

The Village Drummer

Jefferson Park Neighbors Association

City Council District 10 Region 6



LaMotte vs. Williams for the LAUSD Crown

By Luis South

Our candidates forum will once again be the focus of the first Jefferson Park Neighbors meeting in 2007. This will possibly be the only forum that fairly addresses education issues in LAUSD in a very organized, politically neutral atmosphere. The history behind our forums puts us in a position to say we have earned the credibility of being an excellent community forum where those who want to be elected willingly show up. Every

elected office representing this area has come through our forum while on the campaign trail.

This election is far more than personalities holding different views. It's far more than unraveling complex philosophies.

The outcome of the election will be an indication of what's in store for our children being educated in schools (k-12) funded by your tax dollars. So we will take the time. *(con't. on p. 2)*

Small Business Friends

by Luis South

We have two new small business owners that support our community view: it's our small businesses that help define the progressive movement existing among people in this area.

VegiSoul Restaurant is just slightly outside of Jefferson Park. But if you're looking for an A rated vegetarian restaurant that tastes great, you've gotta have this one on your eats list.

Jefferson Park Neighbors Gala Event

LAUSD Board Seat Debate

7-9 p.m.
Feb.28, 2007

Jefferson Park Neighbors

February 2006

• NEXT MEETING

LAUSD Debate

Wed., February 28

7-9 p.m.

Holy Name School

1955 W. Jefferson Bl.

Special Places in the Hood

Yoga Center *

2526 W. Jefferson Blvd.

VegiSoul *

1436 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

The Yoga Center is an excellent setting to learn the art of being at peace and finding your physical balance.

These establishments are featured on the two last pages of this newsletter.

LAUSD Debate *(continued from p. 1)*

It's time to listen and participate, a time to vote for the one who will be the best for our children.

To ensure that both candidates will understand we are a forum that is highly ethical in how we design debates, questions will be sent to each so they have a chance to respond in writing via email. The questions and the responses from

each candidate will be on the web page www.educounselor.com.

Of interest to many community members is the view each candidate has concerning state Assembly Bill 1381, the law that passed but then struck down as unconstitutional in a court of law.

Secondly, there is a building voice

within the community that is calling for the outdated model of administration governing the LAUSD to be changed to follow a well defined ethical management model such as the one known as Total Quality Management (TQM). A quality education system deserves no less in consideration of our children's future. Who we are and what we are about is easiest to understand when we come together. Please join us.

Kwanzaa and Black History Month

By Luis South

This year will be the second 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.

Herb Wesson

Thanks to our 10th District City Councilman for fixing sidewalks on 30th and 31st streets. Also, there has been a continual effort to upkeep the cleaning of alleyways in our Jefferson Park community. We know city funds are stressed. Thanks for your hard work.

Total Quality Management: Improving the Administration of LAUSD

By Luis South

The management of the second largest public school system in America is the key to keeping the momentum for progressive changes real. The manner in which the media has presented education issues infers that the key to what will take place hinges upon whether or not AB 1381 is imple-

mented. There are only two ways for AB 1381 to become functional:

- 1) supporters of the bill win in their court appeal of an earlier decision to disallow its implementation **or**
- 2) After the election of 4 board seats we end up with a new majority that votes to accept

AB 1381 as the law governing administration of LAUSD. (a.k.a Villaraigosa's Revenge)

Some issues are looming that question the candidacy of Jonathan Williams because he is principal of Accelerated Charter School.

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Total Quality Management: Improving the Administration of LAUSD

(cont. from bottom of page 2)

That seems like weak reasoning because the school board voted to certify the charter for Accelerated. Charter schools are understood to be public schools though they are each separate and independent of the school district who granted them certification. Charter schools were created by LAUSD’s board as a means to stimulate competition within the public school domain, thwarting an effort to privatize schools with government funding. Typically, charter schools are nonprofit organizations, not sole proprietorships. So a charter school principal has the same status as a public school principal, meaning he/she can run for LAUSD school board seat, the same way Marguerite LaMotte ran for school board after being principal at Washington HS or in the same way an educator from one district runs for a school board seat in another district and continues working for the other school dis-

trict while they serve as school board member. Talk to Compton Unified. We are open to correction if there is a point we overlooked.

One thing about our Jefferson Park intelligentsia: we are known as quite capable of keeping the record straight. Clarity of idea formation is the backbone of our forum.

Most important is for us to understand that no matter which person wins, the framework that governs how the school district runs needs to be changed. No one wins without that. The history of LAUSD and many other scientifically evaluated low performing public school systems across America forces us to “think out of the box.”

To show ourselves as connected to the communities we serve we must now also begin to *move* out of the box, actualize movements in education to better serve young students k-12 and adults seeking credentials so they can earn a better living standard.

Total Quality Management (TQM) is a management model that opens up dialogue that will lead to improvements in public education. Clear thinking that promotes staff participation from all levels of the organization, transparency in accounting, and a simplified system of internal evaluation of services are a few of the basic concepts that cause this management model to be well suited to schools.

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

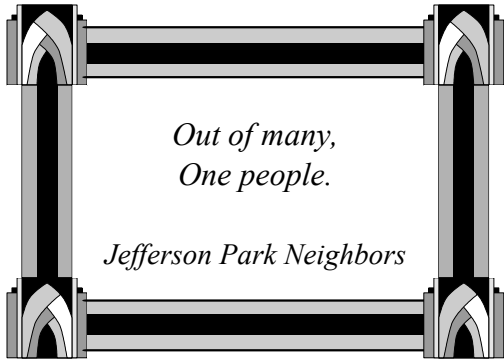
Control Weight to Avoid Suffering

By Luis South

Weighing in at the level that allows us to perform at our peak is a very personal matter. Each person who takes the time to discover their ideal weight saves themselves a lot of money and suffering. The responsibility of understanding your ideal weight is very much

connected to discovering and exhibiting intelligence. To be clear, ideal weight, being connected to how well we perform physically and mentally, can only be discovered through consistent rigorous exercise as well as through taking on mentally stressful challenges in

service to family and community. Being able to make adjustments in weight as we age helps us to live to our maximum potential. Unfortunately many people “see-saw” through life because weight control is an isolated idea connected only to vanity. More to come.



Jefferson Park Neighbors
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Email: luisouth@juno.com



Favorite Links: *Vegisoul*—*The tastiest Place on the Planet*— <http://www.vegisoul.com/Menu.html>

Jefferson Park Neighbors Candidates Forum

For LAUSD Dist. #1 Seat
Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2007

@

7-9 p.m.

Holy Name School Auditorium
1955 W. Jefferson Blvd

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



ON THE CORNER

A continuing series focused on community development

As soon as the place gets cleaned up the garbage is back again. Yes, we're still looking at the problem that exists on Western Avenue from 30th to 31st Street. The blight has been there for so many years that we

sometimes have to rest the complaining so we can stay healthy. The properties are now up for sale for commercial investors, but be-



*Arlington and Jefferson Blvd.
The new mall in Jefferson Park*

ing offered at a price far above the market value. Does that mean we have to wait many more years for the market to catch up to what the owners want or are the sellers simply taking a negotiating position with the intent to come to agreement within a reasonable time? Jefferson Park Neighbors has asked Herb Wesson for assis-

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Does that mean we have to wait many more years for the market to catch up to what the owners want or are the sellers simply taking a negotiating position with the intent to come to agreement within a reasonable time? Jefferson Park Neighbors has asked Herb Wesson for assis-

tance in communicating with the sellers. We want to make sure the sellers get as much as possible from the sale. However, we want them to understand that the blight in that area has a very negative effect on Jefferson Park's economic and social reality. So while we fully support owners' rights, we remain self-respecting enough to make sure communications to the responsible elected leader gives him some incentive to add a little more help so we can see movement to change the present blight. Please help us Herb.