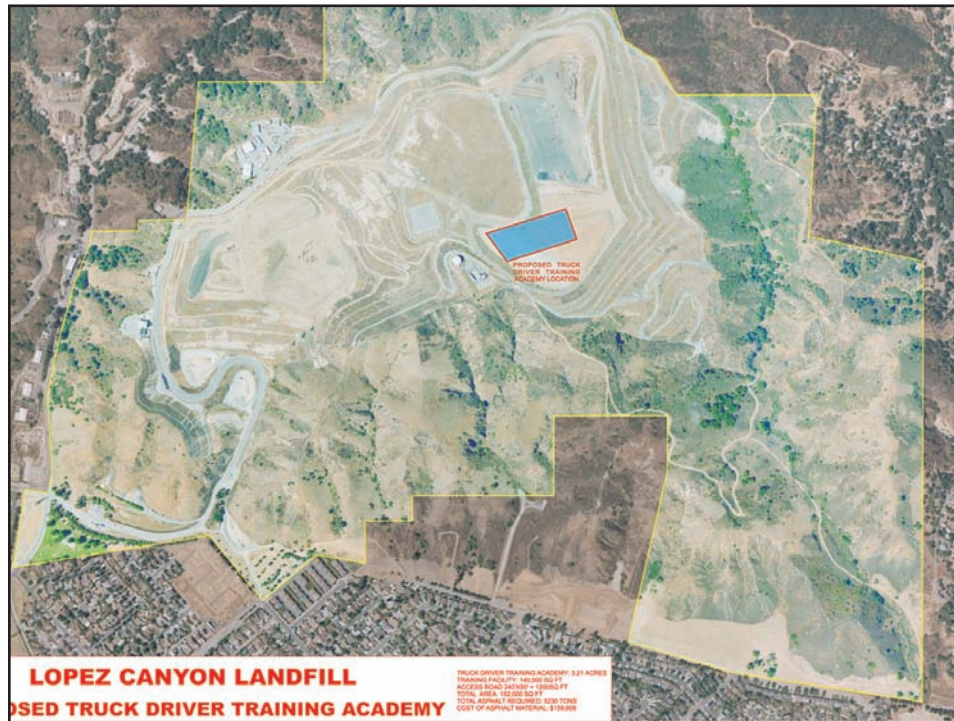


Zone Variance for Lopez Canyon Faces Opposition



By Katharine Russ

In an October 30, 2009 letter, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board gave its approval of the amendment to the final post-closure maintenance plan to the Bureau of Sanitation but it still needs approval from the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) and must go through the zoning process.

Case Number ZA-2009-3619-ZV filed on October 28, 2009, by Robert Lamishaw of JPL Zoning Services, Inc. at the behest of the City asks for a Zone Variance for the Truck Training Academy at Lopez Canyon Landfill. The landfill is zoned OS-1XL and was supposed to eventually become a recreation area.

Marlene Rader, Vice President- Kagel Canyon Civic Assn. said, "The community raised such opposition that the Bureau of Sanitation had to file an amendment to post-closure documents with the CIWM and apply for a zone variance which is what they should have done in the first place."

Residents were stunned by this application for a variance, calling it an "unprecedented change of use."

According to Lamishaw's findings, four of five criteria must be met before a variance can be granted. They are:

1. That the strict application of the provisions of the zoning ordinance would result in practical difficulties or unnecessary hardships inconsistent with the general purpose and intent of zoning regulations;
2. That there are special circumstances applicable to the subject property such as size, topography, location or surroundings that do not apply generally to other property in the same zone and vicinity;
3. That such a variance is necessary for the preservation and enjoyment of a substantial property right or use generally possessed by other property in the same zone and vicinity but which, because of such special circumstances and practical difficulties or unnecessary hardships is denied to the property in question;
4. That the granting of such variance will not be materially detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to the property or improvements, in the same zone or vicinity in which the property is located; and
5. A zoning administrator, before granting any variance, is required to make a written finding of facts from the showing applicant makes, that the four above-enumerated conditions exist and in addition thereto must find that the granting of such variance will not adversely affect any element of the General Plan."

There was no public notice other than a required post with the County to indicate circulation of a document and no planned meetings other than the 60 day window which stakeholders could write letters to Karen Coca at the Bureau of Sanitation.

Khalil Gharios, Bureau of Sanitation (BoS) Division Manager, said the BoS received over 200 letters in opposition to the (DMND) citing air quality, the wildlife corridor adjacent to the Angeles Forest, high fire danger area, hazardous waste, land use planning, water quality, noise, transportation and traffic issues that were raised in all the letters of opposition.

Most affected by this project are residents in Kagel Canyon, the mobile home park at Lopez Canyon Road and Paxton. They seem to have no voice in this matter because they reside in an unincorporated and strictly residential neighborhood just outside the City's limit. However, they point out that all their money is spent inside the city's limit and they deserve to have a voice.

Continued on page 4

Local Activists Kick Consultants to the Curb

by Mary Benson

After two years and \$450,000 of tax dollars, the "new" bicycle plan is a step back from the 2002 version. Members of the City's Bicycle Advisory Committee and other groups are unanimous in calling for a rejection of the draft plan now open for public comment.

Plan Consultants, Alta Planning, from Oregon, and Mountain Bike advocacy Group, Osprey, who flew in from Colorado at taxpayer expense, tossed out years of outreach and research by L.A.'s Department of Recreation and Parks. They recommended that L.A.'s crowded park trails be opened to mountain bikes, in violation of a long standing city ordinance keeping moving vehicles off trails in city parks. Mountain bikers have attached themselves to the Bike Master Plan (BMP) as commuters/recreationists. As a result, mountain bike concerns shifted focus away from transportation and river parkway development. Road bikers are unhappy with this current BMP draft. They feel their concerns have not been met. The addition of mountain biking into a transportation document diverts resources and energies away from the primary goal of bicycling being a real transportation option.

The issue of mountain biking in City Parks was supposed to be settled years ago after a three-year process of public meetings on this issue. A feasibility process was called for in the prior 1996 BMP. It was

determined that Mountain biking in City parks was not feasible.

The city's public input structure has radically changed after the last BMP was adopted. A private memo was discovered regarding a mountain bike advocacy group, who, together with the City's Bicycle Advisor, proposed mountain biking in several city parks without any discussion with other park users.

The City Council unanimously ratified an existing Ordinance in year 2000 that forbids bikes on city park dirt trails. That Ordinance is the only protection for keeping bikes off dirt trails. Mountain bikers argued for "just one little trail." Mountain Bike Recreational concerns do not belong in the BMP because it VIOLATES City ordinance and should be relegated to Dept. of Recreation and Parks instead of the Department of Transportation (DOT). Any trail located in City parks will require changing the City Ordinance. By doing so, it would open bike use on all trails. Today's user groups are well beyond hikers, equestrians and mountain bikers. The current BMP has failed to be inclusive of them all. Trail advocates urge the continued implementation of the Park Ordinance for safety of equestrians, hikers, dog walkers, runners, joggers and strollers.

They also believe trails should be quiet in order to serve the broadest range of urban park users. High volumes of various users, by age and ability, demands a



Ride a Bike Day

Photo courtesy of "Mr. Rollers"

policy that assures a pleasant, predictable, preserved and safe trail experience, free of vehicle traffic, in order for the public to maximize their trail experience safely.

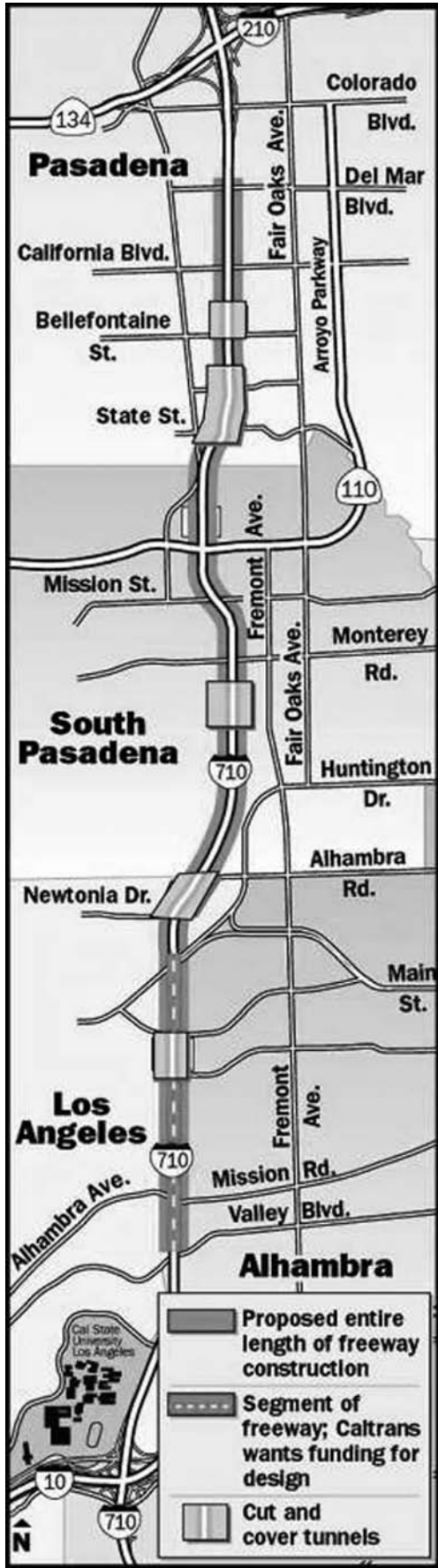
The BMP is supposed to be a legitimate transportation plan with goals to aid road/transportation bikers with improvements in bike safety on streets. This would be accomplished by: striping bike lanes, providing public bike racks, bike access on commuter trains and buses, safety lighting at night, recognition of the right to ride safely on streets, etc. The draft BMP should be re-tooled to maximize bicycling as a

Continued on page 6

YOU SHOULD KNOW

The 710 Freeway – Where Does It Go from Here?

By Dr. Tom Williams



Governor Swartzengger vetoed Senator Cedillo’s SB545, that had been crafted by MTA/Caltrans/Various Communities. What happens next is undecided. Will that mean going back and dealing with Caltrans and MTA and getting the cities and communities aligned against the Freeway or tunnels? The veto also saves the MultiMode alternative.

Caltrans has lost Doug Failing, who went to MTA, as a non-voting director. Caltrans has it must now resume the “Feasibility Study” they have been working on. However, the real issue is whether the Study will be for geotechnical feasibility only or will it include the Task Order 5 scope of work. At last writing the Task Order 5 was still in place. Although most participants in the committees had stated that they were opposed to the Task Order 5 expanded scope, they actually returned to the 2007 scope which had been reduced to only three elements out of the original ten.

The MTA put their foot in again by “approving” the SR710 North Extension, tunnel (?), and a schedule for environmental consideration ending before 2015. Also, a budget is now estimated to be at 5.8 billion dollars, which is a 50% increase over previous projections, and 50% of that estimated by SCAG, (we are still working with 11.3 billion dollars). They also listed the 710 North as a primary target for “public private partnerships.” Also, MTA shows only one line, (ala SB545 and Zone 3) while they and others are paying for five zones and an expanded Task Order 5 scope for all five.

The So. Pasadena Council defeated a brief attempt to parallel a LA City resolution made by Garcetti, Reyes, and Huizar regarding 710, only for El Sereno and Zone 3.

Alhambra may soon be faced with a relocated South Portal, south of Valley Blvd. (out of LA’s yard and into Alhambra) based on a future LA resolution and Caltrans concurrence. Alhambra has also been told that a straight line from Hellman and-710 to Pasadena/California intersection would shift the alignment about 500-ft east and fully into Alhambra, up to Huntington Drive. With such a shift, 200 plus houses in El Sereno would no longer be within the right-of-way, and Caltrans may be forced to sell under the Roberti Bill provisions

The LA Resolution from Garcetti, Reyes, and Huizar was signed, but like SB545, various issues immediately arose because the council member’s did not contact the communities’ members, especially in El Sereno. However, Huizar’s representative took a revised resolution back for further consideration and the resolution has not gone to any committee before going to Council.

Pasadena has yet to realize that the North Portal will hammer the SR134/I210 interchange and probably overwhelm the eastbound lanes during the evening commute.

LA’s Neighborhood Councils are slowly aligning against the 710 in various ways, getting it out of Glassel Park, out from under Mt. Washington, and away from Lincoln Heights, Cypress Park, Highland Park, et al., and putting it all back into El Sereno. El Sereno requested, and was promised, a slight revision for the South Portal from “beginning” to “finishing” south of Valley Blvd.

So, between shifting the tunnels east and the portal south, most of the objections of LA would be satisfied, other than getting rid of the whole thing and going MultiMode.

Editor’s note: Dr. Williams is an Environmental Scientist and former Manager with Parsons and URS Corporation, where he produced environmental impact reports, statements and assessments. He also served as Environmental Supervisor for the Metro Redline Subway, downtown. He submitted comments on the Verdugo Hills Golf Course EIR through the “Save the Verdugo Hills Golf Course Committee.”

The Battle of the Candidates



Christina Gonzalez, Fox 11News Reporter and La Tuna Canyon resident was an outstanding moderator for the Foothills Community CD2 Debate.



Paul Kerkorian on the right, Moderator Christine Gonzalez, middle, Christine Essel on the left, during their FaceOff period at a Public Forum held on Saturday, November 7, to showcase both candidates running for L.A. City Council District 2. The Forum was sponsored and coordinated by several community groups from Lake View Terrace, La Tuna Canyon, Shadow Hills and Sunland-Tujunga. According to many of the attendees it was the best and most effective forum or debate for the CD2 race to date. There were no surprises from previous forums. Both candidates claim to share the same attributes, but it did get a little testy as both claimed the other made incorrect statements. A video recording is available on the CD2 Election Blog at <http://cd2election.blogspot.com>. You can also see more reviews from the event, upcoming forums and events and other details so you can make an informed decision before voting on Tuesday, December 8. Ballots are already in the mail.



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Attend our monthly meetings:

First Wednesdays at 7pm Committee Forums (Holy Martyrs Elementary, 16617 Parthenia St, NH)
Third Wednesdays at 7 pm Board Meeting (New Horizons, 15725 Parthenia St, NH)

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Foothill Trails District NC Receives Award

Awards were presented by the City of L.A. during the Congress of Neighborhood Councils and Community Budget Day on Saturday, October 10. Mary Benson and Jacob Laher, accepted an award on behalf of the Foothills Trails District Neighborhood Council for their help during the "Station Fire" in August-September. The Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council was also honored with an award for their service to their community.

The Congress, hosted by the City's neighborhood councils in coordination with the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE)/Empower LA has been held in City Hall for the last two years, is a tool to help the Neighborhood Councils at a citywide gathering with workshops and discussions such as City Budget, Ethics Training and Reporting, Planning and Land Use, Marketing and Social Media skills,



L-R: Mayor Villaraigosa, Mary Benson, Jacob Laher, Controller Wendy Greuel and Kevin Regan

etc. For more information visit FTDNC.org and STNC.org as well as the DONE website at: <http://www.lacityneighborhoods.com/>

Best of Sunland-Tujunga 2009

By Tomi Lyn Bowling

As we welcome the last couple months of this year, the Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council's "Best of Sunland Tujunga 2009" contest starts to really heat up. Take a ballot and cast your vote! Fax, email or drop them off to the STNC office, details are on every ballot. Make sure your favorite merchant has stacks of these ballots at their shops so their customers can all vote for them.

Ballots may be picked up at C&M Printing at 10034 Commerce Avenue or may be obtained on line at www.STNC.org.

The following categories are already receiving votes from community members:

- Best restaurant
- Best personal service
(Hair, nails, barber, dental, medical, tanning etc)
- Best fast food
- Best food delivery
- Best overall business
- Best storefront
- Best post office
- Best school
- Best café
- Best entertainment
- Best delivery
- Best supermarket
- Best community supporter
- Best community group
- Best retail clothing

Winners will be announced at the first STNC meeting in 2010 and will be awarded a plaque for their shop and a certificate from our LA City Council Representative. All winners will also be noted in the STNC annual newsletter and on the STNC website, www.stnc.org, for the entire year, and in the February issue of the local paper. Check the the STNC website for updates to ballots and details. You can mail or deliver ballots to the Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council, 7747 Foothill Blvd, Tujunga CA 91042. Email: tomi@tomirealty.com

Neighborhood Councils Action Summit

Neighborhood Council members from across the city came together at L.A. City College on Saturday, October 3, to hold their first "Neighborhood Council Action Summit" in order to share ideas on how to take action regarding the following City issues: the proposed Half-Off Initiative, Independent Ratepayers Advocate with the DWP, Cyclists Bill of Rights, Side Walk Repair Backlog, fundamental City Budget reform and Marijuana Shops. Panelists and Speakers included Steven Box, Bill Christopher, Doug Epperhart, Paul Hatfied, Jack Humphreville, Nick Patsouras, Betty Pleasant, Len Shaffer and Noel Weiss. Special Guest Speakers were Bill Robertson, Director of Street Services and Jane Usher with the City Attorney's Office. Stephen and Enci Box gave a presentation regarding creative use of "social" media by Neighborhood Councils.



Teams were formed to regarding each subject and a plan is in the works for a follow-up meeting in the near future. For more information visit: <http://ncactions Summit.com/action.html>

Sun Valley



There's a new big boy in town and his name is Bob. The former Dimion's Restaurant on Vineland Ave. in Sun Valley was changed over to a Bob's Big Boy Restaurant in October. City Councilmember Richard Alarcon and County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky were on hand to participate in the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony during their Grand Opening.

This Bob's is the first to have a Lounge that serves alcohol. That's because it was part of the former Dimions Restaurant operation, that is separated from the family style dining area and has it's own entrance. The Bob's Big Boy Restaurant Organization started in Glendale, Ca. and is now nationwide and still famous for their "Big Boy" Combination Plates, Blue Cheese Salad Dressing and Strawberry Pies, etc. They have also become famous for car enthusiasts hanging out in their parking lots on week ends to show off their classic cars.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Verdugo Hills Golf Course *Pictures Tell the Story*



Photos Courtesy Karen K. Zimmerman

Pictures above tell the story of a beloved Golf Course that "Save the Verdugo Hills Golf Course" Committee wants to save from development as open space in perpetuity. They are waiting for the release of the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR)

The above picture of traffic on Lowell Ave., waiting to climb the On-Ramp to the 210 Freeway, as pictured below, was taken at 7:30 am, November 3, around the corner from the Verdugo Hills Golf Course, Activists say a plan by the Developer to build 229

housing units on the course, within walking distance of this On- Ramp, will further impede local traffic, as well as add to an already congested 210 Freeway, as shown above. The developer's FEIR is expected to be released to the public sometime in early 2010.

Continued from cover — Lopez Canyon

Chief Executive Officer for the County of Los Angeles, William T. Fujioka, pointed out several problems and inaccuracies with the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (DMND) in his March 13, 2009 letter citing the offices of Department (Dept.) of Regional Planning, Dept. of Public Works, Dept. of Parks and Recreation, Los Angeles County Sheriff and the Consolidated Fire Protection District expressed their concerns over noise, traffic, the integrity of the Landfill and the construction of 12-foot sound barriers that were not apparent to inspections.

County Supervisor Michael Antonovich voiced his concern that the trucking school was initiated without proper clearance under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The Sierra Club called for a full Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for review of air quality, water quality, noise, impacts upon well water for Kagel Canyon, the impact on wildlife, and recreational opportunities for the community.

In 1996, Councilman Richard Alarcon convinced the City Council to prohibit further expansion of the landfill. Alarcon promised to restore this property to "its original gem."

Councilman Alex Padilla, in his bid for the Senate, along with Councilman Eric Garcetti echoed Alarcon's sentiments promising eventual hiking, biking and horse trails that would run through open space and benefit the surrounding communities who suf-

fered through years of negative impacts from the operation of the landfill.

Alarcon's 2007 Motion (Council File 07-1660) reaffirmed his 1996 promise and was passed by City Council to preserve open spaces - "for active and passive recreation and any other safe and appropriate uses."

Five months later, at a special meeting at the Landfill, residents learned of Alarcon's "about face" when he filed his Motion for the Teamsters to "expand" their training program that, at the time existed in the Harbor area and a motion supported wholly by Mayor Villaraigosa.

The "Transportation Opportunity Program" is actually the new Teamsters Union-backed Truck Driver Training Program that will be moved from Long Beach to the Lopez Canyon Landfill. Some speculate that the passage of the Clean Air Action Plan in November 2006, and the Clean Trucks Program in Long Beach precipitated the move.

The "Training academy" will operate under a five-year lease with two five-year extensions.

In exchange for \$100,000.00 from Lopez Canyon Landfill mitigation funds, 25% of the enrollees must be from Council District Seven. There will only be a small fraction from the neighborhoods whose members actually bore the brunt of the negative impacts of the Lopez

Canyon Landfill while it was operating. Additional funding for the academy will come from a \$210,000 City Workforce Investment Board grant, and a \$414,000 State ETP grant. The City will lease the landfill site for \$1 per year, and employers will contribute \$300,000 in training equipment and staff. The new Lopez Canyon program will have the space and capacity for 600 graduates per year.

Nancy Woodruff, Land Use Chairman, Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council remarked "LA owns the following landfills, all of which are closed or in the process of closing: Bishop Canyon Landfill, Gaffey Street Landfill, Lopez Canyon and Sheldon-Arleta Landfill. To my knowledge, no previous Zone Variances have been created for Open Spaces (OS). This Variance could open the door for other commercial activities to be performed in the OS zoning, having vast consequences citywide."

So far, no meetings on the variance have been scheduled.

Katharine.russ@charter.net

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COMMUNITY NEWS

I Will Represent YOU



By Paul Krekorian

You, the residents in our Foothill Communities, deserve a representative on the City Council who listens and responds to your unique needs and concerns. I am running for City Council to create a more responsive local government that prioritizes issues that matter.

As our next Council member, I pledge to fight alongside you and stand up to the downtown insiders and special interests that have controlled our city government for far too long and

I, Paul Krekorian, pledge to fight for all our Foothill Communities by: Preserving the Character of Our Communities

I understand that Sunland-Tujunga, Lake View Terrace, Shadow Hills, La Tuna Canyon and Sun Valley are unique communities with unique histories, which I want to protect. I promise I will work closely with each of our communities to prevent development that is out of step with our needs, and will work hard to prevent over-development that threatens the character of our neighborhoods.

Protecting Open Space and Saving the Verdugo Hills Golf Course

I have been a vocal critic of the proposed housing development that would destroy the Verdugo Hills Golf Course. I will continue to object to this devel-

opment as I repeatedly have for the past two years, and, as a member of the Council, I will continue to fight to preserve our landmarks. That's why I am the only candidate endorsed by the Sierra Club and the L.A. League of Conservation Voters.

Developing Good Jobs in Our Area

I continue to be a leader in jobs development that is already bringing vitally important film and TV production jobs back to Southern California. Also, I plan to continue assisting local family owned businesses to succeed. I have already created successful programs that help small businesses hire more employees.

Keeping Us Safe

I have enacted laws that give law enforcement more tools to remove gang members and drug dealers from our neighborhoods, and I also have a plan to eliminate illegally operated "medical marijuana" dispensaries that crowd our communities. I have worked hard for years to reduce the dangers of speeding drivers in our neighborhoods, and because of my commitment to public safety, I am the only candidate endorsed by rank and file Los Angeles Firefighters and County Sheriff Lee Baca.

Please, remember my Pledge...

when you vote, on Tuesday, December 8, for your Council District Two Representative. **Vote for me, Paul Krekorian.** As your new City Council District Two Representative, I promise to continue to listen to your concerns regarding all issues, and I promise to act on behalf of you only...and in your best interest.

Paid for by Krekorian for City Council 2009-General

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

"Tip a Cop" held at Acapulco's Restaurant

Acapulco's Mexican Restaurant on Sunland Blvd., in Sun Valley hosted the annual LAPD Foothill Area fundraising event "Tip a Cop" on Tuesday, November 3. Acapulco not only gave diners a discount, but also allowed "Cops" to become food servers and keep the tips.



Power Network business leaders with waiter, LAPD Officer Sean Rumennapp.

Their tips were donated to Foothill Divisions Jeopardy "Balance the Odds" Foundation. A program that provides school tutoring, remedial education, parenting classes, counseling, mentoring and provides gang prevention and intervention to youth and their families. For more information email foothill_jeopardy@gmail.com or call 818-837-1167.



Realtors Sally Hall and Mike Perry

Northridge

Northridge East Neighborhood Council is supporting several projects that administer flu shots to seniors in the community. Approximately 300 seniors have already received flu shots at the "Senior Passport to the Golden Years" event at various local area community outreach clinics being sponsored by the Los Angeles Health Department, from the present through December 20. The next scheduled area clinic will be held at the Granada Hills Recreation Center (Petit Park), 16730 Chatsworth St., Granada Hills, November 20-22 and December 18-20.

Influenza kills 20,000-40,000 in the U.S. each year. It is the leading cause of pneumonia and accounts for 110,000-200,000 hospitalizations yearly. The flu shot is the most effective way to prevent the flu and its complications.

These are just a few of many projects your neighborhood councils are involved with to make Northridge a better place to live, work, play and learn. Please contact Robin Kellogg, 818-631-6848, for additional

information about the clinics. For more information about the Northridge East Neighborhood Council, contact admin@nenc-la.org or call 800-772-9132.

A new "Northridge South Neighborhood Council" is forming in the area vacated by the Old Northridge Neighborhood Council that was de-certified in 2005. It also includes remaining coincident areas not covered by an existing neighborhood council.

This group represents the neighborhood roughly from Nordhoff St. on the north, Roscoe Blvd. on the south, and from Corbin Ave. on the west, to Balboa Blvd. (actually Bull Creek flood control channel) on the east.

The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) coordinated with the area's stakeholders, beginning in March of 2009, and they are now nearing completion of their application package submittal, and hope to be finished by the end of November, 2009. An Ad Hoc executive Board has been established with Co-Chairs, Secretary, Treasurer, and Out-

reach Coordinator. The group members have diverse backgrounds and expertise that helped to get the forming committee up and running.

The organizing group meets monthly at Northridge Middle School, 17960 Chase St, Northridge, beginning at 7:00 pm on the fourth Thursday of each month (with some noted exceptions). All stakeholders are encouraged to attend and participate in promoting more local public participation in government and making government more responsive to neighborhood needs. Your direct involvement will help create a sense of community in your neighborhood through special projects and events such as beautification projects, support for/or against local land use decisions, transportation projects, and to getting access to City resources, etc. For further information visit their website at: <http://northridgesouth.wordpress.com>

Arleta

By Al Piantanida

A San Fernando Valley Toy Run, sponsored by Prodigalz Motor Cycle Club, and hosted by Liberty Temple church was held on Saturday, November 7. The toys will be donated to the "San Fernando Valley Toy Giveaway" and will be distributed by "Project Living Hope to children in the valley on December 13. For information on how to donate, call 818-894-4643.

Captain Lewis Dooley, Captain of Fire Station Seven, in Arleta celebrated his 26th year with the Los Angeles City Fire Department. Because of the Sesnon, Sayer and Marek wildfires at this time last year, he was not able to celebrate his 25th year anniversary. So, residents of Arleta decided to make sure he was received his long over due recognition.

So, in addition to receiving a cake and balloons, he was presented with Certificates or Recognition on behalf of 39th District Assemblymember Felipe Fuentes from his staff member Yolanda Anguiano and Sixth District Councilmember Tony Cardenas from his staff member Dianne Hand. Community members pictured below were also in attendance to help the Captain celebrate:



L-R, Ronald Ciang, Assembly Office Intern, Yaolanda Anguiano, Assembly Office Field Rep, Jim Kalls, Arleta Neighborhood Council, Al Piantanida, Arleta Community Watchdogs, LAFD Lewis Dooley, Lamar Shelby, Arleta Neighborhood Watch Coalition, Dianne Hand, Francine DeWall, Francisco Vasquez, Maria Pendon, Assembly Interns.

COMMUNITY NEWS

You Should Know...

By Nina Royal

A Town Hall Meeting is being sponsored by the Los Angeles Police Department's Foothill Area Station on Tuesday, November 17 at North Valley City Hall, Tujunga at 6 pm. Experts from the LAPD, the LAFD and Emergency Management Department (EMD) will discuss plans for their response to our anticipated rain season that will cause possible flooding with mud and debris flow as a result of the Station Fire according to Sergeant Herrold Egger, Foothill's Community Relations Officer. On November 6, the EMD on their website Visit: www.lacity.org/emd/ and click on EMD Debris Flow Advisory 11-06-09 for preparedness tip and their mud and debris flow maps.

Two Public Candidate Forums for CD 2 are taking place on Wednesday, November 18, between Candidates, Chris Essel and Paul Kerkorian.

The first one is being sponsored by VICA at Woodbury University, 7500 N Glenoaks Blvd in Sun Valley. 8-10 am RSVP is required. RSVP to 818 817-0545 or email monique@vica.com

The second one is being sponsored by the Sherman Oaks Homeowners Assoc, at Notre Dame High School, 13645 Riverside Drive in Sherman Oaks The Social Hour begins at 6:15 pm. Debate at 7:15pm. Call 818 377-4590, or email soha914@gmail.com. for more information

First Aid and CPR Class will be held at the Sunland-Tujunga Elks Lodge, 10137 Commerce Ave, on Tuesday, November 24. It will be taught by a professional Emergency Preparedness Instructor. The meager donation of \$25 is for the two classes combined and certifications will be mailed upon completion of classes. It's required that you your money enclosed in a in a self-addressed stamped envelope to be mailed back with your certificate to insure that you receive it in a timely manner.

Scholarships will be presented by All Nations Church in LakeView Terrace to worthy students from the community, not affiliated with the church at their 7th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner/Korean BBQ, along with the "Spirit of Johny Carpenter" Awards. Their event is Friday evening, November 20. They will begin serving Dinner in the Cafeteria at 6:00 pm, followed by the Awards presentation in the sanctuary. at 7:30 pm and conclude with a Classical Music Concert. Admission is free.

Property Tax payments by "Station Fire" Victims for their lost cabins that are due on December 10, for the first half of the 2009 Property Tax bill are going to be deferred until sometime in January. Also, a revised bill is going to be generated that will reflect the revised value of the cabin. Call 213-974-3108 for further information.

Volunteers are need for the following organizations:

The Valley Rescue Mission needs volunteers to help cook and serve on Thanksgiving from 12 noon to 3 pm. Too busy? You can still help by dropping off a cooked turkey, mashed potatoes, yams, stuffing, green beans or pie at 7400 Tujunga Ave in Sun Valley. For more information visit their website: www.thevalleyrescuemission.org/

San Fernando Valley Compete Count Committee, in order not to be shortchanged by due to an undercount in the 2010 U.S. Census, are putting together a committee of volunteers to help count in the "hard to count" areas of our communities. Undercounts could cause the San Fernando Valley to lose federal funding for schools, hospitals, programs for the disabled, elderly, etc. To get involved, call Louis Sanchez at 818-504-3911 or email louie.sanches@asm.ca.gov.

Neighborhood Council Poll worker Volunteer Program. There will be an election held for all Neighborhood Councils (NC) citywide during the year 2010. The City Clerk, who is now in charge of all NC elections, needs volunteers from each community to assist at the polls. All poll workers will be required to attend a training class. For more information visit" Clerk.ElectionPW@lacity.org or call toll free: 866-899-9683.

Granada Hills



South Neighborhood Council

Come join us!
2nd Thursday of each month.

Location and meeting time may vary
visit our website for more info.

WWW.GHSNC.ORG

You can also follow us at
Twitter: <http://twitter.com/GHSouthNC>
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Continued from cover — Consultants

transportation alternative and include an Environmental Impact Report that results in actual construction projects.

Five million taxpayer dollars purchased Mandeville Canyon Park in the year 2000, for a mountain bike park as a "pilot project," to be reviewed in a year. A decade later, Mandeville Canyon Park is still a pilot program without a Youth Adventures Trails Program, and an Environmental Assessment under a CEQA categorical exemption, as promised by the Concerned Off Road Bike Association (CORBA). According to an official CORBA representative in 2007, only one Adventure took place in 2003. No bikes were purchased, and CORBA quit after one try, even though they promised such a program in the Grant Award adopted by City Council. They obviously failed to honor their commitment.

Therefore, a review of all Environmental Assessments and Status Reports required for the Grant (Contract No.99613, Prop K), Advocacy Groups like CORBA need to be held accountable for their performance regarding their promises to the city, especially where public funds are spent.

The City's Recreation and Parks Department conducted countless Public Needs Assessment Project Meetings in 2009. There was no proven need for additional mountain biking in City parks. There are thousands of miles of mountain biking trails within ten minutes of any City park.

Written public comments on the draft BMP are now due. However, Bike Writer's Collective advocates that locals write their own plan. They plan to continue meeting to discuss the Cyclists' Bill of Rights, as written in the Bike Plan, and they will also seek to extend the comment period from 42 days to Friday, January 8, 2010, minimum.

Editors Note: Mary Benson is Vice President of the Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council and former Candidate for City Council District 2

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COMMENTARY

Why City Hall Fails the Public



By Ron Kaye

For the few who actually pay attention to what's going on at City Hall, events that took place in recent days exposed why the city is operating illegally with a deficit budget, panders to developers and other special interests, and Unions go along for the ride even when they don't want to.

It starts with the voice of the public being represented 99 percent of the time by gadflies who are easily ignored even when well informed. When the general public does show up to plead their case, they get nothing but lip service and a pat on the head. They leave our elected 'leaders' to do business with those who help them get elected to the nation's highest-paid city offices and the most lavishly endowed with perks and servile staffs.

So, when AEG's Tim Leiweke struts down the aisle to demand the council give him a license to make hundreds of millions of dollars off of giant billboards promoting the pleasures of hyper-commercialism, the council stands at attention and salutes, putting in jeopardy a newly enacted ban of offsite billboards that meets federal law and falls within Constitutional guidelines. And they take it a step further and reprimand City

Attorney Carmen "Nuch" Trutanich for having the audacity to stand up for what the community wants.

But all that is nothing compared to how the city began the fiscal year July 1 with a \$400 million deficit and now, even four months later, still admits to a \$100 million shortfall, despite the legal requirement for the city to have a balanced budget. The word "admits" is purposeful, since most of the claimed savings is theoretical, requiring a level of managerial skill, day to day, that is unthinkable in a city where 4,000 billboards without permits have been up for years, and 600 marijuana dispensaries are operating in violation of city, state and federal laws.

The theoretical savings have been achieved in negotiations with city unions, mainly with civilian workers taking 3.5 hours off without pay every two weeks, and cops agreeing to take their \$80 million a year in time off instead of cash. In both cases, the unions agreed to forgo cost-of-living raises this year and next, which is not such a sacrifice considering there is deflation of nearly 2 percent.

It's a very different story at the Department of Water and Power. On the same day that the Council approved the deals with civilian workers and the police, they also gave the green light to a deal with the DWP's union, IBEW Local 18, which is run with an iron fist by union boss Brian D'Arcy, a man even other union leaders call

a "thug." What D'Arcy got, under the threat of shutting down the water and power systems, is a lump sum payment of 3.5 percent for his members, but also raises of two to four percent a year for the next four years, depending on the inflation rate. Ratepayers, especially single-family homeowners, will pay dearly for these raises in higher rates for water and power.

It's not just the DWP workers who will benefit from squeezing hundreds of millions in extra dollars out of the ratepayers. The cash-strapped general fund gets the 10 percent utility tax plus eight percent of power and seven percent of water revenue. And that money will go into paying the salaries of other city workers.

The result is nobody gets laid off; 2,400 city workers get enhanced pensions so they'll retire, nobody faces an actual pay cut, and the city has a 50-50 chance to avoid a cash flow crisis in the months ahead. Of course, next year and the years ahead are a different matter, what with the bills coming due for deferrals of debts, obligations to pension funds, extensive borrowing. It's a tight little system at City Hall...one that looks at the interests of so many--everyone except the public's interest.

Editor's Note: Ron Kaye is the former editor of the Daily News and Chairman of Saving L.A. Project (SLAP). You can reach him at: www.ronkayela.com

About the Trutanich Zone



By Doug Epperhardt

A city council member, billboard executive, and bureaucrat. They're used to city hall being a comfortable place with lots of back rooms and closed doors, a place where they can make deals and avoid public scrutiny. But lately city hall is not so

cozy. Someone new has moved in and things are different. The usual suspects are not so comfortable. Now, when they go through the doors of city hall, they're entering...The Trutanich Zone.

Recently, there has been a spate of articles on the subject of City Attorney Carmen "Nuch" Trutanich. Various commentators, ranging from academics to talk show hosts, have opined on Trutanich's demeanor and behavior. Most often he's referred to as a bully because

he's informed his clients at city hall they could end up in handcuffs for breaking the law. I understand this is a novel concept to most politicians, but those of us living in the real world get it.

In a Los Angeles Times op-ed, Cal State Fullerton professor, Raphael Sonenshein, claimed Trutanich's actions are having a chilling effect on political speech. In other words, politicians and bureaucrats might be afraid to speak out for fear of retaliation by the city attorney.

That's nonsense. Proof that it's nonsense came when the city council verbally whipped the city attorney and approved billboards at AEG's L.A. Live site downtown despite Trutanich's advice that doing so would compromise the city's billboard moratorium.

Trutanich's real sin is not bullying or threats; it's shining a light on slimy behavior at city hall. He has the temerity to point out to the electeds, commission-

ers, and bureaucrats their duty to act impartially on behalf of the people. It's the city attorney's job to demand that law be obeyed. He rightfully advises his clients about the consequences of not doing so.

And, of course, he's committed the greatest political sin of all—keeping his campaign promises and taking principled stands. Apparently, he means what he says.

I don't agree with everything Trutanich is doing or saying, but at least I know he's not rolling over for special interests. That, more than anything else, is what makes the others at city hall so uncomfortable.

What some see as a chilling effect, I see as a breath of fresh air blowing through the musty corridors of city hall.

It's a good thing the denizens of L.A. city government occasionally have to glance over their shoulders when they're doing business as usual. After all, someone might be watching in...The Trutanich Zone.

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Saturday, Nov 14

PlanCheck NC
Hist. Downtown Outreach Ctr
114 W. 5th, L.A.
10 am-1pm

Little Landers Hist. Society
"Down & Dirty - Pioneer Women's Fashion"
Bolton Hall Museum
10110 Commerce, S-T
1 pm 818-352-3420

LAPD Presents
Internet Safety for Children Centers of Learning
8854 Haskell, Ho. Hills
10:3 am-12:30 pm 818-894-3213

Used Book Sale
Granada Hills Library
10640 Pettit, GH
9 am- 12 pm 818-368-5687

Foreclosure Prevention Fair
Free & Confidential
Panorama City High School
8015 Van Nuys, PC
9 am - 3 pm 213-381-2862
or counseling@lanhs.org

NV YMCA Booster Club Dinner
Knollwood Country Club
12040 Balboa, GH
5:30 pm 818-368-3231

Region A Election Meeting
GHNNC Office
11139 Woodley Ave
Granada Hills, CA 91344
7 pm

Night at the Races
S-T Elks
10137 Commerce Ave
Tuj - 6 pm
818-352-2098

Trail Maint. Day
Resource Div. County DPW
Cottonwood
Entrance to
Mitigation bank
8-12 626-458-6132

LAPD teaches Internet
Safety for Children Learning Center
8854 Haskell, No. Hills
10:30 am -12:30 pm 818-894-3213

Sunday, Nov 15.

Congressman Brad Sherman's
Town Hall Meeting
Birmingham High School
17000 Haynes, Lake Balboa
3 pm

LA River Center &
Garden Walk
570 W. Ave 26, L.A
3:30 pm www.river.org

MHNC Beautification Commit
LAPD Mission Station
11121 Sepulveda, MH
7 pm

LAPD Town Hall Meet.
North Valley City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
7-8 pm 818-456-8866

Monday, Nov. 16

Valley Vote Meeting
Galpin Ford - 2nd Fl.
15555 Roscoe. No. Hills
6:30 pm

CD2 Candidate Forum
No Holly. Masonic Center
5122 Tujunga, No. Ho.
7 pm

Wednesday, Nov 18

Candidate Forum
C. Essel & Paul Krekorian
Woodbury University
7500 Glenoaks, SV
8-10 am

Community Police Advisory
Board (CPAB)
11121 Sepulveda, MH
8:30 pm

Rotary Club
Coco's Restaurant
10521 Sunland, S-T
7 pm 818-951-5299

Pacoima NC
4 pm -Senior Advocate
5 pm -Comm. Outreach
6:30 pm - Gen. Meet.
Pacoima Comm. Center
11243 Glenoaks, Pac

North Hills West NC
New Horizons,
15725 Parthenia. NH.
7 pm 818 893-8613

GHNNC Outreach & Publicity Meet.
11139 Woodley, GH
7 pm

MHNC Quarter. Outreach
LAPD Mission Station
11121 Sepulveda, MH
7:30 pm

Northridge East NC
Andasol Elem School
10126 Encino, NR
7 pm

STNC Gen. Meeting
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
7 pm Info: www.stnc.org

Bingo Night
S-T Elks Lodge
10137 Commerce, S-T
6:30 pm 352-2098

Thursday, Nov 19

STNC Safety Comm
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
6:00 - 6:45 pm

S-T SERVICES
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
6:45 - 7:30 pm

STNC Outreach Comm
NV City
7747 Foothill, S-T
7:30 pm

FTDNC Gen. Meet
www.ftdnc.org for location
7 pm

SNC Gen. Meet.
Hubbard St. Elementary
13325 Hubbard, Syl
6:30 - 9:30pm

SVA Chamber Mixer
Bardwell's Florist
8820 Sunland, SV
5:30 -7:30 pm

Northridge So. NC (forming)
Northridge Middle School
17960 Chase, NR
7 pm 818-497-8039

Northridge100 Meeting
Northridge Mid.School Lib.
17960 Chase, NR
6-7 pm 818-756-8501

Friday, Nov. 20

Thanksgiving Dinner/
Korean BBQ-Spirit Award
All Nations Church
1000 Foothills, LVT
6 pm

S-T Chamber Installation
Angeles National Golf Club
Sunland \$30 per person
6:30 pm 818-352-4433

Poker Fund Raiser &
Toy Drive
Palacio Banquet Hall
12341 San Fernando, Syl
Dancing - 7 pm-12 am
Officer Scott 661-753-7827

Saturday, Nov 21

LADWP Budget Workshop
LADSP Cafeteria Cener
111 N. Hope, L.A.
9:30 am

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Rainy Day Games"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 818-52-3420

Elks Famous Omelette Bar
S-T Elks Lodge #2098
10137 Commerce, S-T
7\$ 9 am-12 pm 818-352-2098

Open House & Tour
Beautification Day
Pioneer Mem. Cemetery
Foothill & Bledsoe, Syl
9 am - 12 pm

Sunday, Nov 22

Metrolink Holiday Express
Northridge Metrolink Station
6:00 pm

Monday, Nov 23

GHNNC Board Meet.
Van Gogh Elem. School;
17160 Van Gogh St. GH
6:30 pm

PCNC Public Safety Meet
PCNC Office (4th Floor)
14500 Roscoe Blvd., PC
6:30 pm 818-984-2133

Valley Vote Meeting
Galpin Ford
15555 Roscoe, N. Hills
6:30 pm

Monday, Nov 23

STNC/Land Use Comm
North Valley City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
7 pm 951-7411

Tuesday, Nov 24

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Rainy Day Games"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 818-352-3420

PCNC Rules & Finance
PCNC Office (4th Floor)
14500 Roscoe Blvd., PC
5:30 & 6:45 pm 818-714-2133

Neighborhood Watch
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-t
7 pm 818-756-7766

Wednesday, Nov 25

Rotary Club
Coco's Restaurant
10521 Sunland, S-T
7 pm 951-5299

Bingo Night
S-T Elks Lodge
10137 Commerce, S-T
6:30 pm 818-352-2098

Thursday, Nov 26

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Monday, Nov 30

GHNNC Gen Meet.
Van Gogh St. Elem School
1716 Van Gogh, GH
6:30-8:30

Tuesday, Dec 1

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Rainy Day Games"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 818-52-3420

MHNC Budget & Finance
LAPD Mission Station
16161 Sepulveda, MH
7 pm 818-892-2414

FTDNC Land Use
9747 Wheatland SH
7 pm

Wednesday, Dec 2

Rotary Club
Coco's Restaurant
10521 Sunland, S-T
7 pm 818-951-5299

NHWN Gen Meet.
Holy Martyrs Armenian Sch.
1667 Parthenia, NH
7 pm

Bingo
S-T Elks Lodge
11037 Commerce S-T
6:30 pm 818-352-5504

Thursday, Dec 3

Meet Carmen Trutanich
"Old Granada Hills Group"
GH Charter High School
10535 Zelzah, GH
7 pm

CRA Visioning Workshop
LAPD Mission Station
11121 Sepulveda, MH
6-8 pm

PCNC Land Use
Mission Community Hospital
14860 Roscoe Blvd., PC
6:30 pm 818-894-7841

S. V. Rotary
Mandarin Terrace
8815 Sunland, SV
12-1:30 pm 818-768-9888

PCNC-Commerce Com
Wells Fargo Bank
8548 Van Nuys, PC
2: pm



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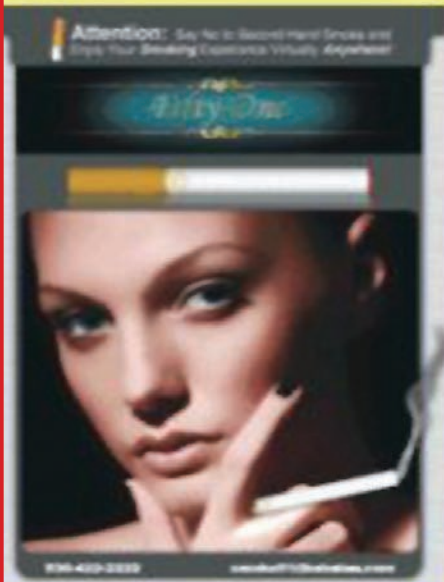
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Sylmar Woman's Club
Odyssey Restaurant
15600 Odyssey, GH
11:30 am

N. Hills West NC Gen. Meet.
Sepulveda VA
16111 Plummer Bg22 N.H.hills
7 pm 818-893-8613

Foothill Comm. Police
Advisory Board (CPAB)
Villar Scalabrini Retir. Home
10631 Vinedale, SV
6 pm 756-8866

Sunshine Cyn Advis. Comm
Knollwood Country Club, GH
3-5 pm

St Lukes Church
2563 Foothill Blvd. La Crescenta
10 am

S-T League of Women Voters
North Valley City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
1:30 pm 818-782-4236

Friday, Dec 4

Flag Pole Ceremony
Little Landers Parks
W/Wendy Greuel
10110 Commerce, S-T
9 am 818-951-1041

Saturday Dec 5

Pacoima Christmas Parade
"Spirit of the Season":
Van Nuys, Amboy to Glenoaks
9 am 818-402-25147
jppoli@hotmail.com

"The Nut Cracker"
CSUN's Plaza Del Sol
Performance Hall
18111 Nordhoff, Nrth
2 & 7 pm 818-677-2488

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Rainy Day Games"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 818-352-3420

Friends of GH Library
10640 Petit, GH
10:30 am 368-568
Sunday, Dec 6

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Rainy Day Games"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 818-52-3420

Benita Bike's
Free Dance Show
Lake View Terrace Library
12202 Osborne, LVT
2 pm 818-890-7404

Monday, Dec 7

SNC-Public Serv. Comm.
Sylmar Park,
13109 Borden, Syl
6:30 - 7:30pm

Tuesday, Dec 8

L.A. City Council
Special Election CD2

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Rainy Day Games"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 818-52-3420

PCNC Commerce
Wells Fargo Bank
8548 Van Nuys Blvd., PC
2:30 pm 818-714-2133

SVANC Gen Meet
10631 Vinedale, SV
6:30

SNC Outreach Com.
Sylmar Park
13109 Borden, Syl
6:30 pm

PNC - House/Econom.
& Land Use Comm.
11243 Glenoaks, Pac
5:30 pm 818 890-1563

S.H.P.O.A. Gen. Meeting
Tierra del Sol
9919 Sunland SH
7 pm

Northridge West NC
19130 Tulsa Street
Northridge, 91326
7 pm

Wednesday, Dec 9

FTDNC Exec Board
9747 Wheatland, SH
7:00pm

Thursday, Dec 10

FTDNC Equest Comm.
9747 Wheatland, SH
7:00pm

GHSNC Gen. Meet.
Granada Pavilion
16916 S.F. Mission, GH
7:30 pm 818-668-5969

Saturday, Dec 12

PlanCheck NC
Hist. Downtown O.R. Center
114 W. Fifth, L.A.
10 am-1pm

Sunday, Dec 13

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Rainy Day Games"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 818-52-3420

Toy Give-A-Way
Panorama High School
8105 Van Nuys, PC
Officer Scott 661-753-7827
Monday, Dec 14

PCNC Outreach
PCNC Office (4th Floor)
14500 Roscoe Blvd., PC
6:30 pm 818-714-2133

STNC/Land Use Comm
North Valley City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
7 pm 951-7411
Info: stnc.org

SNC Land Use Com
Sylmar Park
13109 Borden, Syl
6:30 pm

GHNNC, Rules &
Policy Comm.
11139 Woodyly, GH
4 pm

Tuesday, Dec 15

MHNC Beautification Commit
LAPD Mission Station
11121 Sepulveda, MH
7 pm

Wednesday, Dec 16

Community Police Advisory
Board (CPAB)
11121 Sepulveda, MH
8:30 pm

Rotary Club
Coco's Restaurant
10521 Sunland, S-T
7 pm 818-951-5299

Pacoima NC
4 pm -Senior Advocate
5 pm -Comm. Outreach
6:30 -Gen. Meet.
Pacoima Comm. Center
11243 Glenoaks, Pac

North Hills West NC
New Horizons,
15725 Parthenia. NH.
7 pm 818 893-8613

GHNNC Outreach &
Publicity Meet.
11139 Woodley, GH
7 pm

MHNC Quarter. Outreach
LAPD Mission Station
11121 Sepulveda, MH
7:30 pm

Northridge East NC
Andasol Elem School
10126 Encino, NR
7 pm

STNC Gen. Meeting
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
7 pm Info: www.stnc.org

Bingo Night
S-T Elks Lodge
10137 Commerce, S-T
6:30 pm 352-2098

Thursday, Dec 17

STNC Safety Comm
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
6:00 -6:45 pm

S-T SERVS
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
6:45-7:30 pm

STNC Outreach Comm
NV City
7747 Foothill, S-T
7:30 pm

FTDNC Gen. Meet
www.ftdnc.org for location
7 pm

SNC Gen. Meet.
Hubbard St. Elementary
13325 Hubbard, Syl
6:30 - 9:30pm

SVA Chamber Mixer
Bardwell's Florist
8820 Sunland, SV
5:30 -7:30 pm

Saturday, Dec 19

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Rainy Day Games"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 818-52-3420

Sunday, Dec 20

Elks Famous Omelete Bar
S-T Elks Lodge #2098
10137 Commerce, S-T
7\$ 9 am-12 pm 818-352-2098

Open House & Tour/
Beautification Day
Pioneer Mem. Cemetary
Foothill & Bledsoe, Syl
9 am - 12 pm

Tuesday, Dec 22

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Rainy Day Games"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 818-352-3420

PCNC Rules & Finance
PCNC Office (4th Floor)
14500 Roscoe Blvd., PC
5:30 & 6:45 pm 818-714-2133

Neighborhood Watch
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-t
7 pm 818-756-7766

Thursday, Dec 24

Christmas Eve

Friday, Dec 25

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Monday, Dec 27

GHNNC Gen Meet.
Van Gogh St. Elem School
1716 Van Gogh, GH
6:30-8:30

Monday, Dec 28

GHNNC Board Meet.
Van Gogh Elem. School;
17160 Van Gogh St. GH
6:30 pm

PCNC Public Safety
PCNC Office (4th Floor)
14500 Roscoe Blvd., PC
6:30 pm 818-984-2133
Valley Vote Meeting
Galpin Ford
15555 Roscoe, N. Hills
6:30 pm

Thursday, Dec 31

NEW YEARS EVE
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Friday, January 1, 2010

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Armed, Violent Gang Members Arrested



*Commander Jorge Villegas
Los Angeles Police Department
Operations Valley Bureau*

The success of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) in combating crime and maintaining historic lows in crime reduction has been due to the Department's continued focus on working with local communities, gathering information, and identifying and targeting high crime locations.

The continued success of the LAPD hinges on community assistance and cooperative partnerships. These partnerships provide the police with additional time to work on current problems and improve public safety for all residential and business communities throughout the City of Los Angeles.

An example of this cooperation occurred in early October, when Officers Dennis Padgett, four years with the LAPD, and Dontae Phillips, seven years with the LAPD,

both of whom were assigned to crime suppression patrol in Foothill Division, arrested three gang members with violent criminal histories

The officers, during roll call that afternoon, received information from the community crime bulletins pertaining to on-going car burglaries, stolen cars, and narcotics violations in the area of Lehigh Street and Louvre Avenue. As Padgett and Phillips patrolled this area shortly after midnight they, observed three shadowy males standing in a dimly lit alley. The Officers advanced on the trio and, when the group saw them, one Suspect fled, dropping a loaded pistol as he ran. The other Suspects were quickly handcuffed.

The first suspect, with assistance of a police helicopter, numerous police officers, and police dogs, was found hiding and was arrested without further incident. At the conclusion, one suspect was arrested for carrying a concealed firearm. One was arrested for being a felon in possession of ammunition and the third suspect was arrested for outstanding traffic warrants.

All three suspects were documented gang members who had extensive criminal histories ranging from narcotics violations to weapons offenses.

This is just one example of community members alerting the LAPD regarding on-going crime problems in their neighborhoods. With this type of information, the LAPD can more effectively direct resources to enhance public safety and remove dangerous criminals from our San Fernando Valley communities.

If you want information about a Neighborhood Watch Group in your block, call your Senior Lead Officer, or your local LAPD Community Station and ask for the Community Relations Officer. He, or she, can also provide you with information as to how get a group started if one isn't already in your neighborhood. For further information regarding the LAPD, visit our website at www.lapdonline.org

News from Mission Area Station



*Captain William Scott
Commanding Officer
LAPD Mission Station*

On September 24, our Mission Area Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB) sponsored "Officer Appreciation Day." CPAB members

and a host of community volunteers cooked food and served us all day to show support of Mission Area's police officers and civilian employees. Captain Duane Hayakawa and I, along with the men and woman of Mission Area, thank the Mission Area CPAB, members of the business community and all the community members who generously donated resources and their time to make this even a wonderful success. We are very grateful of your appreciation!

As 2009 winds to a close, Part I Crime in Mission Area has been reduced by 9%, violent crime has been reduced by 8%, and property crime has been reduced by 10% as of 10/31/2009. They are outstanding accomplishments. However, there is still much work to

be done. We will do our best to continue to reduce crime as we head into 2010, and keep our communities safe and free from disorder!

On that note, as we approach the holiday season, please remember to be vigilant about your personal safety and protecting your personal property from theft as you go about your daily routine Always lock your car and don't leave valuables in it if at all possible. GPS devices, iPods, cellular telephones, purses, and wallets are among items that are commonly stolen from vehicles, so make sure to remove them from your vehicle when you are away from it for any period of time. Also, avoid storing holiday gifts in your vehicle, especially in plain sight, while you are out shopping or when you park your vehicle and will be away from it for any period of time. Lastly, always be aware of your surroundings and your environment. This is especially important after using ATM machines, after banking, or making transactions in which you have retained significant amounts of cash, or purchased personal items of significant value.

Please report suspicious activity or crime by calling 911 in an emergency situation, or by calling 311 for a non-emergency. If you witness suspicious activity or a crime please remember to write down the suspect(s) description(s), including height, weight, descent, age and gender, and vehicle descriptions, including, make, model, color, year and license plate number. Only do so if writing down those descriptions does not jeopardize your safety. Lastly, be safe and have a happy holiday season!

Your questions concerning Mission Area may be directed to me at 818-838-9980, or to

Sergeant Scott Fairchild, Officer in Charge, Mission Area Community Relations Office, at 818-838-9856 or by email at the following email addresses: Mission Area Captain William Scott, 27078@lapd.lacity.org; Mission Patrol Captain Duane Hayakawa, 26041@lapd.lacity.org; Community Relations Officer in Charge, Sergeant Scott Fairchild, 27583@lapd.lacity.org Remember, "Together we can make a difference!"

New LAPD Administration Building Opens



The LAPD Administration Building has an added surprise to visitors as noted in the picture. It mirrors City Hall, which is directly across the street.

The new building was formally opened with outgoing Chief William Bratton officiating at the ceremony as one of his last duties as Chief on October 24, 2009

Assistant Chief Sharon K. Papa, Director, Office of Support Services opened the ceremony and introduced the guest speakers after the Presentation of Colors, the National Anthem and Invocations.

Guest Speakers included Los Angeles Mayor Villaraigosa, Council President Eric Garcetti, Councilmember Jan Perry, John Mack, President, LA Police Commission, Cynthia M. Ruiz, President, Board of Public Works, Gary Lee Moore, City Engineer, LA. followed by Chief William Bratton.

Guests were invited to take a guided tour of the building at the conclusion of the ceremony.

Chief William J. Bratton's Last Day Farewell



Los Angeles - Well wishers said goodbye and good luck to former Chief, William J. (Bill) Bratton, as he made his last public appearance and speech as Chief of the now prestigious LAPD. His last official public act as Chief was to participate in the grand opening of LAPD's new Police Administration Building, on Saturday, October, 24. He officially ended his LAPD career on Saturday, October 31, to take a position as Chief Executive Officer with an international security firm called "Altegrity," on the east coast, where he will serve as a security consultant for Police Forces worldwide. Bratton is credited with re-engineering and improving the LAPD as well as responsible for one largest drops in crime in the city's recent history. He leaves a solid footprint behind for the next Chief to follow.

Congratulations are in Order



Deputy Chief Michel R. Moore, head of LAPD's Operations Valley Bureau, presided over the graduation of 61 volunteer community members from LAPD's Community Police Academy on Thursday, October 29, at Mission Area Station in Mission Hills.

Captains from Devonshire, Foothill, Mission, North Hollywood, Topanga, Van Nuys and West Valley area stations presented their community participants with Certificates of Completion. The Academy consists of 10 week classes, 3 hours each regarding different facets of the department. Its purpose is to educate the community on how they operate in order to facilitate a better understanding between the department and the community.

Anyone who is interested in participating in a future class can contact their area's Community Relations Officer regarding eligibility requirements and sign-up information or visit their website: www.lapdonline.org.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Granada Hills Street Fair Huge Success



Courtesy of Dave Beauvais, Granada Hills

By Dave Beauvias

Perfect weather, a record number of vendors, a great variety of food and outstanding music and talent acts all came together to make the 9th annual Granada Hills Street faire a huge success. The Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce, the event sponsors, estimated the crowd at approximately 12,000. In addition to over 200 vendors the Street Faire featured a disaster Preparedness display sponsored by seven Valley Neighborhood Councils, the Los Angeles County "Shaky Classroom Truck" and a Blood Mobile sponsored by Providence Holy Cross Hospital.

Organizations such as FEMA, the Red Cross, Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.), Ham Radio, child fingerprinting sponsored by the Masons, and many others participated in the Disaster Preparedness Display. The display was sponsored by Granada Hills North, Granada Hills South, Lake Balboa, Northridge East, Northridge West, North Hills East, and Porter Ranch Neighborhood Councils. They handed out hundreds of "Grab and Go" emergency bags, which contained a number of essential emergency items.

Dozens of non-profit organizations displayed and handed out information about their groups. The booths sponsored by Granada Hills North and Granada Hills South Neighborhood Councils, both major sponsors of the Street Faire, were busy all day giving away all sorts of goodies as part of their outreach.

There were plenty of family attractions, including a rock climb, air slide and pony rides. A new highlight this year was the addition of a Community Stage which featured family oriented entertainment, including a pie eating contest sponsored by Dupars Restaurant in the afternoon. Family acts such as the L.A. Hip kids from the Rage and Aloha Hula drew standing room only crowds. During breaks, Aikikai gave martial arts demonstrations.

One Block of the Street Faire was dedicated to a car show, sponsored this year by 60 Minute Tune. The KEARTH 101 van played music throughout the day and Hamer Toyota displayed their latest vehicles.

As usual, the Street Faire featured a mix of commercial, craft and non-profit vendors. A variety of handcrafted jewelry, clothes, toys, furniture and art were on exhibit throughout the Street Faire. New members of the Chamber of Commerce such as Fresh Fruit Bouquet manned booths introducing their businesses to the Granada Hills community.

The Street Faire Committee thanks the dozens of volunteers who helped make the event possible, and invites everyone to the 10th annual Street Faire in 2010.

Sunland -Tujunga

By Cindy Cleghorn

Neighborhood Council elections for North Valley Neighborhood Councils have begun. The City Clerk's staff is visiting all Neighborhood Councils to discuss procedures and timeline for elections scheduled for the list quarter of 2010. Sunland-Tujunga is coordinating outreach efforts with Neighborhood Councils in our assigned the region, (see ad in this issue of NVR). Outreach will include newspaper ads, events and mailings. If you are interested in serving your community or want to know more about serving in an advisory capacity with the City of Los Angeles, consider running for an STNC board seat. Applications will be available soon.

The Sunland Tujunga Chamber of Commerce installation of Officers is Friday, November 20. Sonia Tatulian will be installed as their new president and Cindy

Cleghorn and Andrea Manning will be installed as new board members. The Chamber which meets monthly, sponsors the annual Honorary Sheriff and Mayor contests and they also sponsor the Easter Carnival and the 4th of July Fireworks celebrations. For information regarding Chamber events, call 818-352-4433.

Commerce/Foothill Town Center construction continues. The city recently approved intersection change that will soon be underway. The "Greening of Commerce Avenue" project is on its last leg of curbs and gutter work. The stone work around the trees, new and additional trees, street furniture and the old town clock will be installed and completed in the very near future.

Editor's Note: Ms Cleghorn serves as Secretary of the STNC and writes for the NVR.

Race for Youth

Presented by the Sylmar Neighborhood Council

December 3rd, 2009

5:30 - 8:30 pm

Here's your chance to race against LA's Finest!

Wheel-to-Wheel, Corner-to-Corner, who's the Fastest?

Best of all, all proceeds go to help the Youth of our community!

The Sylmar Neighborhood Council will be hosting "RACE FOR YOUTH", with all proceeds going to Mission Community Police Council, Funds raised from this event will directly go to L. A. P. D's Mission Explorer Post, DAPS Youth Program, and the Mission Jeopardy at risk youth program.

Together we can make a difference helping youth and making our community a better place to live.

TROPHIES:

3 First Place / 3 Second Place
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Crew Chief:

2 Racing Spots / 2 Adopt a Cop
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on race day.

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MB2 Raceway - 13943 Balboa Blvd, Sylmar, CA 91342 866-986-RACE / WWW.MB2RACEWAY.COM

Contact for Sponsorship:

Officer Richard Stocks
(818) 838-9861

Greg Baker
(818) 534-1191





SOUND OFF

Who is Looking Out for Our Veterans

If the ACLU is serious about "separation of church and state on federal property," they will sue the VA Administration and Richmark Entertainment Group (REG) for their exclusive lease on the Wadsworth and Brentwood Theaters on VA property, because REG rents out the theaters for religious services.

How do religious services benefit America's Veterans on property that was deeded by an Act of Congress "to be permanently maintained as a National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers?" Why doesn't the ACLU stop these religious services from taking place on Veterans land, i.e., and federal property? There are no spiritual healing facilities at the West LA VA for America's Veterans, only for the general public.

The ACLU recently sued the city of Santa Monica for abusing the homeless; yet, that organization continues to ignore 20,000 homeless Veterans living in Los Angeles their rightful "Home," which was deeded

to them in 1888 by the Congressional Act of 1887. Where is their outrage regarding the give away of Veterans Property?

Included in a recent Supreme Court hearing was whether congress had the authority to "transfer the property under the cross to a veterans group in exchange for other property." Yet, the 16-acre, billion-dollar parcel of Veterans land was essentially given away rent free by congress for a public park, and Veterans received "nothing in exchange." The same will happen to Sepulveda VA's Buildings No.s 4 and 5.

Why is the ACLU so concerned about a tiny parcel of granite in the middle of nowhere while they are ignoring 20,000 homeless Veterans whose land was stolen from the largest VA in the second largest city in the nation, with over one million Veterans living within 50 miles?

Shame on the media for not exposing this instead of propagandizing the simple cross in the middle of an isolated desert. The West LA VA chapel built in 1890, the oldest building on Wilshire Blvd., remains shut down for nearly two decades. It has four small crosses on top and nobody has noticed or complained about that for 120 years. The ACLU will most likely make an issue of that now. Instead, ACLU, why not find out why the Veterans' meditation garden at the West LA VA has been chained and padlocked for years? Why was \$200,000 embezzled from the Veterans' golf course that was also open to the public? Much needs to be done for America's Veterans, not against them!

*Robert Rosebrock
West L.A.*

We Need a Community Clean Up

We here in Mission Hills have asked for a community clean up and some crosswalks between the Mission and Brand Park but we get nothing. I have called my councilpersons office and just get bounced from one to another and

nothing happens. Hurry up and get this term over so we can get someone that cares for our community

*Joe Pinoy Lozano
Mission Hills
Semper Fidelis
USMC 1954-1957*

Do You Know These People?

Graduates of Bellarmine-Jefference High School, located in Burbank, Ca, are planning to hold a Fifty Year Reunion for the Class of 1960, sometime in 2010 in Burbank, on a day to be determined. We have not been able to connect with the following classmates:

Margaret Alvarez, Barbara Bates, Gary Bleck, Mary Ellen Brennan (Fusselman), Mary Lou Brentwood, Olivia Carrillo (Trabilcy), Martha Finke, Kathy Greaney, Kenneth Hamilton, Barry Jones, Tom Kneipe, Ronald Lowe, Emmy Mannino,

Charles Moran, James Mudge, Alicia Newman, Michael O'Brien, Julie Smith, Helen Thuette (Caputi), Marguerite Vaca and Brian Vaillencourt.

If you know of any of these missing classmates, please have them email me at:

ljones21@yahoo.com, or call the North Valley Reporter at 818-563-1962 to leave their contact information.

*Lois Willadson Jones
Sunland-Tujunga*

Rate Payer Advocates Proposed for the DWP

By Daniel Wiseman

Two and one-half years ago, Jack Humphreville, newly elected President of the Department of Water & Power Committee (DWPC), introduced the concept of an Independent Rate Payer's Advocate (IRPA) for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). We now have five proposals for the position.

The original purpose of the IRPA is that person would be:

- o The only person really independent of City politics.
- o The only person selected by the ratepayers, themselves.
- o The only person that is a qualified and experienced utilities expert (not a political appointee).
- o The only person dedicated to analyze the financial impacts, management impacts, cost-benefits, program progress, and outcomes of DWP proposals for its customers.
- o The only person who reports to public ratepayers first, not to city officials.
- o The only person designed to have "a seat at the table" in order to bring its analysis to the Mayor, City Council, and DWP Board of Commissioners in parallel with the proposals and opinions of the DWP.

In 2008, Councilmember Jose Huizar proposed an "Ombudsman", Council File #08-1967, who would aid qualified people to receive Lifeline and Low Income Benefits, but would also increase the collection of unpaid DWP bills. The position or office was to be created by the DWP. That did not happen.

Last week, Councilmember Greig Smith proposed an "Inspector General" (IG), Council File #09-2544, to carry out the Council mandated independent fiscal analyses of new DWP proposals, which is not done regularly. This person would be "empowered to assemble an independent review panel of experts." The IG would be appointed by the Mayor, with the advice and consent of the City Council. The IG would report "directly to the public without interference from DWP, the DWP Board of Commissioners, the Mayor, the City Council, or the Neighborhood Councils."

Also, Councilmember Eric Garcetti proposed an Office of the Ratepayer Advocate (ORA), Council file #08-1967-S1, a revision of the Ombudsman, to "identify best practices, present options ...and... create a role for customers" at the DWP. The appointing authority is not yet specified by, presumably the

| A COMPARISON of the ORIGINAL RATE PAYER'S ADVOCATE concept with two recent CITY COUNCIL MOTIONS | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>ORIGINAL CONCEPTION ORIGIN AUTHOR: Jack Humphreville - August 2007 FORMALLY ENDORSED by DOZENS of NCs since Sept. '07</p> <p>MAJOR CONCERNS of the PUBLIC: 1. Deteriorating DWP Infrastructure - outages (electrical transformer failures) - broken water mains 2. Increasing RATES (absolutely) 3. Increasing RATES-per-UNIT OF SERVICE 4. Failure to make good on the promised use(s) of past rate increase funds 5. Unexplained (?unacceptable) FAVORATISM for DWP equity, control and employee interests</p> <p>Analyzes DWP's Finances, Management, Policies, Program Progress and Operations Appointment guided by the suggestions of NCs and others</p> <p>RPA to have utilities industry, financial & high-level management qualifications and unimpuned experience</p> <p>ADVOCATE for ALL RATE PAYERS, first & foremost.</p> <p>Access to timely & complete financial plans & information Matters of Concern parallel the NC-DWP M.O.U. Assure publication of prompt, complete financial reports</p> <p>Explain DWP's responses to recent independent reviews</p> <p>Provided with adequate, qualified staff</p> <p>Report DIRECTLY to the PUBLIC and "have a place at the table" when DWP presents their plans to Mayor, Council or DWP Board of Commissioners</p> <p>To make DWP's entire operations more transparent and to restore the Public's trust.</p> <p>NC's are still denied the power to create Council Files</p> | <p>COUNCIL FILE NUMBER - C.F. #09-2544 AUTHOR: Greig Smith, October 14, 2009 Eric Garcetti, Jan Perry</p> <p>partial listing of concerns</p> <p>PRIMARILY to PROVIDE FISCAL SURVEILLANCE Appointment by Mayor with Advise & Consent of Council</p> <p>Complete & unfettered access to all records, meetings, key documents and contracts at all times.</p> <p>ADVOCATE for CITY's FISCAL RESPONSIBILITIES</p> <p>Fulfill Council's 2004 Ordinance requiring DWP to undergo a revenue requirements review by an independent third party before all rate increases</p> <p>Able to assemble an independent review panel of experts to review critical and controversial matters</p> <p>Report DIRECTLY to the PUBLIC w/o interference from Mayor, Council, DWP Board of Commissioners or NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS</p> <p>To make DWP's entire operations more transparent and to restore the Public's trust.</p> <p>CAO, CLA & City Attorney to draft proposal w/i 45 days and present it to the E&E Cmte</p> | <p>COUNCIL FILE NUMBER - C.F. #08-1967-S1 AUTHOR: Eric Garcetti, October 16, 2010 J Perry, J Huizar, E Reyes, B Parks, P Koretz, J Hahn</p> <p>partial listing of concerns</p> <p>"Update" of J Huizar's "Ombudsman" Motion (CF #08-1967) which was proposed to aid collection of unpaid DWP bills and was "justified" by a partial listing of concerns, as well</p> <p>PRIMARILY to COLLECT CUSTOMER IMPACT INFO. Appointment by Mayor with Advise & Consent of Council (same, implied)</p> <p>ADVOCATE to THE CITY for "DWP CUSTOMERS"</p> <p>Create a role for customers to have a voice at LADWP (and presumably, whenever DWP presents proposals & progress to the Mayor, City Council & DWP Board of Commissioners</p> <p>Report DIRECTLY to Mayor, Council and DWP Board of Commissioners</p> <p>To make DWP's entire operations more transparent and to restore the Public's trust.</p> <p>CAO, CLA & City Attorney to draft proposal w/i 30 days and present it to the E&E Cmte</p> |

Mayor and City Council, again. The ORA would report to the DWP Board of Commissioners, the City Council and the Mayor.

Proposals by Councilmembers Huizar, Smith and Garcetti are clearly imbedded in the City's politics and flawed by those politics from the start.

The other claimants to the title of DWP RPA are the Mayor, the City Council, the DWP Board of Commissioners, and the DWP General Manager. All of them have claimed to have a responsibility to supervise and guide the DWP into efficient and effective projects. We have seen the results of relying on these entities to control the DWP:

1. NO STOPPING of the extraordinarily generous "golden parachutes" for DWP General Managers.
2. NO STOPPING the decades of deferred infrastructure maintenance, which has left us with multiple bursting water mains and electric transformer breakdowns.
3. NO PROGRESS to decrease our dependence on dirty, coal-fueled power plants for our electric power.

4. One increase after another in water and/or power rates deceptively presented as "small cost" increases, but creating 25% - 40% increases on our DWP bills.

5. Measure "B", which was titled "Good Jobs", but which ignored a city full of unemployment and only provided jobs for DWP employees.

The Smith and Garcetti Motions have been sent to the City Administrative Officer (CAO) and the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) and the City Attorney to develop the specifics of the proposal.

Isn't it only fair to include the DWP NC-MOU and DWP Committee representatives in those deliberations and developments in order to keep the Office of the Independent Rate Payers Advocate truly independent of City Politics? Would it not also keep the Office of the Independent Rate Payer Advocate truly focused on the Rate-Payers' concerns and truly effective in creating actual transparent proposals from DWP? This could be a model for other Departments, as well.

THIS & THAT

About Money

By Marlene Hitt

I've just heard a nasty rumor that the country is broke. So is the world and so are you and me. So what can be done? How can we pay for necessities if there is no money?

Trade is always about the exchange of items considered to be of equal value. That exchange becomes a plan for purchases of commodities with currency in whatever was considered a form of currency recognized by all groups as a legitimate form of money.

From earliest times, people have used any kind of goods, which were hard to get and highly desire, for means of exchange. Exchange goods could have been salt or obsidian, nails or shells, or gemstones. Giraffe tails were once used as money in a part of Africa, and whale teeth once were used in Fiji.

Advances came locally when trade was carried across an elaborate network of Indian trails across lowlands, through mountain passes, probably following animal trails between springs and seeps. This trade pattern became largely peaceful and mutually profitable. However, the pattern was destroyed or altered in one century as a new pattern of civilization was introduced.

In the days of early California there was a material for exchange that most of us haven't been aware of. The wondrous long-horned cattle which, in-migrating from Mexico, were driven along destined for food and nourishment by the colonists of California under the standard of Spain. The beasts multiplied in great number in this spacious and fruitful country where meat, hides, and tallow were plentiful.

About this time, a sea merchant traveling along the coast of California, whose craft had sprung a leak, had to get rid of his cargo to make it possible for the ship to be mended. His cargo was that of perishable goods - lump sugar and chocolate.

With his ship anchored off El Puerto de San Pedro, he was rowed to land to investigate the possibilities of a trade. Wandering about, he found the Rancho San Pedro of the Dominguez, Rancho Los Palos Verdes of the Sepulvedas, Ranchos Los Alamitos, Los Cerritos of the Nietos, and discovered great quantities of dry, stiff hides and tons of tallow in (leather bags) - a find.

Sure that these articles could be disposed of somewhere, and that they would not be harmed by the elements of the sea, he traded his sugar and chocolate

for the hides and bags of tallow, and headed to Santa Catalina Island for repairs.

He apparently chose acceptable trade goods, because the leather and tallow became a medium of exchange. That is the way the term "Leather Dollars" of California originated; that commodity which in trade could buy from a needle to an elaborate hand-embroidered Spanish shawl.

In his book, *Two Years Before the Mast*, Richard Henry Dana, Jr. describes a trade vessel. "*The trade-room was fitted up in steerage, and furnished out with the lighter goods, and with specimens of the rest of the cargo. For a week or ten days all was life on board. The people came off to look and to buy...and we were continually going in the boats, carrying goods and passengers.*"

The cargo was an assorted one: spirits of all kinds sold by the cask, teas, coffees, sugars, spices, raisins, molasses, hardware, crockery-ware, tin-ware, cutlery, clothing, boots and shoes, calicos and cotton, silks, shawls, necklaces, combs, fireworks, and English cart wheels.

Dana speaks about the economy of that California. "*One thing that surprised me was the quantity of silver in circulation. I never, in my life, saw so much silver at one time. The truth is, they have no credit system, no banks, and no way of investing money but in cattle. Besides silver, they have no circulating medium but hides, which the sailors called "California Bank Notes". Everything they could buy must be paid for by one or the other of this currency of silver, hides and tallow. The hides were brought down dried and doubled, in clumsy ox-carts, or upon mule back, and the money they carried was tied up in a handkerchief.*"

During the decade of the 1800s and on, the merchant ships wound their way from the East Coast, around the horn and up and down the coast of California. Goods were brought in; hides and tallow were loaded by hand onto the vessels and carried back to the ship's place of origin.

Shells, tails, gems, teeth, hides, silver, gold, copper coin, paper, and coded numbers on the internet, it is all the same. I need this, you need that, and we exchange. What comes next for us?

Editor's note: Mrs. Hitt is Director of Bolton Hall Museum, a former Sunland-Tujunga Poet Laureate, and Writes for the NVR.

North Valley Neighborhood Councils 2010 Election Dates

Region A

Election Day: March 6, 2010

Canoga Park
Chatsworth
Granada Hills North
Granada Hills South
North Hills West
Northridge East
Northridge West
Porter Ranch
West Hills
Winnetka
Woodland Hills - Warner Center

Region B

Election Day: March 27, 2010

Arleta
Foothill Trails District
Mission Hills
North Hills East
North Hollywood Northeast
Pacoima
Panorama City
Sun Valley
Sunland - Tujunga
Sylmar

Get Involved. Run For Office. Make a Difference in Your Community...and VOTE on Neighborhood Council Election Day (see above dates).

For further information please contact the City Clerk Election Division office at (213) 978-0444 or visit the Neighborhood Council 2010 Election Blog at www.nc2010elections.blogspot.com

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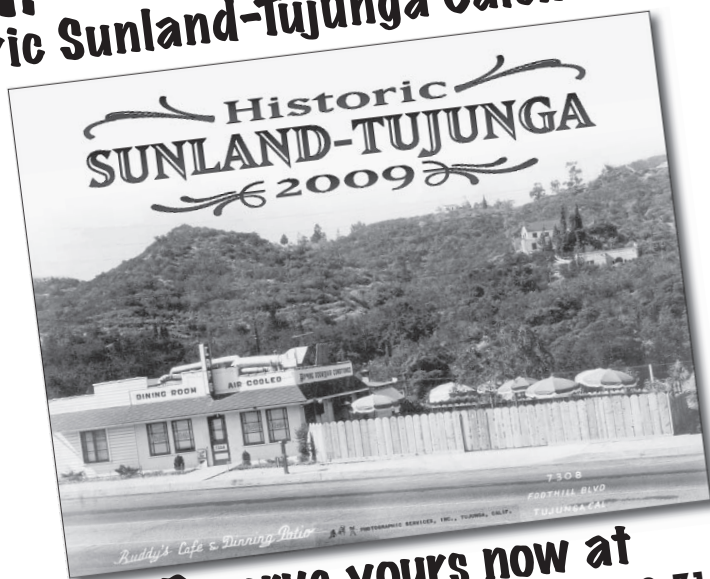
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THIS N THAT

HERE'S MY CARD



Carrick's Journey —Part Twenty Three By Tomi Lyn Bowling

Through the smoke and debris not much was visible. As an area would clear Sebastian and Drake would trek forward, clearing a path as they went. Continually coughing and wiping the smoke from his eyes, Drake finally made his way back to the exact spot where he'd witnessed the largest explosion and where he last saw Fanella.

There were mounds full of wood, blocks of concrete, and shards of metal all still smoldering and crowning a large crater that was left by the blast. Sebastian, Drake, and a few others started removing the mounds piece by piece, looking for any sign of Fanella or anyone that might have ended up beneath the rubble. The heat was intense and at least one soldier had to be removed after picking up a red-hot piece of iron that severely scorched the flesh on his hands. As they made their way toward the middle of the largest mass it became increasingly difficult. The heat seemed to be intensifying. Moving these pieces was feeding the pile with oxygen. Occasionally they were faced with a sudden burst of flames. They were all forced to retreat more than once because of the intense flames. The largest mass suddenly blew and lit up like a bon fire. With the mass burning out of control hope began to fade for finding Maddie and Fanella. All the search party could do was back off and let it burn. Small explosions continued to ignite for several minutes.

Sebastian could see the pain taking shape on Drake's face with worry over the fate of his mother. Sebastian walked over to Drake and grabbed his shoulders. In a sort of shaking motion, he made sure he had Drake's undivided attention and said, "Maddie is with Fanella. I assure you, they're fine. Fanella is the most skilled soldier we have ever known. I'm her father, I know this." Drake looked away from Sebastian and stared at the burning rubble. Sebastian, still focusing on Drake, continued, "Fanella has taken your mother to safety. I'm sure of it."

Drake wanted to believe him. His perception of his mother's skills provided some more assurance that all was fine. However he could not stop replaying the explosion in his head. Over and over he saw their bodies tossed by shear force from that blast. Drake remained quiet and did not respond to Sebastian. The flames were dying down again. Drake was driven by purpose so as soon as possible started removing pieces again. The rest of the party soon joined in. One of them came upon a medallion and quietly ambled over to Sebastian with it. It was Sebastian's medallion. Though he did not admit it to anyone, months earlier the medallion had been given to Fanella. As Drake's angst grew stronger, his speed picked up. By now the parties of troopers that had left the group before the attack were arriving back to the large hall. As the small group sifted through hunting for survivor, the new arrivals began to assist in removal of the wounded, the dead, and taking stock of how many had fallen.....to be continued.

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Admiral Mullen Sends His Regrets



VAN NUYS – Congressman Howard Berman said today, November 10, “I very much regret that Admiral Michael G. Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will not be able to join us on Wednesday, November 11th at the Valley’s Veterans Day Parade. Admiral Mullen, who grew up in the Valley, was very much looking forward to serve as our Grand Marshall.”

“Unfortunately,” continued the Congressman, “the tragic events at Fort Hood, Texas completely changed his schedule and he will be in Texas and Washington for the next few days, taking part in the memorial serv-

ices for those who lost their lives as well as meeting with the President.”

Admiral Mullen is a native of Los Angeles and graduated from Notre Dame High School in 1964 and attended the U.S. Naval Academy, graduating in 1968. He was sworn in as the 17th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for the United States of America on October 1, 2007. He serves as the principal military advisor to the President, the Secretary of Defense, the National Security Council and the Homeland Security Council.

Parade organizers are looking forward to his attendance at a future Annual San Fernando Valley Veterans Day Parade which is always held on the 11th month, on the 11th day beginning at 11:11 am. For more information visit: www.sfvveteransdayparade.com

Meet Decorated Veteran Benny Luan



By Morris Pichon

Growing up in Alamosa, Colorado during the 1920’s didn’t provide Benny Luna, a Senior Citizen, Decorated Veteran and Artist with a bright outlook of the world. By the time he was ten years old our country found itself in the middle of the ‘Great Depression’.

When he graduated from high school in June 1940, jobs were few and far between. His need for employment led Benny to join the Conservation Corp (CC Camp), a federal program designed to provide employment during very difficult times. He worked cutting fire trails, building dams and fences in National parks in Colorado.

As Hitler and his German Army were ravaging countries throughout Europe, the U. S. Army began to look like a prosperous job with great benefits. In October 1940, Benny Luan went off to the Army boot camp in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Following his basic training, Pvt. Luan was assigned to the 8th Calvary Division as a Machine Gunner at Fort Bliss, Texas. After the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Pvt. Luan applied to

become a paratrooper, but the Army felt that he was needed in the Quarter Master Corp.

Pvt. Luan soon found himself taking amphibian training with the Navy and Marines in San Diego. He was then assigned to Camp Kilmer, New York, where he was trained as a tank gunner. Benny says, “I will never forget the six days we spent dodging German submarines on the way to France”.

Benny participated in five major battles in Europe. He was at the Normandy invasion and was wounded in St. Valerie, France. He was awarded the Bronze Star, the European Campaign Metal, the Africa Campaign Metal and the Purple Heart.

Mr. Luan sees no glory in war. He remembers the many friends he lost in WWII. He stated that he suffered many ailments from his time in the Army. He claims that he still suffers from battle fatigue and shell shock.

In his efforts to return to civilian life, he took a Norman Rockwell correspondence course and began a hobby that has lasted since the fifties. Painting has awakened his creative side and provided him with the temperament to be a family man and a productive citizen.

Benny Luan has several paintings on display at the Alicia Broadous-Duncan Multipurpose Senior Center where he is a frequent visitor and where much of his time is spent talking with his fellow veterans.

San Fernando Valley’s Veterans Parade 2009

Community Members lined Laurel Canyon Blvd between Brand Blvd and Paxton, where the neighboring communities of Pacoima, the City of San Fernando and Mission Hills meet, to watch over a hundred Veteran’s entries participate in the sixth annual San Fernando Valley Veteran’s Day Parade. The parade is always held on the 11th day in the 11th month beginning at 11:11 am. Participation becomes more popular and increases every year.

This year the Parade was dedicated to memory of 19 year old Alred Anthony Flores, Jr. who passed away in April. Anthony gave his father, Fred A. Flores, the idea of starting a parade in the San Fernando Valley so families wouldn’t have drive out to area to cities such as Long Beach to honor Veterans every year.

Some of the local dignitaries in attendance were Congressman Howard Berman, State Senator Alex Padilla and Commissioner Fred A Flores, L.A. County Veterans Advisory Commission who founded of the parade together in 2004. Also Supervisor Zev Yaroslauky, Deputy Chief Michel Moore, LAPD, Chief and City Administrator Robert Odelheide, City of San Fernando

Bobby Arias served as announcer and Cile Bormann started the event by singing the Star Spangled Banner followed by Stephanie Valencia who sang God Bless America. The crowd anticipated the attendance of Admiral Michael G. Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chief’s of Staff to serve as Grand Marshall, but unfortunately he was called to duty to handle issues related to the Fort Hold Crises and was forced to send his regrets. However, the Parade had six Honorary Grand Marshal’s to honor for their outstanding service: Marine Sergeant Eddie Kafafian, World War II Era, Army PFC Bennie Najjar, Korean War Era, Army PFC Marjorie J. (Jo) Cornett, Desert Storm War Era, Army Sergeant Tracey L. Cooper-Harris, Operation Enduring Freedom and 2004 Honorary Grand Marshal, Army Sgt. James McEachin, Korean War Era.

Participants were from all groups the service Services, Gold Star Families, American Legions, Veterans of Foreign Wars, ROTC and Cadet Groups from Middle and High Schools,

Bands from Arleta High School, San Fernando High School, also classic cars and motorcycles driven by veterans. The flight overhead by the Cordors is always a favorite. See Page 16 for picture

Dennis Miller and his “People in Progress” are always a great help. However, the Parade Committee can always use more volunteers. Visit their website: www.sfvveteransdayparade.com or call 818-837-7767 for information. They will start planning for the next one after the holiday season.



American Legion members from Sunland-Tujunga Post No. 377 and Sun Valley Post No. 520 gathered at the Veterans Memorial in Sunland Park, with community members in honor of Veterans Day.

The Coffee Angels

By Al Piantanida

When Veterans are returning home from service, a free cup of coffee is always waiting for them as they come through the Lobby doors of VA Building 200 for their appointments.

To many Veterans, the coffee stand is like our own USO where we can get something to drink, eat and enjoy conversation with buddies. Community members and Veterans have been greatly inspired by the “Starbuck Girls” who donate their own money, donuts, bagels and cookies to make each Veteran morning special.

Those wonderful ladies are the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) who unselfishly take time out of their busy life to honor and serve all Veterans. We salute you!

For more information regarding the (DAR) Free Coffee Stand or to make a donation, contact Larry Wong, Voluntary Service Specialist at the Sepulveda VA, email at: larry.wong2@va.gov or call 818-895-9367

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