

Venice Neighborhood Council Elections Are Coming April 11, 2010!

Now is your opportunity to have a say in Venice! The terms of all twenty-one **Venice Neighborhood Council** members are expiring and every position is up for grabs. Forty-three of your friends and local Venetians are vying for positions as VNC Board Members, the largest group of candidates ever to run for the Council.

On Sunday, April 11, 2010, from 10am-4pm, the VNC will hold its biennial elections at the Oakwood Recreation Center. And, for the first time in Neighborhood Council history, the Los Angeles City Clerk's office, as opposed to the VNC itself, will be conducting the election.

Whether you live, work, own property, or have a verifiable interest in Venice, you are a VNC "stakeholder" and eligible to vote on April 11th; no pre-registration is necessary.

The election could not come at a better time for our community. The City faces a massive budget crisis that is sure to affect us here in Venice. City services will be curtailed (including those provided by the VNC) just as we are dealing with critical quality-of-life issues:

- Improving the evolving commercial and residential character of Venice
- Homelessness issues
- Stopping the recent increase in crime
- Addressing increasing amounts of traffic and dealing with the challenges of parking and congestion
- Regulating Ocean Front Walk and working to preserve it as one of Southern California's greatest tourist attractions

Over the past several years, through the hard work and dedication of the VNC and its stakeholders, the VNC has become an important part of Los Angeles City government. The VNC's recommendations are closely watched, and more often than not, are followed by our City Councilman, the City Council and the Mayor.

However, the VNC's, and thus our local community's voice, is only as strong as our election turnout and stakeholder participation. Community involvement in the VNC has grown to an all time high, with hundreds of people routinely attending Town Hall meetings and 1,600 Venetians voting in our last



People who live, work, own property, or have a verifiable factual basis in Venice are stakeholders and can vote in the VNC Board Elections. This map shows the borders of Venice - for a detailed view visit: www.VeniceNC.org/BoardElections

Welcome to our special **Board Election Issue of Your Venice!** We've used a larger format for the newsletter to accommodate all the information contained in this issue. On page 1 you'll find articles about the upcoming election (it takes place on April 11th!) and Candidates Forum. Inside, starting on page 2, you'll find the candidate statements and pictures of the individuals running to become Board Officers.

The balance of Pages 7 and 8 contains other news about the Venice Neighborhood Council. There's a special "clip-out" survey about the Santa Monica Airport on Page 8 - we're seeking input about problems Venice residents have as a result of the airport's operations. Please complete the short survey, clip it out and return it to the VNC (instructions on back page).

Inside This Issue:

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- ◆ [Election Candidate Photos and Statements](#)

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- ◆ [VNC Budget](#)

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- ◆ [Democracy: A True Means to Education](#)

Good News from the VNC Neighborhood Committee:

- [Stop Signs to be installed at Windward Circle to prevent serious accidents.](#)
- [Venice Post Office and Annex cleaned up, maintenance contract signed; new efforts to expedite unacceptable lines.](#)
- [Kick off of a "Let there be Light in Venice" Campaign - encouraging Venetians to purchase motion detectors for property perimeters to deter crime.](#)



What: VNC Board of Officers Election

When: April 11th from 10am to 4pm

Where: Oakwood Rec Center, 767 California Avenue

Questions: City Clerk, (213) 978-0444, http://bit.ly/CityClerk_VNC

Venice Neighborhood Council, info@VeniceNC.org, www.VeniceNC.org/BoardElections

Venice Neighborhood Council to Hold Candidates Forum on April 8th

By Ivan Spiegel

By now you've read about the upcoming VNC Board Elections (if you haven't read the first article in *Your Venice* yet, go back to the top of this page). We hope you've been inspired to vote in the election - but what do you know about the 43 candidates that are running for the **Venice Neighborhood Council** Board? How do you choose who to vote for?

A great place to start is by reading their candidate statements (included in this issue and on our website at www.VeniceNC.org) – but how do you tell them apart? Who are these volunteers that are willing to devote a big chunk of their lives over the next two years to a job that pays nothing, and sometimes seems like it pleases most of the people none of the time?

Here's your chance to meet them in person and find out.

On Thursday, April 8th, the VNC will host a Candidates Forum in the Westminster Elementary School auditorium beginning at 6:30 pm. All of the candidates have been invited to participate in what we expect to be a fun and informative evening. The prospective VNC officers will be given an opportunity to let the voters know the benefits they hope to bring to the Board if elected, as well as the differences in their approach to the offices they have chosen to run for.

The Election Committee is hard at work devising a format to make the event interactive and fun. There will be an opportunity to meet one-on-one with the candidates following the program.

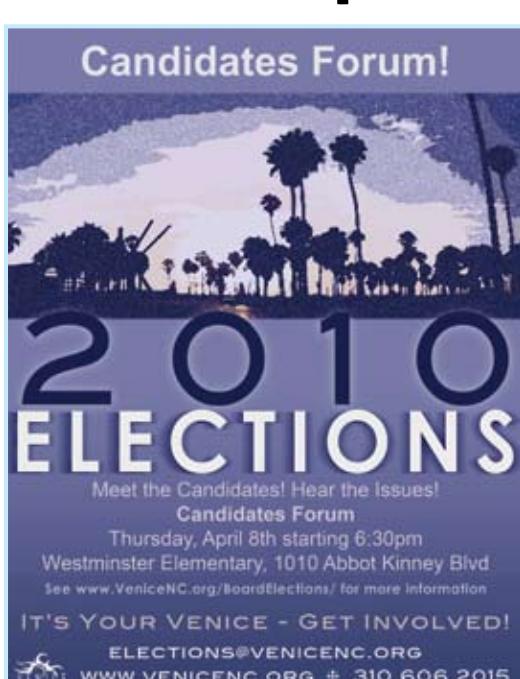
Don't miss this opportunity to meet the candidates! We hope to see you there!

What: 2010 Board Elections Candidates Forum

When: April 8th starting at 6:30pm

Where: Westminster Elementary School Auditorium, 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd. (enter from Westminster)

Questions: email to info@VeniceNC.org



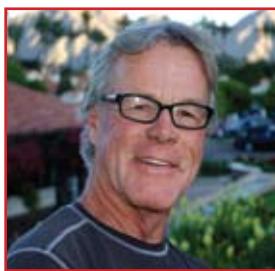
We're on Facebook! Visit:

http://bit.ly/VNC_Facebook

Get e-mails alerts from the VNC:

http://bit.ly/VNC_Email_Alerts

Candidates for: PRESIDENT



Write in Candidate

JAMES D. HUBBARD:

I am a candidate for president of the Venice Neighborhood Council having lived and worked in Venice for fifteen years. As a Venice activist I have been awarded ten commendations from the mayor, the council

office and the county supervisor for my work in Venice. I have worked as a journalist for four decades, worked with at risk youth at Venice Arts for fifteen years. I am an international consultant in arts and education

and adjunct professor in the Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism at USC.

My concerns for Venice are quality of life issues including crime and parking as well as education and em-

ployment. I have also worked with St. Joseph Center and the Venice Family Clinic and have positive relations with LAPD, the council, mayor and county supervisor's offices. ♦

**LINDA C. LUCKS:**

My love for Venice goes back to my first visit to this unique community in 1968. Moving here in 1970, raising my children and working with organizations supporting children, I know full well the chal-

lenges families face. As a 40 year Venetian, I take the long view. My philosophy is listen to everyone and work for solutions that benefit us all. While other issues come and go, I have consistently fought

for public safety in our community and against overdevelopment, crime, and unresponsive city government.

My service on numerous State and City boards and commissions, and with com-

munity organizations, a five year VNC board member and Vice President for the past two, I am ready to lead. ♦

Candidates for: VICE PRESIDENT

**CAROLYN O. RIOS:**

I love Venice. I have lived in Venice/Oakwood for 36 years. I know the issues, the people, the hopes, and the challenges.

I am the Founder of the Venice Community BBQ and Picnic,

bringing diverse Venice residents together with great food, outstanding music, and games. No politics, just Venice, together, at one time, in one place, with one aim - We are all the same. For 24 years I taught

the 'at-risk' youth of Venice, our children.

As Chair of the Venice Neighborhood Committee, I will bring the skills of a teacher who knows how to motivate and get everyone involved. The Neighbor-

hood Committee will focus on emergency and safety issues plus create a needs and wants list to coordinate and encourage volunteers.

I seek to bridge the gaps and find our common humanity. My vision

for Venice - a thriving, safe, vibrant community. We are a uniquely together community. ♦



Write in Candidate

MARK E. RYAVEC:

I believe the VNC should focus on the major concerns of residents; i.e., resident safety and preventing crime, controlling development, creating more parking, and protecting the ocean.

I have worked as a legislative analyst for the LA City Council, as chief deputy to the LA County Assessor, and as an advocate for No Oil, Inc., American Oceans Campaign and several entertainment

guilds. I am now a member of an advisory board for Oceana, an ocean protection NGO.

I currently manage a non-profit that provides affordable housing to 164 families in the Valley. I graduated from

UCLA in psychology, have an MA in Urban Studies and am a 20-year resident of Venice. One of my hobbies is restoring my 100-year old house on Rialto. About ten years ago I led the tree planting around the

Venice Postal Annex. I recently co-chaired the VNC Committee on Homelessness/Vehicular Occupation. ♦

Candidate for: SECRETARY

**JOSEPH D. MURPHY:**

Resume: Upon graduating from Cornell Law School (1969), I practiced law/mediation and was politically active in Seattle until moving to Venice (2004). I helped draft the current Bylaws (2005-06 Bylaws

Committee). I became a Community Officer in 2006 (Administrative Committee, Chair Rules & Elections Committee), and Secretary in 2007.

My Seattle experience includes community and citywide political

groups and campaigns with emphasis on City Council reform (election of reform candidates, campaign finance), urban design, transportation, and human rights. I am a Vietnam Veteran. Interests: I am interested in exploring options in VNC Board structure & procedures to broaden consensus on historically contentious Venice issues. I believe this is key to building VNC credibility in Venice and strength-

ening VNC influence on government politicians and agencies. ♦

Candidate for: TREASURER

**HUGH HARRISON:**

My name is Hugh Harrison and I am a candidate for the office of Treasurer with the Venice Neighborhood Council. I have lived in Venice for 36 years. I was elected treasurer of the VNC in August 2008.

I have been honored to be part of the innovative and exciting work done by the VNC. These are challenging and uncertain economic times for the City of Los Angeles and the neighborhood councils. The financial

and reporting systems are in transition. I believe that continuity in the office of treasurer will make that transition occur more smoothly and efficiently. ♦

Candidates for: CHAIR OF LAND USE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

**ADAM S. GLICK:**

Please allow me to introduce myself, my name is Adam Glick and I am running for the LUAPC chair.

I have lived in the Venice area 30 years. In that time, I have witnessed many changes. Many

were wonderful improvements. Others were questionable at best.

Like it or not, change happens. While it is unrealistic to think we can stave off any and all changes to our town, we can insure any fur-

ther growth or change happens in a more thoughtful manner. Remembering our historic past, while keeping an eye on our future.

Personally, I am not against development per say, but I am against

further development, without first improving our rapidly decaying infrastructure, and without assuaging the concerns of all impacted Venice stakeholders.

If you agree with me, I hope you will vote for me

in the upcoming Venice Neighborhood Council Elections. Thank you. ♦

Candidates for: CHAIR OF LAND USE & PLANNING COMMITTEE (Cont.)

PHOTO NOT PROVIDED

JACOB A. KAUFMAN:

I ask for your vote to become Venice's Chair of the Land Use and Planning Committee. In this role, I will follow our Specific Plan while supporting new business ventures and projects that maintain the look,

feel and culture of the Venice that we all love. I am a Mechanical Engineer with substantial experience in Environmental and Green Design. I am a member of both the Outreach Committee and the Environment-

tal Committee on the Venice Neighborhood Council. Ask your current VNC friends about me or send me an email to Jake@Jake90291.com. Remember me on Election Day. Vote Jake for Venice! ◆

Candidate for: COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

BRENNAN D. LINDNER: PHOTO AND STATEMENT NOT PROVIDED

Candidates for: OUTREACH OFFICER

Write in Candidate

ANTHONY C. PEREZ:

PHOTO AND STATEMENT NOT PROVIDED



MARC A. SALTZBERG:

I'm Marc Saltzberg, the VNC's incumbent Outreach Officer. In my first term I initiated the VNC Table at the Venice Farmer's Market and Your Venice, the VNC's quarterly newsletter. These innovations, along

with better use of email communications, several highly successful Town Halls, and our presence on Facebook have greatly expanded the VNC's capacity to communicate with stakeholders. Frequent press releas-

es to local and city-wide media have resulted in numerous interviews with VNC members and national attention, making the VNC one of the most influential Neighborhood Councils in the city. Public awareness

of our activities has increased while consistent branding and an emphasis on tightly integrated outreach strategies have brought new stakeholder interest to the VNC and its mission. The future for VNC

outreach will be challenging due to city funding cutbacks. You can help insure continued innovation and success by marking your ballot for Marc Saltzberg, Outreach Officer. ◆

Candidates for: AT-LARGE COMMUNITY OFFICERS



MARIANA L. AGUILAR:

I am an 8-year resident of Venice and have lived both East and West of Lincoln. I served on the VNC Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness and Vehicular Occupation and acted as a Block Captain for my street. I

believe that the opinions of each of my neighbors are important, that LAPD staffing in Venice should be increased, that Venice residents deserve the same protections and consideration that other City of

Los Angeles residents enjoy, and that the Venice Specific Plan should be strictly enforced with limited exceptions.

The VNC is our Neighborhood Council. Its focus should be listening to Venice

residents' needs and work as a labor and employment lawyer at a law firm in Century City. ◆

and then working as a team to find solutions for those problems.

I graduated from Cornell in 1997 and USC Law in 2000. Currently, I



SUNIL BHUTA:

My name is Sunil Bhuta. My wife and I bought our first and only home in Venice in 2008, which we inhabit happily with our two dogs, Beowulf (Great Dane) and Waves (Dalmatian mix). You may

have met us walking them around every inch of Venice. I have spent my life in L.A. (apart from a brief stint for law school followed by a few years practicing at a Chicago law firm), and Venice has long been

my favorite place on the planet. Obviously, our community is changing and growing. There is no stopping that, but we can certainly shape this change and growth so that the artistic, di-

verse and authentic character of Venice is preserved. Toward that end, I can contribute the skills I have learned from a decade of legal practice. I hope to have your vote on April 11 so that I may make such a contribution. ◆



ANDRÉ R. BOLLINGER:

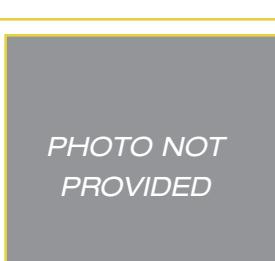
Being raised in Venice, I strongly value the natural resources and community Venice has been built upon. I have seen Venice progress from a limited and troubled neighborhood to the prosperous and

vibrant place it has become. However, through transition many families have lost the ability to remain in their homes. One of Venice's largest problems is the balance between the economic develop-

ment that we benefit from and ensuring that we value all residents. As an ex-teacher, I see the continuing struggles of our schools as a testament to the changes Venice has experienced. My big-

gest passion is to work in concurrence with students, families, teachers and schools to improve education not by pointing fingers, but by tackling problems.

As a Community Officer, I will use my expertise and education



LULA M. BOYLAND:

I have devoted my career to public service, having worked in both local and state government. I believe that public service is an honorable and fulfilling profession. As a private citizen and community activist,

I have organized and supported local groups that empower the community and improve the environment in which I live. I have worked with Treepeople, plants more than 30 trees in the Oakwood area and giving

out fruit trees to over 50 neighbors. For several years, I organized and maintained the Oakwood Basketball Clinic.

In trusting me to serve on the Venice Neighborhood Council as your Community Officer, I

promise you that I will work diligently to beautify our community and foster public safety. ◆



BRETT W. BROICH:

My name is Brett Broich and as a longtime resident of Venice I have developed an understanding of its strengths and challenges through interaction with City leaders and citizens. I hope to get the rest

of the neighborhood council more actively engaged in efforts to protect our streets and strengthen our ties with the LA city council during tough fiscal times. Additionally, I believe we must continue to

produce diverse, collaborative partnerships between all residents and tourists. Furthermore, as a Community Officer I will ensure the core values of Venice are unaffected while promoting city qual-

ity, traffic and parking mitigation, as well as safety for all residents and businesses.

I ask for your support on April 11th so that I may vote for the issues that best serve us all. Thank you. ◆

Candidates for: AT-LARGE COMMUNITY OFFICERS (Cont.)

MARC A. CASTLEMAN:
PHOTO AND STATEMENT NOT PROVIDED

CINDY K. CHAMBERS:

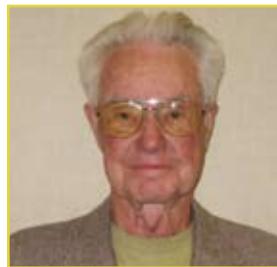
The values I grew up with – community, hard work and looking out for your neighbor – still apply today. As a 15-year resident of Venice, I've seen many changes; and, each year, the

needs of our community increase. Now is the time to harness our collective voice, determine our destiny and communicate our vision.

With over 20 years spent working on social

justice issues, creating coalitions, fostering partnerships, educating and leading positive change, I know visions count and can become a reality. I pledge to voice our community

concerns about such preservation, sustainability issues as affordable housing, homelessness, overnight parking and the like. Allow me to represent our districts, safety and fair representation; and, represent our collective advocate on the behalf of all our interests in the community needs. ♦


WILLIS "BUDDY" CLARK, JR.:
STATEMENT NOT PROVIDED

IVONNE A. GUZMÁN:
STATEMENT NOT PROVIDED

LUIS R. HERNANDEZ:
STATEMENT NOT PROVIDED
NICOLAS C. HIPPISLEY-COXE:
PHOTO AND STATEMENT NOT PROVIDED

STEPHEN C. HOHENWARTER:

As a resident of Venice I have become interested in giving back and helping the well being of this diverse community. I believe I represent a younger voice because I am

24 years old. I feel the younger residents are what makes Venice special in so many different ways. I also believe the youth needs to give back in terms of volunteer work and

input on the community in their own creative way. Also being relatively new to the area (a little over a year) I can bring an outside perspective. I grew up in Strasburg Pennsylvania, a small farming community in central Pennsylvania, where

community involvement is a very important way of life and being helpful and supportive of neighbors is expected.

I can hopefully lend a hand in the same manner to this wonderful outgoing community. ♦


IRA I. KOSLOW:

I have been on the Venice Neighborhood Council for four years, serving on the Administrative Committee and as chair of the Rules & Elections Committee. Having been a resi-

dent of Venice for forty years, I have seen the community go through incredible growth from a deserted Ocean Front Walk, to its current status as the largest tourist attraction in California. I

am a staunch supporter of the Venice Specific Plan, and have fought for its strict application in all issues that have come before the Council.

Born and raised in New York, I went to

Bronx High School of Science, C.C.N.Y. and then U.C.L.A., where I received degrees in Economics. After teaching college level Economics for 4 years I became a manager in the music

business for most of my life. For the last decade I have been at a Los Angeles magnet school teaching mathematics and Advanced Placement Economics. ♦


SCOT R. KRAMARICH:
STATEMENT NOT PROVIDED

Write in Candidate


CLARK L. MCCUTCHEN:

I am running for At-Large Community Officer. As a trial lawyer and corporate attorney with over 18 years of experience in resolving problems, I believe my background will be use-

ful in helping the Venice Neighborhood Council resolve the legal and social issues that exist and arise in Venice.

As a resident of Venice for the past 12 years, having start-

ed on the boardwalk (Clubhouse), then the Canals (Howland), and most recently Abbott Kinney (Cabrillo/Altair), I've gotten to know countless Venice residents and business

owners, new and old. a resident of Venice. I've also witnessed first hand the changes that Venice has undergone, to my beloved community, which is why I face our challenges that are running, and why I would appreciate your vote. Thank you. ♦

Candidates for: AT-LARGE COMMUNITY OFFICERS (Cont.)


ANGELA R. MOONEY D'ARCY:

I remember the first moment I laid eyes on Venice in 1998. As I gazed out at the ocean landscape, dotted with murals, performers, tourists, and locals, I promised myself that

one day I would live here. Nine years later I still wake up grateful to live in this vibrant beach community with an artistic soul. I graduated from Brown University in 1998, and received my

JD from UCLA School of Law in 2004. I have worked extensively on community capacity-building, coastal protection, environmental, and arts issues for over a decade in Southern California.

Currently I am the Director of Education for California Lawyers for the Arts. In this capacity I develop free and inexpensive workshops on legal and business issues for musicians, filmmakers, writers, and other artists throughout Southern California. I would be honored to serve all Venice stakeholders as a Community Officer on the VNC. ♦


JAMES C. O'CALLAGHAN:

Over the past three years I have developed a tremendous appreciation for Venice and all of the creative and dedicated people living and working in the area. That appreciation has

driven me to become intimately involved with the community.

For two years now I have been a member of the Board of Directors for the Venice Chamber of Commerce, and this

past year became Vice President. In this capacity I have been honored to work with many small business owners. Each one of them has shown me why it is important to con-

tinue to embrace the culture that is Venice. We come from such diverse backgrounds, but at the same time are all dedicated to the culture and spirit of Venice. I look forward to serv-

PHOTO NOT PROVIDED

STASIA PATWELL:

Hello, Venice! I am here to bring fun and energy to the Venice Neighborhood Council. I am an aspiring actor with a passion for community involvement, helping the homeless, and throwing

parties. Since becoming involved with the VNC in October, I have been an active member on the Outreach Committee--organizing the Candidate Recruitment Kick-Off Party in Janu-

ary (check out pics at venicepaparazzi.com), and assisting with the Green Film Series--both events held at the Electric Lodge. If you elect me to the Board of Officers, I will work on cre-

ating and organizing more FUN events that bring Venice folks together. I have met many of you over the years while working in restaurants around town, and I would be honored to represent such a vibrant and funky bunch. ♦


JED PAUKER:

Having served on the VNC Land Use and Planning Committee since 2006, and concurrently on the Outreach Committee since 2008, I now ask for your vote. Raised in Washington,

DC, I attended Carleton College in the Midwest and moved to Los Angeles in 1978, settling in Venice in 1997. I consider myself fortunate to live here, proud to work with our Neighborhood

Council and humbled to know what Venice can achieve when we focus on common goals.

As your Community Officer, I intend to clarify land use issues at the Board level, to continue

improving the VNC issue, honoring the intent of our Venice Specific Plan. On our VNC website and to promote a Board member role for more effective routing of stakeholder concerns.

With LUPC, I work hard to consider the many sides of every

CYNTHIA D. ROGERS:
PHOTO AND STATEMENT NOT PROVIDED

DANIELLE D. SAGER-EBLING:

Hello, my name is Danielle Sager-Ebling. I have lived in Venice for seven years now and I grow to love it more and more each day. I have chosen Venice as the place to start a

married life, raise my young daughters and start my chiropractic practice. I want Venice to continue to be an artistic, welcoming, family-friendly location for many years to come.

To that end I have decided to become a part of the system. I am running for the position of At-Large Community Officer so that the voice of young families, small businesses and big

hearts is heard. While I am new to Venice politics I have a willingness to learn and a desire to serve. I would be honored to receive your vote! ♦


MICHAEL J. SANTI:

I have lived in Venice for 2 years. During that time I have found Venice to be a good place to Live, Work and Play. Prior to moving to Venice, I have had the opportunity to serve on a

committee in each of the following. Industrial, Business and City sectors. Feeling I've gained valuable knowledge along the way. I feel I may have the ability to help Venice progress. ♦


RICK SELAN:

Rick Selan is a 61 year old retired Venice math teacher and homeowner who has spent 34 years serving the children in Venice.

Since retirement, Rick Selan has built a tutor-

ing business; does pro bono special education advocacy; and has served as a change agent for reform at Oakwood Park and certain neighborhood schools. Venice NC Education

needs to work jointly with MVCC and Del Rey to have a voice to bring local community back into neighborhood schools.

Our Education Councils can serve as a Westside force to create a

functional community tutoring center at no cost for all our children and those in need of basic skills and job preparation.

The Penmar Community has been treated as an unwanted foster child by


JOEY M. SOTO:

We all love Venice right? I do that is why I am choosing to run for the VNC. I wish to sit on the environmental committee. The environment is very important to me. I'm an active

member of the Westside Permaculture (sustainable living) Group, having volunteered at several events. With GardensofGratitude.org event 2010- where we started 100 free

edible gardens, on the westside over one weekend. This year I'm leading the publicity team. I have donated my time to the VNC by helping with the Green Film Series. Have lived

in Venice for 10 years the Venice green movement and work locally too. Am a student of natural design and sustainable living. Vote for me and you can rest assured that I will do my best to improve the quality of

Candidates for: AT-LARGE COMMUNITY OFFICERS (Cont.)

TOM S. STRICKLER:

PHOTO AND STATEMENT NOT PROVIDED



Write in Candidate

PETER L. THOTTAM:

"WWW.PETERLTHOTTAM.COM: Our state's credit rating is now the worst in the country. Venice's real unemployment rate is over 22%. Its burglaries and homelessness problems are soaring.

I will fight – with ev-

ery fiber of my being - the powerful Special Interests behind the misuse of city government.

I WILL FIGHT DAILY FOR VENICE STAKEHOLDERS AND THEIR INTERESTS.

I am a businessman, educator and attorney

(MBA, UCLA; JD, UC Berkeley; BA, Yale University) already working with Venice businesses & local government officials on solutions to create more jobs, improve Venice's broken healthcare & public education systems

and build a better Venice munity Officer" position. for you and your families. FOR MORE INFOR-

Write-In Candidate: MATION ON MY QUALIFICATIONS, PLEASE With both optimism and humility – I, my wife, Kirstin, and our young son, Luke, ask that you SEE THE BIO SEC- TION AT WWW.PETER THOTTAM.COM." ◆

**DAFFODIL TYMINSKI:**

Hi! My name is Daffodil Tyminski – everyone calls me Daff. I live in Venice with my boyfriend Joe and our dog Riley. We love Venice. But we have serious issues here. Our alleys

are a mess, we have parking problems, and our homeless population faces new challenges.

I'm running for Venice Neighborhood Council to help our community. I want to help solve these

problems, and I know that working with the City and the LAPD, we can make a difference.

We've done it before. As a lawyer in downtown Los Angeles, I've helped organize the City, the

LAPD, and local community organizations to help homeless folks downtown get "out of the system." I want us to do the same. If we can get our alleys paved along the way, all the better! ◆

**KRISTOPHER C. VALENTINE:**

Venetians have an energy and spirit that is unsurpassed. When a dilemma arises, we are never short of opinions or solutions. Consensus isn't easy, and while we may disagree, we must

remember that as Venetians we have more in common than not.

As co-chair of the Environmental Committee, member of the Administrative Committee, and youngest community

officer, I have initiated beneficial projects like the Venice Green Film Series and the "Bin Your Butts" campaign to get cigarette butts off our streets and beaches. If given the opportunity

to continue serving our community, I will focus on ways to enrich Venice as I do, and want a representative that is respectful, positive, and reliable, then please VOTE for KRISTOPHER VALENTINE.

**KELLEY S. WILLIS:**

Venice is where I live. My wife and I own a small home here. We want to live here for the rest of our lives. So I want to have some say in what the Venice of the future will be like.

Venice is a tourist mecca and a hometown. It's got crime issues and gentrification problems. It wants to use the latest green technologies while retaining its small-town look and

feel. Having been dis- covered, it often regrets the price of stardom.

I want to help Venice move forward without losing its past, and that won't be easy. The Venice of fifty years from

now cannot look exactly like the Venice of today.

But it won't look like the Marina's towers, or Century City, or Universal City Walk either.

Not if I have anything to say about it. ◆

Candidates for: FACTUAL BASIS COMMUNITY OFFICER

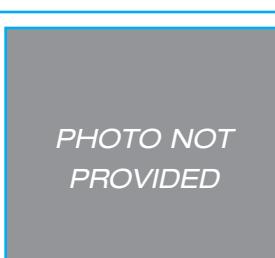
**DAVID R. BRADT:**

As a child my parents took me to Venice Beach and I found a fascinatingly unique place of artists, palm readers, entertainers and advocates. I knew then, if I was ever called to a cause, this

is where I would go. For 15 years I have come to the unique, world famous, Venice Beach Boardwalk with a cause to debate. Of recent, it has become a common swap meet that has

taken over where constitutionally protected free expression use to exist.

Abbot Kenny would cry to see what has happened to his vision. ◆

**THERÈSE A. DIETLIN:**

My name is Therese Dietlin and I am running for the factual basis community officer position. While not a resident of Venice, I have been setting up a political activism table on the

Boardwalk for about nine years. Through my activism, I became acquainted with several Venice residents and participated in several community activities. In these nine years, I have come to

appreciate Venice and the Boardwalk as having very special and unique qualities which not only deserve, but demand, to be preserved. With the institution of the permit lottery system

on the Boardwalk, and the consequent rampant unprotected commercial vending there, on the Venice Neigh- these qualities are being borhood Council. ◆

**AMANDA M. SEWARD:**

Amanda Seward led the successful efforts to preserve Lincoln Place apartments in Venice. She authored the California State Historic Resource nomination, which was approved by the State Historic Com-

mission in 2005 and prevented the complex from being demolished. After many tenants were evicted by the owner of the property, she took up the legal representation of the current tenants, successfully staving off

their evictions. She is part of the team of attorneys who have negotiated the settlement with the owner of the property, which will see some of the evicted tenants returned and neighborhood friendly rehabili-

tation of the property. Ms. Seward received her JD from Georgetown University Law Center and received her BA in philosophy from Spelman College. ◆

The Governing Body of the **Venice Neighborhood Council** shall be the Board of Officers. The Board of Officers shall establish policies and positions of the Venice Neighborhood Council at its regular meetings and review and recommend actions to governmental and other entities on issues affecting the Venice commu-

nity. The Board of Officers is comprised of twenty-one (21) voting Officers, as follows: seven Executive Officers and fourteen Community Officers.

Voters at Board elections may vote for one person for each executive officer position, one person for Community Officer and one person for Factual Basis Community Officer (Factual Basis stakeholders may

only vote for the Factual Basis Community Officer). The one person getting the most votes for each Executive Officer position and Factual Basis Community Officer position shall be elected. The thirteen top voter getters for Community Officer shall be elected. Job description can be found at: http://bit.ly/VNC_Board_Job_Descriptions

A Letter From The President...

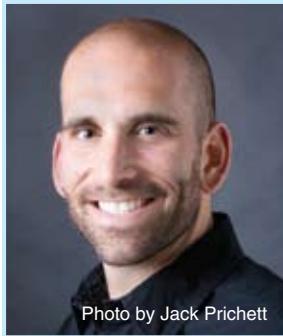


Photo by Jack Pritchett
**Venice
Neighborhood
Council President
Mike Newhouse**

It's with mixed emotions I write this final message to my neighbors as President of the **Venice Neighborhood Council**. After three and a half years on the VNC, and two and a half years as its President, I feel tremendously proud of what we have done and grateful for the opportunity to have served. But I also feel that we have only scratched the surface of what needs to be done.

Over the past two and a half years, all twenty-one of your VNC Board members have served with distinction, and made great strides towards making Venice a better place. The Council has made it a priority to engage and involve every neighborhood in Venice; whether through our Neighborhood Committee organizing for disaster preparedness, or the Land Use and Planning Committee working with communities where a project is proposed for siting. Community Outreach has risen to a new high, with the VNC's work being more effectively communicated to us all through our newsletter, *Your Venice*, increased press coverage, e-mail alerts, and community tabling at the Venice Farmer's Market and First Fridays. We have also

taken the concept of Town Hall meetings to a new level, creating interactive forums where hundreds of Venetians come together to discuss an issue, make concrete recommendations, and forward their input directly to the City Council and Mayor. More specifically, the VNC has worked with the merchants of Abbot Kinney and the Venice Chamber of Commerce to create First Fridays. We have helped make recycling on the Boardwalk a reality, added trash cans and recycling bins throughout our commercial districts, and created the Bin Your Butts program, which seeks to keep waste out of our ocean by providing receptacles for cigarette butt disposal.

The VNC has also taken an active role in the Neighborhood Council

system and in the City. We've been a big part of creating the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils, which brings all 13 Westside Councils together to cooperate on issues of regional importance. And, through our participation in the Board of Neighborhood Council Commissioners (BONC), Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition (LANCC) and other groups, we've taken the lead on many city-wide issues and contributed to the best practices of the Neighborhood Council System.

We reserve almost 50% of our annual budget for projects proposed by stakeholders and community groups that directly benefit Venice. Our innovative method of basing most of this funding on a

competitive application process has been widely praised and is being emulated all over the city. As for our serious issues regarding homelessness, the VNC has spent the better part of the last two years working with Councilman Rosendahl's office to develop a system for overnight parking permits - for neighborhoods that want them - coupled with a Safe RV Parking program to provide refuge and opportunity for members of our community living in their vehicles.

However, this is just a start, and so much more needs to be done. Over the last year Venice has experienced a small but disturbing rise in property and violent crimes which must be addressed. Our parking and vehicular congestion problems are

growing. The city-wide budget crisis makes it likely the VNC's budget for coming years will be heavily cut at the same time the city's ability to provide basic services to our community is in jeopardy.

Because of all the work that still must be done, I challenge every one of you to get more involved in Venice. Whether that means working directly with the VNC and its committees, starting a neighborhood watch on your street, opening a new business, or simply voting on April 11th doesn't particularly matter. What matters is your participation in making our Community a better place. Remember, It's Your Venice, Get Involved!

Mike R. Newhouse

The VNC's Land Use and Planning Commission Chair Position is Up For Grabs in This Year's April 11, 2010 Election:

Current Chair Urges Her Successor to Ensure Developer Compliance With Conditions Imposed on Projects



Challis Macpherson (center) presides at LUPC meeting.

Editor's Note: Challis Macpherson, after years of serving as the Chair of the VNC Land Use and Planning Committee ("LUPC"), is not running for re-election. Two candidates are vying for her position. When asked what advice she might offer

her successor, Macpherson wrote the following: It is important to ensure that developers adhere to the conditions placed on projects. If I could do anything differently, I would place more emphasis on following up on conditions

that the City imposes on development projects.

Some developers, not all, attempt to "game" the system by accepting a community's conditions to obtain project approval and then ignoring both the community and the conditions as the project progresses.

This is wrong. In all likelihood, a community would not accept a project without such conditions, LUPC and the VNC would not recommend approval of a project but for such conditions, and/or the City would not approve projects absent such conditions. That some developers choose to ignore these conditions, and that the City does not do a better job enforcing compliance is simply

unfair to our community.

To ensure better compliance with conditions, in 2006, LUPC recommended the following draft amendment to State of California Code, Section 27281.5:

(d) A Municipal Government entity may, by ordinance approving or granting a discretionary land use right also provide for the right to record the conditions of approval on behalf of the developer, at the discretion of the Municipal Government entity, at any time after the expiration of six months following the date of its approval of the conditions and the granting of a vested development right.

Such language would ensure that agreed-upon conditions are legally placed on a project and that violations of those conditions are

actionable. Apparently, the draft amendment did not go anywhere. It is my hope that LUPC and its new Chair will continue to explore their options at the local, city and state level, perhaps recommending a similar amendment.

In 2009, Controller Laura Chick's audit of the City of Los Angeles' Planning Department addressed the question: "Who ensures that the requirements attached to these developments are followed?" The answer, she found, is: "No one." We, the community and the City, rely on voluntary compliance by the developers.

This simply doesn't work. Voluntary compliance is spotty at best. We are entitled to more.

But until some enforcement mechanism is put in place, the community has to do the follow-up. Using new tracking tools, our ever-increasing knowledge of the City's planning process, and feedback from residents, we can ensure that developers comply with conditions imposed on their projects.

That is why your vote in the upcoming election is critical. Whom you elect to chair LUPC and the VNC Board will shape the next Land Use and Planning Committee. If you are concerned with developers complying with conditions imposed on projects, if you are concerned with adherence to the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan and our community's future, please vote on April 11, 2010.

Venice Neighborhood Council Budget

by Hugh Harrison, VNC Treasurer

Until the current fiscal year, the budget parameters for the **Venice Neighborhood Council** were consistent. Each year, the City would appropriate \$50,000 for each of the neighborhood councils. In addition, any unspent funds from the previous three years could be "rolled-over" and were available for expenditures. The VNC planned its annual budget based upon these principles.

Due to last year's serious cash shortage, the City cut the budget for all Neighborhood Councils by 10%. So our annual allocation was reduced to \$45,000. The right to utilize the unspent funds from previous years was retained. The availability of

roll-over funding was of critical importance to the VNC as our largest category of expenditures has consistently been community improvement projects. These projects are scheduled to be completed during the budget year after the funds are awarded to allow sufficient time for application and approval process, and for the community groups to complete their work.

The City's financial problems reached crisis levels this year, and it looked for ways to stem the outflow of money in places that had been off-limits in the past. As a result, the City decided in February to eliminate the use of any roll-over funds by neighbor-

hood councils. Moreover, the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment [DONE] unilaterally determined that all payments made after June 30, 2009, were to be deducted from this year's funding rather than to be allocated to the budget year from which the funding was originated. This affected projects funded two years ago and completed in the previous year for which payment had been delayed. As a result, the VNC was notified that it had very limited funding remaining.

The City subsequently created a mechanism for DONE to reallocate funding for previously approved projects to the appropriate budget. However, no

decision has been made on the VNC application, which contends that the majority of expenses charged to this year's budget properly should be allocated to the previous two years' budgets. Until this dispute is resolved, the VNC is stymied in its ability to proceed with its remaining projects. Just to complicate matters further, the mayor instituted a spending freeze in March.

At the same time all of this has been happening, the budget process for next year moves on. Although the Mayor has yet to release his budget, the Education and Neighborhood Committee of the City Council initially recommended that the annual



Venice Neighborhood Council anticipates budget cuts for this fiscal year.

funding for the neighborhood councils be cut in half to \$22,500. The majority of neighborhood councils and the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners have recommended a smaller reduction, to \$40,000. The VNC will be developing two alternative budgets

for next year based on these extremely different funding levels. Whatever funding is ultimately determined, the VNC will continue its commitment to minimize spending on overhead, and maximize the use of funds directly in the Venice community.



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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
www.VeniceNC.org

cut out along dotted line



ARE YOU BOthered BY AIRCRAFT NOISE AND POLLUTION?

The Venice Neighborhood Council is seeking input about problems the Santa Monica Airport causes for Venice residents. This information will be used in efforts to change the operations of the airport to lessen its impact on Venice.

Name: (Please Print) _____

Address: _____

City and Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email address: _____

We are requesting addresses to show the scope and location of airplane related problems caused for residents and businesses in Venice. Email addresses and phone numbers will only be used to contact you should further actions be necessary. If you do not have an email address, we will do our best to contact you by telephone.

PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY TO YOU.

The airplanes fly over or near my home.

Airplane noise is an issue for me.

The safety issue of aircraft flying over populated areas concerns me.

The pollution problems caused by jets and prop planes concern me.

I would like to be kept informed about actions I can take.

Other concerns _____

Thank you for participating in this important survey. Return in a stamped envelope to:

Venice Neighborhood Council, PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294

(Attn: Santa Monica Airport Committee)

Or: If you prefer to respond to this survey online, please go to: <http://venicenc.org/node/1420>

How to Prepare For An Emergency – Home Safety Tips

*From the Emergency Preparedness Task Force of
Venice Neighborhood Council*



The Fire Department says we might have to survive on our own for up to 10 days if a big earthquake hits Southern California. Minimize hazards now and keep yourself and your family safe. This information is gathered from many of the best sources for preparedness. Check out the websites included below for more details.

What you can do now:

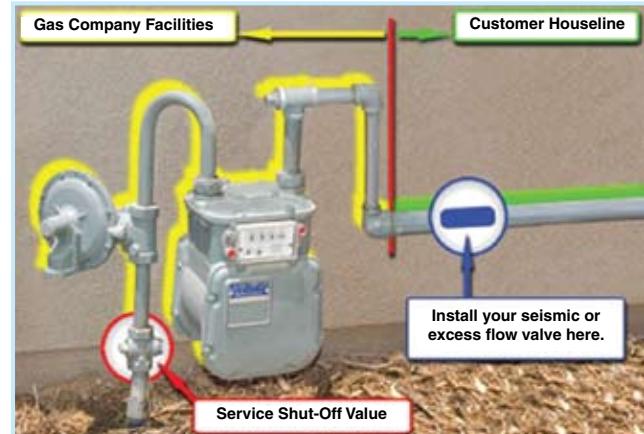
- **Locate, label and review shutoffs for gas, water and electrical utilities. install an automatic gas shut-off valve.**

The City of Los Angeles requires natural gas seismic shut-off valves on gas lines.

The valve automatically shuts off your gas when an earthquake of sufficient magnitude occurs. An excess flow valve automatically shuts off your gas when a significant gas leak or overpressure surge occurs at a pipe or appliance located beyond the point where the valve is installed.

<http://www.socalgas.com/safety/emergency/shutoff.html>

<http://www.socalgas.com/safety/valves.html>



• Identify potential hazards in your home and begin to fix them.

People have been seriously injured because of unsecured building contents such as toppling bookcases. Many billions of dollars have been lost due to this type of damage.

Secure anything 1) heavy enough to hurt you if it falls on you, or 2) fragile and/or expensive enough to be a significant loss if it falls. In addition to contents within your living space, secure items in other areas, such as your garage, to reduce damage to vehicles. Secure hazardous materials to avoid spills.

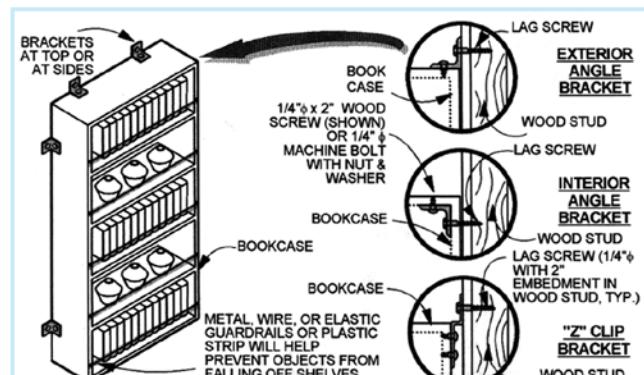
Details on how to secure the contents of your home:

<http://www.earthquakecountry.info/roots/step1.html> http://www.daretouseyour_space.php

<http://quakehold.com/collectibles.html>

• Identify your building's potential weaknesses and begin to fix them.

Find out more on this website: <http://www.earthquakecountry.info/roots/step4.html>



Democracy: A True Means to Education

By Brooke Soles, VNC Education Committee



**Adult Education Classes are available at
Venice High School.**

Upon coming to the **Venice Neighborhood Council** (VNC) Education Committee last summer, I encountered heated discussions regarding budget cuts, English learner programs, charters vs. non-charters, and special education learning theories. We were an extremely committed group of people working to strengthen educational opportunities in Venice. Isn't this always the case in education? There we were—together—moving forward to make a difference for our future generations regardless of our personal circumstances.

Any school or organization runs more effectively when it functions in a true, democratic leadership model. We, as commu-

nity members, can facilitate this process by ensuring that we produce positive, solution based ideas any time we are presented with a potential problem. When teachers, schools, and community stakeholders utilize democratic protocols, effective change occurs while hearing all stakeholders' voices.

For example, VNC Education Committee participants meet to discuss educational concerns in Venice. Action items from their meetings are taken to the VNC Board for approval. The VNC Board advises the City... eventually laws and policies are created to reflect the original desires of those VNC Education Committee participants who

made their voices heard. John Dewey, American educational reformer and strong advocate of democracy, viewed schools and civil society as working together to further human intellectual progress. "All those who are affected by social institutions must have a share in producing and managing them" (John Dewey, 1937). I believe this is the perfect quote that encapsulates the importance of educational access and accountability systems.

If community members have a sense of power and actual power in the decision making process, there is an individual and collective sense of responsibility moving them towards true educational reform.

The Education Committee's Mission Statement is as follows: "The Committee has the general responsibility for addressing the issues, concerns, programs and services related to the education of children, youth, and adults and developing specific strategies and policies for influencing and achieving constructive outcomes within the schools, classrooms, and other education/learning centers that serve

the Venice Community." The purpose of education is to clear the learning path so individuals can realize their full potential as human beings. Our purpose as teachers, administrators, parents, and community members is to engage our community in critical thinking activities to promote positive changes at home and in the community.

My hope for the upcoming VNC Board and Education Committee is to think beyond kindergarten through college education. We as the Education Committee must continue to look to all Venice Stakeholders as students. Learning does not stop at middle and high school graduations. Educational opportunities should be available to all stakeholders beyond college. Lifelong learning takes place beyond the classroom in VNC Town Halls, cooking classes at the Venice Skills Center, and piano lessons at the Oakwood Recreation Center. We all are the students in our community.

Over the past year as Education Committee Members, we have instituted Spanish translation for our agendas, encour-

aged stakeholders to start grassroots educational programs, collected data on local school enrollment numbers, examined school volunteer programs, and passionately discussed charter and traditional schooling options. At the time this article is going to press, we are meeting with Steve Zimmer, Los Angeles Unified School District Board Member, to collaboratively create a partnership plan between his office, our Committee - and therefore our community - to meet the needs of our schools. What are you doing for education in Venice?

Thank you to Education Committee participants Clarence Carter, André Bollinger, Carolyn Rios, Karen Wolfe, Loren Grossman, Rick Selan, Lydia Ponce, and Ivan Spiegel for your collaboration, accountability, and putting students first. The VNC Education Committee meets every fourth Monday at 7:30 P.M., Extra Space Storage, Presidents Row Room, 658 South Venice Boulevard. Please check Events Calendar at www.grvnc.org and/or email Education@VeniceNC.org for up-to-date information. Se habla español.