



THE WHITTIER CONSERVANCY

THE PRESERVATIONIST

HISTORIC HOLIDAY CANDLELIGHT WALK DECEMBER 11TH: WHITTIER'S FIRST CHURCHES

Fall 2006

By popular demand, this year we will be repeating a Holiday Candlelight Walk theme from several years ago by visiting historic uptown churches. On Monday, December 11th, we will meet at 7:00 P.M. on the Bailey Street side of Central Park. We will walk to six nearby churches where we will enjoy the architecture, spend a few minutes inside of several, and might just be lucky enough to hear some beautiful music along the way. We will wind up with refreshments. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable shoes. There is no charge for this event. Happy holidays to all!



[First Christian Church, Whittier]

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Check out the Whittier Conservancy website: www.whittierconservancy.org
- The Conservancy plans to increase its efforts to bring more trees to Whittier's neighborhoods. Call us to recommend an area in need of street trees.
- WE NEED YOU... To write our Governor requesting him to allow the sale of the Nelles property to move forward: Governor Schwarzenegger, State Capitol Bldg., Sacramento, CA 95814.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness that we relay that long time Conservancy friend Damon Cofer recently passed away. Many of you may have known Damon, his wonderful family, and his passion for Whittier's trees, specifically his spearheading of the Conservancy's "110 Project" that planted 110 trees for Whittier's 110th anniversary back in 1997.

The Conservancy is planning a major tree planting event in early 2007 to commemorate our 20th anniversary and also to honor Damon and his family, who are in our thoughts.

THE ILLS OF WHITTIER'S "MANSIONIZATION" BY CHARLES CLAVER

I read with great interest a recent Sunday edition of the L.A. Times Real Estate section, which dealt with the adverse effects of "mansionization" (i.e., new home construction using the maximum allowable capacity of the lot, thereby dwarfing older existing homes) and the way many communities are addressing this issue to protect their neighborhoods' character and property values.

Local communities in Southern California are addressing mansionization by forming resident design review boards that evaluate all new single-family residential developments to ensure that any new home construction will complement an existing neighborhood's character, scale, and form.

Here at home, Whittier has its own resident Design Review Board, although it might surprise

you to learn that this board does not deal with new single-family residential construction; rather only new commercial and multiple-family residential development.

Resident oversight over new development is important and should be applied to one of Whittier's greatest assets – our single-family residential neighborhoods. Locally,

(cont. p. 2)



Dorothea Boyd,
President,
Whittier Conservancy

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MARIA CLAVER

P. O. Box 9114
Whittier, CA 90608
www.whittierconservancy.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY DOROTHEA BOYD

The Conservancy's annual awards dinner, held October 7th at the Whittier Museum, was a successful and enlightening event. Sally Schacht gave a compelling address on the history of the Conservancy, founded in 1987 following the Whittier earthquake. She reminded her audience that due to the Conservancy's efforts of preservation, many of us live in historic homes that may have been demolished and have been replaced by apartments.

The Conservancy's efforts to preserve and improve Whittier continue with a current ambition to plant hopefully hundreds of trees to continue the beautification of our city.

We were especially pleased to have present Major Cathy Warner, Mayor Pro Tem Owen Newcomer and his

wife Christina and Councilman Joe Vinatieri and his wife Sandy, each speaking to what was of interest and importance to them as council members and to us as citizens.

Our current problem with the outcome of the Nelles property was addressed and at this writing, it is still deemed necessary to write to Sacramento (see box on pg. 1). Please take time for one more request that the property become available for the development that will bring financial security to Whittier and the prosperous future of Uptown. Nelles, at Whittier Blvd. and Philadelphia, is the entrance to the heart of the city.

We were pleased to have present Sylvia Sutherland and other members from S.C. Edison who are supportive of our environmental endeavors. Edi-

son has hosted Conservancy members on two memorable trips to Edison facilities in the High Sierras.

We were also joined by many of the families receiving awards for improving or building homes or businesses in keeping with their surroundings.

The usual entertaining auction brought out our wallets and our coffers are richer by about \$1,300.

We thank all who attended; the wonderful musicians from the Saltbox, who played throughout the evening, Beryl Whiting of Green Arbor who served an excellent dinner, and our hosts, The Whittier Museum.

We hope to see you next October as we celebrate our 20th year serving Whittier.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON WORKSHOP BY BONNIE SHIRLEY

On behalf of the Conservancy, I attended Southern California Edison's High Sierra Workshop from September 27-29. I traveled with other Conservancy members and about 18 other

community or non-profit attendees. The tour familiarized attendees with Edison's Grant program for non-profit and community groups, and educated us about Edison's High Sierra hydroelectric

systems at Shaver Lake. We rode in a comfortable bus, with a stop in Tulare at Edison's 24,000 sq. ft. AgTac Center. The Center is even more interesting than it sounds! (cont. p. 3)

MANSIONIZATION (CONT.)



Example of incompatible new construction both in scale and form

in Friendly Hills and East Whittier, signs of mansionization are emerging. The tear down of older ranch style homes and in their place, the construction of oversized, Mediterranean behemoths, may negatively impact the neighborhood.

Whittier is currently experiencing tremendous opportunity for development with new condos and town homes proposed for Uptown and along portions of Whittier Boule-

vard. These new developments will adhere to stringent design and review guidelines established to enhance these once-blighted areas.

I urge the City Council to take the next step in preserving our single-family neighborhoods by ensuring appropriate Design Review Board oversight over all new development, including single-family residential development to protect our neighborhoods' character and property values.

CITY HALL'S CORNER BY STEVE HELVEY

At the start of August 2006, the City of Whittier and surrounding communities faced the prospect of a re-opened Fred C. Nelles Correctional Facility. This was due to the introduction of legislation by Assemblyman Rudy Bermudez to remove the property from the State surplus roles and re-activate it as a prison facility.

The City Council, business community and Whittier residents joined together to stop this effort. They spearheaded an effective email, letter, and phone call campaign in support of the City Council's lobbying effort in Sacramento. These endeavors, along with the support of Senator Escutia, Senator Mar-

gett, Assemblyman Calderon, Assemblyman Huff, and Supervisor Knabe, led to a successful conclusion to the legislative session. For the time being, the City Council and community were able to beat back the legislation that would have re-activated the Fred C. Nelles property.

All references to Nelles were removed from the final legislative package that was passed by the State Senate on August 30th and not acted upon by the State Assembly before the end of the regular legislative session.

The City Council's efforts now must focus on the Governor's office and the California Department of Corrections

(CDC). CDC has been charged with coming back to the legislature with a comprehensive plan to deal with the State's prison crisis. Moving forward, as part of this plan or independently, CDC still has the ability to make use of the Nelles property in the future.

Simply stated, Whittier will always face the possibility of a re-activated Nelles prison facility, unless the property is sold and developed for another use.

On November 1st, Council Members Bob Henderson and Greg Nordbak met in Sacramento with Mr. James E. Tilton, the Secretary of the Department of Corrections



Steve Helvey, City Manager, City of Whittier

and Rehabilitation, to discuss ways in which this impasse may be resolved in the best interests of both parties. The tone of the meeting was positive and, based upon the discussions, there is still hope that the re-opening of the facility as a correctional institution may be avoided.

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EDISON WORKSHOP (CONT.)

The speaker described the Center's work and his own years of effort in making it an accessible resource for the public. Demonstrating various energy saving systems, the Center would be an excellent field trip resource for schools. We drove on to Shaver

Lake, to the Edison Guest facilities and toured power plants built in the earlier decades of the 20th century with an industrial architectural esthetic representative of those times. Over the next days, we heard from Edison's Forestry manager, a biolo-

gist, and their chief hydrology engineer. All were dedicated to their jobs and provided information on various Edison forestry programs, endangered species programs, and the ways water is conserved and reused. I was impressed to learn that the dams

maintain a constant small spill of water so that downstream wildlife always has water. If the trip is offered again in the future, I recommend it to those interested in ways large corporations can educate their customers and contribute to the environment.



2006 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Yes! I want to be a part of the Whittier Conservancy!

<input type="radio"/> \$10 Student	Name _____
<input type="radio"/> \$25 Individual	Address _____
<input type="radio"/> \$45 Family	_____
<input type="radio"/> \$100 Patron	Email Address _____
<input type="radio"/> \$__ Donation	Phone # _____

Please return this form with your membership fee (checks payable to the Whittier Conservancy) to:

Whittier Conservancy, PO Box 9114, Whittier, CA 90608

CONSERVANCY AWARDS PRESENTED AT DINNER BY KAREN BENNETT

At the Conservancy dinner on October 7, awards were given in recognition of several recent projects.

In recognition for their contribution to the quality of life in our city, an award was given for New Construction to the Maguire & Welsh Building on Painter Avenue near the civic center. The Automobile Club of Southern California Building on Whittier Boulevard in East Whittier was recognized for Design. An award for Preservation of a Building Associated with an Important Per-

son was given to Moneyline Escrow for the care with which they have preserved the interior and defining architectural features of the former Hannah Nixon home which houses their business on Whittier Boulevard.

The award for New Construction Compatible with an Historic Building was presented to the George Colome family for the garage building at the rear of their home at the northeast corner of Washington Avenue and Park Street, and for the restoration of the smooth stucco

finish and other architectural features on the house itself. The Arcadi family home at the southeast corner of Broadway and Washington Avenue received the award for Color Pattern and Design for the new paint scheme which beautifully complements the historic arroyo stone porch on their craftsman house.

Appreciation was also expressed to the City of Whittier for the quality of the new Parnell Park Senior and Community Center. Congratulations to all of the 2006 award winners!

CITY HALL (CONT.)

You can help us close the book on Nelles by writing, emailing and calling the Governor's office and the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation requesting that they direct the sale of the Fred C. Nelles property to move forward. Together we can build a better Whittier.

Governor Schwarzenegger's contact information on page 1.

James E. Tilton, Secretary, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, 1515 S Street, Suite 502 South, Sacramento, CA 95814

CONSERVANCY/ COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 2, 2006

53rd Annual Christmas Parade

10am-12noon, Uptown

December 9, 2006

Holiday Sonata

5pm-9pm, Uptown

For more information: www.whittieruptown.org

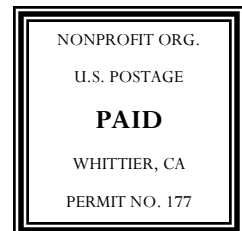
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2006 Awardee: Moneyline Escrow for renovation of historic Nixon Home

**PRESERVING OUR HISTORIC
AND NATURAL RESOURCES**



Return Service Requested