

Community Leaders Banned From Secret Meeting

Dispute Resolution Program "Waste of Tax Dollars"

By Katharine Russ

Sunland-Tujunga – On Monday, August 25, Community leaders, and activists were threatened with police action if they tried to attend the closed meeting regarding the proposed Home Depot (HD) warehouse in Sunland-Tujunga. Director Avis-Ridley Thomas promised openness and transparency to the community at the onset of the Dispute Resolution Program (DRP). The DRP was set up in April to gather information regarding the issues surrounding the proposed warehouse in Sunland-Tujunga. Approximately 12 people along, with HD Reps, were allowed to attend the secret follow up meeting held at North Valley Neighborhood City Hall in Tujunga by the DRP, while 50 people stood in the hall, as well as out on the street, picketing with signs protesting the secrecy of that meeting. It was a stark contrast to City Attorney Tayo Popoola's words that promised the mediation would involve everyone.

Sunland-Tujunga Alliance (STA) Secretary, Abby Diamond, was allowed to attend, but walked out because of inflammatory treatment she received from Barbara Goldfarb who chaired the meeting. Diamond said, "Goldfarb's demeanor and manner were thoroughly insulting towards me and she was horribly unprofessional."

The Stipulation Agreement signed earlier this year between the City of Los Angeles and HD "stays" the lawsuit and provides that "The City shall facilitate

Continued on page 3



Sunland-Tujunga neighbors upset that door is closed to City building

Photograph by Mark Siegel

L.A. Tax Dollars Displacing Affordable Housing

By Katharine Russ

Los Angeles - Homeowners in Sky Terrace Mobil Home Park (The Park), located in the unincorporated Lopez Canyon area of the San Fernando Valley in L.A. County, received a letter from The Park's previous owners, Christine Salstrom and Jennifer Crank on April 18 notifying them of the sale of The Park. Attorney Robert Scholnick's letter to the Park's homeowners on April 29 informed them, "The new owners have determined that the mobile home park is an illegal, non permitted use in the County's industrial M-1-5 zone." The Park's new owner, The Dewey Group, aka SE Sky Terrace LLC, said in their letter to The Park's homeowners that The Park had closed escrow. Their plan is to change the use and evict the tenants with the aid of the office of County Supervisor Antonovich.

Scholnick said, "Sky Terrace is zoned 'industrial' (M-1) and was granted a zoning exception for a period of twenty years in 1966. That zoning exception expired in 1986. In the mid 1990's an attempt was made to seek an extension of the zoning exception. In 1997, LA County denied the application for the extension."

Homeowner's were not "noticed" upon purchase of their homes that The Park was zoned M-1 industrial; nor that The Park had been non-conforming since 1986. They were not told they were living on top of a previously active refuse dump. According to the Mobile Home Park Disclosure form required by CA Civil Code (CCC) 798.75.5, homeowners should have been made aware of The Park's non-conforming status and potential hazards from the dump. Also, homeowners were not notified that The Park was sold until April 2008. The homeowners were given just 9 days notice, while applications for Brownfield funds were submitted to California Recycle Underutilized Sites (CALReUSE) for that site as far back as 2005. Brownfield funds "provide forgivable loans to finance the cost of site assessments, technical assistance, and other specified activities, to assist in the reuse and redevelopment of underutilized property with real or perceived contamination."

CCC 798.27(b) states, "If a change occurs concerning the zoning or use permit under which the park operates, or a lease in which the management is a lessee, all homeowners shall be given written notice within 30 days of such change. Notification regarding the change of use of the park, or any portion thereof, shall be governed by subdivision (g) of Section 798.56. A prospective homeowner



Photograph by Glenn Bell

shall be notified prior to the inception of the tenancy. (Amended by AB 600, Ch. 190 (1991), eff. 1/1/92)."

Homeowner Donna Cornell remembers, "Sometime near August 2006, the Park's manager hosted a BBQ for residents of Sky Terrace telling homeowners that the present Park owners were considering individual lot sales to residents and suggested they begin repairing and remodeling their homes to spruce up the park. After the BBQ, many people started making improvements on their homes. I invested \$15,000 from 2006-2007."

At a meeting hosted by both the Dewey Group and the County Counselor at Dexter Park on June 18, homeowners were told by County Council that if they wished to sell their homes, they must disclose Sky Terrace will be closed. If a sale lacked disclosure, it would be fraud. Sky Terrace LLC did not make such disclosures to the homeowners because of a "confidentiality" clause. Nearly all

the mobile homes in The Park are over twenty years old and cannot be moved. There are no mobile home communities that would allow a mobile home over the age of 10 years. Neither the previous owner nor the new owner disclosed the closure of The Park, or its impending change of use. Scholnick's letter did say, "The new owners were continuing to research possible outcomes for the park." During this time, homes in The Park were actively being sold. One home sale closed on June 18, 2008. Park homeowner Scott Freeman, said, "It was our desire to get into a residential park, because we figured that we can save money. I wouldn't have moved into an industrial park, especially one where the non-conforming use permit had expired. With the decline in the real estate market, we reasoned that a residentially zoned park would be less likely to be developed in this housing market. We closed escrow on November 9, 2007 for a home manufactured in 1977 - with improvements we have made up until the time we discovered the park was being sold, we spent more than \$15,000 in addition to our purchase price."

In December 2005 according to CALReUSE Brownfield's Site Assessment Assistance Report to the California State Legislature, the site was approved for \$125,000.00, and the proposed reuse of the site was "116 units of housing" with the landfill area to become a common green space and parking lot, but was not funded.

The CALReUSE 2007 Annual Report to the California State Legislature states, "Dewey-KOAR: Funded 2nd Quarter 2006 (Repaid 4th Quarter 2007). A \$125,000 CALReUSE loan was approved to develop a former landfill in Sylmar into 116 single-family homes."

A second entry said, "Sky Terrace Investors, LLC: Funded 4 Quarter 2007 (due October 2010). A \$125,000 loan is being used to initiate a Phase II environmental assessment on a former landfill 'and' mobile home park.

The Borrower hopes to redevelop the site for housing and industrial usage in Sacramento." This appears as a second funding, with an error as to where the property is actually located.

Continued on page 9

In this Issue:

What's in Your Water?
- pg. 2

Community News
- pg. 3

Why We Celebrate Labor Day
- pg. 10

National Night Out Photos
- pg. 12

COMMUNITY NEWS

What's in Your Water?

By Katharine Russ

Do you know your water is Fluoridated? If you are a customer of any Metropolitan Water District (MWD) member agency since Aug. 2007, including the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) since 2001, you have been receiving water that has been subjected to the addition of a fluoridation chemical (hydrofluosilicic acid and its contaminants) from a manufacturer that will not state their specific product is safe or effective at fulfilling fluoridation's claim of reducing tooth decay.

The California Dental Association (CDA) website supports community water fluoridation saying "half of all children in the U.S. ages 5 to 17 have never had a cavity in their permanent teeth." Yet the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT) states, "Over the last few years published accounts from several major cities indicate a dental crisis among poor and minority kids despite the fact that these cities have been fluoridated for over 20 years."

The largest survey ever conducted in the US (over 39,000 children from 84 communities) by the National Institute of Dental Research showed little difference in tooth decay among children in fluoridated and non-fluoridated communities (Hileman 1989).

Tooth decay trends tracked by the World Health Organization (WHO) of the following countries France, Germany, Japan, Italy, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Norway, Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Austria, Belgium, Portugal, Iceland, Greece, and the United States from 1970 to present, show that the incidence of decayed, missing or filled teeth has been steadily in decline with each passing year. Experts believe the decline is due to better oral hygiene and improved dental practice. It's certainly not the fluoride because none of those countries tracked by the WHO added fluoride to the public water supply except the United States.

The cover story of the July 2000 Journal of the American Dental Association (JADA) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) August 17, 2001, issue of the Morbidity and Monthly Weekly Report, in which both declared that "there is no significant reduction in tooth decay from the mechanism of ingested fluoride, including any relevant contribution from glandular saliva following ingestion (drinking) of fluoridated water." During Congressional Investigations in 2000, hydrofluosilicic acid was reported to contain enough arsenic to cause 1 in 1000 human lung/bladder cancer deaths.

So why are nursing mothers, children under 6 and anyone treated for Kidney related diseases put at risk when there have been over 60,000 worldwide studies to show fluoride's toxicity and it doesn't reduce tooth decay?

Of the water that goes into your home people drink approximately 1%, or choose bottled water and purified water, but, what about the millions of animals that don't have a choice? There are thousands of horses in the North Valley who are potentially at risk. Horses drink between ten to twenty gallons of water a day. That means they can ingest far more fluoride in a lesser period of time than people. A study published in 2006, provides evidence that horses may be victims of poisoning by water fluoridation programs.

Dr. Lennart Krook, Professor Emeritus, Department of Biomedical Sciences, at Cornell University in New York, is leading the research on how fluoride affects animals. A joint paper "Fluoride Poisoning of Horses From Artificially Fluoridated Drinking Water" was peer reviewed and published in the Jan/March 2006 issue of Fluoride, the quarterly journal of the International Society for Fluoride Research. Krook has explained how fluoride works insidiously at the cellular level. "It inhibits enzymes, the chemical catalysts which underpin all cellular chemistry, including the energy-production mechanisms of the mitochondria. It also alters the mineral makeup of collagen, bringing about changes to the bones and teeth. It hardens the soft tissue of cartilage, tendons and ligaments causing joint pain which mimics the symptoms of arthritis." (This information also appeared in Western Horseman Magazine April 2008).

Wayne and Cathy Justus, native Californians who moved to Pagosa Springs, CO, spent the past twenty years trying to figure out why their horses were sick and dying. Since

2000, Justus reports that eight veterinarians were unable to diagnose their horses because

none were aware that fluoride is toxic. Justus credits Krook for providing a diagnosis of "chronic fluoride poisoning", not just for her horses but others in Pagosa Springs as well." Justus explained, "Vets and doctors are not taught to recognize the variations of symptoms caused by fluoride toxicity."

Before fluoridation started in Pagosa Springs in 1985, Justus said, "Our horses were very healthy and reproducing normally. The first problem to manifest after fluoridation started and the first problem to stop when fluoridation ceased was chronic colic. When fluoridation

started, we started having reproduction problems too. Babies born seemingly normal, suddenly died. One baby was born with skeletal problems, and another born with no neck, eyes, or nostrils. His head was half the normal length and he had no muscles at all. Other maladies we observed, consistent with published symptoms, were neurological problems, skeletal fluorosis, laminitis, chipping-breaking and fluorosed teeth, teeth coming in improperly, kidney malfunction, Cushing's Disease (Equine Metabolic Syndrome), lameness, muscles-ligaments and tendons hardening, head shaking, muscle twitching, lung problems, thyroid problems, malformed hooves, skin bumps (allergies), mood swings, bones increasing in size and becoming brittle, reproductive problems, cancer, and urinary problems, etc.

Krook wrote in his study, "On page 52 of its (US National Academy of Sciences—National Research Council) NRC Committee on Animal Nutrition report, "No carefully controlled studies have been conducted to determine the effects of excess fluoride ingestion in horses." Yet, three pages later, Table 4 in the report lists a "tolerance level" of 60 ppm F in horses as based on published data for that species. The second statement contradicts the first, and, as seen here, is in obvious conflict with the truth."

An editorial written by Dr. Albert W. Burgstahler in the Jan-Mar 2006 issue of Fluoride (39(1)1-2) provides a reason for the often misdiagnosed or undiagnosed cases of fluorosis in animals. "If these veterinarians had learned how to recognize the symptoms of chronic fluoride intoxication and had not been taught that debilitating fluorosis cannot occur from fluoridated drinking water, they would undoubtedly have been able to recognize what was ailing the horses. However, their education, like that of many physicians, dentists, and public health officials often lacks this important information. Earlier editions of clinical toxicology textbooks and reference manuals usually contained considerable information on how to diagnose and treat chronic fluoride poisoning.

Unfortunately, later editions of many of these texts published after the 1974 NAS- NRC report on fluoride and the follow-up 1977 NRC report on Drinking Water and Health have adopted the recommendations of these reports concerning supposedly safe dietary reference standards for fluoride for livestock and for humans. Although they were later clearly shown to be too high and harmful for dairy cattle, the official 1974 fluoride recommendations were never changed." katharine.russ@charter.net

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COMMUNITY NEWS



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Continued from cover — **Leaders Banned**

discussions between Home Depot and Sunland-Tujunga Community leaders under the auspices of the City Attorney's Community Mediation Program." But, they selected many individuals who are not community leaders, including one who is admittedly new to the issue, was invited to attend while other leaders were refused. When Debby Beck, STNC's Design Advisory Committee Co-Chair asked for clarification of the Stipulation's verbiage requiring dialogue between Community leaders, Goldfarb replied, "We're not under the court order and we (DRP) have nothing to do with the Stipulation." It was noted that such persons as Brendan Huffman, president and CEO of the Valley Industry Commerce Association (VICA), a HD supporter with no ties to Sunland-Tujunga, was also on the invitation list but was a no show. When asked to provide a report of the meeting, Goldfarb refused saying, "This is a confidential meeting." Yet Director Thomas, in a letter dated April 11, said, "Any material submitted to the DRP for the purpose of facilitating dialogue or resolving disputes in the matter should be considered public information unless otherwise specified."

Goldfarb's condescension was apparent in her August 22 letter to the STA and No 2 Home Depot Campaign; "The meeting is for invited participants only. This closed-door meeting at this location does not violate any existing laws and its closed-door status will be strictly enforced. The Alliance's (STA) irresponsible behavior in issuing its unauthorized public invitation has forced the Dispute Resolution Program to request police presence at the meeting to insure that this process will proceed under the Dispute Resolution Program's policies and rules."

Joe Barrett, President of STA said "For weeks we have tried to contact Barbara Goldfarb by phone, FAX and email to discuss this meeting. She has not responded to any of our calls or replied to our letters for almost a month!" Diamond said a DRP staffer told her on August

18, that the meeting was an open meeting and the STA posted that information on the website on August 20.

Director Avis Ridley-Thomas was given the opportunity throughout seven emails to provide a reason as to why police action was threatened against community members, and why a "closed door" meeting was needed just to reportedly schedule another meeting. She refused to answer either question.

"This is supposed to be America. This country was built and kept in check by people protesting and being active in their respective communities. It's one of our rights as Americans. A community that has been this vocal, this united, and this opposed to Home Depot, now has someone in here trying to mediate so the big corporations can have their way. Now the police are being brought in to make sure we, who live here, don't get our voices heard," said John Ciasulli, a Tujunga resident. Ciasulli remarked that the community has been nothing but peaceful throughout the entire process and called the threats made by Goldfarb "pathetically shameful." Marc Dodell, teacher and resident in Sunland-Tujunga, said, "This was a terrific waste of tax payers money and the biggest sham ever presented."

Said Tujunga resident, Peter Moen, of Goldfarb's grandstanding exit with four police officers in tow, "My personal opinion is that the whole 'police presence' was an attempt by the City Attorney's DRP to support one of Home Depot's long-standing PR strategies - to picture some Sunland-Tujunga residents who oppose a Home Depot store in our midst, as unruly, dangerous or threatening. Her exit appeared to most as a shameful "poke" at community members who assembled in peaceful protest of the closed meeting."

Cindy Cleghourn, STNC's Immediate past President, who sits of their Land Use Committee, said "The Home Depot issue in Sunland-Tujunga is a land use issue and we are asking them to do a thorough environmental review. They should be required to do it. Secret meetings aren't going to change that fact."



S-T neighbors trying to get the attention of DRP facilitator, Barbara Goldfarb



some of the secret participants/community leaders



residents try to enter the meeting room only to have door closed in their face and windows covered

COMMUNITY NEWS

Granada Hills –South Region

By Tamara Seletos and Jim Summers

The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council (GHSNC) is going for a NC election record. They will be holding elections for their upcoming Board of Directors, October 4, from 11:00 am-3:00 pm at the Granada Hills Street Faire. With an estimated 20,000 visitors expected to attend, GHSNC may break the L.A. City record for neighborhood council election participation. (See GHSNC Election Ad page 11.)

Are you interested in improving the quality of life in the Granada Hills area? Then we encouraged you to attend the GHSNC general meetings scheduled every second Thursday of each month. Bring your concerns to be heard. The next meeting is Thursday, September 11, at First Baptist Church of Granada Hills, 11011 Havenhurst Ave., at 7:00 pm. See: www.GHSNC.org for more info.

Spurred by recent events, GHSNC may be scheduling community meetings in cooperation with other organizations and individuals for regarding some very hot issues, such as the following, in the near future:

- Tax hikes (including DWP, property, trash, sales, etc... they go on and on)
- Your rights as citizens: Public Records Act, Referendums and Initiatives, and Recalls
- Candidate Forums – November ballot measures, judges info, and candidates
- Conditional Use Permits to sell alcohol and other entitlements

- LAPD aid in combating crime, graffiti removal, camera surveillance, homeless persons
- Granada Hills-Knollwood Community Plan: Zoning changes and proposed high-density four story mixed use on Chatsworth St.; inclusionary zoning.
- Traffic speed limit increases posted on Zelzah Ave., from Rinaldi Ave. to Nordhoff St., to aid in future radar/laser speed enforcement

Editors note: Submitted by Ms. Seletos, a journalist and board member of the Granada Hills South NC, and guest writer for the NVR.

The Granada Hills Street Faire is being held October 4, 10 am - 5 pm in "Old Granada Village" on Chatsworth St between Zelza Ave. and Encino Ave. It is a "must" family event that has been sponsored by the Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce for eight years and features arts, crafts, merchants, live music and entertainment, food, children's activities and much more. Parking and Admission is free. Booth sponsorship is still available, see www.GranadaChamber.com for more information.

The Granada Hills' Annual "Texas Hold'em Poker" Fundraiser, sponsored by Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce will be held on Saturday, October 18, 2008 from 6:30 pm – 11:00 pm. This "No Limit" game has a \$50 buy-in, and additional \$20 buy-ins are available during the first round only. The top player from each table will advance to the Grand Prize Round. Seating limited

to 100 players only. Apply now! For more information, contact the Granada Hills CC at (818) 368-3235.

The Granada Hills Alliance for Smart Growth, with local residents, and the Old Granada Hills Residents Group, are now opening the way for discussions regarding a possible settlement with Regency Centers and the City of Los Angeles concerning a proposed commercial overbuilding of the Granada Village Shopping Center. The proposal by Regency Centers was to allow for a warehouse-type retail store greater than 60,000 sq. ft. "Big Box" Kohls to be built, exceeding the current expansion limit by about 30,000 sq. ft. Among other entitlements requested is a reduction in parking, exceptions from the Granada Hills Specific Plan, as well no full EIR requirement.. The opposition to the proposed Big Box Kohls, filed a lawsuit earlier this year with the Los Angeles Superior Court. See: www.GranadaHillsAlliance.org.

The Old Granada Hills Residents Group will have Los Angeles City Planning Commissioner, President Jane Usher, as their monthly guest speaker addressing the new L.A. City planning goals, density and how citizens have to opportunity to voice their opinions. For more information, see: www.OGHRG.org.

Editors note: Submitted by Jim Summers, a 43-year resident of Granada Hills, local Realtor, and involved with community activities and organizations that preserve and improve the quality of life in GH, and is a guest writer for the NVR.

Arleta High School Principal Honored



By Al Piantinida

Dr. Linda Calvo, Principal of Arleta High School in Arleta, was recently presented the "Met Life Foundation Ambassadors in Education" award because of her efforts to work closely with and also improve her community. Her outstanding efforts earned a \$5,000 grant for her school. Upon presentation, Dr. Calvo said "This award means a lot to me because it validates all the hard work everyone has done together on this campus, to reach out to the community and make Arleta High School the best it can be for the kids.

Dr. Linda Calvo

Dr. Calvo was selected to open the new High School in 2004. Before it opened, she rolled up her shirtsleeves and went straight to work. She attended Town Hall Meetings, Arleta Neighborhood Council Meetings and other public meetings. She gave the public a voice and addressed their comments and concerns. She continually gave up to the minute updates on construction progress of the school. Dr. Calvo was also instrumental and allowing the residents to participate in the selection of the school's name. It was a proud moment for the residents when the school opened in 2006 and was proudly named Arleta High School.

Today, because of Dr. Calvo, local residents including some who don't have children are staunch supporters of the school's music and athletic programs. The Arleta Neighborhood Council also contributes to school's projects. The school has also been available for community public meetings such as the LAPD Senior Lead Officer's Quarterly meetings with the community.

Next year, Arleta High School will graduate its first Seniors, who will become the Class of 2009, and renowned forever as the first Graduates of Arleta High School. Congratulations to Dr. Calvo for a job well done.

News from Arleta

National Night Out was held on August 5th at Branford Park with approximately 350 people in attendance. Council officials, LAPD and LAFD were also in attendance. LAPD's Pacoima Senior Lead Officer, Johnny Walker, kicked off the evening by singing the Star Spangled Banner. Booths featuring safety information were manned by the community organizations of Arleta Community Watchdogs, Arleta NC and Dept. of Public Works. Target Stores raffled off \$25 gift certificates. Public safety vehicles were on display and a LAPD helicopter took place with sirens on by all public safety vehicles. A special service award was presented to Arleta's former Senior Lead Officer Rich Wall for his service to Arleta. He is now assigned to the Sunland-Tujunga community. An Award was also presented to Community Activist Harry Williams for his many years of Service. Arleta Senior Lead Officer, Adriana Munguia, also received the "Piantanida Family Award" for her service.

The United Chambers of Commerce have 16 small business that has been very active in Arleta. They have recognized Cyndee Riding, Kid Corner Pres-School, who was nominated by the Arleta Chamber of Commerce.

Hi-Tech Component Distributors - Al Piantanida of Arleta Watchdogs has been working with Gene Paleno, Vice President of Hi-Tech Component Distributors in Arleta. Working together, Hi-Tech donated 1600 Rubric Cubes, 1600 Children's Voice Recorders and 320 Gold Plated watches to be used at community events. They were distributed at both Arleta and Sunland-Tujunga's National Night Out event. Mr. Panel's generosity is greatly appreciated by the recipients

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Sun Valley

By Mike O'Gara

The Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council (SVANC) meeting, Tuesday, September 9, will be held at Fernangeles Recreation Center, 8851 Laurel Canyon Blvd., starting promptly at 6:30 pm. The location has changed for this meeting because there will be two important speakers and they are expecting a larger than normal attendance which will require extra parking and seating capacity. The speakers are:

Ms. Laura Chick, Controller of the City of Los Angeles. She will speak regarding the many audits, (over 150), her office has conducted on City Agencies during her term in office. You won't want to miss this meeting. Ms Chick will be available for a question and answer session after her dissertation.

Doug Corcoran Director of Bradley Landfill Special Projects. Waste Management (WM) has filed an application with the City to expand their facility on Bradley Street. Their plans call for a new 100,000 sq. ft. state-of-the art, recycling facility. Waste Management submitted an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to the

City in February, 2007. The City reviewed the EIR and has sent back their comments and recommendations to WM. This will be the first public meeting with Waste Management regarding the City's comments. The draft EIR is available for review by the public at the Sun Valley Library, 7935 Vineland Ave. Mr. Corcoran will also be available for questions and answers.

Regular business will be conducted at the conclusion of the speakers. For further information regarding the SVANC, call 818-767-6766

A major cleanup in Sun Valley by volunteers from area schools is planned for Saturday, Sep. 20. This event is being organized by Councilman Tony Cardenas' office in conjunction with "California Coastal Cleanup Day", and "Heal the Bay" in Santa Monica. You may think that Sun Valley is a long way from the "Bay". However, all the trash thrown in streets winds up in the storm drains, which empty into the Santa Monica Bay. Styrofoam, plastic of all types, and other matter damage marine wildlife because they ingest these materials. Volunteers are asked to meet at Sun Valley

Park, 8133 Vineland Ave., on Saturday, September 20, at 9:00 am. Clean-up will begin at 9:00 am, continuing until noon. Refreshments will be provided by the SVANC. If you have any bulky items please bring them on that day before noon. You need not be a resident of Sun Valley to participate. Bring your family and friends. All are welcome. Contact Olga Ayala in Councilmember Cardenas' office with additional questions at 818-771-0236.

New High School for Sun Valley. Byrd Middle School, on Telfair Ave. and Sheldon Street, is being converted to a High School and scheduled to reopen in September, 2009. Its Principal, Gary Gray, is giving the public an opportunity to help name the new school. He is inviting you to send your suggestions by e-mail to him at: gary.gray@LAUSD.net. If you have construction concerns, contact Sandra Morriago, LAUSD Outreach-Sun Valley, at 213-893-6838.

Editors Note: Mr. O'Gara is a Community Activist, is President of the SVANC, and is a guest writer for the NVR.

Sylmar

By Nick Krall

Much is going on in warm and sunny Sylmar. The Sylmar Neighborhood Council (SNC) meets Thursday, September 25. The location for this meeting has not been determined. Check the SNC website for an update. The following Committee meetings are scheduled at the SNC office, 13515 1/2 Hubbard St. in Sylmar: Public Services, Monday 9/1, 6:30 pm, - Land Use, Monday 9/8, 6:30 pm - Outreach, Tuesday 9/9 6:30 pm at the SNC.

The Sylmar Chamber of Commerce offers business networking events and member-to-member discounts. Upcoming events: Networking Breakfast Thursday, 9/4 7:30 am at Denny's Restaurant, at Hubbard St. and the 210 freeway, 13201 Gladstone Ave, Sylmar; A business lunch with guest speaker at LA Mission College's Culinary Arts department, always a gourmet treat, Monday, 9/15 11:30 am. Cost is \$15 for members with reservations, \$18 without, and \$20 for non-members and guests. The Public is invited to their Mixer on

9/18 at the Good Nite Inn, 12835 Encinitas Ave., off the I-5 and Roxford. Hours 5:30 to 7:30 pm.. For membership information, contact Nick Krall, at 818-521-7252, or email njckrall86@yahoo.com.

A new **Optimists Club** is forming in Sylmar. To be a part of it, or get more information, call Mina, at 818-360-8794. They will be providing great youth activity programs for our kids.

The Sylmar Woman's Club is having a "Getting to Know You" event at the Odyssey Restaurant, at 15600 Odyssey Drive, Granada Hills, Thursday, September 11, 2008, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm. The luncheon is \$25 with reservations, or \$30 without. Call Edna Bell, (818) 783-2989, or Adele Riggs-Wilcox, (818) 367-4626, a week ahead to make your reservation.

The Sylmar Branch of the Los Angeles Library has great events and activities for kids and adults nearly every day, like "Dance Dance Revolution", the free "Website Design Class", and internet and job-skills classes, as well as volunteers reading to kids. For

information, go to <http://www.lapl.org/branches/Branch.php?bID=54>, or <http://libraries.arecool.net>, or call 818-367-6102.

September 21 and October 12, **39th Assembly District candidate debates** will be held at El Cariso Park, 13100 Hubbard St., Sylmar, at 6:00 pm. Live music and hot debates are on the menu. The Sylmar Neighborhood Council wants you to know!

The Third annual **Relay For Life** of Sylmar is organizing now to raise awareness and money for the battle against cancer. It will be held April 18-19 for 24 hours starting at 9:00 am. To participate, contact Nick Krall, at 818-521-7252, or email njckrall86@yahoo.com.

Other monthly events in Sylmar include group motorcycle rides, folk jam circles, and hang gliding. For more information, email Nick Krall at njckrall86@yahoo.com. *Editors Note: Mr. Krall is a Community Activist in Sylmar, serves on the Board of the Sylmar NC as Public Relations Coordinator and is a guest writer for the*

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What You Should Know About The "Y"

By Kim Beattie

YMCA's have served youth and young adults for more than 155 years in a variety of programs including enrichment, service learning and teen leadership programs. The Crescenta-Cañada and Verdugo Hills Family YMCAs offer programs that promote social development, emotional development, nutrition and physical activity, character development, and service learning. Grounded in group work and relationship building, youth who participate in YMCA programs find skills and relationships that last a lifetime.

This fall, do not miss the opportunity to sign up your teen in one or more of these exciting leadership opportunities at the YMCA.

Youth & Government's mission is to provide participants with opportunities for leadership training, personal growth, service to others, and social development. Participants receive a practical experience in the study of state government. Youth & Government meets every Wednesday evening September through February at both branches. New Member Night is scheduled for Wednesday, September 17 at 7:30 pm.

PILOTS (Progressive Individual Leadership of Teens) is a student lead program for high school teens that seeks to develop a commitment to community and volunteerism. PILOTS meet on Tuesday evening at 7:00 pm at the Crescenta-Canada branch. Sign ups for this program begin on September 15 and New Member Night is Tuesday, September 23 at 7:00 pm.

Women in Training is geared for high school females. Understanding the incredible opportunities and challenges facing young women today, this program offers an environment that fosters relationship building and personal growth. Women in Training will begin meeting in late September.

S.T.E.P. (Students and their Environment) is new this fall! S.T.E.P. is a service-learning program for teens in their community. Grounded on the building blocks of leadership development, environmental education and action, and cross-cultural awareness, this proven program allows teens to use their skills and learn more about themselves and their environment. S.T.E.P will meet every Thursday evening October through May at the Verdugo Hills Family YMCA.

The opportunities for our youth have never been better at the YMCA. Call us today for more information. We look forward to seeing you soon!

The Crescenta-Canada and Verdugo Hills Family YMCAs are a charitable association of YMCAs that offers financial assistance for its programs and membership. Program subsidies are also available for some of the teen leadership programs. For additional information, contact Kim Beattie, Director of Communications and Public Relations at (818) 790-0123 ext. 266 or at kbeattie@ymcacc.org..

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Arl - Arleta, G.H. - Granada Hills, K.C. - Kagel Canyon, LA - Los Angeles, LVT - Lake View Terrace, LTC - La Tuna Canyon, M.H. - Mission Hills, NR - Northridge, NVCH - North Valley City Hall, Pac - Pacoima, S-T - Sunland-Tujunga, S.V. - Sun Valley, Syl - Sylmar, V.N. - Van Nuys, PC - Panorama City

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September

Emergency Preparedness
 Month-for events check
 www.CERT-LA.org

Monday, Sept. 1

- **Labor Day Holiday**
SNC - Public Serv. Commit
 13515 1/2 Hubbard, Syl
 6:30 pm

Tuesday, Sept. 2

Bolton Hall Museum
 Presents "The Paper Trail"
 10110 Commerce, S-T
 Docent Tours
 1-4 pm 352-3420

FTDNC - Land Use Cmte
 9747 Wheatland - Shadow Hls
 7pm Info: <http://ftdnc.org/>

LAPD Neighborhood Watch
 For SH, LVT, Sun
 All Nations Church, LVT
 6:30 pm

Wednesday, Sept. 3

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

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

Homerowner/Renter

Assist. Workshop
 Sylmar Library
 14561 Polk, Syl
 10-12 am

Country Dance Lessons

"Justice Daniels" Band
 Big Jim's Restaurant
 8850 Laurel Cyn, SV
 Free 7-10 pm 768-0123

Thursday, Sept. 4

PCNC Land Use
 Mission Community Hospital
 14860 Roscoe Blvd., PC
 6:30 pm 785-9355

Elks Lodge #2098
 11037 Commerce, S-T
 6:30 pm 352-2098

Sylmar Women's Club
 Odyssey Restaurant
 15600 Odyssey Dr. M.H.
 11:30 am 833-8033

Kagel Canyon Civic Assoc
 Dexter Park
 7 pm

S-T Art Assoc.Meet
 Guest Artist
 Sunland Senior Center
 8640 Fenwick, S-T

Narcotics Anonymous
 Speaker Meeting
 North Valley City Hall
 7747 Foothill - Tuj
 8-9 pm

Community Beautification

Grant Workshop
 Mid-Valley Reg. Library
 16244 Nordhoff, No. Hills
 6 pm

Networking Breakfast

Sylmar C of C
 Dennys Restaurant
 13201 Gladstone Ave Syl
 Fee 7:30 am

Saturday, Sept. 6

CPR & 1st Aid Class
 Inst. LAFD Capt. Stacy Gerlick
 S-T Elks Lodge
 11037 Commerce, S-T
 \$20 8 am-12 pm 951-7411

VEDC

"Where's the Money"
 Odessy Restaurant
 15600 Odyssey Dr. GH
 \$10 8am-3pm 907-9922

LANCC-Elections

Location: TBA
<http://www.lanccongress.org/>
 10 am

Sunday, Sept. 7

GRANDPARENTS DAY

Bolton Hall Museum
 Presents "The Paper Trail"
 10110 Commerce, S-T
 Docent Tours
 1-4 pm 352-3420

Monday, Sept. 8

Sylmar NC Land Use Com
 13515 _ Hubbard, syl
 6:30 - 7:30pm

PCNC-Outreach Comm
 Plaza del Valle
 8614 Van Nuys #B PC
 6:00 p.m.

MHNC Zoning & Land Use
 10161 Sepulveda., MH.
 6:30 pm

Tuesday, Sept. 9

CERT Training Division 3
 Fire Station 89
 Community Training Center
 7063 Laurel Canyon Blvd.
 NoHo
 7pm-9pm

SNC Outreach Com.
 13515 Hubbard, Syl
 6:30 - 7:30pm

Bolton Hall Museum
 Presents "The Paper Trail"
 10110 Commerce, S-T
 Docent Tours
 1-4 pm 352-3420

Wednesday, Sept. 10

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

STNC Gen. Meeting.
 NVCH - 7747 Foothill
 Tujunga - 7 pm 951-7411
www.stnc.org

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

Homeowner/Renter
 Assist. Workshop
 Panorama City Library
 14345 Roscoe. P.C.
 9 am-11 am

Job Train. & Employment
 Sylmar Library
 14561 Polk, Syl.
 3:30 pm

Thursday, Sept. 11

WE WILL NEVER FORGET

Foothill Div.Community Police
 Advisory Board (CPAB)
 Villa Scallabrini, SV
 6 pm 756-8866
 Thursday, Oct. 9

GHSNC General Meet.
 1st Baptist Church of GH
 11011 Havenhurst, GH
 7:00 pm.

Narcotics Anonymous

Speaker Meeting
 North Valley City Hall
 7747 Foothill - Tuj
 8-9 pm

Sylmar Womens Club

"Getting to Know You"
 Oddysey Restaurant, GH
 11:30 am Reserv 783-2989

Saturday, Sept. 13

"Johny Carpenter, His Legacy & Future"
 Bolton Hall Museum
 10110 Commerce, S-t
 1 pm 352-3420

Sunday, Sept. 14

Bolton Hall Museum
 Presents "The Paper Trail"
 10110 Commerce, S-T
 Docent Tours
 1-4 pm 352-3420

Monday, Sept. 15

PCNC Safety Committee
 Plaza del Valle
 8614 Van Nuys #BPC
 5:30 pm

Luncheon
 Sylmar C of C
 L.A. Mission College
 11:30 am Reserv. 521-7252

Tuesday, Sept. 16

Bolton Hall Museum
 Presents "The Paper Trail"
 10110 Commerce, S-T
 Docent Tours
 1-4 pm 352-3420

PCNC Finance Committee
 PC Public Library
 14345 Roscoe Boulevard
 6:30 pm

MHNC Beauti. & Cultural Com
 10161 Sepulveda Blvd. MH.
 6:30 pm

Wednesday, Sept. 17

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

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PCNC Rules Committee
Mission Comm. Hospital
Office Building, 2nd Floor
14860 Roscoe, PC
6:30 pm

MHNC Senior Commit
10161 Sepulveda. MH.
6:30 pm

Pacoima NC Gen. Meet.
Pacoima Comm. Center
11243 Glenoaks, Pac
6:30 pm

No. Hills West NC
Sepulveda VA
16111 Plummer, N. Hills
7 pm 893-8613

Homeowner/Renter
Assist. Workshop
Mission Hills Police Station
11121 N. Sepulveda, M.H.
9 – 11am

Thursday, Sept. 18

STNC Safety Com.
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
6 pm 951-7411

S-T SERVS
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill S-T
6:45 563-1962

Narcotics Anonymous
Speaker Meeting
North Valley City Hall
7747 Foothill - Tuj
8-9 pm

STNC Outreach Com
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
7:30 pm 951-7411

Saturday, Sept. 20

CA Coastal Cleanup Day
Healthba.org/CCD
800-Heal Bay

Clean-Up Sponsored by
All Nations Church LVT
Ck for meet time & Location

Clean-Up Day, Meet
At Sun Valley Park
8133 Vineland, SV
9 am –12 pm

STA Bake Sale
Wired Café
10045 Commerce, Tuj
9 am – 1 pm

Sunday, Sept. 21

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "The Paper Trail"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420

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

Candidate Debates
39th Assembly District
El Cariso Park,
13100 Hubbard, Syl
6 pm

Monday, Sept. 22
GHNNC General Meet.
Van Gogh Elem. School
Van Gogh, GH
6:30 pm

Tuesday, Sept. 23
Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "The Paper Trail"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420

Wednesday, Sept. 24

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

MHNC Senior Outreach
10161 Sepulveda, MH.
11 am

**MHNC Outreach/
Youth Commit.**
10161 Sepulveda, MH.
7 pm

S-T Chamber Mixer
Mission Valley Bank
Honorary Sheriff
9116 Sunland, SV
5:30-8 pm 352-4433

Thursday, Sept. 25

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

Narcotics Anonymous
Speaker Meeting
North Valley City Hall
7747 Foothill - Tuj
8-9 pm

STNC Budget Cmte
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
info: www.stnc.org
818-951-7411

Friday Sept. 26-28

Feast of San Gennaro
Italian Festival
Highland & Hollywood Blvd.
\$5 ck website for schedules
http://www.feastofla.org/

Emergency Preparedness Fair
Panorama Mall
8401 Van Nuys, P.C.

Sunday, Sept. 28

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "The Paper Trail"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420

Tuesday, Sept. 30

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "The Paper Trail"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420

Sunday, Sept. 28- Oct. 4

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ELECTION NEWS

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

There are 23 seats up for re-election including At-Large Stakeholders, Renters, Commercial Property Owners, Homeowners, Students, Seniors, etc. The terms for office will be 2 years each, from October 2008 through June 2010. Any stakeholder may vote in the election and/or run for any position on the Board of Directors for which they qualify. A stakeholder is anyone who lives, works, studies, owns property or has a connection within the GHSNC boundaries: Aliso Canyon Wash to the west, 118 Freeway to the North, 405 Freeway to the East, and Devonshire Street to the South.

Candidate Filing Period to be on Printed Ballot: 9/4/08
Meet and Greet Candidates (Candidate Forum): 9/25/08
Filing Period for Write-in Candidates: 9/5/08 – 10/3/08

ELECTION DAY

Saturday, October 4, 2008
11:00 am – 3:00 pm

Granada Hills Street Faire (Centered near Chatsworth St. and White Oak Ave.)
Any questions? Email: Elections@ghsnc.org

Are you interested in improving the quality of life in the Granada Hills area? Do you have issues you would like to have help dealing with in your neighborhood? Would like to be of service to your friends and neighbors in your community? If so, you may want to consider joining forces with the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council. You do not have to be a Board Member to help or volunteer for a special project committee. You are encouraged to attend the meetings scheduled every second Thursday of each month the next meeting is Thursday, September 11, at The First Baptist Church of Granada Hills, 11011 Havenhurst Ave., Starting at 7:00 pm.

For additional information visit: www.GHSNC.org

GHSNC; 11024 Balboa Blvd., Box 767 Granada Hills, CA 91344; (818) 363-2787

COMMUNITY NEWS

Granada Hills – North Region

By Kim Thompson

Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council (GHNNC) invites you to join them at their General Board Meetings held the last Monday of the month. However, because of the holiday, their meeting will be held Monday, September 22. At Van Gogh Street Elementary School, 17160 Van Gogh St., Granada Hills on Monday, September 22, at 6:30 pm.

The Planning and Land Use Committee (PLUM) is working with Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council and L.A. City Planning Department personnel on the Knollwood-Granada Hills Community Plan. (GHNNC) They will also be joining them at the annual Granada Hills Street Fair.

The GHNNC currently has six Board vacancies. Stakeholders in GHNNC boundaries can apply for Representative-District 1, Representative- District 3 also, Representatives for Neighborhood Organization, Resident Associations, Student, and Youth Group.

If you are interested in volunteering for your community, contact Chair, Leon Marzillier at 818-831-0578, or email him at lmarzillier@ghnnc.org You can

also visit www.ghnnc.org to request an application and forward to the Ad Hoc Nominating Committee.

North Valley Coalition (NVC) - The NVC continually monitors activities of Browning Ferris Industries (BFI) at Sunshine Canyon Dump. They are residents who know importance of taking care of the community. When BFI removed thousands of “protected” oak trees to expand their dump, the NVC monitored the mitigation trees that were planted 2:1 to replace every tree that was demolished for expansion of dump! 1000 oak trees were planted over the summer within a three-mile radius of the landfill in Granada Hills and Sylmar areas. These communities have fought for years to close the dump because of its effects their health and believe it’s the reason why Sylmar elementary schools have more asthma than most within the LAUSD district. An elementary school in Granada Hills is less than a mile from the dump. Diesel fuel trucking through the neighborhoods, bring trash to the last open landfill in the City of Los Angeles. The community takes 12,100 tons a day of trash from every area in the city except for San Pedro.

Some bad news: Since the dump straddles the City/County line, there have always been two Lead Enforcement Agencies (LEA) to act as inspectors at the dump, one LEA each from the County and the City. BFI recently went around the City and the County and applied directly to the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) to have them become the LEA. What does this mean? It means that Sunshine Canyon doesn’t have to enforce the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) that was set up by the local agencies. Now they only have to enforce State and Federal regulations and no local regulations at all! Neither the City nor the County are very happy about this smarmy plan to get around local regulations and are currently working to resolve the situation. We will keep you posted.

For more information on the largest landfill in the United States that is right here in the North Valley, visit the NVC’s website at nodump.com

Editors Note: Ms. Thompspon is a long time Community Activist, Past President of the GHNNC and writes for the NVR.

Wired Café: A Place to Connect

Local coffee shop offers old-fashioned service, quality and community.

by Sarah Krausse

A bit of old-world charm and authentic quality dropped in on Sunland-Tujunga last month, when Wired Café first opened its doors on Commerce Ave. Since it’s opening, the café has become a local favorite with everyone from students to local residents, and nearby shop owners. A full kitchen featuring freshly grilled panini sandwiches for under \$5, exceptional, high-quality coffee drinks, free wireless and a back room devoted completely to computer gamers are just some of the reasons Wired is drawing consistent, enthusiastic reviews from the community.

“It feels really good to have a place like this in Sunland-Tujunga. This place is like a cleaner version of something you would find on Melrose. It’s cute inside, and the people who come here are great. I feel like the owner is doing a great job at attracting Los Angeles to Sunland-Tujunga,” says local shop owner known as D.R.

“I’m a member of the neighborhood council, and we often come here in the evenings after meetings to grab a bite to eat.”

Owner Emerson Tabone had several motivations for opening Wired: “I felt the community needed it. We give kids an option of something to do in a safe, friendly environment; parents can feel safe if their kids are here. Plus, we are helping revitalize commerce in the area. We are also the only place locally that caters to computer gamers while combining a small-town coffee shop feel, with live music, with amenities like a full kitchen. It’s not a new concept, it’s a European concept, to combine all these aspects.”

The café’s warm brick exterior and sidewalk tables welcome visitors inside, where plush couches and armchairs, low coffee tables and antique clocks create a homey atmosphere. The walls feature artwork by local artists, and a piano sits in the right corner, used during Friday night live music events. Coffee drinks are served in china cups with saucers, and if you’re lucky, you might even get a four-leaf clover or heart design in your latte, thanks to pro Barista Edgar Guerrero. The café features a unique Pasquini espresso machine, one of only five of it’s kind in the country, one of the others located the Bellagio, and another in the White House.

Current hours are 2pm to 2am, and will extend from 6am to 2am after the grand opening on September 20th.

The café is especially popular with students who often spend long hours studying. “I never went to other local coffee shops before. I dislike Starbucks culture, but this place is different. The atmosphere is nicer, the coffee is far better, and Internet is free”, says Ryan Huelsemann, a computer and electrical engineering student at Cal Poly Pomona, who uses Wired as a study spot.

“The prices are way better, and food is really fresh. They have a panini grill, and don’t do those packaged sandwiches like Starbucks”, says fellow student Amanda Albers. “I come here because all my friends are here. I think the place is really building local community in a good, wholesome way.”

Friday nights feature live jazz music from local musicians like Cleon Jones and his Raw City Blues Band, starting around 9pm.

“It’s more like a comfortable home setting, you can really come in and relax. As a musician, you can relate to you audience in a more intimate way. There have been times I’ve played here, and at the end of the night everyone was crying. And that made me cry!”

The café was originally an empty building with plaster walls, and owner Emerson Tabone spent over a year renovating the building, opening up the ceiling and adding electrical and plumbing, which altogether took over a year and a

half. He is currently adding a 1,000 square foot terrace behind the building.

Tabone says the most rewarding part of running the café has been people’s responses to having the café in their community.

“People that come in and tell me, ‘We’re so glad you’re here, we’ve been waiting for a place like this for so long. This one woman came in regularly for weeks, and I noticed she never finished her coffee. I asked her why, and she told me, ‘Well, I actually don’t even drink coffee, but I want to support businesses like yours!’

“She still comes in, only she gets a diet coke now!”

Check out Wired café at www.mywiredcafe.com



9:30 am... studies the American presidents

7:00 pm...learns what it means to be a leader

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COMMENTARY

Commerce is Alive and Thriving!

By Elaine Brown

Fifteen years ago, Commerce Avenue in Olde Towne Tujunga was home to a number of homeless people, crime was on the rise and blight was creeping in. Property owner, Charlotte Leu, along with residents, began an effort to clean up the street. Ms. Leu formed the Commerce Merchants Association and successfully applied for a Los Angeles beautification grant to plant trees and flowers along Commerce.

In 2005, property and business owners formed the Commerce Owners and Business Restoration Association, Inc. (COBRA) incorporated through the efforts of Terry Hake. Cindy Cleghorn of C & M Printing generated a website and COBRA members created a detailed plan to restore Commerce to honor its' historic past and presented it to Councilmember Wendy Greuel. A \$130,000 Community Development Block Grant fund designated for Commerce Ave. was lying dormant and Councilmember Wendy Greuel saved that fund from being used elsewhere. She then leveraged that CDBG fund and obtained an additional \$150,000, for a total of \$280,000, to pay for the addition of seventeen old-fashioned lights.

COBRA volunteers contacted property owners on Commerce Ave. to encourage them to vote for the installation of the new lights. As a result, over 70% of the property owners voted to increase their property taxes with a special annual assessment to cover the on-going maintenance costs for the lights, perhaps, the highest percentage of property owners ever in Los Angeles voting to assess themselves on the first attempt.

On Tuesday, August 5, Councilmember Wendy Greuel formally dedicated the streetlights with COBRA, community members, and those who worked diligently on the project attending including her assistant Jackie Keene; Bill Robertson, Marje Kaspar, and Robert Gutierrez from the Department of Street Services; Shant Hovasapian, Kerney Marine and Oscar Ramirez of Street Lighting; and Terno the installation contractor who installed the lights with minimal construction interruptions.

COBRA is planning future events and improvements on Commerce. Their current project is to raise \$15,000 for the installation of an antique clock on the southwest corner of Commerce and Tujunga Canyon Blvd. Councilmember Greuel helped kick off the project with a donation of \$500 towards its purchase.



Councilwoman Wendy Greuel "flips the switch"

COBRA immediately organized a plant sale for their first fundraiser that took place on August 23. Donation forms for the clock can be obtained at C & M Printing, 10034 Commerce Ave.

COBRA member Jillian Walker is organizing an Art in the Park Fair in Little Landers Park, October 18 from 10 am to 4 pm, which will coincide with an International Cultural Festival on Commerce Ave. between Tujunga Canyon and Valmont, sponsored by the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council. *Editors Note: Elaine Brown is a S-T Community Activist and President of COBRA*

Why We Are Losing Our Middle Class

By Ron Kaye

After three decades of rising poverty levels and a shrinking middle class, the time has come to declare L.A.'s experiment in municipal socialism a failure and to get to work creating a healthy economic climate that attracts and retains good-paying jobs and expands opportunity.

But the opposite is happening, there is an acceleration of efforts to chase away middle class residents and jobs and subsidize the lives of the poor and working poor.

Despite the overwhelming evidence of the failure of trying to defy the laws of a free enterprise economy, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and the City Council are more committed than ever to artificially raise the incomes of minimum wage workers with living wage legislation and to guarantee anyone who lives here a decent home whether they can afford it or not.

Just look at a few of City Hall's actions in recent days. Their recent requirement that new Home Depot stores, like the one being fought against in Sunland-Tujunga, provide toilet and other comfort facilities to day laborers; that all new developments provide homes for the poor under "inclusionary zoning" rules and that foreclosed homes be bought up with federal money for resale to lower income families. The result is the flight of good-paying jobs and people who can afford to live in L.A., to the suburbs and beyond.

These policies and others, like their refusal to crack down on illegal immigrant gangsters and criminals while, instead, cracking down on fast food and plastic garbage bags, are not just a coincidence.

What's going on is a deliberate policy that can only be stopped by building a mass organization of concerned

citizens, like the one Saving L.A. Project is currently launching, in an effort to change the city's agenda and change the city's leadership.

Take a look at the extraordinary vision for L.A.'s economy that the mayor articulated six months ago that went virtually unnoticed at the time and received little or no critical comment. It's available at http://mayor.lacity.org/stellent/groups/electedofficials/@myr_ch_contributor/documents/contributor_web_content/lacity_004661.pdf. The length of the web address tells you something about how visible they want this document to be.

As tax, rate and fee hikes imposed by the city soar - and will soar higher if the mayor's salesmanship, backed by millions of dollars from special interests and the complicity of the press, fools voters once again --it's worth examining exactly what the mayor of the L.A. and wannabe governor believes is the path to our economic well-being

After squandering the biggest revenue increase in the city's history during his three years, the mayor declared his Economic Action Plan was launched to "confront a slowing economy, help families and businesses in need, and move thousands of Angelenos into living wage jobs." "Jobs create financial security, safe streets and bright futures for working families in our City," he said. "The health of our economy depends on a steady supply of good jobs for local residents. With this six-point plan, we are on track to move 100,000 Angelenos into high quality jobs by July 2010."

The mayor pays lip service to the importance of potential growth industries -- tourism, logistics, health care, construction utilities and the like -- and the need to create and coordinate job training with educational institu-

tions, business and labor.

Then he gets down to the real agenda of his six-point plan, starting with efforts to "leverage public sector hiring and contracting," specifically to "create living wage job opportunities in the public sector."

There is the program to connect young people to jobs with "special emphasis on the young adults striving to secure living wage employment and begin their careers", and the commitment to have the public sector take "the lead in moving low wage workers into living wage jobs."

And finally, we learn why taxpayers have given away hundreds of millions of dollars to billionaires to subsidize L.A. Live and Grand Avenue Project, and why we have to trash the Studio City area with the oversized NBC-Universal project:

"The city will provide direct and indirect financing, technical assistance and tax incentives to businesses that offer living wage jobs (and) to ensure that projects generating the greatest revenue and most excitement also create middle class jobs," the plan concludes. So how is Antonio's blueprint for municipal socialism, where middle class jobs pay \$10 an hour—or less—with health benefits, working out? Not very well, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The L.A. economy has lost 30,000 jobs since the mayor announced his plan.

Perhaps, that has something to do with sucking money out of the public's pockets at a time when people are losing their jobs and their homes, paying exorbitant prices for gas and afraid to buy anything for fear of what tomorrow will bring. Of course, that should be obvious to anyone who's studied American Economics 101.

Editors Note: Mr. Kaye is the former Editor of the Daily News and a guest Columnist for the NVR.

Continued from cover —Tax Dollars

But Dewey-Koar's CALReUSE application for a Proposed Brownfield Redevelopment says, "Sky Terrace is a proposed 200,000 square foot industrial park infill development. The 8.5 acre footprint of the landfill will be open green space and guest parking. Page 13 alludes to potential plans for housing but no mention of affordable homes. According to the CALReUSE Program, "The California Pollution Control Financing Authority (the 'Authority' or 'CPCFA') has been working diligently to implement the CALReUSE Remediation Program funded by the Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Act of 2006 (Proposition 1C)."

Some homeowners have questioned how \$60 million in funds earmarked in Prop 1C for "the purpose of providing shelters for battered women and their children, clean and safe housing for low-income senior citizens; homeownership assistance for the disabled, military veterans, and working families; and repairs and accessibility improvements to apartments for families and disabled citizens," could end up in the state budget allocated for the CALReUSE program for "loans or grants for the purposes of brownfield cleanup that promotes infill residential and mixed-use development, consistent with regional and local land use plans."

Glenn Bell, President of Neighborhood Friends, said, "The very idea of the destruction and removal of affordable housing to build an industrial complex that will displace 60 families, because suddenly after 45 years the new owners have determined The Park is not a permitted use in the County's M-1-5 District, defies all logic. Eliminating the people who live there because of the zoning so the County can change the zoning for the new developer after the people are gone is illegal. It removes their access to due process."

Lawrence Hafetz, LA County's Principal Deputy Counsel, said his office would make every effort to help the residents, however, when asked to put it in writing no response was given by deadline. Since moving or selling their mobile homes is not an option, homeowners stand to lose their entire investments, and the possibility of never being able to afford another home may become a reality for the homeowners in Sky Terrace Mobile Home Park. Ironically, it is their own tax dollars that will fund their loss.



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THIS & THAT



Carrick's Journey -Part Ten

By
Tomi Lyn Bowling

Loud banging sounds, then a clang, thwap, screech could be heard from the hull of the ship. Drake opened his eyes but his vision was still blurred. He was very disoriented and uncertain where he was. He kept trying to focus but without the use of his hands, now tied behind him, he could not rub them to try to accelerate the focusing process. He had been lying on his side and sprang up to a seated position while failing at the attempt to focus. He smacked his head on something hard on the way up and knocked himself out again. His body slammed back to the floor of the ship where he'd been lying. This added to the noises from outside the ship.

Whiskers, hearing all the noise, had awakened as well. He was very thoroughly tied up with a sack over his head so there was no point in struggling, therefore he didn't. He was awake but his captors were unaware of his state as they spoke out loud. The female, and driver, shouted back to the others asking what all the noise was. She was informed that Drake had knocked himself out cold. She turned over the helm to her co-pilot and ran back to make sure the young man was not bleeding or mortally wounded somehow. Satisfied that he was just unconscious she scolded the watchmen reminding them that she was personally responsible for getting that one safely back to the village.

The ship had slowed down to a mere crawl and the wind hacked at the sides. It was the sound of the branches beating on the ship as they approached that had created so much of a ruckus. The captors had preferred to keep them both drugged and asleep as they had done earlier. They were much more manageable as sleeping bodies! They were now so close to landing the ship that they opted to not sedate the two any further. Unaware that Whiskers was listening to every word and plotting his next move, the watchmen chatted on.

To be continued...

Gone But Not Forgotten

*The Beginning of Sun Valley
Part 2 of 2*

By Mary Benson

Roscoe, Fernangeles and Stonehurst were created by the subdivision of the Lankershim Ranch. Native rocks and concrete were used to construct numerous houses, which were usually quarried on site, or out of the Arroyo above San Fernando Road. The home at 8642 Sunland Blvd was purchased by the City of Los Angeles in 1997 and restored. It is now home to the Sun Valley Arts Center.

During the 1920's and 30's the area's farming gradually gave way to services involving transportation and the mining of aggregate out of the Tujunga Wash. Mineral Rights claims were filed by construction companies without ever taking title to the properties. Land disputes between property owners who had bought subdivided lots and "the rock crushers" continued until the-mid '50's when the City created Mining Reserve zones.

From 1927 to 1933, a man named Albert Carter opened a butterfly farm on 6 acres in Roscoe. The Roscoe Register (local newspaper) issue on Friday June 20, 1930 announced the opening of manufacturing and industrial buildings between Sun Valley and the Lockheed Air Strip. Also mentioned was the cafe opening in the New Ratner Building complete with a soda fountain.

The brick building became known as "Roscoe Hardware" and the soda fountain is remembered by many current residents.

Stonehurst was built during this period from native stone. Stonehurst became a discrete community with it's own post office, park and market--all built from stone.

December 31, 1948 marked the end of all the Communities.

January 1, 1949 the remaining residences were consolidated into Sun Valley. The Stonehurst post office was closed and the Roscoe post office renamed The Villa Cabrini home for girls. Mail was delivered by Burbank.

Many of Sun Valley's original buildings, including motels, Roscoe Hardware, "Plunge pool" at Sun Valley Park, and "wading pool" at Fernangeles Park--Roscoe Elementary school's parent Center, are buildings that still remain.

What was once Stonehurst and Roscoe are now split



between three Council Districts, and the communities have been renamed to Pacoima and Sun Valley, or identified as Burbank, depending on Postal Delivery Boundaries.

The area north of the renamed (for the second time) Bob Hope Airport, whose mail is delivered by Burbank

because of their zip code, is actually part of the City of Los Angeles. Woodbury College is built on the site of a home for girls established by Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini, who founded the tuberculosis sanatorium for children in 1906. It later became Villa Cabrini Academy, a private Catholic school for girls, and is now home to Woodbury University. In 1946 Mother Cabrini became the first US Citizen canonized by the Catholic Church and is the patron saint of immigrants.



So, look for CD #6's historic buildings along San Fernando Road, while you travel along that memorable route and remember Highway 99, already a State Historic Highway.

Editors Note: Ms. Benson is Founder and Exec. Dir. of L.A. Trails Project, and is also a member of the Upper Los Angeles River Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) Steering Committee

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Why We Celebrate Labor Day

By Marlene Hitt

Often it takes a bit of thought to remember why we are celebrating on any three day week end - Memorial Day, Veterans' Day, Presidents' Day - all those holidays.

Why Labor Day? Of course, that's the day for a last back yard barbecue before school starts. But there is more. Outright war has often been declared in the name of labor for the working class.

I read of a factory fire in Thailand which took place only a decade ago, a disaster which left the workers of a Bangkok Industrial toy factory dead or injured. The workers, mostly young women from impoverished rural communities, were forced to jump out of buildings to save themselves; 188 workers died and 469 were injured.

The environment was a familiar one to the New York City Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire which burned on March 25, 1911, where 148 garment workers died from, either the fire, or from jumping to their deaths.

In both cases, the workers were poor or immigrants, or a combination of both. The factories were on the top floors of the buildings Too many workers were crowded in together and there was no forethought of escape. In New York, many of the women were 12 or 13 years of age, who worked 14-hour shifts during a 60-hour to 72-

hour workweek for pitifully small wages.

The typical workshop consisted of flammable textiles being stored in large quantities, fabric scraps on the floor, tissue paper patterns hung above from the ceilings, with male workers smoking, gas lights burning and only buckets of water placed around the building's interior.

When the fire started, the ninth floor of the factory had only 2 doors leading out with one door already filled with smoke and the other locked. The single fire escape was so flimsy that it collapsed. Some of the workers had tried to ride the elevator, only to fall down the shaft.

By this time, the labor movement had been well underway. Labor Day itself had been declared a legal holiday. In 1887 the Knights of Labor and American workers organizations decided to call the first Monday in September "Labor Day".

Officials who witnessed the factory inferno from below became galvanized, finally, and pushed for comprehensive safety and workers' compensation laws. And soon after, on October 11, 1911, the American Society of Safety Engineers was founded in NYC.

In Thailand, cheap shoddy buildings were packed to overflowing with workers and machines. Elementary safety precautions were deemed unnecessary overhead. There were no fire extinguishers, no alarms, no sprin-

kler systems, and the elevated walkways were either locked or used for storage.

Unfortunately, the situation is not much improved in Thailand.

Those of us who work in the USA are much more protected from disasters. Our schedules are light enough to keep us healthy, and the pay is much more reasonable than it once was. We need to keep in mind the misery of others, even today, and be thankful that our officials have come to the aid of the working person. Of course, this has come about because of the effort and sacrifice of the workers, public officials, and labor unions. There is so much more to this story!

A miner's song, after bitter and violent labor disputes, written in 1931 by Aunt Molly Jackson says, "I am a union woman, just as brave as I can be. I do not like the bosses and the bosses don't like me. I was raised in old Kentucky, in Kentucky born and bred, and when I joined the union, they called me a Rooshian Red". The refrain: "Join the CIO, come join the CIO".

Aunt Molly had lost brother, husband and son in the mines. Many thanks to those who fought for the rights of the nation's workers.

Editor's Note: Ms. Hitt is the past Poet Laurette of Sunland-Tujunga

PUBLIC SAFETY

HERE'S MY CARD

Greetings Foothill Family!



*Anthony-Paul Diaz
Deputy City Attorney*

I am back. After a brief leave of absence to work on school safety issues in Hollywood, I have returned to the Foothill community as the full-time neighborhood prosecutor.

I am delighted to be back, working with all of our great LAPD officers and the senior

lead officers that make up our six basic cars. In reality, I have been keeping tabs on important projects in the division and will be working hard to delve right back into solving your quality of life issues.

I will also be working closely with your councilmatic field deputies in the 2nd, 6th and 7th districts.

There is a lot of good work to be done in our community. As you all know, we soon will have a dynamic and new multi million dollar shopping center in Pacoima, a state of the art Children's museums, new park projects and continued growth in housing and community based projects.

All of these will require careful planning and extra attention to detail. I have worked many parts of this city and am always reminded just how great and dedicated the men and women of the LAPD in this area are.

But we cannot solve all the problems by ourselves. We need your help. I encourage you to get involved in your neighborhood council, neighborhood watch, community events and local activities. Be aware of crime in your neighborhood. Do not let small problems fester. When there are problems let us know. You can call 311, the Foothill front desk, your senior lead officer, your council office or me. You have resources dedicated to you. So use them! If we cannot help you we can point you in the right direction.

Again, it is a pleasure to be back and look forward to partnering with you on coming up with winning solutions to a prosperous and peaceful Foothill. Be well!

If you have a need for my service, I can be reached at Neighborhood Prosecutor Program, Los Angeles Police Department - Foothill Area Office, call me at Office: (818) 374-6837 Fax: (818) 374-6813 or email me at: ap.diaz@lacity.org

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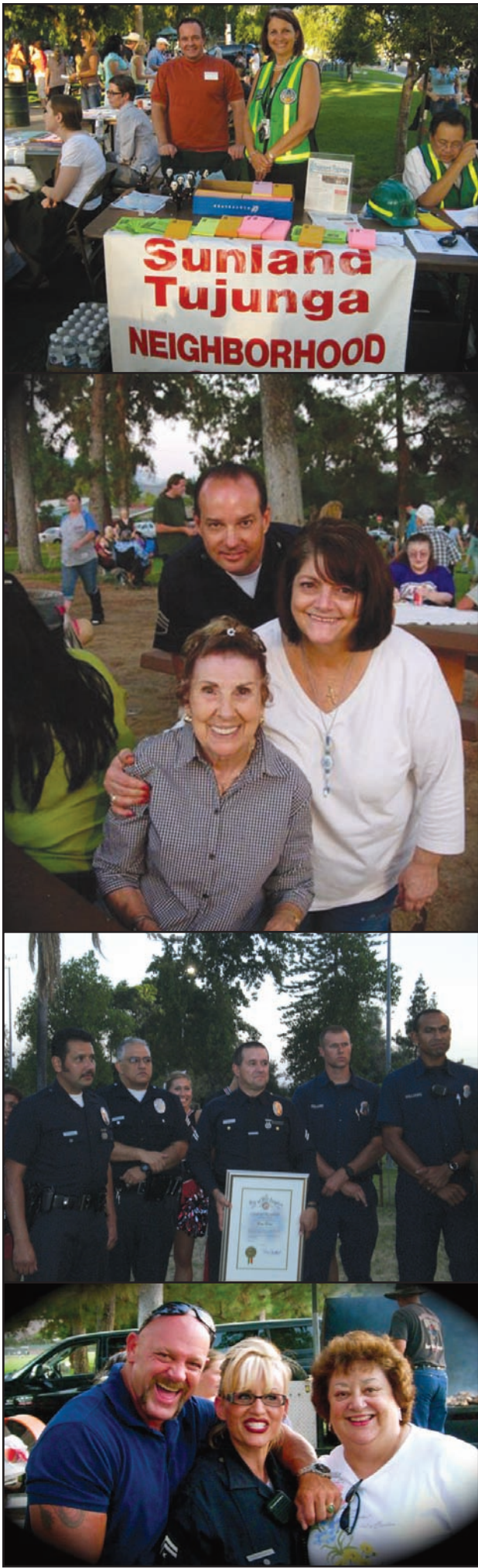
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