council District, we who live just across the border in the 10th district must take this news as if it happened on one of our streets. We have lost another vibrant young life to the ignorance of gang

mentality. So I stopped to ask myself: What intelligent conscientious thing can Jefferson Park Neighbors do to make the best of a very negative situation? How can we effectively be a potent force in the citywide movement to stop the killing of our youth?

So I returned the call from my friend who lives just south of Jefferson Blvd. to relieve her fear. "No Sister, you are not alone. This is about us." (con't. on p. 2)

Library Center

by Luis South

Jefferson Park Library, 2211 W. Jefferson Blvd. is very much the heart of our community. Having a library that serves the purpose of helping us live well is an idea that many of our residents

and community stakeholders appreciate and take advantage of as often as we can. Our library has a long history of providing information to help us all live better and more healthful.

Jefferson Park Neighbors Confirms
Herb Wesson In Our Next Forum
7-9 p.m.
Feb.22, 2006

Our new career and college education counseling program will begin Saturday, February 25th from 1-4 p.m. We have a few more slots open for students grades 9-12. Please call us at (323) 370-9140 if interested.

Jefferson Park Neighbors

February 2006

• NEXT MEETING

HERB WESSON

Wed., February 22

7-9 p.m.

Holy Name School

1955 W. Jefferson Bl.

Special Places in the Hood

Celerity Charter School *

3417 W. Jefferson Blvd.

AAY Foundation, Mr. Oliver *

2061 W. Jefferson Blvd.

Chico's Barber Shop *

2222 W. Jefferson Blvd.

One Stop Market *

2115 W. Jefferson Blvd.

Smile Mart *

3115 S. Western Ave.

Tim's Kitchen *

3125 W. Jefferson Blvd.

* For More Info call
Luis South @ (323) 370-9140

Joining Hands *(continued from p. 1)*

Each time one more is killed we actually lose part of ourselves. Our future potential is diminished.

After the killing happened the family of the young man who died moved out and away. Unity Three, the local gang intervention program, held a memorial and prayer. During that memorial where youth and adults prayed and expressed

positive thoughts about the dead, the police, while driving by, spotted a young person carrying a firearm so they got out of their patrol car, drew their guns then arrested that individual.

Since that time my friend and I decided to contact Unity Three in order to begin structuring communication lines between people who

view the world differently. There are youth who choose guns as a way of life. On the other side of this human equation are the families who respect and cherish their neighbor's right to live well. We live in a country that is known as the "home of the brave and land of the free." That is only as real as our unflinching dedication to moving on this problem. First comes the thought. Now it is time for our sincere actions. Join us.

Kwanzaa and Black History Month

By Luis South

This year will be the first time we've gotten it together well enough so that we can actually fulfill a plan that has been waiting to happen for a long time.

The seven principles of Kwanzaa are going to be shared year-round so that we don't lose the essence of their purpose and meaning in our lives. For the rest of our lives:

- Monday is Umoja (Unity)
- Tuesday is Kujichagulia
- Wednesday is Ujima
- Thursday is Ujamaa
- Friday is Nia (Purpose)
- Saturday is Kuumba (Creativity)
- Sunday is Imani (Faith)

Call us for a colorful 8"x11" list of each day and its meaning. (323) 370-9140.

Trinity Baptist

Thanks to all of our local churches, mosques, and temples for the love and kindness you have given to this community. Jefferson Park Neighbors is pleased to announce that we are collaborating with Trinity Baptist Church for our youth.

Attempting to Become the Westside Multicultural Hub of the Jefferson Park Community

By Craig Knotts

Since the opening of Celerity Nascent Charter School in September, we have been selected to become the center on the west end of Jefferson Park Community. Our school hopes that by this point we have planted the seed that will flourish into a permanently thriving diverse community space. We

are not looking to be just a school, but also part of the Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association that can be relied upon for facilities and multicultural educational leadership.

In Fall 2005 we opened our doors to an athletic tournament run by a

Jefferson Park Business. The event was a success for the community business as well as validating our attempts at developing partnerships with the neighborhood. We look forward to working with other organizations that could benefit from our space.

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Attempting to Become Westside Cultural Hub (cont. from bottom of page 2)

In addition, we hosted Jefferson Park’s First Ever Educational Summit. The Event drew University Professors, Charter School Administrators, Elementary School Counselors, Parents, Community Leaders, and Filmmakers. The Summit addressed Gang Violence and the need for an Education Counseling Program in the Jefferson Park Community as well as in our school. The Summit demonstrated that our community can lead the charge creating a safer and more understanding society.

Since then Luis South (Education Counselor with the Los Angeles Unified School District) and I have taken that message to other organizations such as the *California Association of Counseling and Development*. During this conference we spoke on the importance of Counseling Programs in areas such as Jefferson Park, and in particular the inequitable set up that exists

between Charter Schools and Neighborhood Schools in regards to funding. In addition, we addressed the importance of multicultural leadership. Our message is traveling up and down the California Coast, a message that began on the Westside of Jefferson Park.

At Celerity Charter School, we hope to establish the multicultural leadership mentioned above not only through our actions, but also through the backgrounds of the people that work here each day. When walking in the doors of our school it becomes very apparent that there exists a multicultural movement with great respect for diversity.

The staff includes persons whose families have direct connections to the continents of Africa and Europe as well as the countries of Korea, China, Japan, Mexico, Panama, El Salvador, and The Philippines. The education community not only attempts to display diversity in its staffing, but also in the educational program that the students receive. We are attempting to bring the world to our students through a multicultural curriculum and perhaps more importantly a very diverse group of multicultural personalities that are all focused on providing a rigorous college preparatory education for the citizens of the Jefferson Park Community. We are enthused and prepared for the future.



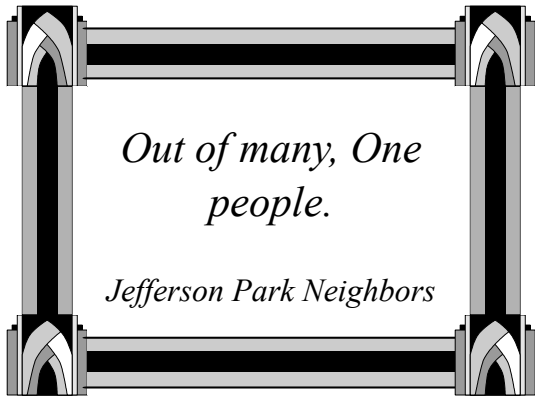
**Korean American
Grocers Association Sets Standards
And Works to Help Us Be Everything We can Become**

The Importance of Walking *By Luis South*

Walking is a very simple exercise that allows us to stay healthy. At the same time, walking through your neighborhood on a regular basis helps to establish the atmosphere of this place we call “home.” It becomes easier to say what home is really all about if we ex-

perience the sights, fragrances and all the colors up close. Anybody who has lived understands that you don’t really understand the world around you unless you get out of the car and walk through it. Walking is like a magical elixir . It’s good for the heart, can kill rumors,

spreads joy, stops the criminal element from thinking these streets belong to them, and can even bring you to your dream home that you didn’t know you had the money to buy. As a matter of fact it can serve any purpose your mind dreams up! So walk on.



Jefferson Park Neighbors
Phone: 323-370-9140
Email: luisouth@juno.com



Jefferson Park Neighbors Political Forum

Featuring: Herb Wesson

Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2006

@

7-9 p.m.

Holy Name School Auditorium

1955 W. Jefferson Blvd

Our area's Lead Officer from LAPD is:
Ofc. Kevin Ishida (323) 847-5804



ON THE CORNER

A continuing series focused on community development

The time is close for the completion of two new store fronts on the north-west corner of Arlington at Jefferson Blvd., Steve's corner. The final decision of what businesses will sign the lease has not been made as yet. We

can expect a family restaurant in one—an educated guess—and the second is less predictable. It's fun guessing though. What type of



Arlington and Jefferson Blvd.
The new mall in Jefferson Park

progress. It's really a very special thing when a business person decides to invest in building and expanding

business would be your guess? Steve is playing it close to his chest. He's not sharing any specifics other than to say there are many businesses interested in renting the property. The negotiations are in

more business in our community. Certainly the motive is to make more profits for the investor. Still though, there is risk involved. Nothing is for sure. Also, there are other ways and other places that are safer to invest in. So when a small business person takes the risk of investing in our community though there is no guarantee of safety, we must come to realize that such a move is to be respected. If we can get every business to be as thoughtful as Steve Yoon, we will become a rival to Beverly Hills.