July 9, 2009

Dear Sandy Sand:

I enjoyed reading your article on area designations. It is the first time that the differences between “West Hills” and “Westhills” have been described in print. West Hills was created by the West Hills Neighborhood Council (http://www.westhillsnc.org/) about 10 years ago as a way to increase real estate prices in the area by separating itself from Canoga Park. As is shown in the map below, West Hills covers the northwest end of the Canoga Park. If you look in the lower left corner of the map you will see a triangular cutout. That is Westhills, one word, an area in Los Angeles County not in Los Angeles City.

Westhills is an area, was originally developed in the 1970’s and was designated by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors as Westhills in 1976. The map of Westhills is shown below. It consists of three developments: 176 homes off Kittridge Street, across from Knapp Ranch Park, the 42 homes on North Corie Lane and the 85 unit condo development at Vanowen and Valley Circle. The green A-1-1 area at the corner of Kittridge and Valley Circle is Temple Judea and is in the city.
Because Westhills is located in LA County there are very distinct differences in government services from West Hills. The community is policed by the LA County Sheriff, protected from fire by LA County fire (located in Calabasas), gets water and sewage services from the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, electricity from Southern California Edison and is part of the Las Virgenes School District, using Calabasas High School, Alice C. Stelle Middle School and Round Meadow Elementary School.

In spite of our designation over 30 years ago we have the same recognition problems as you have. Because we share our ZIP code with Canoga Park we receive many mailings with a Canoga Park address. The local post office has refused to provide a unique ZIP code for our area. Their position is ZIP codes are for their convenience not the homeowner's. They have agreed, however, to recognize Westhills as an acceptable designation for mail delivery. We also are confused with West Hills.

Thank you for your interest in the area. If you would like more information on Westhills please contact me at the address below.

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