



CARTHAY SQUARE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

**NEWSLETTER
WINTER 2001**

IT'S BEEN OVER A YEAR since our last newsletter. My apologies for the delay in finalizing this issue and I greatly appreciate the patience of our editor, Peter Merlin.

In preparing this column in the past I have purposely focused on neighborhood and community issues and shied away from a political or personal agenda. However, over the past 20 months I have interacted with most of you, almost exclusively, about personal or political matters and I believe it is important to call to your attention a significant upcoming event for our neighborhood and our city.

On April 10th, 2001, the voters of this city will elect a new mayor, city controller, city attorney and eight new city councilmen. This election along with the election of 2003 will reshape the entire political landscape of the city. Never in L.A.'s history have the voters had such an opportunity to dramatically alter the city's political structure as they do on April 10. I urge you to participate in shaping the city's future, to study the issues and to vote for the candidates that you believe will work hard to help our city, along with our neighborhood, grow and prosper.

I was elected president of CSNA in 1997 and it's been lots of fun (and lots of hard work, too). We have built a strong association and should take pride in living in one of the city's most desirable residential neighborhoods. As you know, I am a candidate for city council and hope to be elected. If elected, I will continue as president of the association for as long as you decide and would be honored to do so. Please mark your calendars for April 10th, 2001 to participate and vote, and be part of building a safe and secure future in our great city of Los Angeles. On behalf of the Carthay Square Neighborhood Association, thank you for your part in putting the neighbor back into our neighborhood.

Joe Connolly

REHAB OF WATER MAINS IN CARTHAY SQUARE

Cement lining of the water mains in Carthay Square, which is part of the Olympic Area Project, was begun in November. This treatment of the water pipelines involves removing the corrosion in the pipes and sealing leaks with a cement lining. The benefit is improved water pressure and, additionally, an improvement in water pressure as the water flows more easily through the pipes.

This city wide rehabilitation project, which was begun in 1944, targets areas with chronic water problems like those in the older parts of Los Angeles. Most of the pipelines in this area are about 70 years old.

Actual work on and under the street is performed by private contractors under the close supervision of DWP personnel. The process calls for excavations made approximately every 300 feet in the street to access the pipe. A small machine is then inserted into the pipeline and pulled through leaving a smooth, even lining of cement mortar. Not only is cement lining less disruptive than installing a new main line, it also represents a cost savings of up to three-fourths the cost of replacement. Repaving of Point View and Packard and those intersections in Carthay Square not resurfaced earlier has had to be deferred.

R.I.P.

L.A.P.D. OFFICER

MARIO NAVIDAD

7.7.69 - 12.22.96

until the cement lining project could be completed.

Marilouise Morgan

(Ed. Note: some of our houses dating back to the 30's may need re-piping in order to restore full water pressure.)

CSNA HOLIDAY PARTY

was held last year on November 19 in the home of HELEN AND SOL JAMERSON. Much thanks to MICHAEL SIMS and his staff for planning the event, for shopping and stocking it, and for the beautiful floral centerpiece. McDonalds Corporation on Pico donated \$1000 to offset the cost. Thanks also to the Jamersons for hosting. It was attended by over 100 people in the association. See the collage of photographs in this newsletter for some views of this event.

L.A.P.D. REVERTS BACK TO SLO SYSTEM

In response to pressure from many sources, the LAPD has decided to revert back to the Senior Lead Officer (SLO) system. 85 SLO's are coming back into our respective neighborhoods this year, about one half the total number to be phased in over several years. Our SLO is OFFICER SCOTT HALLOCK, and he is making himself available to us from 2-10pm every day except Wednesday & Thursday. His cell phone no. is 213-509-5535. Use this number wisely. In a life-threatening emergency call 911. If general police business, call 213-485-2861.

SUSTAINABLE BUILDING

Did you know that compact fluorescent bulbs consume approximately one-third of the electricity used by incandescent bulbs to produce an equivalent amount of

light? Bulbs may last up to ten years and save up to \$120 over the life of the bulb. Also refrigerators and freezers are among the largest users of electricity in the home. The DWP has a recycling program and will pay \$35 for old, still-operating, second refrigerators. Call 1-800-234-9722 for more information and restrictions.

Global Green USA

FREE WATER/AIR AT GAS STATIONS

California law requires all service stations to provide free air and water to customers who purchase gas or diesel fuel. If you have a problem obtaining free air or water complaint, calling the Division of Measurement at 1-800-356-7057 who may have forms.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS PLAN ANNOUNCED BY D.O.N.E.

A plan, which would create more than 100 community councils covering the length and width of the City of Los Angeles was announced in December by the City's Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE). Under the plan, which requires the approval of the city council, councils would be developed throughout the City each representing at least 20,000 people and including residents, business people and community leaders from the area. While the councils would have no formal authority over City government but would be advisory only, community advocates believe they will present a better organized system for communities to influence their government. The Department of

Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) was created under the new City charter passed by the voters in 1999. Last fall, the Commission on Neighborhood councils held public meetings throughout Los Angeles to obtain recommendations and comments from citizens regarding the formation of such councils. Edwin Chermerinsky, a USC law professor who led the City's Elected Charter Reform Committee was pleased by the progress toward better community representation, but cautioned that there are many questions regarding the neighborhood councils which will need to be answered. Without more detail about their role, Chermerinsky asserted, some councils will "flail about in search of a mission".

It is expected that neighborhood associations like Carthay Square Neighborhood Association will retain its identity but join with similar neighborhood groups in the area to achieve the 20,000-person minimum required for representation. Additional information on Neighborhood Councils may be obtained from the web at HYPERLINK <http://www.lacityneighborhoods.com> or writing DONE at 305 East 1st Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

Marilouise Morgan

(Ed. Note: It may even be possible that CSNA would be furnished with money for newsletters like this one, so that we don't have to go out looking for ads when we want to go to press. It may be possible to communicate via the internet, to lobby City Hall for our interests, or to form coalitions with other communities. Carthay Square could even incorporate with free help and guidance from such an

organization. The possibilities are endless.

WHITWORTH AND STEARNS REPAVED

The northeast and the northwest corner have finally been repaved, to repair the drainage problem dating from the street repaving earlier last year. No more puddles!

(Brought to you by the Committee to Stamp out Puddles)

NEW BUSINESSES IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

The new Sav-On on the corner of Point View Street and Pico Blvd. is nearly completed.

Representatives of Sav-on indicate the store should be staffed and stocked and open by the end of May 2001. The CSNA has asked that the store pave exits in such a way that traffic will not flow down Point View Street. Target has replaced Fed-Co on La Cienega. In the area of Pico and San Vicente, OSH has already opened and a COSTCO will be built on the old location of Builder's Discount. Home Depot is exploring the feasibility of constructing a store in that same area.

The area has experienced some closures as well. Kinkos on Pico and La Cienega has closed to the public and is being used for production work. Patrons have been urged to use the 24 hour Kinkos at 5500 Wilshire Blvd. The Montgomery Ward has gone out of business.

Marilouise Morgan

CYBERSPACE FOR OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

It already exists. Carthay Square Neighborhood Association has a

home page. Go to www.neighborhoodlink.com. Put yourself and your family on the web by starting your own personal home page. Sometime soon we will have a newsletter there for you to read, as well as a community bulletin board, live discussion groups, and a town-hall meeting. Meanwhile, visit the CSNA site.

GOVERNMENT PROMOTES BOOSTER SEATS

Children never outgrow the need to ride safely in cars. So, federal authorities are urging parents to strap in their children in booster seats when they get too big for child-safety seats.

Placing children in booster seats elevates them so seat belts fit properly. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 70% of children younger than three are properly restrained when riding in a vehicle. That figure drops to 20% for kids ages four to nine. Children in this age group, according to the NHTSA, cannot properly use adult-sized seat belts. The seat belts tangle around their necks and the lap belts cross their abdomens, placing them at risk for injuries to the spleen, liver, intestines, and spinal cord if there was a crash.

A new national campaign is underway to increase awareness about the importance of booster seats. Ford Motor Company recently announced that it would provide free installation of tether strap anchors in all its vehicles, models 1989 and newer. The strap securely fastens the top of child seats to reduce forward head movement in the event of a crash.

POETRY CORNER

Gardens

breathe out and in,
take my hand sometimes,
stroke it,

tendrils clasp the roses,
their thorns bloody me,
but I love them

for their courage,
their pale purple faces
wet with dew, and wander on

thinking of other gardens
the size of two ping pong
tables
where butterflies gather

in hot, violent cities,
vegetable gardens
containing one broccoli plant

carefully harvested branch by
branch,
tomatoes dusty,
leeks, blooming carrots,

marigolds,
ladybirds,
working ducks,

the neighboring tabby cat
eyeing them from a safe position
in a Normandy farmyard,

bloated cows in a sunny field,
tanks crossing,
apple blossoms rising in the
smoke

GETTING TO KNOW US

The following is a reprint of an article by Mary MacVean originally run in the Carthay Center Elementary School Newsletter.

GWEN MCGEE

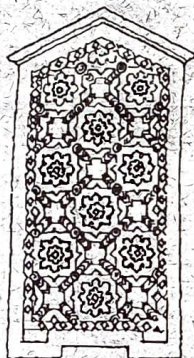
At long last, Carthay Center Elementary School has a permanent principal, Gwen McGee, who brings many years of experience and an open mind to her new job.

Most of the children probably have met her by now, because she planned visits to each class her first week of work. She also has been taking the measure of Carthay by watching children on the playground and roaming around the building, taking notes as she goes.

A resident of Downey, McGee is relieved to be working at a school with a traditional school year, because she'll have more time with her 15 year old son. He is, she says, the person she spends most of her free time with ? going to movies and restaurants and traveling.

Sometimes, their vacations are organized around social studies topics, such as the California Missions. But her ultimate trip would be to Australia, she says. Travel, museums and other activities with children are crucial. "When you expand a child's experiences, you expand what they can learn because they have more to connect to," she says. "Nothing replaces that."

McGee went to Pepperdine University intending to be a child psychologist, but became forever sidetracked after working as a teaching assistant to earn money for tuition. She earned a bachelor's degree at Pepperdine and a master's degree in educational administration at California State University, Los Angeles. She has been a preschool, kindergarten and elementary school teacher, an administrator, and just before becoming Carthay's principal she was assistant principal at 107th Street School, a year-round school with 1,250 pupils. She has a reputation for being a budget expert.



pm

Carthay Center, she says, seems small and full of potential, with eager and receptive staff and parents, "a diamond in the rough just waiting to explode."

In an interview in her new office, with piles of books and reports arranged neatly around her, McGee talked about her experience and her views, with an emphasis on a strong curriculum coming up again and again. "I assume instruction is the No. 1

priority. I don't think you can be in a classroom and not have that," she says. Many people can recall one or two teachers who helped shape them more than most, and for McGee, it was a high school humanities teacher who influenced her greatly. "This teacher challenged us. We didn't always go the standard history-language-arts route," McGee says, adding she learned such skills as how to write a thesis statement and take open-book test. "Those two years were extremely beneficial in preparing me for college." Asked about what she would like to see change in the lives of children today, McGee cites "the tendency to act out behaviors with their peers that are physical in nature and consider it playing," such as imitating professional wrestling moves. So, while she knows children need to run around, she also would like to see them sometimes spend their recess in the shade with a book. One thing she has noticed already is that Carthay Center School could use some money, and she plans to take every opportunity to get some. For example, she says, she has asked vendors to help pay for field trip buses and they often agree. "Money is not going to fix anything, but it gives you the resources," she says, adding she couldn't help feel annoyed when she considered what the millions spent for a 30-second Super Bowl ad could do for her school. Asked about how to encourage the neighborhood to send their children to Carthay Center School, McGee has high hopes: "If we

become the shining star of the community, people will be coming to us. We won't have to go to them."

(Ed note: Editing this article on Gwen McGee, I am struck by how few of the residents of Carthay Square send their children to Carthay Center School. Many prefer the magnet schools or would bus their children as far away as Bel Aire. Some neighbors even volunteer in the school's reading program but send their kids elsewhere. Yet, no one doubts the effect of having a great school on the property values of the neighborhood or that a school can make the community more cohesive.

I interviewed Joe Connolly about Carthay Center School. He has sent his kids there over the years, was past president of the P.T.A., and uses the auditorium for general meetings of the neighborhood association. He has a high regard for Gwen McGee. But McGee does have critics who ask why the community should "come to her" and she does not come to the community. When I asked Joe about the rapid change of principals over the last several years, he told me that a good education has more to do with some of the excellent individual teachers who are fixtures on the staff, than with the principal.

The final test, however, is in the numbers, published in the L.A. Times Performance Index on January 17, 2001. On the 2000 API score with a statewide median of 666, Carthay Center School scored below average at 596 with only an average ranking when compared with other schools similar in regards to student ethnicity and income.

Carthay Center School has a new air conditioning system; its facilities are safer; it has a brand new library, a new

quad and a green area. It is a system that works. It remains to be seen, however, whether it works for our community.)



HAIKU

My home—my haven
Shoes kicked off inside the door
Bare feet welcome here

HAIKU

Shimmering heat haze
Quivers over arid soil
Waiting for winter.

Tanka

Always the children
Killed at home in gang crossfire
Starving in Third World

Robot walks on Mars
Triumph for technology
Hunger stalks the earth

Norma Glickman



Black Party, September 10, 2000

CRIME WATCH

Sol Jamerson

I think we have all experienced what we might call "an emergency" situation; sometimes in our lives. When such situations require police assistance, and we look back at them in the cool, calm light of hindsight and rationality, can we honestly say they were "911-type" situations?

When the "911 Emergency Call System" was initiated some years ago, it was promoted as a panacea for citizens reaching the police to report a crime. It was an easy number to remember and, in my opinion, the public was not properly educated as to its proper use. After all, an emergency is an emergency isn't it?

The emergency call system soon became overloaded and some lives have been lost simply because of that overloaded condition. Today there is a concerted effort to re-educate the public in the proper use of the "911 call".

If the situation being reported is not a life-threatening situation, the police ask that you DO NOT USE 911 to report it. As a means of giving citizens a viable alternative, a new number has been established in Los Angeles. If you call 1/877-ASK LAPD you will be reaching high priority dispatch operators who will direct your calls in an efficient manner.

As a back-up to those operators, there is an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system which will "kick in" in an attempt to assist you in whatever manner possible.

PLEASE NOTE: NO POLICE NUMBER WAS EVER INTENDED TO TAKE THE PLACE OF "411" FOR GENERAL INFORMATION!

Sol



Preventing Mail Theft

To make it harder for thieves to steal your mail:

- o Never send cash or coins in the mail. Use checks or money orders.
- o Make sure your mailbox is secured and in good condition. Your postmaster can tell you how to improve your mailbox.
- o Promptly remove mail from the mailbox after delivery, especially if you are expecting checks, credit cards, food coupons or other negotiable items. If you will not be home when valuable items are expected, ask a trusted friend or neighbor to pick up your mail.
- o Have your post office hold your mail while you are on vacation or absent from home for a long period of time.
- o If you do not receive a check, food coupon or other valuable mail you are expecting, contact the issuing agency immediately.
- o Immediately notify your post office and the people you do business with through the mail if you change your address. Address your mail legibly and properly. Include complete return address including street and apartment

numbers and nine-digit Zip Code.

- o Always deposit your mail in a Postal Service mail collection box or mail slot at your post office, or hand your mail to your letter carrier. Never place your outgoing mail for your carrier to pick up in an unprotected mailbox or area where it can be easily stolen.
- o Exchange work and vacation schedules with trusted friends and neighbors. You can watch each other's mailboxes as well as homes. If you observe a mail thief at work, call the police immediately and then the postal inspector.

If you believe your mail has been stolen, report it immediately to your postmaster or postal inspector.

Source: U.S. Postal Service

Editorial note:

The USPO/ Alfred Street (Preuss Station) has a consumer relations advocate and a number to call for suggestions.

Her name is Miss Harris and she can be reached at 323/655-2568. Call to urge her to install additional mail boxes on Alfred Street since the ones already there get over-stuffed each weekend.

Haiku

Dear G-d- if I give
back Your gift of free will - can
You take back hatred?

Norma



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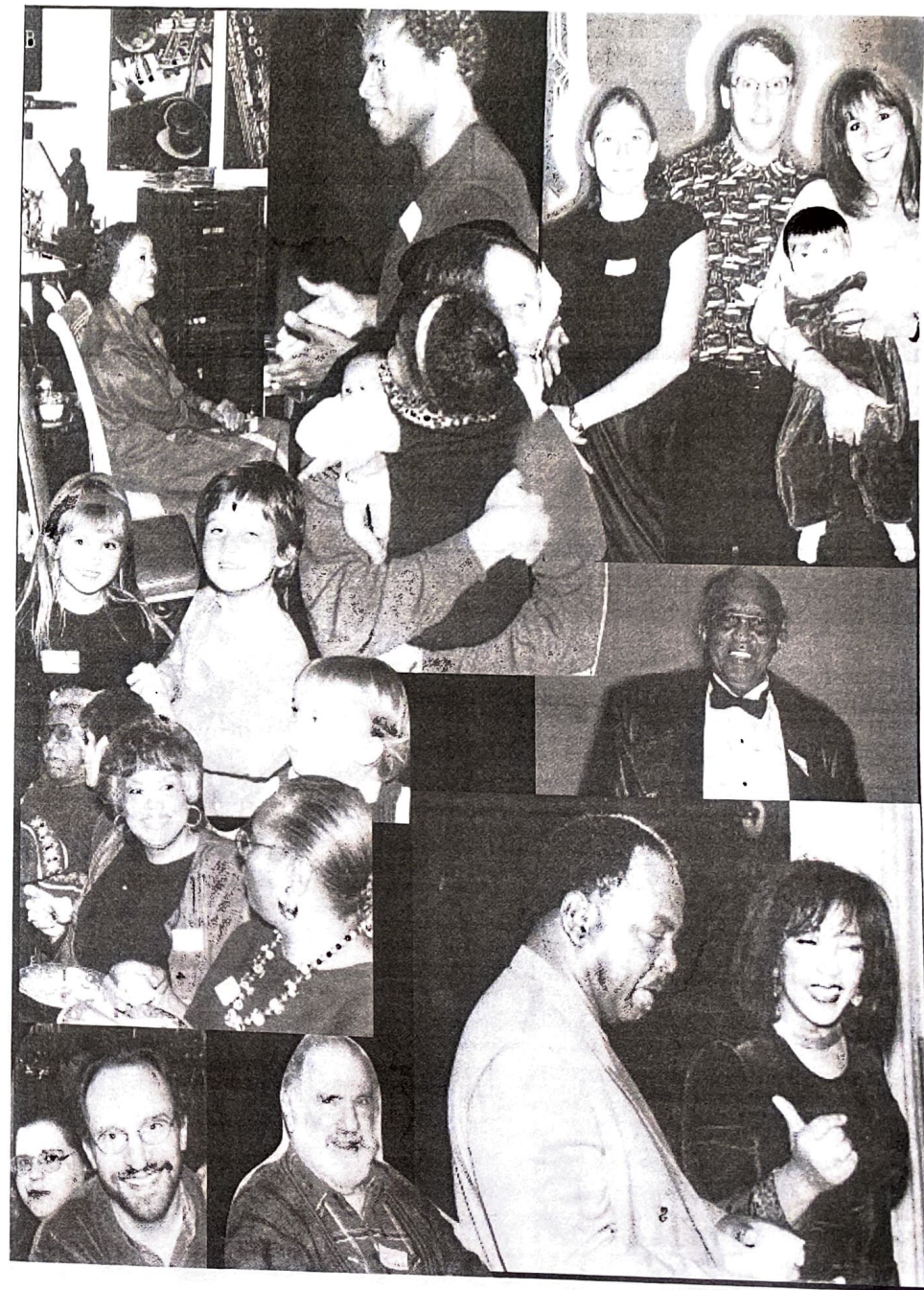
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CRIME REPORT

At our recent association meeting held on Thursday October 19th, Senior Lead Officer Hallock handed out copies of an Intradepartmental Correspondence where crime rates are compared from Reporting District to Reporting District both in terms of type of crimes and also numbers over a two month period. In comparison to other districts, Carthay Square did not do badly. Though across the board there was an increase in crime rate from September to October. Sol Jamerson, our crime watch correspondent, characterizes these as mostly crimes of opportunity, occurring largely along high traffic corridors of Wilshire, Pico, La Cienega, and Crescent Heights.



CSNA HONORS RESIDENT

On Wednesday, June 21, 2000, long-time CSNA resident, Solomon J. "Sol" Jamerson was honored for "outstanding service to our Community", by the Wilshire Center Chamber of Commerce, at its 35th Annual "Hue and Cry" Awards Luncheon.

Sol was among 20 recipients of the awards made on behalf of a grateful community for service rendered by members of LAPD, LAFD, CHP, Explorers, and selected civilians from the Wilshire Center area.

The "Hue and Cry" Award had its origin in medieval England during the reign of Edward I, as a means of recognizing acts of bravery on behalf of the populace. In 1912, the State of California incorporated this recognition of bravery and service, into its common law, when it gave recognition to a citizen who gave "hue and cry" by his prompt action in reporting to the authorities the whereabouts of a felon who had committed a crime against a helpless victim who was "crying for assistance".

The Wilshire Center chamber of Commerce continues its long time practice of recognizing those in the community who have given outstanding and exemplary service to the community.

Sol Jamerson came into the CSNA community in 1980 and has been a continuing contributor in a variety of ways. He became volunteer at the Wilshire Community Police Station in 1994, when CSNA was in need of obtaining crime statistics that affected the neighborhood. He initiated the "Crime Watch" column in the CSNA Newsletter shortly thereafter. Sol has been a useful and productive liaison between this community and the police station during a number of community/police projects. Sol and his lovely wife, Helen, continue to be staunch supporters of the community and offered their comfortable Hi-Point Street home as the site of this year's CSNA Christmas Party.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our condolences to the family of **NELL LOGUE**, who passed away at the beginning of April, after a long illness. Nell along with husband **JACK LOGUE**, who passed away a year ago, had lived on Point View Street for over 60 years. Neighbors who knew her well will miss her.

PEARL GREENBERG from Hi Point Street passed away very suddenly on April 27th, after being admitted to Cedars Sinai Hospital for bleeding ulcers. Her husband, **IRVING GREENBERG**, died on October 13th after a long battle with pneumonia. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to their children and grandchildren and to our neighbors, **ROBBY AND PEARL GREENBERG**, Irving's brother and sister-in-law. The Greenbergs had lived on Hi Point Street for 35 years.

Welcome to **MARK AND SUSAN BOYD** and family who have recently moved to the neighborhood on the 1100 block of Hi Point.

Congratulations to **JOE AND JERI CONNOLLY** and to sister, **JESSICA CONNOLLY**, on the birth of their baby girl, Rebecca Connolly, who was born on March 29th, 2000.

The poet of the Haiku poems, **NORMA GLICKMAN**, is looking for an early morning walking partner. She leaves at 6:30 am. Please call her at 931 5363.

R.I.P. SAMYRA "SAMMY" TRUMAN passed away from cancer. Our condolences go to the entire Truman family. She will be missed.

Congratulations to **MATT & MICHELE ROTHMAN** on the birth of their baby girl, **ARICA JORDAN ROTHMAN**, born Oct 2, 2000, 6lbs. 6oz.

Congratulations also to **SUSAN NICKERSON & ALEX OLIVARES** on the birth of their daughter, **MADELINE MARIE**, November 27, 2000 at Cedars. The baby weighed 6 lb. 14 oz and was 20" long, and had a thick head of dark hair.

We regret to announce the passing of **HARRY ARTHUR SWARTZ** on Aug. 13, 2000.

Harry owned and operated a type-setting business a short distance from his home on Stearns Drive. He was 95 years old. Our condolences go to his wife of 65 years, Nessie, his son and daughter-in-law, two grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. He will be missed.

Goodbye to **SUSAN, MICHAEL, AND MILES OPTON**, residents of Point View Street, who are moving to the Boston area.

To make announcements in the next newsletter please contact the editor, Peter Merlin, at 323/ 931-0171. Thank you to **ROBIN JAMESON** for providing some of the data for this column.

CALENDAR

- April- City Council Elections.
- May- General meeting at Carthay Center School
- Note: We will review at the first general meeting in 2001 the 2000-2001 fiscal budget.
- June- Newsletter
- July- CSNA dues
- Aug- Finish dues
- Sept- Block party 2001
- Oct- General meeting
- Nov- Newsletter & Holiday Party

NEWSLETTER STAFF

- Editor: Peter Merlin
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- Colation: Louie Schatz



Riley and Devon Jameson dressed for Halloween, 2000