



THE WHITTIER CONSERVANCY

THE PRESERVATIONIST

BIG CHANGES AHEAD FOR UPTOWN

BY CHARLES CLAVER

The Whittier City Council brought in the new year by unanimously selecting the renowned architecture and urban design firm Moule and Polyzoides to revise the Uptown Specific Plan. The Pasadena-based firm has had much success in revitalizing other historic downtowns, notably Pasadena and Santa Monica, and many Whittier residents and business owners are optimistic that the Uptown area will share similar success.

Likely changes to the Uptown Specific Plan will include mixed-use residential development along Philadelphia & Greenleaf, cohesive design and development standards, and land use that encourages heightened pedestrian activity for a unique "uptown" experience.

The year-long process is slated to begin in February with the public involvement phase to begin this Spring.



Old Bank Building at Philadelphia & Greenleaf

The Whittier Conservancy urges residents who have shared concerns about the past direction of Uptown to actively participate in public forums to influence our Historic District's future.

For further information about Moule & Polyzoides, their past and current projects, and the Whittier Uptown Specific Plan, please visit their website at: www.mparchitects.com

WHITTIER CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS APRIL 11TH

The upcoming City Council elections are actually two separate races. Two four year seats are open with incumbents Bob Henderson and Greg Nordback facing off against perennial candidate Joe Marsico.

The real contest is the second race, which is to fill a two year seat left vacant by Doug Lopez, who announced plans not to run for the seat he gained

through appointment after Dave Butler's resignation. Attorneys Alex Moisa and Joseph Vinatieri are the leading candidates for this seat with Arthur Rock also running.

The Whittier Conservancy is working to discover candidates' positions on issues important to Whittier's citizens such as sound redevelopment in Uptown Whittier, Nelles,

and along Whittier Blvd., historic preservation, and enforcement of quality development and design standards.

To encourage voter participation, the Whittier Conservancy will hold a televised City Council Candidate's Forum at Whittier City Hall on Monday, March 13th at 7pm. Conservancy member and attorney Bonnie Shirley will moderate.

Winter 2006

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *The Whittier Conservancy will hold a televised City Council Candidate's Forum at Whittier City Hall on Monday, March 13th at 7pm.*
- *If there is a residential or commercial property that you would like to have considered for the 2006 Annual Conservancy Awards, please call Karen Bennett at (562) 696-4458.*
- *Silent Auction donations needed for 2006 Awards Dinner! Please contact Maria Claver for more information at (323) 651-0524*
- *Check out the Whittier Conservancy website at www.whittierconservancy.org*

2006 MEMBERSHIP PLEASE RENEW!

The Whittier Conservancy depends on and appreciates your continued support! Your annual membership dues will directly help us continue our work to preserve the historic and unique character of our community.

Please see inside for exciting 2006 Whittier Conservancy programs that will help protect, beautify, and improve our neighborhoods and quality of life of Whittier.



Dorothea Boyd,
President,
Whittier Conservancy

**WHITTIER
CONSERVANCY
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY DOROTHEA BOYD

Elections are a very important part of community life, especially when many decisions regarding the future of a community are pending. Whittier is anticipating great changes—for the better—with a new future for Uptown, Whittier Boulevard, Philadelphia to Uptown and hopes for the Nelles Property development.

With elections in April, voters are already studying candidates and their approach to the enormous issues facing Whittier. To help understand the views of each candidate, the Conservancy has planned a forum for Monday, March 13th at 7:00pm in City Hall. This will be televised and repeatedly broadcast until the

elections. There are two other candidates' forums planned— by the League of Women Voters on March 16th also to be broadcast and by the Whittier Uptown Association and Chamber of Commerce at the Crystal Marquee on March 22nd at 6:30pm.

We hope Conservancy members will have an opportunity to hear candidates, form an opinion, and vote. Your voice does count. Not just with one vote but as a member of an organization, such as the Conservancy, when important issues need to be addressed. The Conservancy was not favorably inclined towards the intense mass of the Astani Project on Phila-

delphia and Bright in Uptown and for many months made the Council aware of our objections. We are delighted that changes were made and that a nationally known city planner has been hired to review and renew our precious little Uptown and surrounding area.

Moule and Polyzoides of Pasadena will be working with Whittier City, the people, city staff and council for the best part of a year to design a unique and appropriate urban design renewal, including housing, business and manufacturing.

Your voice helped make changes in Whittier. It will be needed again. We encourage you to vote on April 11th.

**LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION:
GRAFFITI, GRAFFITI, GRAFFITI** BY LILYAN NEAL

In the world of real estate sales the word *location* is often the primary justification for establishing value. However, an entire city of both residential and commercial areas can be downgraded in value by the insidious increase of *graffiti*. Whittier is in that mode right now, having more than tripled instances since 2001.

When my son had an ice business in the late 80's and mid 90's on the corners of Beverly and Norwalk, taggers were also rampant but had not reached the incredible numbers of today. Scott always kept matching paint for his ice house in order to quickly cover any graffiti rather than a patchwork of

odd colored squares that beckon taggers to *do it again...right here*. This very past weekend a large bright blue piece of self expression was sprayed on a home on busy Beverly Drive. Fortunately the owner immediately called the city and got a quick cover up, having supplied them with matching house color paint.

The public can play an important roll in protecting our community and their own property values. Both residents and business owners need to take quick action in reporting to Whittier Public Works Graffiti Crew (562) 464-3540 in the wake of spotting these destructive acts and its invitation for more crime. Both abatement and prevention measures are being

explored by our city and public meetings are in the planning to gather ideas. Be part of the solution.

- Encourage same color paint as subject building.
- Landscaping as a prevention, especially on walls.
- Lighting, cameras and protective coating for glass
- Educate and provide alternate recreational help for our youth
- Rewards for information leading to prosecution of vandals (5 arrested in past few weeks)
- Tough enforcement and punishment responsibility of parents.



**Whittier Conservancy
2006 Programs**

- *Whittier Tree Fund- \$1,000 Annual Grant to the City of Whittier for planting of street trees.*
- *Historic Window Repair & Replacement Grant- \$1,000 Annual grant to approved homeowners for the repair or replacement of wood windows, appropriate for historic homes.*
- *“Operation Green Wall” - \$500 allocation for vine/ greenery plantings along designated public walls as a graffiti deterrent.*
- *Annual Awards Dinner- Recognize owners of residential and commercial properties that have contributed to Whittier’s historic character through quality development and design.*

These programs are only possible through your membership & generosity!

COUNCIL’S CORNER BY CATHY WARNER

I appreciate the opportunity to share a few thoughts with the membership of the Whittier Conservancy. As I recall, in your last newsletter Councilman Bob Henderson gave a thorough update of the State of the City. Consequently, I will be taking a different approach as I share some personal observations of my life in Whittier since 1948.

It is with nostalgia that I return back to the age of five. My great-grandparents, grandparents and father came to Whittier from Nebraska in 1920 following the end of World War I. They were actually on their way to Palo Alto, but stopped in Pomona to visit friends. The box car they had rented was placed on a railroad siding and somehow they found themselves in Whittier. They never left.

They purchased an old butcher shop and had it moved to 218 S. Pickering where it was placed on a brick foundation. They added on a kitchen and a bathroom and had their new wood framed home. During World War II, my mom moved to Bellflower to be near her mother while my dad was overseas with the Marine Corps, but after his return the family returned to Whittier liv-

ing at 218 S. Pickering with the family while our one bedroom home at 421 N. Gretna was being remodeled into a very small three bedroom home.

My first recollection of Whittier was walking by St. Mary’s Catholic Church past the nuns (which were very intimidating to a five year old) to attend kindergarten at John Greenleaf School, which is now the Whittier City School District Office.

Upon the completion of the remodeling, we moved to our home on Gretna where I attended Longfellow Elementary School. It was there we made a snowman in 1951. While in third grade, we were bused to Jonathon Bailey School while Longfellow was being remodeled. We loved our street, would walk to the Box Market on Whittier Blvd., go to Richardson’s Dime Store, visit the Co-op (which was like today’s 7-eleven) and go to the movies at the Whittier Theater for .35 cents. The stars on the ceiling were exciting. Also, my parents would take us to the Buster Brown shoe store on Hadley and of course we would stick our feet in the x-ray machine to make sure we were



Cathy Warner,
Councilmember,
City of Whittier

in the right size shoes. Our toes are still intact.

When I was eight, the first Palm Park pool opened and of course we had to be there on opening day. The rubber mats were not in place yet and in my excitement I fell and broke my two front teeth. We were to leave on vacation that day and I thought for sure I had ruined our vacation but we went to the dentist at Hadley and Whittier Blvd. who took care of everything.

On to Dexter Jr. High School where life was wonderful until that fateful day in 1956.

My great uncle sold the house at 218 S. Pickering to the Catholic Church, bought

(cont p. 4)

2006 MEMBERSHIP NOW DUE! PLEASE JOIN NOW!



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, P.O. Box 9114, Whittier, CA 90608

COUNCIL'S CORNER CONT.

his 1921 Spanish style bungalow at 515 N. Bright and my parents had the temerity to remove me from my beloved school and move the family to Christine Dr. in East Whittier. In the middle of eighth grade, I enrolled in East Whittier Jr. High, then went on to California High School where life was once again wonderful, graduating in 1961 with the distinction of being the first class to graduate in the new football stadium. Let's see now, we have a new pool at Palm Park and a newly refurbished stadium at Calhi!!)

After receiving my Dental Hygiene degree from the University

of Missouri at Kansas City, I returned to Whittier with my new husband Dave. We rented a small two bedroom home across the street from my parents who still lived in the Christine house.

Upon my great uncle's death in 1972, we bought the Christine house and my parents moved to the Bright house – now 6041 Bright as the county changed the numbering system for all the homes in Uptown Whittier in 1969. By then my father was retired from the L.A. County Fire Department and was able to restore the 1921 home down to the wooden windows which hung by rope.

This home was a treasure to all the family and we would gather at Grama & Grampa's for breakfast before the Uptown Christmas Parade and chili before Halloween trick or treating on Bright, Washington and Friends Avenues.

Sadly (for me), my mother sold the Bright Ave. home two years ago and she has moved to Brea to live between me and my brother who lives in Yorba Linda. I miss our home on Bright and the memories it holds for our family.

I am so thankful to live in a community that values its heritage and historic resources along

with promoting appropriate economic development and growth. I am pleased to serve on the Council to help promote this heritage and thank you for your dedication to Whittier.

"I AM SO THANKFUL TO LIVE IN A COMMUNITY THAT VALUES ITS HERITAGE AND HISTORIC RESOURCES..."

- CATHY WARNER

CONSERVANCY/ COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Whittier Conservancy Candidates Forum
Monday 3/13/2006 (7:00 pm) Whittier City Hall

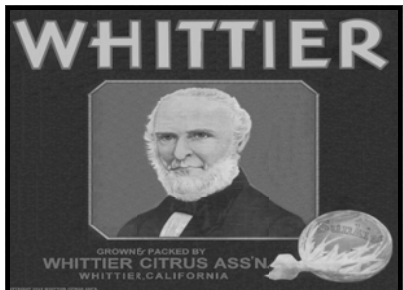
Whittier Chamber/Uptown Assoc. Candidates Forum
Wednesday 3/22/2006 (6:00 pm) Crystal Marquis-Uptown

Parnell Park Senior Center & Zoo Dedication
Saturday 3/18/2006 (9:00 am) Parnell Park

Whittier City Council Elections
Tuesday 4/11/2006 Polls Open (7:00 am –8:00 pm)

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Whittier Citrus Packing Label, circa 1910

**"PRESERVING OUR HISTORIC
AND NATURAL RESOURCES"**

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