

Special Order 40 Under Fire



Dennis Zine, L.A. City Councilman,
District 3

By Katharine
Russ

Los Angeles: Councilmember Dennis Zine, Representative for District 3 in the West Valley, introduced a motion to the City Council on April 11, asking that Special Order 40, (a/k/a "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"), be amended "to allow Officers of the Los Angeles Police Department

to notify Federal immigration officials of known gang members who are in the country illegally. Additionally, if a known gang member is arrested by the LAPD, and found to be an undocumented immigrant, an 'immigration hold' should be placed on the arrestee by LAPD and only released into the custody of ICE."

Excerpts from LAPD Manual Section 264.50, "Enforcement of United States Immigration Laws", illustrate the underlying policy direction of the initial issuance of Special Order 40 by former Chief Daryl Gates in 1979: "Officers shall not initiate police action where the objective is to discover the alien status of a person. Officers shall neither arrest nor book

persons for violation of Title 8, Section 1325 of the 'United States Immigration Code' (Illegal Entry)."

Zine's Motion for an amendment to Special Order 40 came subsequent to the killing of Jamiel Shaw, who was gunned down by gang members three doors from his family home. LAPD called the killing "random and senseless." Jamiel was the star of his high school football team and was going on to college and planning his future career as a sports agent upon graduation.

Nineteen-year-old Pedro Espinoza was arrested in March for Shaw's murder. Charges included the special circumstance allegation that Espinoza was an active participant of a gang and the murder of Shaw furthered the activities of that gang. Espinoza is a "documented member" of the 18th Street gang. Culver City Police had arrested and jailed Espinoza on a weapons charge in November. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) should have held Espinoza pending deportation, but Police Chief William Bratton said Espinoza had been released from jail in an assault case the day before Shaw's killing.

"This case highlights the deficiencies in our Federal immigration system and the inefficient application by local law enforcement," said Councilman Dennis P. Zine, Chair of the Immigration Task Force for the National League of Cities. "I wholeheartedly support that if a person commits a crime and is in this country illegally, that the individual should be deported to their country of origin. The fact is that Special Order 40 allows Los Angeles Police Officers to inquire about immigration status if a crime has been committed, and reinforces the effort to deport an illegal immigrant if a crime has been committed. We can now take it one step further and say that if an

individual is a known gang member and an illegal immigrant, that the LAPD has the responsibility and duty to turn the individual over to federal immigration officials."

In addition to this pending motion, on April 11, Councilman Zine introduced a motion "asking law enforcement agencies who were involved in the Jamiel Shaw, Jr. murder case, to report to the City Council regarding procedures in place to notify the Federal government of a person's immigration status upon release from jail and how these policies were or were not correctly applied in this situation."

But Ernie Norris, A Washington D.C. based Judicial Watch Attorney, says, "Special Order 40 is a barrier to effective policing in Los Angeles. Modifying the rules is not enough. Special Order 40 must be killed." Norris says street cops must have "the total freedom" to contact federal immigration agents when they come across illegal immigrants.

According to a lawsuit filed in May, 2006, and scheduled for trial in June, 2008, by Judicial Watch on behalf of Harold P. Sturgeon, a City of Los Angeles taxpayer, "The lawsuit alleges that Special Order 40 violates both federal and California law. It seeks a judgment declaring that Special Order 40 is illegal and an injunction preventing the LAPD from spending any additional taxpayer funds to carry out or enforce the policy."

"It cannot be denied that Special Order 40 and the policies, practices, and procedures arising thereunder violate both the letter and spirit of [federal law]. The LAPD has adopted what is in effect a 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy with respect to immigration status,"

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City's Kindergarten Session Offends Community

By Katharine Russ

A Letter and Guideline for a proposed "Day of Dialogue", has been sent to everyone who participated in the public hearings regarding the proposed Home Depot on the former K-Mart site in Sunland-Tujunga last year. According to Avis Ridley-Thomas, Director of the Dispute Resolution Program, Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney, who sent the letter out to the participants regarding the "dialogue" process, the purpose of the dialogue is to collect community input on the controversial Home Depot in Sunland-Tujunga. She stated, "We have partnered with two agencies in the event that parties determine that they wish to move forward with an agency they perceive will conduct facilitated or mediated sessions in the most effective, neutral and impartial manner possible." The so-called "Day of Dialogue" is scheduled for April 26, 2008.

The letter has left them confused. Joe Barrett, President of STA and the No to Home Depot Campaign said, "The Stipulation Agreement between the City and Home Depot says that this mediation is supposed to take place between Home Depot and Sunland-Tujunga Community Leaders. We are being reasonable in expectations that Home Depot will pack this event with supporters, paid or otherwise, from across the City in an effort to show, at the very least, that there is no clear consensus on the proposed store. They will



Community's dream for the site

then use this 'divided' opinion to sway LA City officials that since the 'community' is clearly divided, the project should go ahead based on promises of jobs and tax revenue. If only local residents were allowed to participate, there would be overwhelming opposition to the store. We feel that a freight train of manipulation is about to run over us. The issues exceed the kindergarten questions to be asked and answered in the discussion guides and those issues appear to be in direct violation of California law."

Lydia Grant, Education Representative for the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council (STNC) said, "Latham and Watkins appear to have a Conflict of In-

terest with regard to Rule 1401.1 of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). They helped develop and write the rule for the safety of School Children and are now suing the City on behalf of their client, Home Depot, to ignore that rule. Instead of forcing them to follow The California State Codes, the City Attorney is playing a dialogue game. The questions that are being asked of the participants have nothing, what so ever, to do with the Home Depot issues. If the City Attorney is unable to find all of the rules and laws that are being broken, we will be happy to direct him to this information so that the People of this City can be protected from this abuse of power."

Had it not been for Grant, the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) may never have been notified. Glenn Striegler, Environmental Assessment Coordinator for LAUSD wrote, "The Office of Environmental Health & Safety has not received notifications related to the site's development activities and, therefore, has not had an opportunity to comment on the project's impacts on our schools. The site is located about 450 feet north of Apperson Elementary School and school pedestrian routes along Woodward Avenue pass adjacent to the east side of the development. Since the project may have a significant impact on the environmental integrity of our school facility, we believe that all the potential

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Judith Valles President of Mission College



Judith Valles

Sylmar – Judith Valles, newly appointed President of L.A. Mission College, has easily stepped into the permanent position at a facility which previously had teacher/student morale and enrollment problems that was reversed by President Ernest Moreno who is also President of East L.A.

College and has returned. During his service at Mission College, enrollment improved dramatically along with morale. Also, they now enjoy a new two tier parking structure enabling students to park on campus, which helped to dramatically reduce the on going problem of parking on residential streets. Mission is now the most improved college in the District.

President Valles is no stranger to dedication and hard work. She is the former Mayor of her native City of San Bernardino, where she served two terms ending in 2006. She is a graduate of the University of Redlands where she majored in English. She earned an M.A. in Spanish Literature at U.C. Riverside, and did doctoral work at UCLA. She has been a teacher, a skilled administrator, Past President of several Community Colleges in between her “retirements” and served two terms on the Board of Trustees for the San Bernardino Community College District. Valles has a rich history, a variety of talents and is the recipient of many Achievement Awards during her distinguished career and she eagerly welcomes any challenge that comes her way.

She has been invited by the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council to make one of her first public appearances at their General Meeting at Mount Gleason Middle School in Sunland, on Wednesday, May 14, 7:00 pm. Everyone is invited to attend and meet President Valles. You are encouraged to address your concerns, as well as listen to her exciting, new ideas regarding the future for L.A. Mission College.

Concerns Addressed at Symposium



Councilmember Tony Cardenas, 6th District, fields question from North Valley Community Activist, Joe Lozano.

By Maurice Pichon

Pacoima – “Policy Con Pan Dulce Symposium” was held on Saturday, April 12, at the Pacoima Senior Center. The “Initiating Change in Our Community Development Corporation” (ICON CDC), held the open forum which included City, State, and Community Representatives, to address concerns of the local communities.

Guest speakers included Councilmembers Richard Alarcon, 7th District, Tony Cardenas, 6th District, Ca. State Senator Alex Padilla, and Ca. State Assemblymember Felipe Fuentes.

Photography by Maurice Pichon

Battle of the Bands is Back!

By Betty Ley

The Ritchie Valens May Festival is an annual three-day community fair with an outdoor carnival, plus live music in the gym for both Friday and Saturday, and is held on Mother’s day weekend. The carnival is a fundraiser for the recreation center. In the past, the City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks and Cultural Affairs Departments co-sponsored the music festival, with support from the 7th District Council Office.

Music events have always been available for the community for everyone to enjoy without an admission charge. Unfortunately, funding has been eliminated and is now sponsored by donations only. Last year, the May Festival’s Concert had to be relocated outdoors because attendance of over one thousand youths from all over the San Fernando Valley and other areas were beyond the capacity of the Ritchie Valens Recreation Center’s gym. This event has made a name for itself in the community and in the hearts of our youth. The positive impact the event has had on the community has made our event worth saving. City of Los Angeles Dept. of Recreation & Parks, Ritchie Valens Recreation Center, 10736 Laurel Canyon Blvd., Pacoima, 818-834-5172

Abby Diamond - BPW Woman of the Year



L.A. City Councilwoman Wendy Greuel and Abby Diamond

Sunland-Tujunga – Abby Diamond, a Sunland-Tujunga Alliance Board member and No Home Depot Co-Chairperson, was honored as “Woman of the Year” by the Sunland-Tujunga Business & Professional Women’s Association on Tuesday, March 26, 2008. A banquet was held in her honor at the Sunland-Tujunga Elks Lodge to acknowledge her for her community activism as well as recognize her for efforts to help improve the quality of life in her Sunland-Tujunga community

Ms. Diamond received Certificates of Appreciation and Recognition from City, County, State, and U.S. Representatives as well as many community members and organizations who were on hand to greet and congratulate her for her well deserved honor.

Earth Day Fair Held in Sun Valley



An Earth Day Fair sponsored by Councilmember Tony Cardenas was held at Sun Valley Recreation Center on April 19. Picture is of a Native American Ceremony in honor of the event. Trees were planted throughout the business corridors, residential neighborhoods and public parks. There was such a large turnout that volunteers cleaned the curbsides as well. Festivities included entertainment, contests and prizes.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

San Fernando Rangers and Sidekicks to Hold Poker Ride

By Laurie Thoms and Sheila Mears

The Foothills communities are looking forward to the Annual Poker Ride and festivities that will take place on Sunday, May 4, in Lake View Terrace, starting 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. The San Fernando Rangers and Sidekicks, a non-profit equestrian-based volunteer organization dedicated to raising funds, donating time and resources to various charities every year, provide a social network for those who seek to contribute to the community and make lifelong friends. They raise a significant portion of their charitable giving through "Poker Rides" held in the spring and fall at Ranger Park in Lakeview Terrace.

The San Fernando Rangers were formed in 1940 to augment the local police by patrolling streets during the manpower shortage of World War II. The Rangers retained close ties to the department and prospective members had to pass a police background check before being fingerprinted and issued a numbered badge. Although not as closely affiliated today, the Rangers continue to provide color guard for local public events.

In 1981 several Rangers' wives and girlfriends formed the Sidekicks to support the Rangers. The Rangers still provide search and rescue, security at public events, and emergency evacuation of horses. This organization works with the LAPD and Fire Department to train as mounted patrol in the Hanson Dam area and to aid disaster evacuations. Although the Rangers and Sidekicks are incorporated together, they operate as separate units.

The Rangers held the first Poker Ride at the Corral in 1980. The following year they raised \$3,000 for the Wildlife Waystation. Currently, the San Fernando Rangers and Sidekicks donate considerable time and money that is shared among several charities.

As the Poker Rides grew, they became semi-annual neighborhood social events like a small county fair, where people came not only in the hope of winning prizes, but also to gather with friends. Folks ride their horses to three stations in Hansen Dam where they can buy as many "poker hands" as they like (non-riders can buy them at the park). At about 1:00 pm, everyone meets at the park to enjoy a full bar, cook shack, and live country music. The "hands" are counted and several winning hands receive cash prizes. There are also a variety of raffles of donated artwork, house wear, horse wear, or people wear, and even a new saddle. These traditions are continued annually. For further information, visit <http://www.myspace.com/sfrangersandsidekicks>.

Damien Stedneitz New Poet Laureate

By Marlene Hitt

Damien Stedneitz, the new Poet Laureate of Sunland-Tujunga, was crowned at McGroarty Art Center during the passing of the Laurels on April 13, with the traditional laurel wreath bestowed by Ursula Gibson and the Poetry and Literature Committee. The fifth Poet Laureate, Damien Stednitz, was chosen by a group of eleven local judges consisting of educators, librarians, vocal coaches, musicians, a businessman, members of other Sunland-Tujunga organizations, writers and poets who will serve for the years 2008-2010. The Sunland-Tujunga poet joins at least 57 other community Poet Laureates in California.

Damien's most recent publication is "We Are Our Own Lions", a book of poems and prose, is now available for sale. His experience in the world of poetry and performance is remarkable. To schedule Damien for programs, readings and inspirational moments, call Marlene Hitt, at 818-951-1041, McGroarty Art Center, at 818-352-5285 Or you can reach Damien at



drstednitz@hotmail.com. Visit saturate@mac.com for views of California Community Poet Laureates. The information can also be found in the North Valley Reporter, Vol. 3, number 4, pg. 5.

The Poet Laureate is chosen as an ambassador to represent the Sunland-Tujunga community everywhere he/she goes.

The five Poet Laureates read at the Passing of the Laurels. Standing are Marlene Hitt, first Poet Laureate, Ursula Gibson, fourth, Damien Stednitz, current, Katerina Canyon second, and Joe DeCenzo.

2008 Boys' State Delegates Selected

By Hugh Yoho

Boys' State, a nationwide program sponsored by the American Legion, educates young men in the duties, rights and responsibilities of American Citizenship.

The Sun Valley American Legion Post 520 delegates for 2008 California Boys' State are Roderick McCleod, of Village Christian High School, and Dylan Hearne, of John H. Francis Polytechnic High School. These two students were selected by Post 520 after interviews with young men in the junior class at both schools who exhibited excellent qualities of character, scholarship, leadership and patriotism.

McCleod, Hearne, and approximately one thousand other boys from around the state will gather on the campus of California State University in Sacramento in June to receive hands-on experience by participating in mock gov-

ernment operations at the state and local levels. From this group, two of the most outstanding delegates will be selected to attend Boys' Nation in Washington, D.C. later in the year. There, they will join their counterparts from other states in experiencing government at the national level.

The first Boys' State convention was held in Illinois in 1935, and, since that time, many of America's leaders in a variety of fields of endeavor have participated in this program while attending high school in their respective states. Past delegates to Boys' State include news anchor Tom Brokaw, basketball player Michael Jordan, astronaut Neil Armstrong and former President William Clinton, who won the senatorial race at Arkansas Boys' State and went on to become one of the two delegates from that state to Boys' Nation.

Editors Note: Hugh Yoho is Boys' State Chairman for American Legion Post 520

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NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL NEWS

Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council

By Jim Summers
President

The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council (GHSNC) held their monthly General Meeting on Thursday, April 10. There were 21 of 23 council members present. Key issues affecting the area were discussed and acted upon. The GHSNC area will have a professional security company patrolling our neighborhoods pending D.O.N.E. and City

Attorney approval. The plan is for Security Specialists, a private company, to patrol the community three times a night for three nights per week in order to curb the increasing graffiti, gang activity, and illegal activities in general.

GHSNC is again offering Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) courses to train community members how to be prepared, take care of themselves and to aid each other in the event of a major disaster or emergency situation. The seven-week course will be held weekly on Tuesdays starting at 7:00 pm, at the First Baptist Church, 11011 Hayvenhurst Ave., Granada Hills, beginning April 29. The course is taught by the LAFD and free to the public. Food and refreshments will be served.

Mark your calendar for the Grand Opening and Dedication Ceremony of Fire Station 87, Saturday, May 3, 2008, at 10124 Balboa Blvd., 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, Granada Hills. Meet the firefighters and see the facility that will help keep our community safe! There will be helicopter fly-overs, refreshments, face painters, Wilshire the Fire Dog, firehouse chili, jumpers, music, and tours of the station and more.

GHSNC for Board of Director elections are planned to be held on Saturday, October 4, 2008, at the Granada Hills Street Faire under the supervision of the City of Los Angeles Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. Changes in the City Charter could have allowed the GHSNC to extend the currently elected board's terms until 2010, but the GHSNC Board of Directors voted very strongly in favor of maintaining the current two-year-long terms for board members.

After contacting other neighborhood councils in other areas, many members of the GHSNC realize that several major issues and concerns regarding our neighborhoods are also the same as other NCs across the Valley, and also citywide. Land Use Planning and Zoning issues appear to be the priority for most NCs; Bonus Density (SB 1818), "Granny Flats," AB 1866, Baseline Mansionization Ordinance, decisions by Area Planning Commissions overturning Planning Department recommendations; variances along with entitlements awarded without adequate explanations of the findings. Because other concerns such as group homes, graffiti, and crime issues are also of a citywide issue, GHSNC is also reaching out to other NCs to jointly work toward resolutions of these problems.

GHSNC's next meeting is Thursday, May 8, 2008, 7:00 pm, at our new location, the First Baptist Church of Granada Hills, 11011 Havenhurst Ave., Granada Hills. Our featured guest speaker will be Frank Bush, head of L.A. City's Department of Building and Safety, who will be addressing code violations that occur in our area. For more information about GHSNC or local issues of concern, please visit our website at www.ghsnc.org or call 818-321-6259.

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Mission Hills Neighborhood Council

By Betty Ley
Corresponding Secretary

The following persons are the newly elected members of Mission Hills Neighborhood Council (MHNC): Chairperson- David Guzman, Vice Chairman-Filip Popescu, Treasurer- Mariann Smith, Drew, Recording Secretary- Betty Horton, Corresponding Secretary- Betty Ley, Board Members- Marguerite "Jann" Copley, David Crawford III, Cristian Mejia, and Rex Quimpo.

The Board of Governors and Stakeholders General Meeting meet the second Tuesday of each month at San Jose Street School Auditorium, 14928 Clymer St. at 6:00 pm. Presentations begin at 7:00 pm, unless otherwise posted. All stakeholders are encouraged to join us at 6:00 pm, Tue., May 13, for a presentation by the 911 Communication Center. Got Questions?

We also encourage you to participate in the following committees...

Beautification & Cultural Affairs: Chair: Yolanda Anguiano, meets at 6:30 pm, the third Tuesday of ea. month. Next meeting is Tuesday, May 20.

Outreach/Youth Outreach: Chair: Cristian Mejia, meets at 7:00 pm, the fourth Wednesday of ea. month. Next meeting is Wednesday, May 28.

Senior Resource: Chair: Betty Horton, meets at 11:00 am., the third Wednesday of ea. month. Next meeting, Wednesday, May 21.

Zoning and Land-Use: Chair: Jerry Lagunzad, meets at 6:30 pm. the second Monday of ea. month. Next meeting: Monday, May 12. Come and share your ideas regarding our Mission Hills Community Plan.

MHNC Project updates:

"San Jose Elementary School Lighting Project: MHNC as submitted a demand warrant to install 17 light fixtures in front and throughout the campus. It took several emails, phone calls, and a conference call to make progress thanks to our Project Coordinator, Manny Figueras, CD7, Brian Holder from LAUSD, Janet Johnson, President of San Jose Elementary and the MHNC Board.

"The Andres Pico Adobe Project": The project has been completed and funded. A new pathway and remodeled restrooms are now ADA accessible.

"MHNC PA System": We received approval on the purchase of a new PA system from Equipment Emporium, a local business here in Mission Hills. We received approval on April 2.

"Fire Station 75 Mission Hills": To show appreciation for our brave fire fighters, the MHNC, in partnership with Providence Holy Cross Hospital and Restaurant Design owners, Jack and Pamela Goldfinger of Mission Hills, MHNC is purchasing for Mission Hills Fire Station 75, a much needed BBQ Grill to thank Captain Lawrence and the entire crew for their continued dedication and bravery in saving lives. Thank you. You are all truly American Heroes.

"Historical Fountain in Memory Gardens": The repairs to this historical fountain have been completed and the fountain is recycling water again. Now we need assistance from CD7 and the City to rid the area of transients, illegal vendors and illegal trash dumping.

Panorama City Neighborhood Council

By Tony Wilkinson
Chairman

The Panorama City Neighborhood Council (PCNC) elected nine of its 21-member

Board of Directors in its second election within six months. The group elected in March joins the members elected in September, 2007. This Board will serve until the City Clerk holds elections for all neighborhood councils in 2010.

During the meeting on March 27, the new Board began with a moment of silence for Richard E. Hass, who was elected as an Alternate. However, Richard, sadly, lost his battle with cancer.

The Board also elected council officers and committee chairs. Tony Wilkinson is Chair of the Board, Jose Sandoval-Vice Chair, David Schleidt-Treasurer, Narine Zardarian-Secretary. Committee Chairs include Lee Hopson-Rules, Viviano Montes-Outreach, Fred Whitebook-Land Use, Faarax Sheik-Noor-Commerce, Walter Clarke-Finance, and Jose Sandoval-Public Safety. Yessenia Banuelos was reappointed as Youth Representative. The Board also filled two vacancies by appointment, naming Martin Geisler and Errol Santos to the Board.

Other Board members are Willie Batts, Paul Carrion, Ron Collins, Pamela Gibberman, Dianabel Gonzalez, Roni Holloway, Heidi Lennartz, Salvador Ortega, Andreas Samson and Christian Shea. Alternates are Michelle Klein-Hass, Martin Ladin Jr., and Angela Sichler.

The council, not content with handling only post-election business, handled the following: authorized its Finance Committee to seek and lease office space; authorized its Public Safety committee to take the lead in helping to form a Panorama City Community Emergency Response Team (CERT); voted to support a 17-home small lot subdivision at 13321 and 14431 Nordhoff Street; and voted to oppose the proposed city ordinance that would require home sellers to repair sidewalks as a condition of escrow.

The PCNC meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at Mission Community Hospital's Medical Office Building, 2nd Floor, 14860 Roscoe Blvd, P.C., at 6:30 p.m. Please attend and participate in building the future of our community. We are looking forward to meeting you. For more information email info@pcnc.us, or, lawilkinson@acm.org, or call 818-785-9355

News From Arleta

By Al Piantanida

The Arleta Neighborhood Council is back in business. A special meeting was held on March 25, at Beachy Ave., Elementary School, to elect new Executive Board members.

Dates will be posted for general and committee meeting in the near future.

On Saturday, April 12, Councilmember Tony Cardenas, Council District 6, held a community tree planting day at Branford Park. Youth volunteers from Arleta and Sun Valley were given a class on planting procedures by the Tree People organization.

Approximately 50 trees were planted throughout Branford Park, which was badly in need of a facelift.

Building and Safety: Clean up of the abandoned buildings on the corner of Osborne St. and Woodman Ave., was accomplished by teamwork of the LAPD, Council District Six Field Office and the Arleta Community Watch Dog group working with city departments to coerce the property owner to clean up the entire property and install a fence so that it is no longer unsafe and no longer an eyesore.

Small Business growth in Arleta is on the rise. The availability of office space is at a minimum level. We are encouraging business to take pride in our community and to get involved with our Chamber of Commerce, Neighborhood Council and join a Business Watch group.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

The City Ordinances of Yesteryear

By Marlene Hitt

When Tujunga became an incorporated city on April 21, 1925, a board of trustees was elected. Serving were Misterys Russell, Zachau, Myers, Miller, and Bodkin. Mrs. Bertha Morgan was city clerk and A. Adams was treasurer.

The first action was to draw up ordinances, beginning with the ruling that a copy of all ordinances was to be posted in three places: the Legion Hall (Bolton), the Tujunga Valley Bank, and the Tujunga Drug Co. These ordinances were for "the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety of the people of Tujunga."

Ordinances for compensations amounted to \$25 per month for the clerk, \$150 for the marshal, \$1 for the treasurer. Commissioners were appointed of streets, sidewalks and parks, of health and safety, of city planning and zoning, and of fire and police. The President of the board was the Commissioner of Finance.

Punishment was fixed for any board member, or any person, for using profane, vulgar, loud or boisterous language, for interrupting the proceedings, for refusing to be seated, or for members who neglect attendance at meetings. The fine would not exceed \$25, or imprisonment not exceeding ten days.

License fees were set for businesses: dance halls \$30

per quarter, billiard halls \$4, traveling circuses \$5 per day. Lumberyards paid \$6 a quarter as did drug stores and sanitariums. The penalty was to be a fine of not more than \$100 and imprisonment for no more than 50 days in the city jail.

After a couple of years a new law was fixed. There was to be no spitting on the sidewalk. When the town was first incorporated and the trustees were adopting the health ordinance this inhibition was left out because Tujunga had no sidewalks to spit on. It was thought that the rocks and dirt were the safest and most sanitary place for public cuspidors.

Germs were a problem. Many of the rules had to do with communicable diseases. Quarantine rules and disinfection rules for the public, for doctors and undertakers were strictly spelled out.

Ordinance 19, section 16 states that no milkman shall take away bottles or receptacles from any place in which people were ill with contagious disease. This included "scarlet fever, cholera, typhus, diphtheria, plague, membranous croup, leprosy, anthrax, meningitis, whooping cough, typhoid fever, dysentery, trachoma or tetanus." It was unlawful for such milkman, dealer, or distributor to consider any more sales until the health department investigated.

The subjects of cesspools, sewage, and privies were addressed. Even in 1925 no privy or water closet was to

be operated without a water-flushed toilet.

There were rules about the transporting of steam shovels over city streets, about obstructing streets, of "moving" city property. Two blasts of the policeman's whistle meant that one must stop.

There was to be no driving on sidewalks. Vehicles traveling after sunset must have a lamp on the left side of the vehicle.

Dogs, which attacked and bit a person, were to be killed by their owners. Druggists were not to dispense intoxicating medicines. Firing of guns was not allowed and there were severe restrictions on fireworks.

It was stated that "vehicles may be parked on both sides of Michigan Avenue at an angle of forty-five degrees between Fischer and Sunset."

We wouldn't want to place any bets on any game not mentioned in section 330 or we could be fined \$500 and could spend six months in the Tujunga jail. Each person in town was expected to keep checking on the ordinances and to follow them.

A copy of two pages of this document as well as a roomful of others can be seen at Bolton Hall Museum beginning at 1:00 Sunday, March 16 and remaining until Fall of 2008. *Editors Note: Mrs. Hitt is a former Poet Laurette and Historian for Little Landers Historical Society*

continued from cover - HOME DEPOT

environmental impacts related to the project need to be fully evaluated to insure the health and safety of our students and staff."

In March 2007, a 20 page report signed by Gail Goldberg, Director of Planning, asserted "that the structural changes at the building site qualified as a 'project' according to the Foothill Blvd. Corridor Specific Plan" and the subsequent LA City Council vote in August, 2007, that declared the Home Depot a "project", and subject to full EIR review. The No to Home Depot Campaign has noted these findings on their website: "The Planning Department determined the traffic study submitted by Home Depot in 2005 was flawed and a new study has not been conducted. The project site is more than a mile from the closest freeway on-ramp; Home Depot expects 18 to 20 diesel truck deliveries PER DAY; the project site address includes a property tie, 10355 Woodward Ave. and 8040 Foothill Blvd. Apperson Elementary, Special Needs School is 450 feet from the project site; The loading dock, where diesel trucks will idle while unloading, is about 50 ft. from the posted school zone; Home Depot typically stores Hazardous, Flammable, and Toxic materials outside. Even stored in-

side, these materials pose an extreme hazard; The Haines Canyon Flood Control Channel is approximately 30 ft. from the proposed Garden Center. The former auto repair area and the status of the underground oil clarifiers must be evaluated for leakage of petroleum contaminants. The property is surrounded by residences on 3 sides, one side being a Senior Citizens Mobile Home Park. Noise from diesel trucks and forklifts will exceed acceptable levels for residential or sensitive areas."

In view of the above, the STA and the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council, which also oppose Home Depot on the former Kmart site, wonder if Ridley-Thomas' questions, listed below, lend credence to overlying concerns that an EIR must be completed as required by California Law.

1. Introduce and describe yourself to the group. How long have you lived in the neighborhood? In what ways do you feel connected to Sunland-Tujunga? Do you have children or relatives living in the neighborhood?
2. Whether you support or oppose the Home Depot at the proposed site, do you acknowledge the project would benefit some people? What benefits? Who would benefit most?
3. Whether you support or oppose Home Depot's current proposal, do you acknowledge the project would have some harmful effects on some people? What harms? Who would suffer most?
4. What concerns you most (favorably or unfavorably): Home Depot itself, the proposed site, or some thing else?

5. Given the level of local opposition, do you see the possibility of a win-win solution? For example, would you favor another site, or are there other things Home Depot could do to make the project more acceptable to those who oppose it?

6. What do you consider the greatest assets in your community? What do you like best about Sunland-Tujunga? Why?

7. What views do you have about how the quality of your life can be improved in the Sunland-Tujunga area?

Home Depot agreed to apply for new permits by March 2008, but did not apply until April 22. According to the press release, from Redgate Communications representing Home Depot, dated April 22, "The permit would allow The Home Depot to revitalize the vacant building by repainting the exterior of the building with complementary colors, improving access to the store for people with disabilities, improving landscaping, limiting exterior signage, encouraging bicycle access and incorporating new energy efficient heating and air-conditioning systems." A letter addressed to "Neighbors" from Jeff Nichols, Real Estate Director - Western Region HD, dated April 16, appeared to indicate Home Depot's intent, "The temporary hold enables HD to apply for a new permit to allow the reuse of the existing building." This statement has over 4000 stakeholders wondering what happened to the preparation of an EIR as previously voted on by the City Council in August 2007. HD is keeping their option to sue the City open in case they don't like the outcome of the Project Permit Compliance Review.

Abby Diamond, Secretary of the STA and No to Home Depot Campaign said, "We're not there to negotiate with Home Depot. HD should follow the rules, which means they must file the project permit application and go through the environmental assessment. Then they would be operating in good faith. There should be no other discussion." *Contact NVR Investigative Reporter: katharine.russ@charter.net*

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Saturday, April 26

Home Depot Dialogue Meet
Mt. Gleason Middle School S-T
1 pm - 4 pm

Plant Sale
Little Landers Historical Society
Rios Dress Shop lot
9929-31 Commerce, S-T
9 am - 1 pm

Sunday, April 27 - May 18

Renaissance Pleasure Fair
Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area
15501 E. Arrow Hwy, Irwindale
10 am - 7 pm

Sunday, April 27

Celebrate LA
Rose Bowl Stadium, Pas.

Exhibit & Culmination Performance
"Emma's Journey"
C-SUN Art Dept.
AC300 Purple Bdg, Nrdge

Monday, April 28

Sign up for CERT Training
7 Wk Course by LAFD
S-T Elks Lodge #2098
10137 Commerce Ave
6 pm 818-562-1963

Tuesday, April 29

Sign Up for CERT Training
7 Wk Course by LAFD
First Baptist Church of GH's
11011 Hayvenhurst, GH
7 pm

Community Meeting Re: New School Draft Enviro Assessment & Design
Olive Vista Mid. School
14600 Tyler, Syl
6:30 - 8 pm

Wednesday, April 30

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

Community Plan Meeting
LVT Library
12002 Osborne, LVT
5:30 - 7:30 pm

STNC Exec.Comm.
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
7 pm 951-7411

Thursday, May 1

"Jewels of the Foothills" Art Show/Exhibit
May 1-31
S-T Library
7771 Foothill, S-T
5 - 9 pm 249-7270

Hansen Dam Meeting
Concerns Addressed
Lake View Terrace Rec. Ctr.
7 pm

PCNC Land Use
Mission Comm. Hospital
14860 Comm. Hospital
14860 Roscoe, 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
call 352-2484

Saturday, May 3

CPR & 1st Aid Classes
By LAFD Capt. Gerlick
S-T Elks Lodge
10137 Commerce, S-T
\$20 4 am - 12 pm 563-1962

Zero Waste Plan
Citywide Conference
Our Lady of Angels
Cathedral Plaza
555 West Temple. LA
7:30 am - 1 pm

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Sports Appeal"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1 - 4 pm 352-3420

Grand Opening Ceremony
LAFD Station 87
10124 Balboa, GH.
10 am - 2 pm.

STA Bake Sale
Cornor of Woodward
& Apperson, S-T
8 am - 1:30 pm 269-2155

V.O.I.C.E. Spring Picnic
Camp Max Strauss
Glendale
12 pm - 3 pm

Sunday, May 4

Historic Home & Garden & Landmark Tour
Begins at Bolton Hall
10110 Commerce, S-T
10:30 am - 4 pm 446-0399

Annual Poker Ride
S.F. Rangers/Sidekicks
San Fernando Ranger Station
Clybourn & Foothill LVT
9 am - 6 pm

Monday, May 5

STNC-DAC (Land Use)
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
7 pm 951-7411

Tuesday, May 6

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Sports Appeal"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1 - 4 pm 352-3420

Teens & Money
Sylmar Library
14561 Polk, Syl
6 pm

Wednesday, May 7

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

Campaign Finance Workshop
Northridge United Methodist
Church Kendall Building
9650 Reseda, Nthdg
7 - 9 pm. (dinner at 6:00 pm)
RSVP 360-5919 or
earlya@earthlink.net

Thursday, May 8

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

Valley Watercolor Society
Carl Purcell - Guest
9235 Balboa, Enc
7 pm \$5 Don.- Refresh. Satur-
day, May 10

Saturday, May 10

Tia Chucha's Cult. Center
10258 Foothill, LVT
1 - 3 pm

Little Lander Historical Soc.
Wild Flowers & Native Plants,
Theo. Payne Foundation
10110 Commerce, S-T
1 pm 951-1401

Sunday, May 11

HAPPY MOTHERS DAYS

Mother's Day Ceremony and Breakfast
S-T Elks Lodge
10137 Foothill, S-T
9 am 352-2098

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Sports Appeal"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1 - 4 pm 352-3420

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Tuesday, May 13

CM Wendy Greuel
SHPOA
Tierra del Sol
9919 Sunland, SH
7:00 pm

Community Plan Meeting
LVT Library
12002 Osborne, LVT
5:30 - 7:30 pm

Little Landers Historical
Presents McGroarty Arts Center
10110 Commerce, S-T
1 pm 951-1041

Sun Valley NC,
Gen Meeting.
Villa Scalabrini Ret. Center
10631 Vinedale, SV
6:30 pm

PCNC Commerce
Wells Fargo Bank
8548 Van Nuys Blvd., PC
2:30 pm 785-9355

Mission Hills NC
San Jose St. School
12928 Clymer, MH
6 pm

Wednesday, May 14

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

STNC Gen. Meeting
Board Installation
Mount Gleason Mdl. Sch.
Mt. Gleason, S-T
6:30 pm 951-7411

Basic Car 19A23 Meeting
Timothy M. Falco Comm. Room
11121 N. Sepulveda Blvd. MH
7 pm (818) 838-9843

Thursday, May 15

Community Forum
LA Neighborhood Initiative
UC Davidson Conferm. Center
3415 So. Figueroa, LA
213-1822 x20

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

S-T SERVS
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill S-T
7 pm 563-1962

Friday, May 16

Family Fun Days
Our Lady of Lourdes
7327 Apperson, S-T
6 - 10 pm 353-1106

Saturday, May 17

Repair Your Credit Workshop
Sun Valley Library
7935 Vineland, SV
2 pm 764-2270
sunval@lapl.org

Family Fun Days
Our Lady of Lourdes
7327 Apperson, S-T
12 - 10 pm 353-1106

CERT Semi-Annual Refresher
Long Beach Fire Dept
Training Center
2249 Argonne, Long Beach
8:30 am - 4 pm
www.CERT-LA.com

Pancake Breakfast
Devonsire Police Station
10250 Etiwanda Street, Nrdg
7:30 - 10 am

2008 Arbor Day LA
Griffith Park, Center Area,
4730 Crystal Springs, LA
10 am

Sunday, May 18

Family Fun Days
Our Lady of Lourdes
7327 Apperson, S-T
12 - 10 pm 353-1106

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Sports Appeal"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1 - 4 pm 352-3420

Monday, May 19

STNC-DAC (Land Use)
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
7 pm 951-7411

Tuesday, May 20

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Sports Appeal"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1 - 4 pm 352-3420

Wednesday, May 21

Mobility 21 Coalition Meet.
Guest. Councilmember Greuel
Marriott Woodland Hills
21850 Oxnard. Woodland Hills
7:30 am - 12 pm Foothill
Optomist

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

Wednesday, May 21

Pacoima NC
Youth & Family Center
11243 Glenoaks, Pac

Thursday, May 22

Panorama City NC
Mission Comm. Hospital
14860 Roscoe, PC
6:30 785-9359

Sunday, May 25

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Sports Appeal"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1 - 4 pm 352-3420

Monday, May 26

MEMORIAL DAY

Tuesday, May 27

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Sports Appeal"
10110 Commerce, S-T

Docent Tours
1 - 4 pm 352-3420

Basic Car 19A61 Meeting
Timothy M. Falco Community
Room
11121 N. Sepulveda, MH
7 pm 838-9846.

Wednesday, May 28

Foothill Optimist
Fairways Restaurant
Hansen Dam Rec Center
10400 Glenoaks, Pac
6:30 pm

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

STNC Exec Board
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
7 pm 951-7411

Teen Council
Sylmar Library
Polk, Syl

Thursday, May 29

STNC Budget Comm
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
7 pm 951-7411

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*Captain Joe Curreri
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Los Angeles Police Department*

Greetings from Foothill Community Police Station. As I write this article, I'm happy to report that crime throughout the Foothill Area is down 3.3% when compared to the same time last year. We can not maintain

that success without your help. I know I must sound like a broken record by now, but until our vehicle related crime drops dramatically, I will keep beating the drum, asking everyone out there to better secure your vehicles and the property therein.

Right now in the Foothill Area, vehicle related crime accounts for approximately 54 percent of all our crime. We at Foothill Station have put a number of strategies into place in an effort to reduce this trend, but significant success will not be realized as long as people in the community leave their vehicles unlocked while parked, leave valuables in the passenger compartments which

are easily seen by passersby and choose to leave their vehicles parked on darkened streets overnight instead of parking in a garage, when available. The crime fighting strategies we have put in place have reaped benefits in the form of increased arrests of those who burglarize from and steal vehicles. Increased arrests; however, do not always equate to crime reduction, if the opportunist criminal is provided with a bountiful supply of easy target victims. Help us reduce the opportunity for crime by better securing your vehicle and its contents. Keep the thought of reducing the opportunity of crime in mind with your home and your person as well.

Los Angeles – On April 17, the results of a state audit were released showing that 50,000 or more of approximately 58,000 registered sex offenders in California have little supervision upon completion of parole. The finding showed that at least 49 sex offenders' registered addresses matched the addresses of 46 licensed childcare facilities across the state.

Alarcon Supports Increased Tracking of Sex Offenders

Based on this audit, the state took emergency action and suspended the licenses for nine of the homes, one of which is in Pacoima. The owners of the Pacoima facility

say that it is their son who is registered as a sex offender and he has not lived in the location for over seven years. If this is the case, that registered offender has been registered at an incorrect address for over seven years, putting the reliability of the current tracking system at issue.

"The fact that a child care facility can operate when there is a registered sex offender at the location is unacceptable, whether or not the offender is actually living in the home," said Councilmember Alarcón. "There is something horribly wrong with either the tracking system or the

system that certifies child care facilities or both – but this is a dangerous breakdown no matter how you look at it."

Councilmember Alarcón introduced a motion to the City Council last year that would require landlords to check Megan's List before renting an apartment to a tenant and requires the tenant to notify residents of the Megan's List website. This legislation was spurred on by an incident of multiple registered sex offenders who were housed at a hotel in Sylmar and was championed by local community and Neighborhood Council members.

system that certifies child care facilities or both – but this is a dangerous breakdown no matter how you look at it."

Watch Your Wallet

The Economic Stain

By Tomi Lyn Bowling

Imagine a bright white tablecloth covering a huge table. Eyes travel lazily over the neatly pressed table cloth then, one by one, focus on a round and slightly moist coffee cup stain near the edge.

The existence of this unsightly stain is discussed as every media and news outlet on the planet speculates how the ring got there and what can be done to fix it. The declaration from these outlets charging all manner of responsibility for the outrageous effects grows with every report. All eyes become fixed on this small stain. The population grows weary of hearing about it so they try to look away but at every turn someone again brings their attention back to the coffee cup stain.

While all eyes focus on this little ring, no one notices nor mentions that the coffee urn is now dumped on the center of the table, all over the white table cloth. Now, a gallon of hot coffee and the accompanying grinds that

mound in the center are seeping through the nice white tablecloth. As the seepage extends on, the mess begins spilling over onto the floor. Still, all eyes remain glued to the coffee cup stain, unaware of the mound in the middle or the massive puddle forming on the floor.

The mortgage meltdown has grabbed the attention of the world. Horrified by this tragedy no one has mentioned the more obvious situation. What kind of economy would drive this large population into borrowing their future? The facts are right there but because no one is speaking about the underlying cause, all eyes remain on one outcome and not the true situation. The truth is that a family of four used to own their own home, often times supported by just one of the parents and though times were tight they were still able to afford to live comfortably. This time was not so long ago, maybe thirty to forty years past. The sole supporter may have made a living as a milkman! A milkman that cared for a family with children and did so in a home they made a mortgage on until it was paid off!

Today, on a milkman's kind of wage, a person could scarcely afford renting his or her own apartment. There is

a much bigger problem here. This is not a melt down of the mortgage market, it is a meltdown of the entire economic system that has left the average family in a situation where their every day survival depends on their FICO score and their ability to borrow money and use credit cards. How much one can afford has become insignificant. Now, the consideration is how much monthly payment one can make to enable themselves to borrow more money! In many cases, the borrowing of money is to pay for living needs. Sending children to college, surgery, health care, auto repairs, emergency trips for family, are just some of the "rainy days" one used to save for. These are all now unexpected expenses that are paid for by credit or worse.

We need to stop focusing on the coffee cup stain and figure out how to clean up the pot of coffee and all of those grinds. The ECONOMIC stain is much larger than the mortgage industry collapse. We are focusing on the wrong problem! *Editors note: Ms. Bowling is a licensed Real Estate Broker and also a columnist for the North Valley Reporter*

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COMMENTARY

Can't Fight City Hall? Sure We Can!

By Jim Summers

What recourse does a small, semi-rural neighborhood have against unpopular and seemingly obvious overbuilding by out-of-state billion dollar corporations of and commercial edifices that are considerably out of character with their neighborhood and established laws and ordinances?

To face this intrusion of financially motivated behemoths, residents, homeowners and small business owners are forming a new coalition group against the commercial overbuilding of the neighborhood shopping center on the northeast corner of Zelzah and Chatsworth St. in Old Granada Hills. The current landowners, Regency Centers (a huge national corporation with over 450 shopping centers under their control) is applying for the numerous variances and entitlements required to build a Kohl's Department store to, exactly, their liking.

Actually, Regency Centers may already be able build what they want and the way they want it "by-right" by: (1) demolishing more existing retail office structures (thereby keeping within the density cap of the expanded shopping center), and (2) abiding by the local laws set by an already established Granada Hills Specific Plan to maintain the

character of the community. Unfortunately, Regency Centers have continually ignored these alternatives because corporate profits are not being fully maximized. The opponents of the proposed overbuilding believe that the shopping center's owners knew perfectly well what they were allowed to build by our current laws when they purchased the property about two years ago, and ever more-so, that a huge regional Big Box discount store will destroy the unique character of their quaint town of Old Granada Hills.

L.A. City Councilman Greig Smith of the 12th Council District has sided with the corporate landowners, Regency Centers, and has worked with them for many months. In a letter to the North Valley Area Planning Commission, Councilman Smith clearly stated that there was "overwhelming" support of the project, and that the only concern was the traffic at one intersection. The official planning case file shows that both these statements were not true, and a further clarification from the elected representative Greig Smith may be required.

The City of Los Angeles' Planning Department made numerous recommendations to deny the proposed overbuilding project, but despite that, the appointed North Val-

ley Area Planning Commission approved the project. Many of the opponents of the project feel that this case has not been treated as a planning issue based on established law, at least at the L.A. City levels – the initial public hearing, APC hearing, Appeal of decision, PLUM decision, and the L.A. City Council. Many are surprised that our elected representative sided with the billion dollar big businesses (Regency Centers, Kohls, McQuarie – a foreign silent partner) against the clear majority of his constituents. Others are not surprised – seems like higher trash fees, water and power fees are just not enough.

Suing the City of Los Angeles may become more common in planning and land use issues as constituents realize that their best interests may not be upheld by their elected representatives and city departments – and that they have further recourse with an excellent chance of winning in the end. For information or support the fight against Big Box over development in Granada Hills, contact oldgranadahills@yahoo.com or call (818) 363-7955. *Editors Note: Summers is a 45-year resident of Granada Hills, licensed Realtor, co-founder of Old Granada Hills Residents' Group, First-VP of GH Chamber and, President of GH South NC.*

How LAX Affects the North Valley

by Denny Schneider

The City of Los Angeles owns and operates LAX, the dominant airport of Southern California. LAX expansionists want it bigger and are again raising the equivalent of a race card, "safety" to justify their ambition. They contend that without expansion north into Westchester and Playa del Rey LAX operations will be unsafe.

No one disputes that the LAX facilities are antiquated, dilapidated, and an embarrassment to this great City. Some people use modernization and expansion synonymously. However, this is unjustified and incorrect. LAX and Denver International Airport (DIA) have about the same number of aircraft operations per year. LAX accomplishes this on a limited area of about 3,500 acres with four runways, whereas Denver International has six runways on about 35,000 acres. Prior to September 11, 2001, when LAX was operating at a pace of 68 million annual passengers, LAX peak hour activity maxed out and spilled into the adjacent hours. Like peak rush hour auto traffic when people push the limits to keep moving, this increases the risk of accidents. Long term, regional air commerce capacity will be restricted unless additional airport sites are improved soon. Bill Withycombe, FAA Administrator for the Western-Pacific Region, has acknowledged that LAX will be constrained as air traffic

demands grow resulting in economic loss to the region.

LAX is the number one terrorist target on the West Coast. Traffic congestion wastes time and increases business costs. Infrastructure deficiencies, such as the 405 freeway, create long commutes and restrict access to LAX, and regional capacity increases at other than LAX is more time and cost effective now. This justifies pushing for expansion of other regional airports. Since September 11, 2001 domestic flights has increased in the region while there are less at LAX. This results in air commerce related jobs being disbursed. Further, passenger and cargo activity concentration in one location presents an undue risk on our economy should any type of disaster occur at LAX.

Until last year, the majority of incursions at LAX occurred on the southern complex—not on the north—where a "cookie cutter" fix is being proposed to mirror that of the south. No assessment of ground air traffic patterns has been made on the north comparable to that done for the south. There are significant differences between the two complexes although both are parallel runways; i.e. gate locations relative to the landing point, taxiway turnoffs, and only single side access to the runways on the north compared to dual side access on the south.

Incursions remain a problem at LAX. Rather than devastating the northern border communities several less

expensive, more cost effective alternatives for addressing incursions are highlighted by the 2007 GAO report and by several other groups. These include runway status lights with improved ground radar, better runway and taxiway signage, better Air Traffic Control equipment, and restoration of increased numbers of Controllers with better experience and training.

But what does all this mean to you in the North Valley?

LAX on-airport construction is borne by traveler and airline fees along with federal funding. "Shared" items, such as arterial road improvements around LAX are funded proportionately out of general infrastructure funds. This means that your local projects may not be funded.

Because there has been so little expenditure to fix LAX, fees are some of the lowest. This encourages airlines to concentrate the flights that you want at LAX instead of at airports that are more convenient for you. Your extended time and cost of getting to LAX is borne by you, the traveler.

In summary, unless we regionalize our airports now we are failing to plan for the future. The longer we wait, the more expensive it will become. *(Editors Note: Denny Schneider is President of the Alliance of Regional Solution to Airport Congestion)*

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Carrick's Journey -Part Eight

By Tomi Lyn Bowling



In the dead of night things are quite still, even there, in a deep wooded area. In this place one could hear the owls in the nearby trees, though the further away they were the more faded

were the hoots. Whisker's snore was much louder than Drake's. The two snores together were so loud they kept any local animals away from their camp, including the owls, which seemed to be keeping an eye on the campers from a distance. The fire was but a distant memory now. With no one awake to replenish the wood, it had simply burnt itself out. Snapping, crackling and the typical sounds from a forest were mixed in with the distant hooting, and loud snores from the two drifters

After walking all day and virtually no sleep the night before, Drake was quite soundly sleeping. Drake awoke briefly, he thought, and though his vision was blurry he was sure he saw a gorgeous, dark haired young lady with two men standing in guard by her side. Surely that was a dream, she was a sight, a real beauty, and tough looking, just the way Drake thinks a woman should look. He just wasn't sure if what he saw was a dream, or maybe he'd really awoken, but he fell fast asleep again before solving the mystery.

It was two hours later that the two drifters both awoke to find they were no longer in the forest. Kicking and yelling, Drake, fearing he'd been taken hostage, arose with such a fight that the two guards had to restrain him. Whiskers was already tied up and could not move. Whisker's awakening involved only shouting cuss words at the captors. The two men managed to restrain Drake long enough for the third figure to tie him up as well. Both drifters were shouting out questions at the captors, "who are you?", "why are we here?", and of course, "where are we?". But not one of them replied. It was clear that the captors were not going to answer any questions. Both men, Whiskers and Drake, looked at each other and shrugged. They were obviously in some kind of transportation. The walls were made of some kind of metal, the quarters were cramped and the motion could be felt as they trodded along. It was clear from the front window that there was no light yet, it was still dark. It was very cold in this place so blankets were put on top of both drifters as they went along. Drake tried to talk to Whiskers but Whiskers took the stance that it was better to keep quiet and not give these people any clue as to who they were or why they were sleeping in the woods. So it remained quiet except for the sounds of their travel as their destination approached and the craft slowed down to a stop. To be continued....

SOUND OFF

L.A. Animal Control: "What Happened to the Truth?"

On March 8 2008, Animal Control Service picked up three horses, which were abandoned on my property. One of the horses is sound, but the other two suffer from Navicular disease, and are probably lame for life. It is important to note that I offered to move the two lame horses to my rescue operation in New Mexico. However, against my advice, but unable to afford to feed the horses, Joshua Smith, who held power of attorney over them, panicked and called the authorities at East Valley Animal Control. Hugh Brifman, who represented himself as an officer of Animal Control, told Joshua to deal directly with Captain Knipscheer. The Captain told him that the two lame horses would definitely go to a rescue and that she might even know someone who would take the mare. Even though the legality of Joshua's power of attorney was in question, Captain Knipscheer admittedly decided to ignore that fact and sent Officer Dancy to pick them up.

Officer Dancy also guaranteed Joshua and me that the horses with Navicular were going to a rescue organization. The third horse would be held for thirty days then be available for sale. She wrote on the paperwork signed by both Joshua and myself, that the two lame horses would go to a rescue.

Thirty days later, after trying to get reassured that the third horse went to a good home, a friend and I went to the auction to bid on her, we discovered that the other two horses were on the auction block also. One of them even sold, however, when the new owner realized the horse would need special shoes for the rest of its life, he didn't pick it up.

When I spoke to Captain Knipscheer, she said that after thirty days, the city could do whatever it wants with the horses... and tough luck.

It is obvious that the paths for those two horses leads right to the slaughterhouse and we are faced with the stark reality that, given the above verifiable information, some employees of East Valley Animal Control may be found to be much less than truthful. Even after Captain Knipscheer and Officer Dancy swore up and down and signed an affidavit stating those horses would go to a refuge, the shelter is trying to sell those poor lame creatures to the public.

I believe this is shameful! I also believe it must be illegal! This kind of underhanded activity by Animal Control needs to be exposed and stopped. While they represent themselves as animal humanitarians, they obviously don't care about the animals in their charge that we expect them to protect.

Kimberly Harris
Sunland

Where's the Justice?

My brother got a citation for putting up one yard sale sign and he had to pay \$193.00 as a fine-- and rightfully so. He should have known better. However, I reported some signs that say "LEGALIZE L.A." to my council office in Pacoima and they are still there. I also went through Sylmar this morning and tore down a bunch of them. Oh, please! Don't tell me that these people trying to legalize Los Angeles have special privileges like the illegal people in our country have.

Joe Pinoy Lozano, *Semper Fidelis*
USMC 1954-1957

Welcome Home Depot – Not!

I hear these questions from people who think they might welcome a Home Depot to Foothill Blvd. in Sunland-Tujunga: Aren't we missing out on jobs that Home Depot promises to residents of Sunland-Tujunga? Aren't we leaving a lot of tax revenue on the table that would otherwise be provided by Home Depot?

These are fair questions. However, the Sunland-Tujunga Community Plan and Foothill Boulevard Corridor Specific Plan call for a pedestrian friendly community center providing for a vibrant shopping experience at that location. To my way of thinking, a Home Depot wholesale-to-contractors outlet is anything but pedestrian friendly; doesn't provide what most call a vibrant shopping experience; and certainly is a violation of S-T's Community and Specific Plans.

This 11 acre site – the last sizable piece of property in Sunland-Tujunga available for commercial development – could and should be developed per the Community Plan into something that provides spaces for much needed retail, service and entertainment businesses. IMAGINE on this site, small retail outlets, services, a movie theatre or bowling alley and a good-sized general merchandise store – someplace to buy the kinds of household items, school supplies, clothing and more that used to be available from K-Mart. Someplace where moms and kids can stop after school, instead of having to drive 13 miles to the Target in Empire Center, or more than that, to shop in Glendale or Pasadena. While they are there (outside of S-T), they do other shopping, get something to eat, go to a movie and the tax dollars are lost. IMAGINE how much tax revenue and how many new jobs might be generated from a variety of badly needed retail and service oriented businesses that Sunland-Tujunga now lacks. IMAGINE the positive impact on already-existing local businesses as S-T residents stay "home" to shop. On the other hand, the San Fernando Home Depot store is only six miles from Sunland Park, and the Glendale Home Depot isn't much further. Far fewer people find it necessary to make frequent trips to Home Depot than to a general merchandise store or to an area where a number of stores and services are clustered.

Now, imagine a Home Depot at that location with the traffic from predicted deliveries of 18-20 semi truckloads per day from Home Depot's suppliers, and from all the contractors' trucks racing in and out picking up their daily supplies. This is all happening just as the kids at Apperson Elementary School right next door are starting their school day. IMAGINE the diesel pollution; noise and dust from idling trucks; the noise generated by forklifts and other heavy equipment typical of a Home Depot; and the potential hazards from chemicals and solvents stored and sold in a Home Depot. IMAGINE the impact of all of this on the homes next door, Apperson school and the Haines Canyon Flood Control Channel that runs across the back of the property within feet of the building.

To help you imagine how the property at 8040 Foothill Boulevard might be developed to provide what the Community Plan calls for and what the residents need, I invite you to take a look at the following websites: www.no2homedepot.com and www.sunlandtujungalliance.com

Editors note: *Ms. Smith is a community activist and member of both organizations.*

Sheri Smith, Tujunga Resident

continued from cover - SPECIAL ORDER 40

according to a legal memorandum filed by Judicial Watch in 2006.

The lawsuit titled *Sturgeon v. Bratton, et al.*, is due to go to trial on June 30, 2008, before Judge Rolf Treu, Dept. 56, and will decide the fate of Special Order 40, regardless of what amendments are attached.

Jamie's Law, drafted by Walter Moore, presently running for the Office of Mayor in Los Angeles, says, in part, "Section 2. No Sanctuary for Gang Members: The policy of this City from this point forward is, and shall be, to deny any "Sanctuary City" protection to illegal aliens in gangs. Neither the Mayor, the Chief of the Police nor any other City employee shall prohibit or inhibit Los Angeles Police Department officers from lawfully investigating possible violations of federal immigration laws by gang members.

Section 3. Mandate To Investigate, Arrest And Assist: The Mayor and the Chief of Police shall immediately develop and implement a plan for the Los Angeles Police Department, in cooperation with Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the United States Attorney, to identify, arrest, deport and/or prosecute and imprison gang members who are in the country illegally, without waiting to catch them committing murders or other crimes before enforcing the immigration laws against them.

Section 4. Reporting Requirement: The Mayor shall provide the City Council and the public with quarterly written reports describing in reasonable detail the City's efforts to implement Jamie's Law. The reports will include, at a minimum, the number of persons arrested by the Los Angeles Police Department for violating federal immigration laws, and the number of those persons who are gang members."

In a 2007 radio interview, Police Chief William Bratton said, "We estimate about 70% of the shootings in the City are a result of gang violence." According the LAPD's website, our city has 41,000 gang members, and only 9,630 police officers.

"As we continue to take our case to City Council, we need to remember why it's necessary," wrote candidate Moore.

Write NVR Investigative Reporter: Katharine.Russ@Charter.net

THIS & THAT

HERE'S MY CARD

13th Annual Historic Home Tour Coming Up

The Sunland-Tujunga Coordinating Council and the Little Landers Historical Society are co-sponsoring the 13th Annual Historic Homes, Garden and Landmarks Tour, Sunday, May 4th, 2008, 10:30 am to 4:00 pm. The Tour, considered the highlight of spring for the community, will include five extraordinarily unique homes that are local landmarks. Participants always look forward to the homemade refreshments that are always served at one of the sites. The Groups are also introducing the first Verdugo Hills High Student Art Exhibit to be held at the McGroarty Art Center as part of the Home Tour. Up to 65 students will display their art interpretation of the history of Sunland-Tujunga. They will be competing to receive monetary rewards donated by both organizations. The proceeds from the Tour will be shared equally by the Bolton Hall Museum and the Verdugo Hills High School Scholarship Fund.


Tickets are \$20 each. Children under 12 are free when accompanied by an adult. Tickets can be purchased in advance at Bolton Hall Museum, which can be reached at 818-352-3420; McGroarty Art Center, at 818-352-5285, or pick your tickets up at Century 21 Crest, Sunland. Call Fran and Ray, at 818-446-0399, or Sally Hall, at 818-370-8809.

Local Group to Perform in Sunland-Tujunga



Photograph by Barry Wiggings

"Kaedmom", a local Celtic group from Sunland-Tujunga, will be playing at Arnie's Café in Tujunga on Monday nights starting April 21. Dale La Duke, a teacher at A Sharp Music School, leads the band



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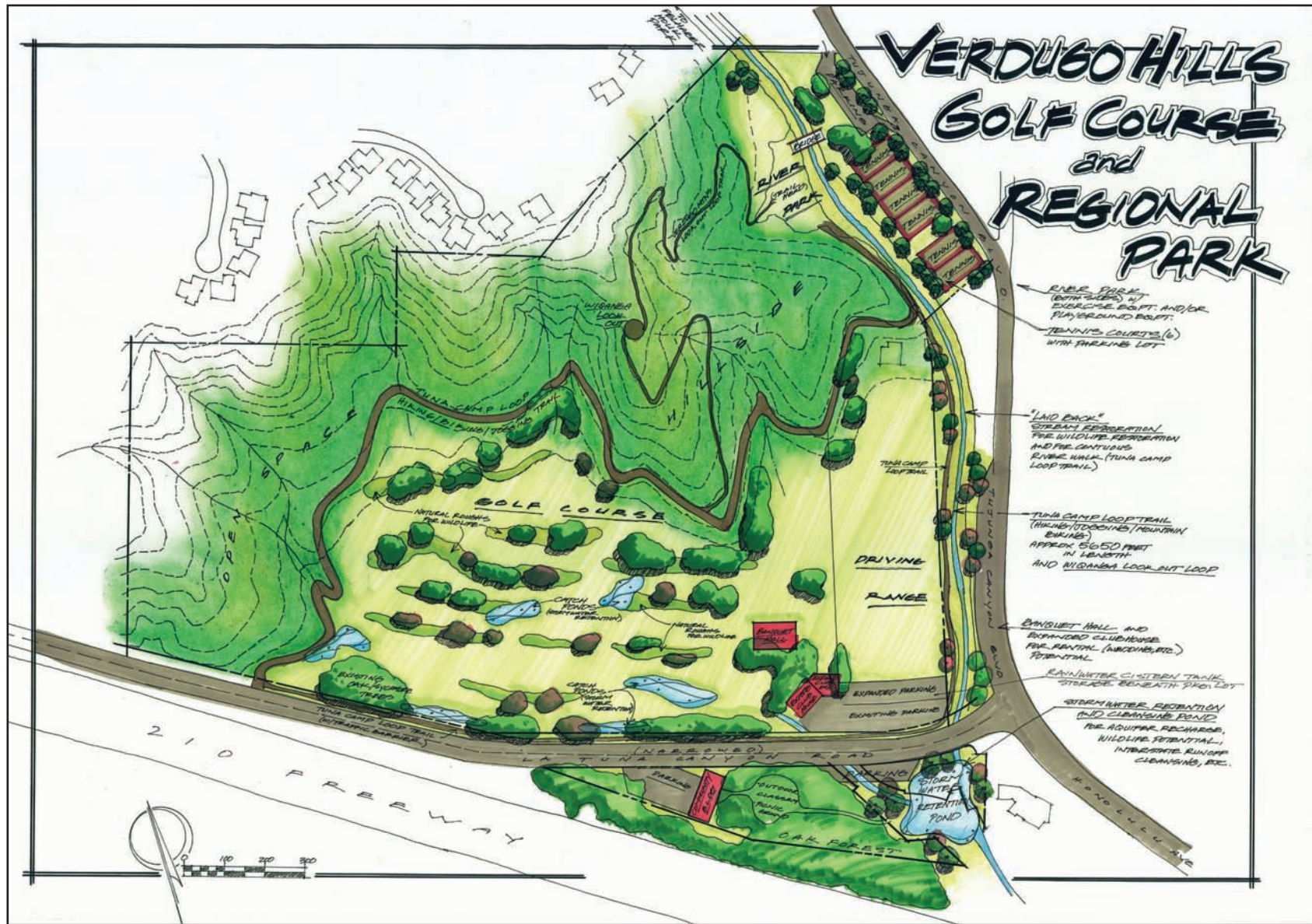
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LA E & E (ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT)

A Sustainable Verdugo Hills Golf Course is Possible



Community supporters say a public purchase of the VHGC is more than about saving what is there now. The VHGC and extended property have the possibility of providing even more recreational opportunities and more access to open space and would serve the entire region. Visit *Envisioning a Regional Park* for information.

By Karen Keehne Zimmerman

A few weeks ago a small group of community members walked the Verdugo Hills Golf Course (VHGC) property with David Somers, Environmental Review Coordinator for the City of Los Angeles. Somers, who is overseeing the Environmental Impact Report (EIR), requested the site tour. He wanted to see this golf course he had been reading about in the public comment letters submitted for the EIR. For someone who doesn't play golf, I jumped at the opportunity to tag along and see the property for myself. I wasn't disappointed.

Before walking the 18-hole golf course we sat down under the oak trees which shelter the picnic tables near the starter window. We talked about the history of the area, studied aerial views of the property, and discussed the EIR process. As we walked the course, Rich Toyon, a VHGC Committee member, talked about Audubon International's Signature plan for sustainable golf courses, a plan that promotes ecologically sound land management and water conservation. Viewing the extended property, Rich pointed out some of the possibilities for additional kinds of recreation, referring to the design he created, suggesting ways in which the property could become a regional park.

And that, in large measure, is what I saw that day...the possibilities for the Verdugo Hills Golf Course. I can tell you first hand, walking the golf course is great exercise! No golf carts on this course. While hiking the existing maintenance trail it was easy to imagine an improved trail system offering community members more opportunities to enjoy the open space, wildlife habitat, and a good hike. Viewing the parcels of undeveloped land just north of the golf course, Rich pointed out other recreational prospects, including tennis courts and a small park area running parallel to the Blanchard Canyon channel. At a time when recreational parkland is in seriously short supply, the Verdugo Hills Golf Course property could be expanded for even more recreational enjoyment.

During the last year community members have voiced their support for saving the golf course. They do not want a 229-unit housing development in its place. Our elected officials have been listening. Last November Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael Antonovich pledged \$1.7 million towards the purchase of the golf course. Los Angeles City Councilmember Wendy Greuel has brought together staff members of the City of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles, Glendale and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to look into ways of funding a purchase.

The developer has expressed interest in selling the property. Progress is being made; however, a public purchase is not a sure thing. Our community needs to continue spreading the word and building support for the Verdugo Hills Golf Course and Regional Park. Considering what is at stake, it would be a shame to let it slip away. For more information about efforts to save the Verdugo Hills Golf Course, visit www.savethegolfcourse.org *Editors Note: Ms. Zimmerman is a community activist and member of the "Save the Verdugo Hills Golf Course Committee".*

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