

THE MAR VISTA COMMUNITY FALL FESTIVAL: A Worthy Tradition

It's hard to believe, but Fall has arrived.

Summer has rushed by, and most of those grand ideas about getting in shape this year, or reading two books a month, or planting a garden that would provide beautiful veggies throughout the year, have been placed on hold for yet another year. Our kids are back in school, daylight hours are getting shorter, and some of you ambitious types are even organizing all of your vacation photos onto the computer and creating lists of presents to be purchased for the Holiday Season.

And sure enough, we've arrived again at that time of year where Mar Vistans can come together for a day and celebrate the community in which we live, work, and play. I speak, of course, of the Mar Vista Community Fall Festival. Amazingly enough, this day of celebration and fellowship has slowly emerged as a tradition of our community. Year in and year out for the past decade--give or take a few years--- various community volunteers and City Staff have come together a few months before each festival and committed both time and money to the work and planning necessary to make each of these days a success.

Started in the early years by two Mar Vista stalwarts, Tom Ponton and John White, they, along with the Park Advisory Board, put together the early events by approaching businesses in the community and asking for donations of money and materials, and enlisting volunteers to help. Over the years the Director of the Mar Vista Rec. Center, with the assistance of the L.A. Dept. of Rec. and Parks, took over the production of the Festival, with Laura Island, the official honoree of this year's Festival, being the guiding force behind the last few Festivals. Unfortunately, due to the L.A. City budget crisis this past year, the Dept. of Rec. and Parks was unable to continue producing and financing the Festival, so in order to keep the tradition alive, the Mar Vista Community Council decided this year to take on responsibility for putting on the Festival.

Although each Festival has been unique, they all start from the premise of providing a day of great food, entertainment, and an eclectic mix of booths and presentations by Mar Vista's businesses, artisans, charities, churches, and performers. And this year's Festival proudly continues that tradition. We hope you will attend and help us celebrate the many parts of our community. Enjoy the food, the drink, the music, dance, and athletic endeavors, and---while you're at it---learn some new ways of thinking about our theme of "Healthy Living".

Albert Olson
Chair
Mar Vista Community Council