



CHRISTMAS SPIRIT IS DISCOVERED

by Marlene Hitt

This month many stress the concepts of peace, love, and good will to all mankind, as well to appreciate the births and values of children. We are used to the combinations of traditions which is so American – the Santa Claus of the Dutch, the tree of the Germans, Las Posadas of Mexico and many others. Most celebrate the season as the Christian holy day commemorating the birth of the Christ Child. At this time we all incorporate the spirit of giving.

One story having to do with gifting conveys this principle of the season, and that is the story of the Margil Vine. It seems that a poor and devout Indian boy was to attend a Christmas pageant in the mission church at Velero in Texas. All the people were taking gifts to the Christ child but the boy, Shavano, who had nothing at all to give. He wandered around, then sat for a while in his favorite poplar tree.

Padre Margil, after finding the boy with tears in his eyes, assured Shavano that a gift is only a token that we give to show our love. Shavano wasn't convinced, and wanted to give gifts of gold and objects of wealth as the other villagers had done.

He once again retreated to his poplar tree. After a while, he looked down to see an unusual bright wisp of green on the ground below. He climbed down to inspect the place and found a small plant, one so tiny that it could have been trampled without notice. The boy dug up the small plant, placed in it one of his mother's earthenware jugs and shyly hid it beneath the expensive and colorful gifts near the manger in the mission chapel.

Early the next morning the Christmas pageant was begun. Shavano worried that the Christ child would be displeased with his insignificant gift. As the pageant procession began, and the shepherds in the play approached the doorway, they gasped in surprise, then cried, "Milagro, Milagro!" Miracle!

Shavano wormed his way to the front of the group wondering what blessing the Christ child may have bestowed on the people. Before the door he stopped, his whole being quivered with ecstasy and his eyes filled with tears of joy. His little vine had grown mysteriously, had twined itself about and over the manger where the Jesus babe lay and had poured over the scene an abundance of bright green leaves and brilliant scarlet berries. The vine had become the most beautiful gift of all, even more beautiful than the gold and gifts of wealth. The Margil vine still grows in that Texas area and is enjoyed as Christmas decoration by Mexicans today.

Whether our memories are of Posadas, fiestas, prayers, decorations, lavish gifting, a military outpost, a prison cell, or a lonely room, Christmas season means much to all faiths and those of all beliefs. Let us once more petition for the gift of love, pray once again, and again, for the gifts of peace and good will toward one another in honor of The True Spirit of Christmas.

"BUON ANNO"
 "JOYEUX NOEL"
 "VESELE VANOCE"
 "MELE KALIKIMAKA"
 "NODLAG SONA DHUIT"
 "BLWYDDYN NEWYDD DDA"
 "GOD JUL"
 "FELIZ NATAL"
 "BOAS FESTAS"
 "FELIZ NAVIDAD"
 "MERRY CHRISTMAS"
 "KALA CHRISTOUGENA"
 "VROLIJK KERSTFEEST"
 "FROHLICHE WEIHNACHTEN"
 "BUON NATALE-GODT NYTAR"
 "HUAN YING SHENG TAN CHIEH"
 "WESOLYCH SWIAT-SRETAN BOZIC"
 "MOADIM LESIMHA-LINKSMU KALEDU"
 "HAUSKAA JOULUA-AID SAID MOUBARK"
 "'N PRETTIG KERSTMIS"
 "ONNZLLISTA UUTTA VUOTTA"
 "Z ROZHDESTYOM KHRYSTOVYM"
 "NADOLIG LLAWEN-GOTT NYTTSAR"
 "FELIC NADAL-GOJAN KRISTNASKON"
 "S NOVYM GODOM-FELIZ ANO NUEVO"
 "GLEDILEG JOL-NOELINIZ KUTLU OLSUM"
 "EEN GELUKKIG NIEUWJAAR-SRETAN BOSIC"
 "KRIHSTLINDJA GEZUAR-KALA CHRISTOUGENA"
 "SELAMAT HARI NATAL - LAHINGU NAJU METU"
 "SARBATORI FERICITE-BUON ANNO"
 "ZORIONEKO GABON-HRISTOS SE RODI"
 "MERRY CHRISTMAS - HAPPY NEW YEAR"
 "BOLDOG KARACSONNY-VESELE VIANOCE "
 "FELICES PASUAS-EIN GLUCKICHES NEWJAHR"
 "SHENORAAVOR NOR DARI YEV PARI GAGHAND"
 "ROOMSAID JOULU PUHI - KUNG HO SHENG TEN"
 "PRIECIGUS ZIEMAN SVETKUS SARBATORI VESLLE"
 "BONNE ANNEBLWYDDYN NEWYDD DDADR FELIZ NATAL"

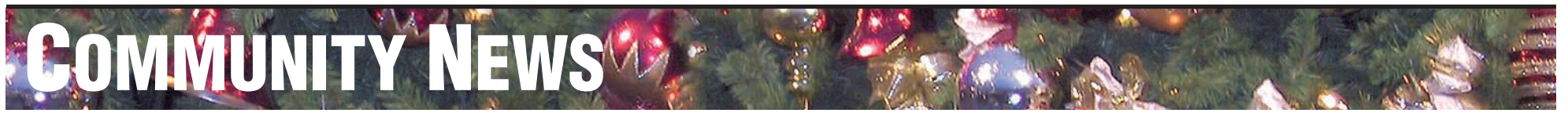
Inside this issue:

Marek Fire Victims
pg 2

Community News
pg 4

Mayor's Day of Service
pg 9

We Love our Veterans
pg 12



"A Slap in the Face" For Marek Fire Victims

By Katharine Russ

LAKEVIEW TERRACE -- It is nearly two months since fire raged through the Sky Terrace Mobile Home Park and long-time resident Darlene Westman sees little hope that her life in retirement will ever be the same.

The Marek Fire raged through Sky Terrace on Sunday Oct. 12 and destroyed 43 homes. Many of the victims like Westman have fallen through the cracks of a system that is supposed to help victims of natural disasters. Most struggled to pay the \$700 monthly rent and don't have the money to buy a new mobile home, so they are now displaced people waiting for Section 8 vouchers to even be able to rent an apartment. Elderly and uninsured like many of her neighbors, Westman looks with envy at the massive aid FEMA and other agencies are providing to residents of the Oakridge Mobile Home Park, down the road in Sylmar, where nearly 500 homes were destroyed by brush fire a month after the Marek Fire. The difference is Oakridge was declared a federal disaster and Sky View Terrace was not. "We were told that we were not entitled to FEMA assistance because our fire wasn't big enough," Westman recalled. "It's a slap in the face to us because we see dozens of charity events for the Oakridge Park people. I got \$180 from Red Cross and \$500.00 from a Buddhist organization."

Glenn Bell, president of Neighborhood Friends, a mobile home owner advocacy group, believes the government needs to do more for the Sky Terrace victims.

"The Governor brought FEMA into the Oakridge Fire, 'the Beverly Hills of Mobile Home Parks', where at least 85 percent of the victims were insured, leaving those in Sky Terrace to fend for themselves." He also said "Without federal help, the residents must depend on local agencies but even for that help they must meet low-income thresholds and other rules."

Paul Novak, Planning Deputy for Supervisor Michael Antonovich, said 18 families have been given rent vouchers, but even then the wait can be a month or longer before they can even go apartment hunting. "County staff did work to place two tenants at Union Rescue Mission's Hope Gardens complex in Lopez Canyon, and we put at least one family in touch with LAHSA (the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority) to assist with 'short-term' housing needs." Novak said.

Westman qualified for Section 8 housing, but transferring paperwork to the City of Los Angeles from the County has delayed her finding an apartment and won't help with furnishings. "My home and all its contents are totally gone," she said.

Isabel Araiza, Section 8 Manager IV Special Programs Operations (SPO), said the process does take time. "The only waiting time, is the time it takes to verify income and run the criminal background checks. That could take up to a month."

The uncertainty of Sky Terrace's future has left those who could afford a new home wondering whether to return to the park, because of the high cost of moving again in a few years when the park might be redeveloped for other uses. Buying a used home at a lower price also has problems since it re-



Pile of burned tires reduced to steel belts only.

quires approval of park managers who are normally reluctant to give it because of liability issues.

Resident Wanda Whelan reported other problems about returning to Sky Terrace.

"I am still displaced and removing debris from my space at Sky Terrace," she said. "The Sky Terrace management team is expecting us to start paying space rent for the debris on our spaces starting December." Officials have approved re-occupancy of the park, but residents were told they could only do so but at their own risk.

"Because not all resident owned debris has been removed, there may still be health risks associated with returning," park management said in a letter. "We are asking tenants to work diligently to remove their debris. You are advised to return at your own risk after careful consideration of these hazards."

No one knows what health hazards remain in the park. Directly adjacent to their park, an area of 2-3 acres had become a dumping ground for used tires over the span of many years. There were, literally thousands of old tires that burned down to the steel belts.

Continued on page 5

**JEAN LEE SCHERKEY
ENROLLED AGENT**

- Individual Income Tax Preparation for All States
- Estate, Trust & Gift Tax Returns
- Quarterly & End-of-Year Payroll Returns/ 1099
- Audit Representation
- Tax Planning & Consultation

**Complimentary
30 Minute Consultation**

**Ph: (818) 951-7800
Fax: (818) 353-7640
jean@jlstaxpro.com**

*Cordial, Comfortable & Professional
Year-Round Service!*

Celebrate Christmas Eve
with First Presbyterian Church of Granada Hills
Candlelight & Communion Services

5:00 p.m. * Family celebration for primary and pre-school children	7:00 p.m. * Family celebration for all ages	11:00 p.m. Traditional celebration with Cathedral Choir cello, flute and harp
--	---	---

**10400 Zelzah Ave.
Northridge, CA 91326
(818) 360-1831 www.fpcgh.org
*Nursery & Childcare**

**Commerce
Market Place**
Produce & Deli

**10047 Commerce Ave.
Tujunga**

NVRNov08

**WIRED
CAFE**

Bring In this Coupon to get a free cup of coffee!

Come on down for the best coffee in town and a Euro Style menu, offering a variety of fresh choices! We've got 20 brand new computers, all equipped with over 200 games

FREE WIRELESS CONNECTION AND BIG DISCOUNT FOR FIRST TIME COMPUTER USERS

Store Hours 6:00 AM to 2:00 AM,
10045 Commerce Ave.
Tujunga CA 91042



COMMUNITY NEWS

Sunland-Tujunga

Home Depot Denied Exemption

By Katharine Russ

Sunland-Tujunga – Associate Zoning Administrator, Maya Zaitzevsky's December 5 letter to Home Depot (HD) outlined reasons for determining that a categorical exemption from CEQA for the HD project was not appropriate. HD will now be required to file an Environmental Assessment application in order that the Planning department can prepare an "Initial Study" to determine what level of environmental review is required for their project. This process could take up to two years to complete and cost better than \$1 million dollars.

After many hearings and an Appeal in 2007, City Council voted that the proposed Home Depot is a "project" and did not consist of "Tenant Improvements" as declared by HD and they were required to

do an environmental assessment. As a result of that decision, HD initiated a lawsuit against the City of Los Angeles. However, HD negotiated with the City Attorney to stay the litigation, which prompted the institution of a Dispute Resolution Program (DRP) aimed at garnering support for HD in the community. Community members insisted the HD project is a "land use issue" and not a "dispute" and, ultimately, voted to end failing talks.

The city's decision to reject the application for categorical exemptions was based on the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) that the application must reflect the existing conditions at the time the application is filed. The Planning Department believes the remodeling is more than a "negligible expansion" of use.

The letter states, "Based on the whole of the record, it is the opinion of the Department of City Planning that it is inappropriate to use one or more categorical exemptions to permit the operation of the Home Depot store at this currently vacant site".

When asked if Home Depot planned to move forward with their lawsuit, Kathryn Gallagher, spokesperson for HD, replied that Home Depot is in the process of assessing their options. Joe Barrett, President of Sunland-Tujunga Alliance (STA) who initiated the Appeal against the permits issued to Home Depot in error said, "I am pleased with the determinations made by city planning. It's exciting news for the STA and the Sunland-Tujunga Community" and, happily, exclaimed, "Yes Virginia, there is a Santa Claus!"

VHHS Baseball Program Jeopardized

By Kathy Arellano

Two summers ago Bud Schaetzle and other unhappy parents accused La Cañada High School Varsity Baseball Coach, Dennis Ballard, of violating California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) rules, mishandling players and monies, and doing a poor job of coaching, according to an August 2006 Glendale News Press article. They wanted the school district to fire him.

Today, Schaetzle is the target of similar allegations from angry Verdugo Hills High School parents, according to L. A. Unified School District Volunteer and parent Lydia Grant. Hired as Verdugo's head coach in mid-2005, Schaetzle faces accusations from parents that he violated CIF student safety rules, intimidated students, employed abusive fundraising techniques and has failed to account for thousands of dollars students raised to support the baseball program.

Parents presented these charges first, to Verdugo's principal Diane Klewitz, and then to managers in the L. A. Unified School District's chain of command, up to the Inspector General's office, according to Grant,



L-R; Jose Rodriguez-District Director over the Principal, Arturo Barcenas-Former Athletic Director, now Vice Principal, Lydia Grant-STNC Education Committee Chair, Deborah Ray-STNC Education Committee, Cheryl Powers-Education Committee, Elizabeth Jahelka-STNC Education Committee

where they are conducting an investigation into the allegations. "The information has been sent downtown and we expect a finding in a week to ten days," said Klewitz.

Helpful to angry parents early in the complaint process, LAUSD Board Member Julie Korenstein was unavailable for comment last week. Her assistant

relayed a message that she "can't talk to the press about this because it's a personnel issue."

Coach Schaetzle's behavior began to attract parents' attention early on when he said the team needed money and mandated a \$300 fee for each student, with a threat of non-participation if they didn't pay, according to Grant. Not long after, he planned another fundraiser that involved students selling "Gold Cards" door-to-door, consigning \$400 worth to each student and requiring the student to, either sell all the cards, or make up the difference.

His vigorous involvement in the Los Angeles Dodgers' fundraising program – 45 fundraiser nights during the 2007-2008 season – caused great concern on many levels. Most serious was the endangerment of two students under age 18 who were stranded at a Glendale gas station at 11:30 p.m., after a fundraiser, due to a lack of transportation coordination. The parents of the two teens reported the incident to Athletic Director, Arturo Barcenas, and to Klewitz, who are mandated reporters of child endangerment but,

Continued on page 4.

Happy
Holidays
from
NVR.



Sweet Cherrie's Diner

Delicious, Homemade Food At Reasonable Prices

OPEN 7 DAYS

Breakfast Served All Day • Lunch & Dinner Specials

Omelets • Belgium Waffles • Subs • Burgers • Deli Sandwiches

Grilled Orange Roughy or Halibut • Sauteed or Fried Shrimp

ORDERS TO GO • CATERING FOR ANY OCCASION

Mon-Fri 7am-9pm • Sat 7am-6pm • Sun 7am-3pm



818-353-0465

8236 Foothill Blvd. Sunland



ARLETA COMMUNITY WATCHDOGS

Serving Businesses and Residents

Keeping our Community Safe and Clean

For Community Concerns – 24 Hour Hotline

AL PIANTANIDA (818) 897-9122

Thank You
NVR Advertisers

North Valley Reporter

www.northvalleyreporter.com

Telephone 818-563-1962

Email: InformNVR@aol.com

P.O. Box 674, Tujunga Ca 91043

Publisher/Editor

Nina Royal

Layout Design

Paccio Ad & Design

Contributing Writers

Kathy Arellano, Jack Askew, Robert Barbera, Mary Benson, Tomi Lyn Bowling, Cindy Cleghorn, Captain Stacy Gerlick, Marele Hitt, Al Piantanida, Jim Summers, Nayri Vartainia, Captain Jorge Villegas

Investigative Reporter

Katharine Russ

Proofreaders

Paula Warner and Elaine Brown

Photographers

Cindy Cleghorn, Maurice Pichon

North Valley Sales Representative

Bill Manning, Gordon Lee

Special Recognition to

Elaine Brown, Cindy Cleghorn, Peter DiNova, Erna Royal, Bobby Royal, Mark Seigel

In order to be fair to our customers who also want to contribute or share their views, we need to limit our Sounoff and Commentary Articles to a maximum of 500 words. Please review your content before submitting to us.

We accept all letters on all subjects of public concern. All letters are subject to editing and condensation. They will only be published with the name reflecting the writer's true identity. Only writer's home community rather than full address will be published. Letters must include the writer's complete home address and daytime telephone number for verification purposes. Letters and columns that are submitted and for which no compensation was paid may be republished in digital and other formats and retained in archives without compensation to the author. The North Valley Reporter reserves the right not to publish letters for any reason.

E-mail: informnvr@aol.com

Personal Opinions expressed in "Sound Off" and "Commentary" are those of the writers only.

WANTED
DANCE DANCE DANCE

FREE Line
Dance Lessons
Between Sets!!

Come to a HOLIDAY PARTY

Country Music, featuring Debra Lee and Trigger Happy.

Sunday, December 21, 2008 • 7 pm -11 pm

Open mic night • Enjoy listening and dancing • Raffles with great prizes
Drop in early for a great dinner and drinks, Free parking and no cover charge.

Country Western Dancing & Lessons-Mondays 11pm to 3pm

Big Jim's Family Restaurant

8850 Laurel Cyn Blvd. Sun Valley (corner of Sheldon)

Phone: 818-768-0213

COMMUNITY NEWS

Sun Valley

Area Residents Want Athens to Meet WM Standards

By Mary Benson

Sun Valley, Shadow Hills and La Tuna Canyon residents were dealt a stinging blow at the "Public Hearing" for Athens Waste Environmental Impact Report EIR). Only a handful of residents were notified of the hearing held November 12 by Wayne Tsuda, the Local Enforcement Agency's (LEA) representative in Los Angeles, from the City's Department of Environmental Affairs.

Everyone affected is urged to contact his or her councilmember. Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council (SVANC) is requesting a motion similar to the one that brought Waste Management to the table and set up the Bradley Landfill Community Advisory Committee. (See Council File 03-0808).

The SVANC voted unanimously at their November 11 meeting that Athens, and associated businesses owned by Arakelian Enterprises in Sun Valley, be required to operate to the same standard for In-City facilities set by Waste Management.

The total scope of operations in the EIR is severely flawed. At the very heart of environmental justice is Arakelian Enterprises' EIR. Athens is assuming more than double their permitted capacity of 400 tons to 1000 tons of municipal solid waste (MSW). That's the "black" container stuff. Their track record in the City of Industry must be taken into consideration. An \$18,000,000 suit was filed against them by the Air Quality Management District (AQMD) for air quality violations. AQMD was not notified of the Sun Valley meeting. Reeking garbage trucks parked in an unregulated location is not acceptable.

There are a number of unanswered questions such as: *Where are the trucks parking at night?* Athens refuses to acknowledge their next door truck facility in Sun Valley. How much trash is going to be imported from other cities? Their EIR uses an alternate baseline of 1000 tons per day of municipal solid waste (MSW). The company has been cited for taking in more waste than their permitted capacity at other locations. *Is Athens going to pay LA's City business tax or operate out of its Industry headquarters?* Eric Herbert of Athens Waste has confirmed that the payroll will be processed in City of Industry. *Is there a separate facility for First Aid, Lunch Room, and Lounge Area for employees?* SVANC has been told the weigh station will double as the only office.

Athens' EIR has not analyzed its total impact on the community. All operations of their local processing facility should also be included and reported locally. The EIR prepared by CH2M Hill cited a "shortage" of recycling facilities in its statement of "overriding considerations." There is no shortage of recycling facilities in Sun Valley. Overriding Considerations means that "No Project" is an option. Other waste facilities in the Sun Valley area are expanding. The option of processing an additional 400 tons per day of municipal solid waste at an alternate location totally negates the claim of overriding considerations.

The SVANC believes Athens' operation must be held to the same standard as Waste Management if it wants to expand operations in Sun Valley. Otherwise, Arakelian will operate at an unfair competitive advantage and violate every goal and objective of the Environmental Justice Zone within which it proposes to operate.

Editors note: Mary Benson is Vice President of the Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council and writes for the NVR.

Granada Hills

By Jim Summers

Granada Hills Neighborhood South Councils - Will be holding a combined installation for their 2008-2010 Board members. Their Board of Directors/General Board Meeting/Holiday Party will be on Thursday, December 11, 2008, 7:00 pm, at First Baptist Church of Granada Hills, 11011 Havenhurst Ave., Granada Hills. This is a free event and an opportunity for the public to join the festivities and also have their voices heard. They encourage all community members to attend this free public event.

The planning of building developments shape the quality of life for future generations and has been at the forefront with the GHSNC. Whenever possible, they consult with elected officials, developers, and City Planners, to strongly encourage reasonable Planning and Land Use developments that would be beneficial to their area, but which would also abide by current L.A. City regulations, while opposing those that are not. They also promote a multitude of services: combat graffiti by informing the public and donated \$5,000 for abatement; raise responsiveness capabilities of the public to assist with disaster preparedness events; sponsor CERT courses; help sponsor an L.A.P.D. simulator for Devonshire Division; act as a conduit between City Hall and its constituents through announcements, meetings and public hearings; sponsor and participate in traditional community events – the Granada Hills Street Faire and the their Holiday Parade, for example. They also sponsor forums for voicing community concerns: recent telephone pole mounted boxes, cell tower proliferation, the proposed "Kohls" commercial overbuilding project, candidate forums for public offices, traffic issues and help beautification projects, such as the Veterans Memorial Park at Zelzah and Chatsworth Streets. The GHSNC has been making a more active effort to maintain and improve communications with stakeholders, community organizations, and other neighborhood councils, while jointly recognizing problems and creating solutions to common concerns, which may affect their constituents.

For more information see www.GHSNC.org.

Arleta

By Al Piantanida

Arleta High School- Arleta High School's varsity football team finished the season by winning their Home Coming Game against Van Nuys High School, earning them a perfect 10-0 record winning the East Valley Conference. They are seeded number one in the City's invitational football championship. It is only the second year of competition for this recently built school, and they had to play under rented portable lights.

Their Home Coming Celebration kicked off with Mardi Gras Masquerade Parade lead by their Marching Band, Drill Team and Cheer Leaders, Home Coming Court and Principal Linda Calvo, Grand Marshall. Galpin Ford donated the use of their vehicles that were driven by community members and were followed by vintage vehicles including a fire engine. A fireworks display completed the event.

Arleta Veteran's - participated in the San Fernando Valley Veteran's Day Parade on Tuesday, November 11. Jim Kallas, Chief Petty Officer who served 30 years in U.S. Navy, Al Piantanida, U.S. Army, Vietnam, Lamar Shebly U.S. Army Reserves, also Bronze Star and Purple Heart Recipient, Staff Sergeant Elber Navarro, U.S. Marine Corp.

Mayor's Day of Service – Volunteers from Arleta's High School, Neighborhood Council, and Community Watch Dogs worked together on project to improve and beautify their community. They refurbished the "Welcome to Arleta" sign on Woodman and Branford and beautified the area for a future project. They then volunteered their service to help Sun Valley with a major tree planting project on San Fernando Rd at Branford. The students were able to meet with the Mayor during the celebration completing the day. Where their Arleta High School Marching Band joined other high school bands at the conclusion of the ceremony.



Continued from page 3 —VHHS Baseball

according to Grant, neither one contacted the authorities on the teens' behalf. Also objectionable was Schaeztle's practice of allowing teens with provisional licenses to drive other teens to events.

"You're...mistaken in assuming that part of our summer program's responsibility is to arrange all transportation for these kids," said Schaeztle in an e-mail message to concerned parent Kamala McCallister. "Families have to help a little, and the guys have to use their brains to solve the problem of getting to where they need to be."

Team members were expected to uphold their grades and homework, attend daily baseball practice, participate in weekend games, and were, according to Grant, threatened with exclusion from future games if they didn't show up for fundraisers. "The practice of requiring students to participate in what is supposed to be a voluntary activity and then using that to determine who makes the team is a violation of Interscholastic Athletic Committee (IAC) Rule 238 – it's unethical," said LAUSD Athletics Di-

rector Barbara Fiege in a bulletin sent to all athletic department heads.

Despite the amount of money coming in to the summer baseball program, Schaeztle cancelled the end-of-season awards banquet and trophies, saying in an e-mail message to parents and team members that, "following the unnecessarily contentious spring we just struggled through, [the administration and staff] feel it would be hypocritical to mount a costly and awkward social event in a community that appears ... deeply divided."

Booster Club books showed deposits totaling \$30,000 for the school year. Schaeztle spent \$12,000 of that on new dugouts which, according to Grant, have been deemed illegal and will have to be removed. "The kids had to pay \$300 each to participate," said parent Crystie Ventress. "Where did all the money [from fundraisers] go?"

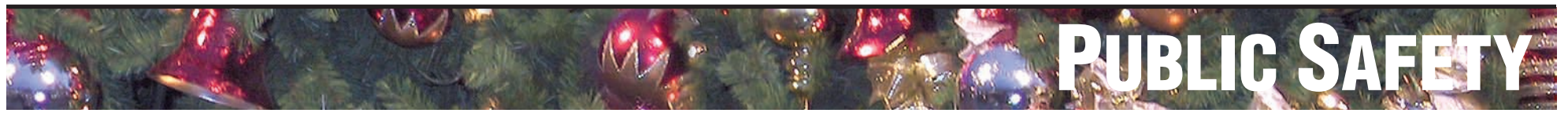
Frustrated by the way LAUSD officials have handled their complaints; parents have done their own investigation to try to determine where the money has gone.

For instance, they questioned the information on two receipts that Schaeztle submitted for cash reimbursement. The first was from KP Sports, Inc., showing a

purchase through JUGS Company for \$298.10 for cage material. The JUGS catalog listed the item and stated that the price should have been \$76.50. The invoice resembled a valid receipt from JKP Sports, Inc., but the company name and part of the address; the order number and purchase details had been changed. The customer number was identical on both documents. There was no address or phone listing for KP Sports.

The other receipt was from Gordon Enterprises and looked similar to a valid Alan Gordon Enterprises invoice. The reimbursement amount was \$199.00. Alan Gordon Enterprises General Manager, Wayne Loucks, verified in an August 6, 2008 e-mail message that "this...is not an original Alan Gordon sales order form – it has been altered." Loucks confirmed that Schaeztle's name is in their system as a previous customer. Additionally, Schaeztle turned in ATM withdrawal receipts to allegedly pay for day laborers.

Klewitz said the parents went to the school board first, rather than talking to her. "Some of the confusion might have been avoided if they had come to me."



CERT Members Are a Community Asset



*Captain Stacy Gerlich
Commander, CERT Unit
Los Angeles Fire Department*

Happy Holidays!! It's been quite busy on the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) front. As you are very aware, we have experienced several fires and terrible hardships. Life around us, and even within us, has been tested these past few months.

As the Commander of the CERT unit for Los Angeles City Fire Department (LAFD), I have the privilege of working with some of the most unselfish people on this planet. When problems face the LAFD, I have the ability to pick up a phone and contact anywhere from 1- 120 volunteers who are on my call out teams. The phone may ring during normal business hours or it may ring at the most inopportune times. No matter what the time, these 120 volunteers have made themselves available to assist the LAFD in providing safety for the citizens of Los Angeles. The assistance ranges from helping to direct traffic during evacuations to making sure the citizens have food, water and the necessities.

During the Sayre fire, we deployed CERT members to the command post and to the shelter at Sylmar High School. As the incident grew, we utilized our volunteers at more shelters and to make sure that specific needs were being met. I believe that no one who responded had the slightest idea of the enormity of the situation. During these types of incidents, many agencies are represented at the shelters. The American Red Cross is in charge of the actual shelter operations. On several occasions, the Red Cross has had the fortune of working side by side with not only CERT members, but also members of other volunteer organizations. There exists a common thread between all organizations that have wonderful citizens volunteering in the time of need. No one organization is better than another and it is important that we grasp that idea. This is about helping others who are unfortunately faced with the potential of great loss. We should all be very thankful to these extraordinary people who unselfishly give their time away from their families to help others in need.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank each and every one of them for their time, dedication and continued support of the best volunteer program in the nation.

Happy Holidays to you and yours!!

Spirit of Johny Carpenter Awards

The 2008 Spirit of Johny Carpenter Awards were presented to the LAPD Foothill Division, LAFD Fire Station 24 and Gibson Ranch by Councilmember Wendy Greuel and her son Thomas. The ceremony was held at the conclusion of the 6th Annual Free Thanksgiving Dinner/Korean BBQ hosted for the community by All Nations Church in Lake View Terrace on Friday, November 11.



Continued from page 2 —Slap in the face

Dr. Seymour I. Schwartz, Professor of Environmental Science Policy, University of California (Davis, and author of the Report, Domestic Markets for California's Used and Waste Tires, said, "Toxic chemicals released by burning tires become part of the food chain, entering water, soil, plants, livestock, dairy products, and wild life. Studies are finding that indirect exposure to toxins through the food chain presents serious health risks to humans, even more serious than inhaling pollutants." Novak, in Supervisor Antonovich's office, was asked about the health risk. "Your question presumes the presence of Hazardous Waste and, to date, you have presented no evidence that hazardous waste exists on the property," he said in an e-mail. "To the best of my knowledge, 'hazardous waste' is not a land-use (like residential, commercial, etc.). There are many businesses that have hazardous waste--spray paint, gasoline, asbestos, and other items routinely found in many locations--can all be considered hazardous waste."

The responsibility for dealing with the hazardous waste issue lies with the state's Integrated Waste Management Board. "We got rumors back in January about an illegal dump site in Lopez Canyon," Jim Lee, Manager of Tire Enforcement Branch for the board said. "We attempted to drive the area and could not find the location. We received a more specific call from someone in the park right after the tires burned and were able to find the location." There is an active investigation that determined the hailer who was responsible for dumping the tires. Additional enforcement against that hailer is under consideration.

At every juncture, the victims at Sky Terrace seem to fall through the cracks.

On Nov. 25, victims of the fires met with various officials and appealed for help, suggesting that mitigation funds available from the closure of Lopez Canyon Land-fill be used to provide assistance.

Councilman Richard Alarcon, who controls the fund, proposed using the \$100,000 from the fund to aid the victims of Oakridge. But he refused to make the same offer to Sky Terrace residents even though their park is right next to the former garbage dump.

Katharine Russ@Charter.net

News From Mission Area Station



*By Captain Jorge Villegas
Commanding Officer
LAPD Mission Hills Station*

On October 29th, our Mission Area Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB) sponsored a "Mardi Gras" Officer Appreciation Day to show their admiration and support of Mission Area's sworn and civilian personnel.

CPAB members and a host of community volunteers cooked food and served us here all day. Captain Hayakawa, myself and the men and woman of Mission Area, thank you all very much for your participation. I would also like to thank the elementary schools in our area for their letters of appreciation and all the companies who donated to this wonderful event. They include Superior Nissan, Country Club Auto Body, Safari Room Restaurant, San Fernando Mission Cemetery Florist, Mission Hills Florist, Classic Meats, L'Affair Café, Odyssey Restaurant, Park regency Realty, Coca Cola, Design and Graphics, All Valley Rental, My Paper Shop, Trade Supplies, Pick-Up-Stik, Coco's Bakery Baker's Square and Galpin Ford. A big thank you to our event planning committee which included Melanie McShane, Ed and Jan Lipkin, Ron and Patty Howell, Courtnie Kelley, and Mission Area CRO personnel.

Regarding our crime fighting effort, Mission Area is 1st in Operations Valley Bureau and 4th citywide in crime reduction. As of 10/25/08, Part I crimes have been reduced by 7.8%. Violent crimes have been reduced by 10.8% and property crimes reduced by 7.0%. Outstanding accomplishments!

This is the Holiday shopping season. Please remember to secure your vehicles and don't leave any valuables in your cars. If you have a radio that is removable please take it with you. When shopping at your local stores keep your wallets and purses secured.

Your questions concerning Mission Area may be directed to me at 818-838-9980 or to Sergeant Adrian Torres, Officer in Charge, Mission Area Community Relations Office, at 818-838-9856. You can also emails us: Area Captain Jorge Villegas, 26714@lapd.lacity.org, Patrol Captain Duane Hayakawa, 26041@lapd.lacity.org, Sergeant Adrian Torres, 31467@lapd.lacity.org Have a very safe and wonderful holiday season.

REAL ESTATE & PROFESSIONAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SERVICES a SOUND Investment

"WE CARE ABOUT YOUR INVESTMENT"
Let our experienced and dedicated professional staff eliminate your day to day management problems.

- Increase Low Rents
- Marketing & Advertising
- Leasing
- Tenant Evictions
- On-site Inspections
- Screening New Tenants
- Eliminate Vacancies
- Monthly Statements
- Bill Payments
- Rental Market Survey
- Rent Collection
- Maintenance & Repairs

Award Winning Team Over 30 Years in the Foothills

Recipient of Business of the Year by the California State Assembly
1999-2000 Business of the year awarded by the United Chambers of Commerce of San Fernando Valley



www.Realestate-Reports-Free.com



Joan Slater, Broker

Residential Listings & Sales
1031 Property Exchanges
Real Estate Counseling
Loans, 1st and 2nd
Trust Deeds & Refinance
Notary Services
Free Market Evaluation for Sellers

Free Rental List Always Available Find it on the Web Site: www.SlaterRealty.com

818-352-8731
Property Management Division

818-951-7053
Real Estate Division
www.SlaterRealty.com

Rise-N-Shine Cafe



Breakfast Served All Day

Omelets
Biscuits 'n Gravy
Chicken 'n Waffles
Chicken Fried Steak

Order Everything ☺ It's all Great!

BREAKFAST & LUNCH

Home Cooked Food Made Fresh From Scratch

Sharon, Keith & Family
818-352-5755

**9885 Sunland Blvd.
Shadow Hills**

Mark YOUR Calendar

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
Share your events with your neighbors through:
InformNVR@aol.com FREE!

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

Please support your NVR Advertisers so we can support you.

Saturday, Dec. 6

Friends of GH Library
10640 Petit, GH
10:30 am 368-5689

Sunday, Dec. 7

PEARL HARBOR DAY

Holiday Parade
Chatsworth & Zelah, GH
11 am - 1:30

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Horsin' Around"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420

Monday, Dec. 8

SNC Land Use Com
13515 _ Hubbard, Syl
6:30 pm

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

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

Tuesday, Dec. 9

SVANC Gen Meet
10631 Vinedale, SV
6:30

Winter Social & Pot Luck

Share your favorite dish
Mission Hills NC
San Jose Elem School
14928 Clymer, MH
6:30 pm

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Horsin' Around"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420

Energy & Environ. Com.
Solar Energy/job creation
L.A. City Hall
200 N. Spring, LA
10 am

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

SHPOA Gen. Meet.
Elections
Tierra del Sol
9919 Sunland, SH
7 pm

Wednesday, Dec. 10

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

STNC Gen. Meeting.
NVCH 7747 Foothill, S-T
7 pm 951-7411

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

SVANC Gen. Meet.
Villa Scalabrini Retire. Ctr
10631 Vinedale, SV

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

Thursday, Dec. 11

Holiday Show
Tierra Del Sol
9919 Sunland, SH
5 - 7 pm

VANC Holiday Mixer
at CBS Studios, Studio City
6 pm

Friday, Dec. 12

Charles Dickens
A Christmas Carol
Sunland Neighbor Church
10632 Oro Vista, S-T
Ck for times 352-3186

Saturday, Dec. 13

Holiday Open House
McGroarty Art Center
7570 McGroarty Terr, S-T
10 am-5 pm 352-5285

Holiday Part with
Fanny McCartney
Bolton Hall Museum
10110 Commerce, S-T
1 pm

Sunday, Dec. 14

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Horsin' Around"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420

Monday, Dec. 15

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

STNC Land Use Com.
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
7 pm 951-7411

Tuesday, Dec. 16

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Horsin' Around"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420 Friday,

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

MHNC Beauti. & Cult. Com
10161 Sepulveda.. MH.
6:30 pm Wednesday, Dec. 17
Rotary Club
Coco's Restaurant
10521 Sunland, S-T
7 pm 951-5299

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

MHNC Senior Com.
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

Mission CPAB
Mission Police Station
11121 Sepulveda, MH
6:30 pm

Friday, Dec 19-20

Charles Dickens
A Christmas Carol
Sunland Neighborhood Church
10632 Oro Vista, S-T
Ck for times 352-3186

Sunday, Dec. 21

CHANUKAH

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Horsin' Around"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420

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

Monday, Dec. 22

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

Classy Jewelers
Mon-Sat 9am-6pm

- Polanti
- Citizen
- Bulova
- Accutron
- Watch Repair on Premises
- Jewelry Repair
- Fine Jewelry
- Diamonds
- Silver
- Watches
- Clocks
- Restringing
- Engraving
- Jewelry Appraisals

FREE Jewelry Cleaner
Come in and visit our store and receive a Jewelry Cleaner FREE Expires 6/30/07

35% OFF Any Watches
Expires 6/30/07

25% OFF Any Jewelry Purchase or Repair
Loose Diamonds Excluded Expires 6/30/07

(818) 352-2380
Located in the Starbucks Plaza
8325-D Foothill Blvd.
Sunland

10% OFF with this ad

Drop Off for Toys for Tots

Kathy's Christmas Trees

Specializing in Large Trees 8 to 18 ft.
Guaranteed Fresh! Trees kept in tent with Water
Top Quality NOBLE • DOUGLAS • GRAND FIR • NORDMAN

We specialize in large trees
Great for businesses, churches & homes
Fireproofing • Delivery

Beautiful 6' Douglas Fir \$21.95

Kathy's Kreations | OPEN 7 DAYS | Next door to Bank of America at Glendale Tile
8450 Foothill Blvd., Sunland | 10am-9pm

(818) 353-5416 • (818) 645-2430
www.kathystrees.com

Kitchen/bathroom/bedroom

CABINET Refacing

SPECIAL \$500 DISCOUNT

www.wenetco.com/kitchen

kitchen@babaian.com

FREE ESTIMATE

818-437-2477

WeNetCo Inc. Tujunga

"Serving Granada Hills and beyond..."

Happy Holidays!

Jim Summers, Realtor, CIPS
Direct: (818) 363-7955 • Cell: (818) 321-6259
jimsummers@realtor.com

Property Listings:
www.JimSummers.com
(Newest Listing here, Market Trends, Community info)

GH Residential Properties:
www.GranadaHillsEstates.com
(Search the entire SoCal area for Listings)

GH Community Websites:
www.GranadaHillsAlliance.org, www.0GHRG.org,
www.GHSNC.org, www.GHNNC.org,
www.GranadaChamber.com, www.RealtorRescues.org

Equestrian Estates:
www.HorsePropertyUSA.com

International Properties:
Sweden, Norway, Monaco, New Zealand, Panama, Costa Rica, Australia, UK, Italy
www.JimSummers.com

Mountain & Vacation Properties:
Big Bear, Lake Arrowhead, Hawaii
www.EscapeToBigBear.com

Mark YOUR Calendar

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

STNC Budget Com.
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T

Tuesday, Dec. 23

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Horsin' Around"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420

Thursday, Dec. MERRY CHRISTMAS

Sunday, Dec. 28

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Horsin' Around"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420

Tuesday, Dec. 30

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Horsin' Around"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420

Saturday, Dec. 31

NEW YEARS EVE
Stay Safe!
Don't Drink & Drive

Thursday, Jan 1

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Friday, Jan. 2

Computer Class for Senior
CSUN - \$25
10-12 am 831-5064

Sunday, Jan. 4

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Horsin' Around"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420

Monday, Jan. 5

SNC Public Serv. Com.
13515 1/2 Hubbard, Syl
6:30 pm
STNC Land Use Com.
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
7 pm 951-7411

Tuesday, Jan. 6

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Horsin' Around"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420

Wednesday, Jan. 8

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.Hills
7 pm 893-8613

Sunday, Jan. 11

Free Trees, Tree Planting
Clean-up & beautification
San Andres Pico Adobe
10940 Sepulveda, MH
12-4 pm

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Horsin' Around"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420

Monday, Jan. 12

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

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

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

Tuesday, Jan. 13

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Horsin' Around"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420

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

SHPOA Gen. Meet.
Elections
Tierra del Sol
9919 Sunland, SH
7 pm

Wednesday, Jan. 14

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

Sunday, Jan 18

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Horsin' Around"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420

Century 21 Penny L. Blackwell, CPM® REALTOR®



Crest
4005 Foothill Boulevard
La Crescenta, California 91214
Business (818) 248-9100 Ext. 243
Cellular (818) 371-3231
Office (818) 541-7543
Fax (818) 248-9295
Penny.Blackwell@Century21.com
Each Office is Independently Owned And Operated

NEXTSTEP EDUCATIONAL SPECIALISTS

Child Advocacy
Behavior Management
Academic Counseling
Behavior Therapy
Tutoring

PAUL ARMBRUSTER
Former Public School Administrator

818.425.9172
next.step.1@hotmail.com



Tomi Realty Inc.

SOLD! For maybe the highest per square foot in the zip code at a not too easy time to sell in the market - one week after listing! That's when the offers came in and they did not stop with Tomi. THE MOST HASSLE FREE REAL ESTATE AGENT I HAVE DEALT WITH IN 20 YEARS!

Tomi@TomiRealty.com
818-353-9143




Voted Best Take Out 2008 by Daily News

BIG POPS BBQ & GRILL

Hours:
Monday - Saturday
11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Closed Sunday

(818) 896-5599
10755 Glenoaks Blvd.
Pacoima, CA 91331



WE SERVE
Pork & Beef Ribs
Tri Tip
Hot Links
Hot Wings
Sandwiches
Salads

CATERING FOR ALL OCCASIONS

RUSH HOUR BAKERY & DELI



OPEN NOV. 8th
AUTHENTIC ARMENIAN BAKERY & DELI

Delivery Services Available
\$20.00 Minimum Order 5 Mile Radius

Traditional Hot Goods Available
Lahmajun, Spicy Lahmajun, Vegi Lahmajun
Muhammarajun, Mashrouha, Maneishe Zahtar

Traditional Boreks Available
Feta Cheese Borek, Spinach Borek, Meat Borek,
Zeytun Borek, Ajarski Khachapouri

Fresh Assorted Cold Cuts & Cheeses Available
Boulogne, Turkey, Martdela, Ham, Salami,
Mazzarella, Gouda, Feta and much much more

818-353-1009

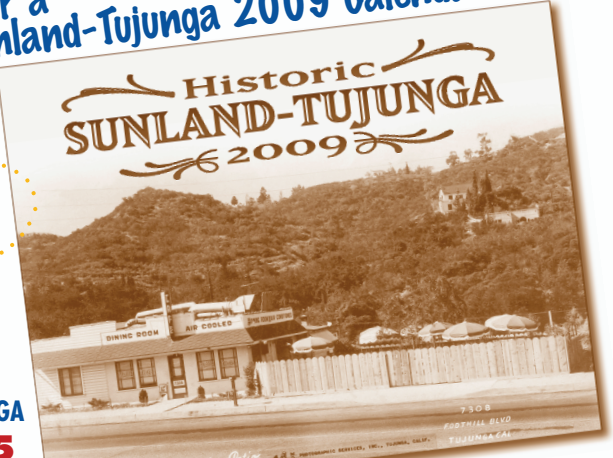
Matnakash, Barbari, Pouri
Baked Fresh Daily




MasterCard VISA BUSINESS HOURS
MON-FRI 7:00 AM - 9:00 PM
Saturdays & Sundays 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM
EBT

7420 Foothill Blvd, Tujunga CA. 91042

Call or Stop in for a Historic Sunland-Tujunga 2009 Calendar



CM & M
PRINTING
COPYING
MAILING

YOUR LOCAL COPY & PRINT CENTER
10034 COMMERCE AVE, TUJUNGA
(818) 353-7135
www.cmprintmail.com

Calendars also available at Bolton Hall Museum --
Special Thank You to Little Landers Historical Society & Bolton Hall Museum

LIMITED TIME OFFER
LIMIT ONE PER PERSON

NVR1208



COMMENTARY

The Truth About America



By Robert J. Barbera

The essence of the Americanism Educational League is to provide students with the encouragement and the means to learn the greatness of America, to carry out our motto "to instill citizenship and patriotism" in today's young people. One way to do this is through our essay

contest and the timely topics we select each year.

Each fall our essay contest topic is sent to hundreds of colleges across the country. It is published on our

website as well. We are gratified by the response with this year's total being close to 300 entries, representing a cross-section of institutions of higher education. Our monetary awards, which increase each year, are certainly one incentive for the students entering the contest. We know, because we have heard from both students and professors, that students also enter the contest because the topic happens to be one they are intensely interested in or the topic coincides with their course of study during the year.

I've been delighted to see the time and energy the students have put into their essays. As one of the judges of the contest, it is exciting for me to see how well organized and thorough the students are. We know, again because we've heard from the entrants and their pro-

fessors, that the students wouldn't have given the particular topic the deep attention and thought evidenced in their essays were it not for AEL's contest.

We are grateful to our sponsors, students and professors for another successful essay contest. As the Bible says, "you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free". All of us at AEL take pride in knowing that our essay contest, in some small way, helps our students study and learn the truth about America and what makes her special. That truth, in the long run, will keep us all free.

Editor's Note: Mr. Barbera is Chairman of the Americanism Educational League, which works to "instill patriotism and citizenship in America's youth."

New Technology is Challenging use of Public Space

By Jerry Askew

Utility companies are lining up to provide "new media" in the form of interactive television, video-on-demand, in addition to consolidated telephone, Internet and traditional cable-TV services. The existing infrastructure of coaxial cable and copper wire will not support these newer services. Utility companies are updating their networks with fiber-optic cable and new local distribution hubs as a result.

Phone companies now offers cable and the cable companies offer telephone – both offer Internet service. Each company must build their own network infrastructure, digging more cables and installing more boxes – in the parkways, everywhere. The boxes are an eyesore, an inconvenience, and can be downright deadly. Backup batteries have exploded violently in incidents across the USA, leaving the metal boxes sprayed and nearby homes destroyed.

The City of L.A addressed the proliferation of boxes by enacting the Above Ground Facilities (AGF) ordinance that deals with boxes on the ground and provides for public notice and environmental reviews. Unfortunately, the ordinance makes exception for "Pole Mounted Facilities," or PMFs., intended to ensure that the ordinance does not apply to the small splitters or other devices frequently found on telephone poles. Unfortunately, the exception created a loophole that can be exploited by utility companies wanting free unregulated space for distribution of their equipment. The metal boxes are about the size of a large ice-chest, mounted two to three feet off the ground, located on public space. These boxes interfere with pedestrian use of sidewalks, intrude on residents' front yards and attract graffiti. They present an eye-level hazard to children on bicycles and skateboards and also present an attractive climbing opportunity.

The GHSNC has taken the lead in addressing the boxes and passed a resolution asking the L.A. City Council to enact an ordinance requiring boxes to be raised to eight feet. Of concern, however, is that higher boxes could intrude on residents' privacy – more so than the visits to poles that do not contain these boxes. Poles that overlook back yards or other non-public areas should be avoided. Notification and discussion with adjoining property owners prior to installation would allow those companies to choose an agreeable location and avoid future problems in communities.

GHSNC continues to work diligently to raise awareness with neighboring councils in order to work together along with the Department of Public Works for a solution. For more information email: jaskew@ghsnc.org or visit ghsnc.org. Editors Note: Board member Jerry Askew heads the GHSNC Pole Mounted Facilities Ad Hoc Committee.

VFW is Calling all Veterans... Young and Old

By Nari Vartanian

When some people think of war veterans, they often imagine senior citizens who only fought during World War II, or the Korean War. However, our country has changed tremendously due to one of the greatest traumatic incidents our nation has ever experienced, known as "911." when suicide attackers struck and collapsed the Twin Towers in New York City. Now our nation has a newer, younger breed of veterans returning from current wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Sadly, we grieve for the ones we have lost, in their efforts to allow the rest of us to live in freedom and peace.

Fortunately, these war veterans, as well as all veterans and their families who have served this country on foreign soil across the United States, are supported and appreciated by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). The VFW has assisted heroic Veterans and their families by providing places, or "Posts", to meet and bond with each other, plus other valuable services for over a hundred years. There are thousands of VFW Posts across the United States, including five in the North Val-

ley. I recently interviewed four Post representatives at one of our local VFW locations in Sun Valley, Post 10040. This Post was established in March 1953. As documented in an article written by Lorraine Sage, families met with their beloved fathers, sons, and brothers in "various places in North Hollywood" 55 years ago. Today, the Sun Valley Post has found its home at 8548 Lankershim Boulevard, Sun Valley (818) 767-8213.

Sharon Geyer is the Post Assistant Canteen Manager; Sharon Champion, Auxiliary President; Treva Decker, Secretary of the Auxiliary; and Norma Yaris, Post Commander. All agreed that, aside from the veterans and their families having a place to meet, all local VFW Posts "support veterans in the Sepulveda V.A. Hospital in West L.A.", and also "supply veterans in the hospital, a few times a year, with necessities such as shampoo and socks." Post 10040, as well as other local and nationwide VFW Posts, donate scholarships, support youth programs, schools, and a number of different charities.

Membership is declining at all Posts because a majority of the members are World War II veterans who are at an advanced age, also, many move away for retire-

ment. The Sun Valley Post reached its peak about five years ago with approximately 400 members. Current membership stands at about 284. Other local VFW Posts, as well as most others across the country, are experiencing similar declines. Members of all these Posts have worked diligently to attract new members. However, due to "[lack of] physical strength, age, and health restrictions, the members are limited [to the extent that they are able] to participate in such involvement", as lamented by the four women.

In addition to the organization's attempts to attract more regular members, their main goal is to enlist "younger individuals to take the positions of the older members within the Post", said Auxiliary President Champion. These new, younger leaders will be needed to sustain Post 10040, as well as all other VFW Posts, for years to come. Younger, qualified veterans are passionately encouraged to join the VFW.

Call any of the phone numbers listed below for your convenience and a Representative will answer questions regarding their events, meal services and other information. They welcome visits to their Posts in the North Valley: Granada Hills, 17522 Chatsworth St., (818) 366-7799; San Fernando, 11 No. Hagar St. (818) 361-9003; Sylmar, 14071 Polk St., (818) 367-9942; and North Hills, 9737 Haskel Ave., (818) 898-9227. It is vitally important to keep veterans connected. Younger veterans are encouraged to bring friends so that they do not feel out of place among the more seasoned, elder veteran members. You can also visit: www.vfw.org, for more information.

**DEFORMED
and
DISABLED
by
Fluoridated
Water**



**SYMPTOMS OF FLUORIDE
POISONING IN HORSES**

**UNEXPLAINED COLIC
ABNORMAL HOOF GROWTH
BROWN STAINS ON TEETH
SKIN ALLERGIES & BUMPS
DEFORMED FOALS
CUSHINGS DISEASE
JOINT and BONE DEFORMITIES
URNIARY PROBLEMS**

**If you have
a horse you think may
be a victim
e-mail : Mary Benson
c-maryb@msn.com**

Is fluoridated water a cause of unexplained problems in horses ?

Vets and doctors are not taught to recognize the varied signs of fluoride toxicity. Dr 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 was printed in the letters section of Western Horseman Magazine April 2008



**Ron Kaye is on
Vacation will be
back next month**



Saturday, November 22, a day of volunteerism for the "Mayor's Day of Service"



Antonio and Wendy participate in Tree Planting on Foothill Blvd in Sunland-Tujunga



San Fernando and Brandford.

Above Photos Maurice Pichon



(After clean up), Tree planting and clean of meridian on Glenoaks in Sun Valley. (photo credit Michelle Rodriguez, LAPD SLO, Sun Valley)

NVR

***For 10% Discount on your food - Bring this ad.**



BEST OF BURBANK

9X Winner Best Steakhouse - 4X Winner Best Seafood
Voted By Los Angeles Times' Burbank Leader

Voted #2 Steakhouse in LA County
By KCAL 9 - "Nine on the Town"

Phone: (818) 768-6499
Fax: (818) 768-9737
For Reservations and Pre-Orders

7730 N. Hollywood Way
Burbank, CA 91505
At Golden State Freeway




Best Bartender
Dave Griffin
and
Best Steakhouse



SOUND OFF

Help Catch the Dirty Diaper Dumpers!

Haines Channel starts in the hills of Tujunga at the Haines Basin and winds its way down through Tujunga and then through Sunland. You have probably seen it - it is that small concrete channel. The channel ends in Sunland. Anything thrown into the channel gets washed down a short ways but never leaves our community. It ends up in an area where ducks, egrets (those tall white birds), and many other birds and critters live and feed.

For years now someone or some group has been throwing bags of used diapers into the channel. It is not likely that it just some family because the quantity and the fact it has been going on for years. It is most likely a day care center, whether an official one or someone who "just watches some kids". It could even be a senior center - any place where diapers are used. They are always light blue plastic diapers. I know because the plastic bags containing the diapers usually break open in this otherwise natural creature habitat.

I have personally walked up the channel (not recommended - it is very slippery) to see if I can find the source of the diaper dumping. I started to see them in the channel in the McGroarty area so it looks like they are coming from somewhere in Tujunga (above Mt



HAINES CHANNEL - which starts on the right in Tujunga and flows down ending in Sunland

Gleason Ave). So if you know anything about this dumping or if you simply know of a nursery or care center that borders the Haines channel (see map) then please let me know and I will have it looked into further by the applicable authorities. Call Tony at 818-353-9143.



Some of the inhabitants where Haines Channel ends - trash bag in the background.

Valley Vote Board Member Receives Special Recognition



Denny Schneider and Nan Schneider were presented a Special Recognition Award for their many years of volunteering and activism, for the benefit of all Los Angeles, by Councilmember Bill Rosendahl on Sunday, November 21. Although they live in Westchester, Denny is very active in Valley Vote and advocates for expansion of the Palmdale airport to benefit both San Fernando and Antelope Valley residents.

Giving Credit Where Credit is Due

The following is the text of a letter sent to the Daily News down south, in acknowledgement of the inmate fire fighting crews that do so much good work for the state. This is a very good program that costs the state relatively little money, creates relatively little trouble (walk-away escapes, etc.) and pays huge dividends to the people of the state. In addition it gives the inmates involved valuable training, life skills, and self-discipline, at some level of risk to themselves. I offer it in the context of giving fair credit where credit is due.

No Thanks, Acknowledgement or Appreciation for the Unknown / Unnamed Firefighters.

During the past several days there have been several TV and radio news announcements and newspaper accounts surrounding the devastating fires in the So. California area.

Several elected officials were interviewed to include Governor Schwarzenegger, Los Angeles City Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors members and high ranking members from various police agencies, fire departments and CalFire.

At no time did any of those interviewed acknowledge the excellent and hard work that was performed by both male and female California prison inmates. The inmates were assigned as ground crew members at each of the recent three devastating fires.

As residents of the communities devastated by the fires will no doubt display outdoor signs thanking their local law enforcement and firefighters for all of their excellent and hard work, it would be fair to state that there will be no signs displayed thanking prison inmates for their hard work.

For many years the CDCR and some County Probation Departments have established fire camps. With little notice the prison inmates all trained and certified in firefighting, man their fire vehicles and off they go to respond as first responders to major fires throughout the state of California.

Inmate fire fighters have learned a skill, learned personal discipline and have learned how to work side by side with non-inmates in their attempt to reach a positive goal and more importantly to give something positive back to the community.

Some time ago it was recommended to the head of the Department of Adult Parole Operations and to Governor Schwarzenegger and the head of CalFire that they take a good look at the possibility of parolees and discharged parolees, all previously trained and certified as firefighters as firefighters during the peak fire season. This in the long run would be cost effective reducing the overall financial costs of fire fighting, and provide jobs even if only part time seasonal work.

The recommendation fell on deaf ears.

C. Aguirre
Los Angeles

THIS & THAT

Real Estate News: For Some, the Glass is Half Full

by Tomi Lyn Bowling

Despite the "doom and gloom" in the news daily real estate sales in So. California have continued to pick up over the past six months. In fact, a recent report on KTLA Primetime News reported that our August 08 sales were up 64% over the previous year in August. Of course, values are down considerably, but this increase in sales is really good news and shows a change in trend.

Ask a homebuyer how it's going for the best look at what is happening. Several first time homebuyers and agents in the So. California area are reporting that there is very little inventory to chose from. Some have been looking for a home for months. A small, but cute home, at 9974 Wornom, in Shadow Hills, came on the market September 30th. The owners received ten offers, and opened escrow within eight days of placing the home on the market.

This is not uniformly the case. The properties priced over \$500,000 are not experiencing this flurry. The depleted inventory seems to be centered mainly in the arena of entry level real estate. The moral of the story is that affordable homes are selling rapidly.

Fall normally marks a very slow time in real estate sales yet visits to open houses are up. Also, the number of buyers going to look at homes at the entry level are up so dramatically that the buyers and their agents sometimes bump into each other. Sunland-Tujunga has opened 22 new escrows since October 1st.

From October 1st until November 5th, in Sunland-Tujunga, there were 23 homes that sold and transferred ownership. Compared to that same time period last year, where there were only 10 sales, that is a tremendous increase. Shadow Hills churned out an additional seven sales last month in the same time frame.

There are plenty of "bad news" stories so this is just one aspect that is good news for you. See, the glass is half full!

Editors Note: Ms. Bowling is a Real Estate Broker, and the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council's Business Representative.

New Family Show in Town

If you're looking to take your whole family out for a fun evening this holiday season, then consider "Winter Tapestry: a Holiday Music, Dance & Comedy Celebration"- for one weekend only - starting Friday, December 19 at 7:30 at New Hope Church in Sunland.

According to Tim Borquez, Art Director, the show is a Holiday Music, Dance & Comedy Celebration. Included is an eclectic mix of traditional, classic and pop Holiday music, along with featured Dance and Comedy pieces performed by a talented cast of singers and musicians, including The FPAC Young Performers' Workshop Ensemble. This show is priced to be an event for the entire family! For more information visit <http://www.foothillperformingarts.org/>

THIS & THAT

Carrick's Journey

-Part thirteen

By Tomi Lyn Bowling



Fanella chuckled to herself as Drake ran outside gagging, one hand tightly grabbing his stomach, and holding his mouth with the other. She knew all to well that nothing would be left inside of his stomach once he finished his trip outside. Fanella smiled as she quietly pulled Maddie, the worried mother, aside to explain her theory so no one else could hear.

Fanella's theory was that "no matter how strong the head hurts upstairs, the presence of a stomach churning with imminent volcanic eruptions downstairs takes over". Fanella continued "devoting all of one's attention to relieving this nausea usually means no more headache". She reassured Maddie that there were no cockroaches in that concoction at all. She said "telling someone they just digested squashed bugs always guarantees this result. It's really just juices."

Maddie looked at Fanella as if she had lost all sense of decency. She could see that Fanella had a whimsical way of approaching things and, though well intended, Maddie was contemplating slapping her face! Just then, Drake walked back inside the little cabin, standing up tall and wiping his face. As he walked in all eyes were glued to him. He had all of his color back and looked remarkably normal. All watched in silence waiting for some kind of reprisal. Before he could utter any words, Fanella charged up to him, grabbed at both sides of his head and looked it over thoroughly as she whispered and broke the news to him. "It was just juices, no bugs, I just said that to make you finish this". Drake was mad, happy, irritated and relieved all at the same time. He looked around the room at all of the anxious eyes on him. He was very thankful that Fanella had not given her secret out publicly.

Realizing that all those watchful eyes thought he must be so strong to drink that horrible concoction and be quite fine afterwards. A young man of his age was thrilled to have this opportunity to show everyone that he's such a big, strong man. He was now happily playing along with the ruse, and he gave a chuckle, while thanking everyone for their concern. He looked at his mother and said, "We should commence with our briefing as soon as possible." All sighed in relief, and astonishment, as the room began to empty. Maddie glanced over at Fanella in relief.

The children resumed their games and Fanella directed Drake and Maddie to follow her as they left the cabin to meet the rest of the village elders. Drake marched ahead, showing his complete recovery, competence and willingness to resume a leadership role, as if nothing had ever happened. Maddie pulled Fanella aside, gave her a loving and motherly look, and thanked her once again.

HERE'S MY CARD



PET GROOMING
by Jackie Savage
REASONABLE RATES
TENDER LOVING CARE

7758 WYNGATE STREET
TUJUNGA CA 91042

Call For Appointment
818-352-0536

Anne's Hair Designs
Shadow Hills Hair Salon
9749 Wheatland Avenue
Shadow Hills, CA 91040
Tuesday-Saturday

Anne Bechtol 818-415-4158

www.thefishlady.com



1.800.4FISHLADY
THE FISH LADY
Fish Pond Maintenance Specialist

Barbara D. Johnson Office: 818.997.6091
8101 Orion Ave. • Suite #15 Fax: 818.997.3979 • Cell: 818.968.4486
Van Nuys • CA 91406-1438 E-mail: barbara@thefishlady.com

True Value. (818) 353-5424
FAX (818) 353-0478

MERITHEW'S HARDWARE
PLUMBING • ELECTRICAL • PAINT • GARDEN TOOLS

9926 COMMERCE AVENUE
TUJUNGA, CA 91042

JEFF MIVELAZ


SALLY HALL
The Foothill's Top Producing
CENTURY 21® Agent

Eighteen Years CENTURION® Award Winner
— Top 2% in Sales Worldwide —
Member of CENTURY 21® Exclusive
"Masters Hall of Fame"
Sold more than 900 homes
worth over \$200 million

Serving Sunland / Tujunga,
La Crescenta / La Cañada, Shadow Hills
& the Foothills Area Since 1986.

8307 Foothill Boulevard
Sunland, California 91040
Business (818) 352-8935
Fax (818) 951-1681

Century 21
Crest



MLS

Toll Free (800) 964-0021, ext.215
Cell Phone (818) 370-8809
E-Mail SallyC21@aol.com
http://Sallyhall.realtor.com

Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated

Bank of America Higher Standards

Sonia Tatulian
Banking Center Manager
Assistant Vice President
Sunland Banking Center


Bank of America
CA8-129-01-01
8510 Foothill Boulevard
Sunland, CA 91040

Tel 818.951.7810
Fax 818.951.7816
818.507.6700 Customer Svc

Official Sponsor
USA
Recycled Paper

MASSAGE WITH CARE
By: Gaby

- Therapeutic Medical Massage
- Pain and Stress Management
- Circulatory / Swedish
- Full Body Massages
- Pregnancy Massage



Se Habla Español! Tel: (818) 389-9374

AL Read's
RESTAURANT
COCKTAILS

Participate in Annual Christmas Stocking Drawing

LOCATED ON THE CORNER OF MT. GLEASON AVENUE AND SUMMITROSE

MUSIC LESSONS
A Sharp Music Method



Piano • Voice • Flute • Sax • Violin • Drums
Guitar • Bass • Cello • Viola • and More.

JAZZ CONTEMPORARY CLASSICAL

Sunland • La Crescenta • Glendale
La Cañada • Tujunga • Eagle Rock
West Covina • Pasadena • Hollywood
Los Feliz • Burbank

818-951-5077
www.musiclessons4all.com

Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council

"Get Involved in Your Community"

GHNNC meets the last Monday of every month at Van Gogh Elem. School

www.GHNNC.org



YOUR LOCAL COPY & PRINT CENTER

COPIES DIGITAL • COLOR • BLACK & WHITE
NEWSLETTERS • POSTCARDS • REPORTS • FLYERS

PRINTING BROCHURES • FORMS
BUSINESS CARDS • INVITATIONS • LABELS

MAILING SERVICES
INSERTING • TABBING • POSTAGE DISCOUNTS



COLOR Copies w/this ad
36¢ Single Side
8-1/2" x 11"
Offer Expires 1/31/09

B&W Copies w/this ad
04¢ Single Side
8-1/2" x 11"
Offer Expires 1/31/09

**BLUE PRINT
COPYING
NOW
AVAILABLE**

10034 Commerce Ave., Tujunga **818-353-7135** www.cmprintmail.com

GRAND OPENING

Breakfast ~ Lunch ~ Dinner Philly Cheese Steak

Arnie's
ristorante italiano



Arnie's Ristorante Italiano
50% OFF
ANY MEAL

ONLY ITALIAN FOOD IN TUJUNGA!

www.ArnieCafe.com
(818) 951-9089
6864 Foothill Blvd
Tujunga, CA 91042

Pasta - Sandwich
and more



Still Serving Gourmet Coffee

Advertise in NVR Call (818) 563-1962

WE LOVE OUR VETERANS

Candle Light Vigil for Veterans

Councilmember Tony Cardenas held his fifth annual "Band of Heroes" Candlelight Vigil for Veterans following the San Fernando Valley Veterans Day Parade, Tuesday, November 11. The ceremony was held in the courtyard of the Municipal Building in Van Nuys. It began with Presentation of the Colors, followed by a Vietnam War Missing in Action (MIA) contingent, lead by Commander Lovos and members of American Legion Post 817. Bronze Star and Purple Heart recipient, Staff Sergeant Elber Navarro, U.S. Marines, who served in Iraq, was the keynote speaker who offered glowing comments regarding heroic efforts of our service men and women who are true heroes.

Councilmember Cardenas honored each Veteran with his second issue commemorative coin in recognition of their honorable service to our country. Vietnam Veteran, Al Paintanida, presented Cardenas with a frame displaying the motto, "You are not Forgotten", which included MIA mementos in their honor.

There is a plan in the works for a possible project to install a monument in honor of Valley Veterans in the Van Nuys Courtyard. A committee will be formed to raise funds and select a design. Al Pantanida has kicked-started the fundraising effort with a donation of \$1,000 and hopes it will encourage others to contribute. Veterans are invited to participate in this historic project. For further information, contact the Council Office, at 818-778-4999.



The 5th Annual San Fernando Valley Veteran's Day Parade was held on November 11, and started at 11 am, as customary, under the direction of Fred Flores and Dan Rosales. It involved more than 60 veterans groups and numerous high school marching bands. All wartime eras were represented, from WWII to Iraqi Freedom, as well as all branches of military service. The flying Condor squadron from Van Nuys made several passes above the Parade attended

by thousands of people who lined the street to cheer veterans the veterans. Among the Dignitaries in the Grand Stand were Congressman Berman, Councilmember Alarcon and San Fernando Chief of Police Robert Ordelle and representatives from the LAPD and LAFD. The parade concluded at Richie Valens Park, where free hot dogs were offered and organizations manned booths to provide information and resources for Veterans and their families.

