

City Attorney Cuts Secret Deal With Home Depot *Neighborhood Councils Up in Arms*

By Katharine Russ

While those in power might debunk the words “secret meeting” surrounding Home Depot’s Stipulation Agreement signed by the City Attorney, Rocky Delgadillo, one would be hard pressed to find a single Neighborhood Council who knew about the agreement before it was signed.

According to a press release issued by Home Depot, The Home Depot will apply for a new discretionary permit for the Sunland-Tujunga store they want to open, specifically applying for a ‘project permit compliance review’ in March 2008. The application will include interior remodeling work, which was approved previously in the permit currently subject to litigation, and minor exterior improvements.

In the stipulation, the City agreed to expeditiously process The Home Depot’s permit application, with a maximum processing time not to exceed five months, and will follow its customary practices for determining the appropriate level of environmental review.

The litigation would be dismissed if the store is approved and would resume if the store is not approved.

Joe Barrett, President of Sunland-Tujunga Alliance (STA) said, “No one was given advance notification that this deal was in the works - not the STNC, the STA, or even Councilmember Greuel, according to her office. No input was sought from the very community this deal would affect, and this agreement was reached between the City Attorney and Home Depot behind closed doors.”

Over a hundred angry residents and business owners attended a Town Hall Meeting on March 15. Many people felt the secret deal was “another slap in the face”



Sunland-Tujunga Town Hall Meeting, March 15, 2008

to the community and were shocked when the City Attorney, Tayo Papoola, who is handling the Home Depot case, referred to the community of Sunland-Tujunga as a “Special Interest Group.”

In a letter to Neighborhood Councils and residents, Cindy Cleghorn, President of the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council, reminded all that, “In 1999, voters in the City of Los Angeles approved a charter reform measure that included a provision requiring the creation of a citywide system of neighborhood councils.” Cleghorn further remarked, “The STNC, as always, expects the City to follow our laws and procedures thoroughly. A Home Depot at the former K-Mart site is a critical issue for our Sunland-Tujunga community which will impact us for many years. We expect to participate in every aspect of this process, and it should be open and transparent.”

Over four thousand members of the community fought to keep Home Depot out of Sunland-Tujunga citing dozens of negative impacts to the community, when the City Council voted to declare the Home Depot a “project subject to Environmental Review.”

“We’re extremely dismayed that the City Attorney made this agreement with Home Depot without including those of us who are affected by the deal. The continuing threat of a lawsuit does not create an environment of resolution or show good faith on the part of Home Depot. We will continue to demonstrate how inappropriate this store is for the Sunland-Tujunga Community, and make certain this Project receives a

Continued on page 5

Palmer’s Mini-City Bites the Dust

By Katharine Russ

In a stunning turn of events, the Los Angeles City Council voted 10 - 5 to halt the Las Lomas project, to stop the land annexation into the City of Los Angeles, and to reject the Supplemental Fee Agreement proposed by Councilman Richard Alarcon. Other defenders of the Las Lomas project included Councilmembers Ed Reyes, Jose Huizar, Herb Wesson and Bernard C. Parks.

Councilman Greig Smith said, “The Las Lomas project was too big, too dense, and couldn’t be planned in a worse place. It would have a devas-



Greig Smith presents opposition to Las Lomas

tating effect on traffic, the environment and would unacceptably strain our water, infrastructure and public safety resources.” The huge coalition of opponents to Las Lomas who came together to say no to this project have our gratitude and praise for stepping up to the plate to defend our community.” During a telephone conversation with Councilmember Richard Alarcon, who presented the motion for the agreement that would have required Palmer pay for the study to be completed by the Planning Department, said he presented the motion in order to assure that the city received payment for their time. During the Council Hearing, he said he was not in favor of the project as it stands today, but we should let the city complete the EIR, and then if they still don’t want it, just vote no.

Hundreds of residents, members of Neighborhood Councils, Officials from, the City of Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County and City, along with Community Organizations voiced opposition for Las Lomas citing water shortages, pollution, and threats to the Wildlife Corridor. Noted Professors reviewed several active faults in the area, the San Gabriel Fault, the Placerita Fault, the Beacon Fault and the Whitney Fault and called it “the most seismically active area in the nation”. Traffic studies revealed the potential for over 70,000 additional

car trips to already congested roadways and noted two major earthquakes in recent history that collapsed freeways.

Kim Thompson, former Chairperson of the Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council and member member of the “Stop Las Lomas” committee, attended the City Council meeting and remarked, “Councilman Smith did a phenomenal job and having a broad coalition of non-partisan elected officials, other cities, community and homeowner groups, neighborhood councils, environmental organizations and Chambers of Commerce certainly helped him. There were far too many negatives and absolutely no positives. Las Lomas is urban sprawl and is not aligned with the Mayor’s vision of smart growth. It’s refreshing that the City of Los Angeles may now change the way it does business because of this proposed project.” He questioned why would we vote for the fee agreement when we don’t want or need that project.

What happens next is up to Dan Palmer, who isn’t talking and efforts to reach Carlyle Hall, Attorney for Las Lomas, for comment was not successful. Nick Velasquez, Director of Communications for City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo, said, “Decisions about litigation are really in their hands. We stand ready to defend the City in any case.”

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Appropriation of funds Questioned

By Katharine Russ

At the March 20, 2008 Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council (FTDNC) meeting, the Neighborhood Council weighed in on the appropriation of \$100,000 in funds by Council District Seven (CD7) Councilmember Richard Alarcon. The monies from the Hansen Dam Environmental Awareness Center Fund are now being earmarked by Alarcon to underwrite the relocation of a Truck Driver Training program from Long Beach to Lopez Canyon landfill in Lake View Terrace, where the funds originated as community mitigation money in the 1990s.

According to Alarcon during a speech at a luncheon at Mission College last week, sponsored by the Sylmar Chamber of Commerce, 25 per cent of the students enrolled in the program would be required to be residents of Council District 7.

Bart Paul, local resident and Board Member of the Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council (FTDNC) said, "Most of the stakeholders and board members were quite supportive of a Truck Driver Training Program. But many were surprised that the decision had already been made to designate four acres of the former landfill for this purpose without informing the Neighborhood Council within whose boundaries Lopez Canyon sits, or that this was even under consideration."

Several community members say they have not received answers to their questions about the program, questions such as how applicants will be qualified, will a valid California Drivers License be required, will out of state license holders be eligible, and will U.S. citizenship be required. Some also point out that since the business is moving from Long Beach to Lopez Canyon, it is not a new program. Therefore, why should that company be qualified to receive local community special funds, particularly since only 25 percent of their students will be coming from District 7 and the fact that the funds were originally destined for the community immediately adjacent to the landfill, an area that includes all of Lake View Terrace, parts of CD 2 and Los Angeles County, while only a portion of CD 7 falls within that area.

The basis of the discussion about using these funds for the Truck Driver Training Program lies in the Fund's use which is specified in the City Administrative Code. Sec. 5.332.3. Hansen Dam Environmental Awareness Center Fund states: (b) The purpose of the Fund shall be to receive 50% of the City's share of the revenue from the sale of electricity generated under the Lopez Canyon landfill gas lease and 50% of the revenue from the sale of

the Lopez Canyon landfill gas collection system, and to make expenditures to finance the operation of the Hansen Dam Environmental Awareness Center and the construction and programming at the Lakeview (sic) Terrace Branch library.

About the Community Impact Statement vote, Paul further remarked, "John De La Rosa, Representative for CD7, informed the meeting that the wording "Hansen Dam Environmental Awareness Center Fund" was no longer operable; that the fund was a discretionary fund wholly controlled by CD7; that some sort of Environmental Awareness Center would be built at some future time within the Children's Museum thus satisfying the community's desires; and that the \$100,000 would be spent on the truck driving training." Mary Ann Geyer, a FTDNC Board member, also asked De La Rosa how the truck driver training program could qualify as acceptable use under the current administrative code. When De La Rosa did not give a clear answer, the FTDNC passed a motion to issue a Community Impact Statement saying the funds in the account that they currently reside are clearly for Hansen Dam Environmental Awareness per the City Administrative Code.

In response, De La Rosa warned the Board, "Don't make this an issue that sets one community against another. The Councilman has full discretion over these funds. Anyone can bring projects to the Committee, but it does not have the last word, the Councilmember does."

The Committee in question is a quasi-formal oversight committee that meets at the discretion of the Councilmember. De La Rosa indicated that the members of the committee included Phyllis Hines, who was present in the neighborhood council audience, but neglected to mention FTDNC Board Member Billy Hays who was appointed to the Committee by Alarcon last month. According to a press release by Alarcon, the committee was formed to prioritize community projects and widen the area served to Pacoima, Sylmar and Lake View Terrace. Alarcon re-appointed community member Phyllis Hines, who also sat on the original advisory board and the Landfill Advisory Committee that meets quarterly but apparently has no connection with the funds. In the past few months, the Lake View Terrace Improvement Association and the Proyecto del Barrio, non-profit organizations, have also presented projects to the committee in hopes of getting a piece of that \$1,000,000. The FTDNC Board raised questions as to the transparency of this process since this committee's meetings aren't well publicized, the committee doesn't have a clear mission statement,

operating procedure, or stated criteria for project selection, and doesn't publish minutes.

The Hansen Dam Environmental Awareness fund is an offshoot of the Lopez Canyon Landfill Amenities Fund. Originally, the Lopez Amenities Fund was a \$6 million dollar mitigation fee paid to the City of Los Angeles to benefit the local community whose neighborhoods were impacted by the landfill operation, neighborhoods within a five mile radius of the site. CD7 Councilmember Richard Alarcon set up the first Amenities Fund and a handpicked Advisory Committee to recommend projects from which the community would benefit. When Alarcon was elected State Senator, the fund administration passed to the next Council Representative, Alex Padilla.

During Padilla's tenure, the \$6 Million was spent along with all the fees from another fund, "Cambria Energy", which transferred 50% of its income from methane energy generation into the now infamous Hansen Dam Environmental Awareness Center Fund whose specifics were clearly codified in the Los Angeles City Administrative Code.

Upon Alarcon's return to City Council, the original \$6 million fund had been spent and the Environmental Awareness Center Fund was slated by Padilla to be given to the Los Angeles Children's Museum – a non-profit corporation not owned by the City of Los Angeles but by private entities – to build their project. Land purchased by the same fund had already been handed over to the Children's Museum corporation for the project. At the 11th hour, Alarcon, with pressure from the FTDNC, stepped in last year to retrieve the \$2 million over three years from the Children's Museum project, pointing out that the Museum was always intended to be built by private donations, not public money.

CD7 asserts 100% discretionary control of the retrieved funds and this appears to be fact based on money allotted to the Children's Museum, however the specificity of the City Administrative Code on the use of the funds raises the question. Clearly the community for whom the funds were intended had a specific plan for the Hansen Dam Environmental Awareness Center funds – to build a branch library, which has been completed, and to build an environmental awareness center which has not happened. Alarcon asserts that such a center within the Children's Museum – a non-profit foundation external to the City that charges City residents admission fees – satisfies the second desire. On this, the community today isn't so sure.

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St. Patricks Day

The Sunland-Tujunga Elks Lodge knows how to celebrate St. Patricks Day. Chef Earl Brouhard, PDDGER, prepared a scrumptious Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner for their community's celebration on Friday, March 15. The diners then danced their feet off to the live music of "Working Stiffs"



COMMUNITY NEWS

City Graduates 31 Crisis Response Team Volunteers

\$20,000 Grant Provided by The Allstate Foundation

Mission Hills –Thirty-one new Crisis Response Team (CRT) members were honored during their graduation ceremony at the LAPD Mission Station in Mission Hills on Thursday, March 13. Their class training was supported by a \$20,000 grant from The Allstate Foundation, which was made possible by the All State Corporation. Their gift was very timely and special due to the city's necessary budget cuts this year.



Each team member received 48 hours of extensive training over an eight-week period. The new CRT graduates are now prepared to hit the streets at a moment's notice to attend to individuals and families who may be traumatized during emergencies. Crises can take the form of fires, shootings, major accidents, and other catastrophes that often result in significant loss or deaths.

The CRT, a program of the Mayor's Office of Homeland Security and Public Safety, is the largest all-volunteer crisis intervention system in the nation. The Los Angeles Police and Fire Departments have called upon the team nearly 6,000 times since its founding in 1998. Representatives from departments as well as their family members and friends were on hand to congratulate the volunteers as they received their certificates in a room filled to capacity.

For further information regarding this program, you can contact Jim.Klapthorn@Allstate.com and/or Jeffrey.Zimmerman@lacity.org.

Olde Towne Reveals Renovation Plan

By Elaine Brown

You can sense the excitement and satisfaction up and down the Historic Commerce Avenue district in Tujunga, as the first project to restore their local business area begins. Holes are being dug for the seventeen old-fashioned streetlights, which are being spaced over both sides of the two block business district between existing streetlights.

Commerce Owners and Business Restoration Association, Inc. (COBRA), is the organization formed nearly three years ago to bring business and property owners, located in historic Commerce Avenue, together in order to move forward with their desire to improve their old-town business district.

COBRA's efforts to secure the lights came about after their property and business owners voted overwhelmingly to pay increased monthly rates for electricity. Councilmember Wendy Greuel, District 2, worked closely with COBRA to bring this project to fruition.

Editors Note: Elaine Brown is President of COBRA



Supervisor Yaroslavsky Attends Little League Opening Day



The month of March signifies the opening day of Little League competition. Supervisor Yaroslavsky (right) attended opening ceremonies of the East Valley Little League in Sun Valley, and paid tribute to real-life baseball heroes to San Fernando Valley kids: Tony Servera (center), "founding father" of the East Valley Little League, originally known as "Sun Valley Baseball Little League" the 1960's; and Frank Miceli (right), whose dedicated efforts and commitment to his community's kids helped revive the Little League team in 2004, and was responsible for rehabilitating the existing ball fields and building support to construct two new ones.

A Special Service for Seniors



Clara Espinosa assist Ms Gladys Mullins in boarding the ABD Senior Transportation Van for the trip home.

By Maurice Pichon

The Alicia Broadous-Duncan Multipurpose Senior Center in Pacoima is in its thirty-sixth year of service. The center serves our Senior population in Arleta, Lake View Terrace, Mission Hills, Pacoima, Sunland-Tujunga, Sylmar, parts of Sun Valley and San Fernando. The Center, sponsored by the Valley Interfaith Council, in conjunction with the Los Angeles Department of Aging, opened in 1971.

Our Seniors have the opportunity to receive nutritious meals, exercise, recreation and stimulating socialization. They are able to interact in supervised small groups with others who share similar experiences and interests. Depending on personal preferences, they also have a choice of dancing, singing, arts, crafts and interacting with others while working on joint creative projects.

Our Seniors are provided with a safe, secure environment at the Multipurpose Center because management monitors their staff to ensure compliance with all existing State and National standards and guidelines governing Adult Day Care Centers.

An added benefit of the Day Care Center is that family members, who provide care for a Senior in their home, can receive respite. Their family members deserve a break from the 24/7 requirements of some Seniors. The caregivers of a Senior in the home, not only take care of their Senior's daily needs but also must still support their family's normal requirements.

The center also provides curb to curb transportation for their more frail members, 65 years and older. Arrangements must be made in advance before the day of need. Call (818) 834-6100, for more information.

The Alicia Broadous-Duncan Multi-Purpose Senior Center is located at 11300 Glenoaks Blvd., Pacoima, and is open from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday thru Friday. For general information, call: (818) 834-6100,

S-T Chamber and Elks Casino Night



Sunland-Tujunga Chamber of Commerce and Elks Lodge #2098 joined together for a night of fun, food and games at their Annual Casino Night held at the Lodge on Saturday, February 23. They had a tremendous amount of prizes plus a silent auction Nobody went home hungry or empty handed.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Preserving our Neighborhoods



Councilmember
Wendy Greuel

In an effort to promote sensible land-use policy, I introduced an initiative last month that will limit development on sub-divided lots in Los Angeles. This measure will reduce the number of homes built on

small parcels and protect the character of our neighborhoods across the Valley.

All too often, we see single family homes torn down and individual houses built on multiple sub-standard lots. Currently, the City is often unable to prohibit this kind of building because the out-of-date lot lines were grandfathered into planning codes. Parcels created prior to 1946, when the City adopted its zoning code, are exempt from the new codes that standardize lot size across the City. As Los Angeles land prices have soared, land speculators have been scouting single family homes built over multiple legal sub-standard lots. We are now looking at ways to merge lots that were previously subdivided, but have been used as single lots for decades.

I will continue to push policies that allow density where the infrastructure exists, but promote preservation in single family neighborhoods. In the past several

months we successfully secured an ordinance to limit development along hillsides and we drafted a citywide anti-mansionization ordinance. Preventing development on sub-standard lots is a critical next step in our work to promote sound land use.

In a separate effort to support our historically equestrian communities, I have created a Horse Advisory Taskforce to direct equestrian-friendly policy for the City.

Several months ago, a local business, which had processed horse manure for LA stables and horse owners, moved out of the City. With the departure of this critical business, waste-processing rates skyrocketed. The City Council adopted an emergency measure to process 300 tons of horse manure at a local recycling plant; however, the situation highlighted a need for a more comprehensive and coherent equestrian policy in Los Angeles.

Our Horse Advisory Taskforce will provide proactive counsel on issues of zoning, trails, open-space preservation and manure processing. Further, we will push for horse owners to register their horses. We must accurately document the size of the equestrian community to successfully advocate for equestrian needs.

Los Angeles is a unique city because we allow for equestrian communities, hiking trails and single family neighborhoods amid dense urban development. We must balance the needs of these two communities by promoting sound policy.

Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council

By Tina Cameron
Corresponding Secretary

The Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council (SVANC) will be holding elections on April 5, 2008 at John H. Francis Polytechnic High School Auditorium, 12431 Roscoe Blvd., Polls are open from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Anyone 18 years of age or older, who lives, works, owns property, or is a member of an organization within the boundaries of SVANC, is considered a stakeholder and eligible to vote. You will only need to affirm your SVANC stakeholder status. There will not be vote by mail or write-ins for this election.

Care Ministries, Sun Valley's own community college, is moving forward with their Master Plan, on properties located at 9000 Sunland Blvd, between Penrose and La Tuna Canyon. The Master Plan, in the works since 2004, combines lots to create retail space, classrooms, parking lots, and a community center. Parking and gridlock traffic were the major obstacles voiced by La Tuna Canyon Homeowners, Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council, American Legion and area residents, about Care Ministries' expansion. Care's application includes a \$100,000+ payment to the City for traffic control and signal synchronization. Mary Benson, representing the Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council voted to approve the project with conditions for landscaping, set back and Mission style architecture. "We want to respect the American Legion Post and not have this project overwhelm it." Benson continued, "One thing we could ask is to have the Department of Transportation to do a traffic count on Sunland Blvd and Glenoaks. We already have gridlock at peak hours, and the last thing we want is beautiful new retail no one can get to because it's surrounded by semi-trucks and trailers parked on the street."

A representative from the Sun Valley Library asked for assistance from the SVANC after the library was broken into. 900 DVD's were stolen, and computer monitors vandalized. The SVANC donated \$5,000 towards replacement of the materials and computer equipment. Anyone with information about the break-in please contact LAPD Foothill Division at 818-756-8866.

Sidewalk Astronomers have organized the Hansen Dam Star Party at the Hansen Dam Aquatic Center the first was on March 21st and the next one will be April 11th 7:30-9:30pm. Telescopes will be available for viewing. There will be a class on learning to make your own telescope and a lecture presented by World Renowned Astronomer, Bob Alborzian. Use the Dronefield Entrance to the park off Osborne St. For further information, call 818-841-0548 or visit www.sidewalkastronomers.us.

Sun Valley Honors Police and Firemen

By Mike O'Gara

Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council (SVANC) and Sun Valley American Legion Post 520 hosted a Police and Firefighter Appreciation Breakfast on Saturday, February 16.

They united to serve a very substantial breakfast at the Legion Hall to the police and firefighters who serve their area.

The following distinguished guests in attendance were: Councilmembers Tony Cardenas, District 6 and Wendy Greuel, District 2, Captain Joseph Curreri, Commanding Officer of the LAPD Foothill Division, Field Representative Luis Sanchez from the Mayor's office, and the ROTC color guard from John H. Francis Polytechnic High School. The more than 100 also included, Police Officers, Fire Fighters, members of the SVANC, American Legion and neighbors.

A special thank you goes to the following: Rory O. who arranged for attendance of the ROTC, which was a high light of the event, Boy Scout Troop 210 and their parents for their participation, and help from the Kitchen group under the guidance of Commander Al Barba, Dee



B., Ken O., Mark H., Rueben E., Patrick H., John T., Debbie K., Jerry J., Harold D., and Julie Roddy.

This was a special and lasting thanks to all our Police, Fire Fighters and everyone wearing a uniform, who sacrifice for us every day.

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council



Cindy Cleghorn, STNC President

We have 28 candidates running for 21 seats on the STNC board. Election day is April 5th but if you want an opportunity to get to know the candidates, please attend the next Candidate Forum on Thursday, April 3 at 7 p.m. See the last page of this issue of the North Valley Reporter for Election Day info. All three neighborhood councils will hold elections the same day. Get out the Vote! Preliminary Election results will be announced at the April 7 STNC meeting.

At the last STNC meeting Sergeant Costi returned for a visit. He was injured almost a year ago but is now back to work. He spoke for a few minutes about what happened and also about his future at LAPD to which he was promoted to Sergeant.



Sergeant Costi

This week the City Planner for our area, Katherine Peterson, held the first of many small group meetings regarding our Community Plan Update. If you have not signed up to participate in one of these sessions, I strongly encourage you to do so. It was very interesting to voice ideas about issues, improvements, ideas and key sites in our community to protect and preserve. For more info, visit the STNC web site.



YMCA - New Executive Director, John Loussarianian presented Youth Programs

The Neighborhood Council Stakeholder Assessment Survey is currently being held. Please pick up a copy, fill it out and send it in to the STNC office. We have a June deadline to turn them in.

Next DAC meeting will feature a "walkabout Field Trip" on Commerce Avenue. If you'd like to join us, please call the STNC office to RSVP at 818-951-7411.

Foothill Communities Select New Poet Laureate

By Marlene Hitt

It's time to announce the new Poet Laureate of Shadow Hills, and Sunland-Tujunga. The Poetry and Literature Committee has finalized the results of its search and has chosen a young man whom we consider to be a good representative of our community. Though the other seven applicants are as capable, only one could be chosen. However, if any person or group in the community is in need of a program or reading, please call a member of the committee and we can reach any of several poets.

However, the elected and selected is a young man who has been in Sunland for a shorter time than most. On one of his poems he describes the Watermelon Festival by saying, "Eating watermelon in a watermelon eating contest is something you should do at least once before you die." Then he ends with the words, "I got 2nd in my heat, a Marine who I'm pretty sure was part vacuum won the whole thing... it was okay though, I lost out on a medal, but I gained a community."

This young man comes to us with previous experience in the world of poets. He was featured in readings at The National Poetry Month Reading Bliss Art House Café in Hollywood, CA, "Living Room Poetry", in Canoga Park, Monday Night Poetry, Pasadena Public Library, the Cobalt Café, Canoga Park, and Corners of the Mouth Linnea's Café San Luis Obispo, CA. In addition to the readings in which he was featured, he has read poetry in over 30 open readings.

Our new PL was a competitor in a collegiate forensic (speech) team all four years of college and was a four-time national qualifier in poetry interpretation, as well as the 1999 Nebraska Collegiate State Champion in poetry interpretation. In publication experience, he has been published in many prestigious anthologies, magazines and journals. He has written two books.

With his exciting presentations, this new Poet Laureate will represent us well, not only here in town but throughout California as well.

Please come to meet our newest ambassador at the Passing of the Laurels Ceremony to be held at McGroarty Art Center on April 13, at 4:00 pm.

(Editors note: Mrs. Hitt is a former Poet Laureate)

Continued from cover - Home Depot

full Environmental Impact Report (EIR)," said Abby Diamond, Secretary, Sunland-Tujunga Alliance, Inc.

The City Attorney will initiate a mediation program to facilitate dialogue between Home Depot and the Sunland-Tujunga residents, which is being referred to as a "Community Stakeholder Committee", but no one knows who will be on this committee and several question why Home Depot feels that the City Attorney must facilitate these meetings. Both Barrett and Cleghorn have expressed apprehension regarding how these stakeholders will be selected.

City Attorney, Rocky Delgadillo, and Director of Planning, Dale Thrush, did not respond to questions

asked relative to the Stipulation Agreement. Michael Higby, owner of the prominent Los Angeles blog, Mayor Sam's Sister City--Home of Los Angeles Politics, threw in some parting thoughts, "Lip service to the community's concerns is about all citizens got from their local politicians. It appears that Home Depot has given our elected officials at least 10,000 reasons (\$2000 to Rocktard alone) to put the store in Sunland-Tujunga. Attorneys from Home Depot's law firm, Latham and Watkins, have given Delgadillo nearly \$23,000, according to City records. City Council Member Wendy Greuel, who represents the area, has made noise that she's opposed to the store in Sunland-Tujunga.

Miss Teenage California Hopeful



Jennifer Lee will be representing her hometown of Sunland-Tujunga in the Miss Teenage California 2008 Scholarship Program.

Jennifer, a 19 years old second-year college student attends the University of California, Riverside. Her double major is in Political Science and Business Economics, and she carries a respectable GPA. She is a leader in Phi Alpha Delta: Pre-Law Fraternity, a member of the Chinese Student Association, Associated Students of UCR and Circle K.

She is also actively involved in campus programs such as CalPerg. She serves her host community by participating in community beautification events, organizing various donation drives, and providing after school tutoring for local students. She mentors a child who has a deceased parent, and also creates care packages for battered women and children shelters.

Her several honorary awards include a Presidential Scholarship and the Miss Teenage California: Citizenship Award. Jennifer's goal is to become an attorney and starting a law firm that specializes in human rights. Her ambition includes creating a foundation that high lights the importance of education and provides free tutoring and assistance to those who cannot afford it. Her Instructors, peers, and friends speak highly of her not only because of her desire to achieve, but also because of her strong ethics and winning personality.

If you would like to help sponsor Ms Lee's campaign to win the scholarship program, contact her at: jenniferlee88@gmail.org

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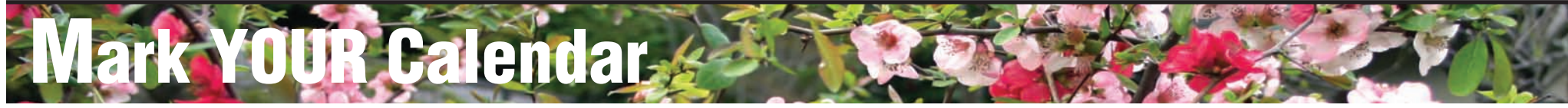
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Arl - Arleta, **G.H.** - Granada Hills, **K.C.** - Kagel Canyon, **LA** - Los Angeles, **LVT** - Lake View Terrace, **LTC** - La Tuna Canyon, **M.H.** - Mission Hills, **NR** - Northridge, **NVCH** - North Valley City Hall, **Pac** - Pacoima, **S-T**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

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Sunday, March 30

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

Monday, March 31

Granada Hills North Gen Meet.
Van Gogh Elementary School
17160 Van Gogh, GH
6:30 pm

Tuesday, April 1

April Fools Day
Crime Free Seminar for Multi-Unit Mgrs/Owner
LAPD Foothill Div
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
6-8 pm 756-8866

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Sports Appeal"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-342

Community Plan Meeting
Fenton Ave. School
11828 Gain St. LVT
7-9 pm

Wednesday, April 2

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

Thursday, April 3

STNC Candidate Forum
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
7-8 pm 951-7411

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

Panorama City NC
Land Use Comm
Mission Community Hospital
14860 Roscoe, PC
6:30 pm 785-9355

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

Friday, April 4

***Adult Bookstore ***
Public Hearing, Baude Center
6262 Van Nuys, VN
9:30

April 5 - May 18

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

Saturday, April 5

STNC Election
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
10am-4pm 951-7411

Neighborhood Preparedness
Ambassador Program
Sunland Rec. Center
8701 Foothill, S-T
9 am - 1 pm 213-473-9921

Sunday, April 6

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

Citrus Sunday
LAFD Station 18
12050 Balboa, GH
9 ma

Monday, April 7

STNC-DAC (Land Use)
Field Trip & Walkabout
on Commerce Ave
Meet at 10024 Commerce
6:30 p.m. 951-7411

Relay for Life Meeting
13515 _ Hubbard, Syl
6:30-7:30 pm 521-7252

Tuesday, April 8

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

Sun Valley NC, Re: Tujunga/Hansen Spread Ground
Villa Scalabrini Ret. Center
10631 Vinedale, SV
6:30 pm

Wednesday, April 9

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

Thursday, April 10

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

Wednesday, March 26

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

Panarama City NC
Knob Hill Bank. Center
8229 Van Nuys, VN
5:30 pm 785-9355

San Fernando Pioneer
Memorial Cemetery
Foothill & Bledsoe, Syl
9 am - 12 pm 365-5860

STNC Executive
Committee NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
7pm 951-7411

Thursday, March 27

S-T Lions
Joselitos Restaurant
7308 Foothill, S-T
6:30 pm

Panarama City NC
Gen. Meeting
Mission Community Hospital
14860 Rosco Blvd, PC
6:30 pm 785-9355

Sylmar NC General Meet.
Hubbard Street School
13325 Hubbard St., Syl
6:30pm7pm

STNC Budget Com. Meeting
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill S-T
7 pm 951-7411

Community Plan Meeting
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
7 - 9 pm

Saturday, March 29

Election Day
Mission Hills NC
San Jose Elem. School
14928 Clymer, MH
12 - 4 pm

ST Elks Lodge #2098
10137 Commerce Ave
\$20 at door 8 am-12 pm
818-563-1962

STNC Candidate Mixer
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill S-t
11am-1pm 951-7411

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Hansen Dam Star Party
11770 Osbourne, Pac
enter on Dronefield
7:30 pm

Saturday, April 12 & 13

Relay for Life-Sylmar
Olive Vista Middle School
9 am - 9 am

Saturday, April 12

Neighborhood Prespandness
Ambassador Program
Sunland Rec. Center
8701 Foothill, S-T

STNC Outreach Meet.
Joselitos
Foothill
1 pm

Tuesday, April 15

Community Plan Meeting
Bolton Hall
10110 Commerce S-T
7 - 9 pm

Wednesday, April 16

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

Pacoima NC
Youth & Family Center
11243 Glenoaks, Pac

Thursday, April 17

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

Saturday, April 19

Neighborhood Prespandness
Ambassador Program
Sunland Rec. Center
8701 Foothill, S-T
9 am - 1 pm 213-473-9921

Black History Celebration
ABD Senior Center
11300 Glenoaks, Pac
11 am - 7 pm

Earth Day Program
Sun Valley Rec. Center
8300 Vinedale, SV
10 am-2pm

Sunday, April 20

PASSOVER

Thursday, April 21

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

Tuesday, April 22

EARTH DAY

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

Wednesday, April 23

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

Plant Sale
Little Lander Hist. Soc.
Rio's Dress Shop
9929 _ Commerce S-t
9 am - 1 pm

Passing of the Laurels
to Poet Laurate Ceremony
McGroarty Arts Center
7570 McGroarty Terr. S-T
352-5285

Thursday, April 24

Panorama City NC
Mission Comm. Hospital
14860 Roscoe, PC
6:30 pm 785-9355

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

Golf Tournament-Benefit by
Montrose-Verdugo CocC
Verdugp Hills Golf Course
For Info 248-4500

Saturday, April 26

The Job & Career Fair
EDD Office
11623 Glenoaks, Pac

Saturday, April 26

Community Plan Meeting
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
10 am - 12 pm

Sunday, April 27

Celebrate LA
Rose Bowl Stadium, Pas.

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

Wednesday, April 30

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

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

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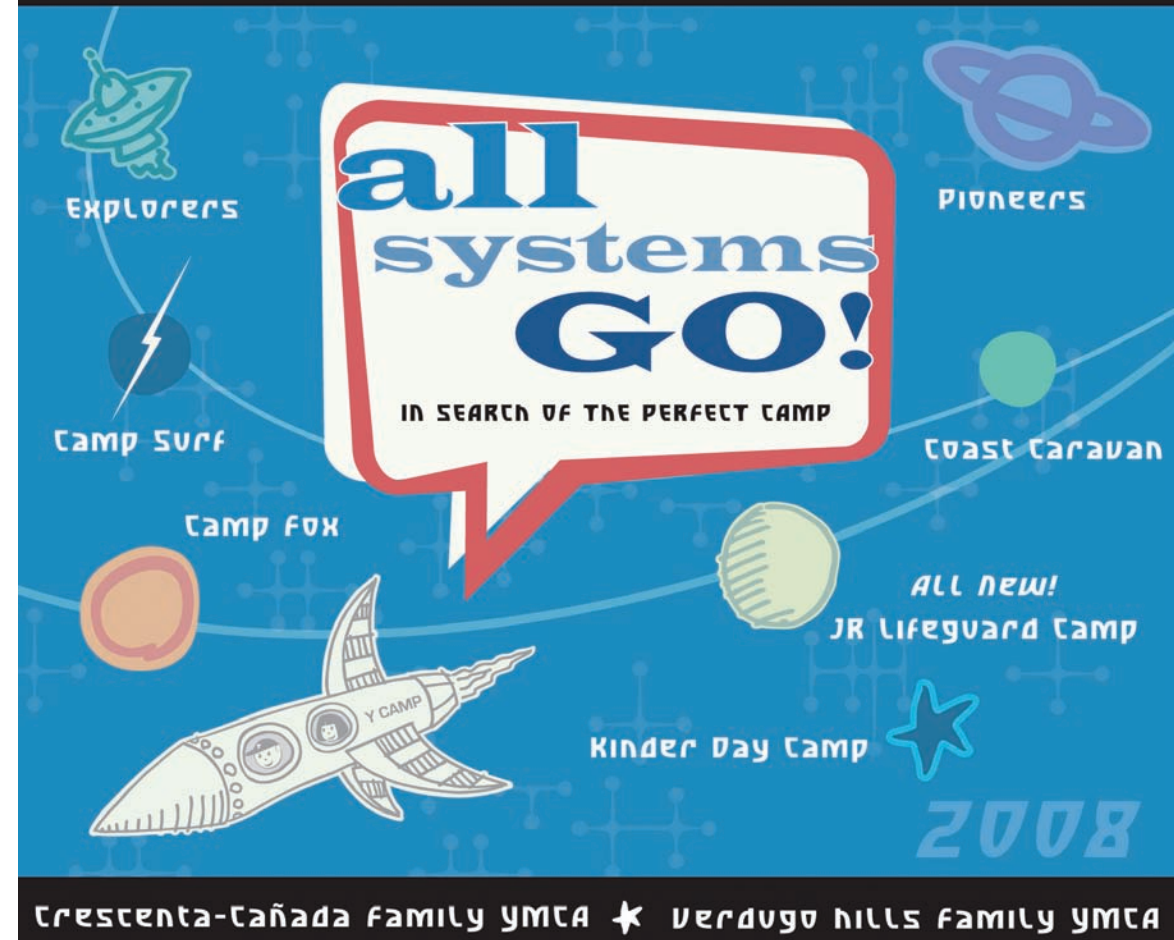
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PUBLIC SAFETY

Community Crime Reduction



By Captain Jorge Villegas
Commanding Officer
LAPD Mission Hills Station

I am taking this opportunity to thank everyone in our Community for assisting in the reduction of Part I crimes this year. There has been nearly a 3% reduction as a result of our partnership. Most impressive is the 32% reduction in gang and

shots fired incidents and we want to continue that momentum this year. We have established ambitious crime reduction goals for 2008. They are as follows: Reduce Part I Crime by 5 Percent, Reduce Gang Crime by 10 Percent and North Hills Safer Cities Initiative – Reduction of Violent Crime by 25 Percent, and Reduction of Property Crime by 15 Percent

We are well on our way to achieving these goals. From February 17, 2008, through March 15, 2008, we have had one homicide, zero rapes, 32 robberies, and 29 aggravated assaults. This is a 26% decrease in total violent crime compared to last year-to-date statistics. In the category of property crimes during the same time period, we had 78 burglaries, 89 grand theft autos, 99 burglary/theft from motor vehicles and 58 personal/other thefts, representing an 18% percent decrease in total property crime compared to last year-to-date statistics.

As many of you already know, with the opening of the new 21st police station within the City and the second in the valley, we are in the process of reconfiguring our boundaries within Mission Area. Further discussions will take place at our upcoming CPAB meetings.

On Thursday, February 28th, Mission Area Station honored sworn and civilian personnel at our Employee of the Quarter Breakfast. Congratulations to all the recipients of the award. They include: Police

Officer III, Matthew Vannatter, Police Officer III, Jason Burcham, Sergeant Adrienne Hamilton, Detective Cheri Roberts, Clerk Typist Jaime Martin and our Gang Enforcement Detail.

We are inviting you to attend a Silent Auction Benefit that is featuring Artwork created by our very own Explorers. Their artwork will be on display in our Community Room, April 23 and 24, from 10 am to 8 pm. Please plan to attend because all proceeds will be donated to our Mission Area Explorers Program.

We want to hear your concerns and encourage your participation in our Community policing efforts. 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 may also e-mail me at: 26714@lapd.lacity.org, Captain William Scott at: 27078@lapd.lacity.org, or Sergeant Adrian Torres at: 31467@lapd.lacity.org

Update on CERT Training by LAFD



Captain/Paramedic Stacy Gerlich
CERT Unit Commander
Los Angeles Fire Department

It's been awhile since I've updated the community on the successes of the Los Angeles City Fire Department's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program and all of our volunteers. It has been quite busy in the past few months

and I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to each and every one of you.

Since my last article, our volunteers have participated in many functions throughout the city. Most recently, we had 49 volunteers who signed up and worked the LA Marathon. Without the continued support of our volunteers at events of this magnitude, the fire department would have to deploy twice as many resources to these events. The working relationships that have been fostered between the communities and the LAFD continue to reinforce the value of training and experience. This cohesiveness has taken many years to solidify, but we are on the right track now. As volunteers, you must remember

that the men and women of the Los Angeles Fire Department are highly trained and skilled professionals. Your function is to act as an added resource when called upon. I am extremely proud to be the Commander of this unit and to have so many friends through out Southern California who support my mission of training.

On February 26, 2008, the Governor and first lady were our guests here in Northridge. The Governor was here to kickoff new Executive Order S-02-08. This order establishes a new position of secretary of service and volunteering. The premise behind this order is to raise the profile of service in the beautiful state of California. Our volunteers contributed approximately 858 million hours of service to our California economy in 2006. The desire and focus is to raise the number of volunteers to 365,000, which represents a mere 1% increase. More importantly, this minute increase carries a value greater than \$17.4 billion.

I am extremely happy to report that the LAFD trains approximately 4,000 community members each year. We are already supporting the Governors vision. Los Angeles alone is quite prepared when it comes to our communities understanding the need to be self-sufficient in our disasters. Because of the strong relationship between the Los Angeles Fire Departments CERT program and the

communities in which we serve, the outcome of our next disaster will be much better.

For those of us who are aware of the latest speculations relayed to us by our leaders at California Technical Institute (Cal Tech), the feeling there is that our next earthquake could very possibly be in the high 7's – 8 in the magnitude range. They also expect the shake time to be approximately 4 minutes! I don't know about all of you, but that 20 seconds we endured during the Northridge quake was more than enough.

With this in mind, it is imperative that all of us take a more proactive role in being prepared. I urge you to jump on the CERT train and get yourselves prepared. If we all do our parts, we will have less loss of lives and property. The recovery phase of our next encounter will be greatly decreased. Please take advantage of this training and do your part today to ensure our safety and the safety of our loved ones. Visit our website: www.cert-la.com) for the latest classes in your area. If you can't find what you are looking for, please give us a call at the Disaster Preparedness Unit of the Los Angeles Fire Department 818-756-9674.

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THIS & THAT

A Poetic Essay – Genocide*

The Earth is Made of Bones

By Marlene Hitt

From bodies still warm-dead to skeletons turned to dust and crust; bones hidden in caves and pits and underneath the seas and the firmament.

Remember Armenia, the genocide, one million two hundred thousand intricate, miraculous, “Creator created bones. Remember Armenia. Remember Hideki Tojo, Menghistu, Biafra, Rwanda, Tito, Hussein, Franco, Chiang Kai-Shek, Vietnam, Darfur, Afghanistan, The Holocaust, Haiti, and Cuba...The list continues.

The earth is made of ground-up bones; sea washed bones, ashes of bones, buried bones or bones left for the sun. The earth is heavy with bones

* The word Genocide is the combination of the Greek word “genos” meaning “race” plus the Latin word “cide” meaning “killing.” It is the attempt to destroy in whole or part an ethnic, racial or religious group, deliberately, or by indirect means such as famine.

Yet it isn't the weapon which chills one, but the intent, Adolph Hitler said, August 22, 1939: “Thus for the time being I have sent to the East only my ‘Death’s Head’” with the orders to kill without pity or mercy all men, women and children of Polish race or language. Only in such a way will we win the vital space that we need.”

In the twentieth century alone, over one billion sets of bones have been left on the earth by genocide. All those bones, once carefully created, have been wasted.

(For more information visit: www.scaruffi.com and see “The History Place and The Worst Genocides in the 20th Century.”)

Watch Your Wallet

Kids and Money

By Tina Cameron

Youngsters tend to have an instant gratification view of money. They see money come out of their parent’s pocket, out of an ATM, and out of a plastic card. It is a difficult concept for them to grasp that actual work went into earning the money in the first place.

For their sake, children should be taught how to budget and save early on. The earlier the better, before bad habits begin. Age seven is a good time to start. The child has to have the ability to count and be taught how to make choices. But even older children can be taught the fundamentals of money management that will give them the tools they need for the rest of their lives.

Begin with a fixed allowance and do not adjust it more than once a year. If the child asks for a raise in allowance, ask what the money would be spent on. Get them to engage in negotiation which will serve them later in life when asking a boss for a raise. Children should be made to do chores around the house for free, but additional chores can be added for additional allowance, if you deem fit. Keep in mind that allowance is a tool for teaching, and shouldn't be used for things such as lunch money, clothing or other essentials the parent should provide. Do not allow the child to determine the amount of the allowance. It doesn't matter what their peers are getting. Make the amount age-appropriate, and what your family budget will allow after all other expenses have been taken into account. Use some common sense on it.

Make saving a condition of getting an allowance. Some children will balk at that but you must stay firm. Saving encourages restraint from impulse purchasing. Use an envelope, a special box or piggy bank. By about age 12, a savings account should be opened for your child at a bank.

Eventually, as the child enters pre-teen, and you get them engaged in the conversation about money, talk to them about your checkbook, bill paying, purchasing decisions. Go over your household budget and explain your decision-making to them. You may learn something yourself about why you spend the way you do.

Once your kidlets are ready to leave the nest, you should have a serious talk about credit cards. 18 year olds are inundated with credit card offers, and without proper guidance, they are likely to get in over their head. Teach them that credit does not equal “free”. There will be a bill and eventually the entire amount has to be repaid, at 20% interest. Credit should be used wisely with a plan to pay it back quickly.

The most effective way, overall, to teach a child about money is to exhibit good money management yourself. Children will monkey-see, monkey-do everything you do. If you lie, they will lie, if you curse, they will curse, if you mismanage your money, they will mismanage their money. It is inevitable. *Editors Note: Tina Cameron is a Corporate Risk Manager and a Sun Valley small business owner.*

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THIS & THAT

Carrick's Journey -Part Seven

By Tomi Lyn
Bowling



For an old geezer he sure could walk fast! Drake, many decades his junior, had trouble keeping up with Whiskers. Out of breath, tired, sweaty and still hungry as an old bear, Drake pressed on almost

dragging his feet from exhaustion.

Whiskers, unaffected by a day's walking, despite his old age, turned around and glanced at the sorry sight of Drake fumbling along. "Well, let's stop here. This looks like a good spot." Drake nearly collapsed dead in his tracks. Whiskers walked around and collected some wood for a fire. Drake was so hungry and exhausted but his exhaustion won the battle. He fell fast asleep, literally where he walked. His snoring ensued long before the fire really got started, still wearing his backpack.

Meanwhile, back at the village, Maddie and the other children were adjusting to being the oddities here. Though the friendly people tried not to, they could not help but stare at the large brood of children by one mother. Maddie checked with Fanella several times each hour, to see if there was anything she could do to hasten the return of her eldest boy.

Fanella had gained the reputation of being the best guide there was. She could out run everyone, knew the woods like it was an obstacle course she had run hundreds of times and she could handle pretty much every weapon they had ever come across. Fanella seemed to possess a natural knowledge of subjects most seemed to spend years learning. When Fanella had brought Maddie and the kids here to the village, Maddie had known instinctively that she was someone to be trusted.

Fanella seemed to be growing impatient that the scouts had not yet returned with Drake. They were all sitting around a great big picnic table eating when Fanella jumped up and said to Maddie, "Jack, Danny and I are leaving to go find the scouts and Drake. We'll be back by morning." Jack and Danny had no previous knowledge of the excursion but both willingly put down their food, left the table and prepared to leave. Fanella's brother asserted "don't you want to wait till daylight?" Fanella only laughed as she continued preparations for her trip.
--to be continued.

SOUND OFF

Density Zone Planned for Horse-Keeping Property

Appeal Hearing in Van Nuys Scheduled

By Elaine Brown

The City of Los Angeles is in the process of deciding whether a 4 3/4 acre property zoned RA can be subdivided into 18 lots and rezoned from horse-keeping to a much denser residential zone. The subdivision tract map has been appealed. The hearing is scheduled to take place before the North Valley Area Planning Commission, Thursday, April 3, 2008, 4:30 PM at the Marvin Braudy building, at 6262 Van Nuys Blvd, Van Nuys.

The land located at the corner of Big Tujunga Canyon Road and Oro Vista Avenue in Sunland is often referred to as "Dead Man's Corner" due its the numerous traffic accidents. Google maps indicate a wildlife corridor crosses its border at the Big Tujunga Wash and the property serves as a green belt between development and the wilderness, and is presently accessed by the people for hiking and biking.

The property description is as follows: North - across the river of the foothills is a development zoned agricultural and below is the Angeles National Forest. West - is a nine-acre passive park, the Angeles National Golf Club, and several acres of riverbed, destined as a preservation area owned by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy? East - there are developed and undeveloped horse keeping properties. South- There is a church. Southeast Corner - There are only two contiguous residential properties zoned R1.

The county designates this land as a Sensitive Environmental Area (SEA) and would not allow its development if it were in an unincorporated area. However, the property is located in the City of Los Angeles, which makes no such designations.

Clearly this land was home to sensitive wildlife both flora and fauna, because Councilmember Greuel helped obtain a Bio Assessment. However, just prior to the assessment, the developer hauled in approximately 120 ten-wheelers of dirt and debris without permits or a haul route. He spread the dirt without compacting or water and graded the entire property in the name of "fuel modification" while under citation by the Department of Building and Safety to cease and desist.

The Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) that was subsequently approved indicated that the wildlife had either been driven off or destroyed by the so-called "fuel modification." The MND required a number of mitigation's to protect whatever wildlife might reappear on the property. The developer is once again hauling in dirt and debris. The city says the mitigations, although approved and in spite of an open and active application to develop, can not be implemented until all of the approvals are completed. One of the significantly endangered species expected to return is the Burrowing Owl who nests in the gopher holes on the property. The developer has dumped tons of debris on these burrows without mitigation. The city has cited the developer for the illegal hauling again, but the developer continues to ignore the city.

Although, the land is zoned for horse keeping and its land use designation in the Los Angeles General Plan charts allows for very low density, the city intends to rezone the property to a denser zone rather than save it as open space.

The property is located within a scenic corridor which is protected by the San Gabriel Verdugo Hills Scenic Preservation Specific Plan. The city requires the developer to go through all of the necessary approvals before it determines whether it requires a Project Permit Compliance Review based on the dictates of the Specific Plan. This will be a test case for the plan and will determine whether the plan will protect the scenic corridors as it was intended to do.

It is unclear whether the county has given the go ahead to allow development on the county easements for an existing flood control channel that lies below the surface running diagonally across the property

The acreage is located within a flood plain and only partially protected by a concrete channel. It is also located about one eighth of a mile west of an earthquake fault where tons of dirt covered the road during the 1971 Sylmar quake. The property is rated as high on the risk scale for earthquakes, the Mercali Scale, as is possible.

The property just to the west, which is now a park, was declared unbuildable by the city several years ago even though it is farther from the fault, lies within the flood plain, and is completely covered by the channel. Other communities have saved properties for the safety and welfare of their community by rezoning them as Open Space and have won in court. However, it appears that neither the City of Los Angeles nor Councilmember Greuel have sufficient concern to save the property for fear of a lawsuit. Editors Note: (Ms Brown is a long time Community Activist dedicated to land use issues)



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THIS & THAT

Meet Arnie Abramyan



Arnie's cafe ribbon cutting

A very special young man, 26 year old entrepreneur named Arnie, after Arnold "The Lion" Abramyan, loves Sunland-Tujunga where he resides. So, with his mom Angela's encouragement, he took a chance and opened Arnie's cafe at 6852 Foothill Blvd., at the corner of Marcus in Tujunga. Many representatives from government offices, the Chamber of Commerce, the STNC, and community members, celebrated together at his Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Wednesday, March 12 as he served his specialty coffee and smoothies along with a wide selection of desserts.

The euphoria from his grand opening was short lived because two days later vandals broke the glass front door of his business and made off with a 50"TV and his cash register. It was especially heart wrenching because not only did he lose his father at an early age, he had just lost his Aunt, whom his mother had been caring for at home, to cancer the night before his discovery. Because of his mom, who is a florist, he also purchased Bella's Florist next door to his shop so he could help her because she was spending a great amount of time taking care of his Aunt Jenik. Armine, the former owner of the florist, hand picked Angela to purchase her store because she wanted to make sure that the love and special care she gave her customers would continue. Armine's daughter now works at Arnie's

He's had a set back, but Arnie is bouncing back! He plans to bring positive energy to the neighborhood and people around him. His shop offers comfort to those who want to take advantage of his "wireless" in his beautifully renovated store while they sip his special coffee or smoothies. He has two cozy nests in front of his two floor to ceiling windows with a view of the mountains. He plans on having live entertainment on the weekends. In fact, his first was Saturday night, March 22, with the well-known foothills area group. "Archie Francis and His Band" and was so successful, he says to "Stay Tuned" because he plans to offer a wide variety of entertainment in the future.



Marjorie (Gillan) Brunson 1935 - 2008

Marge and Huel Howser

by Lloyd Hitt

Marge Brunson, Past Program Chairperson for Bolton Hall, passed away after suffering a stroke on the way home from Church on Sunday, February 17. Marge grew up in Sunland with her four brothers, graduated from CSUN (formerly San Fernando Valley State College) in 1959 with a degree in education and taught school for 35 years. She and her Husband Jim were married for 52 years and had a daughter, Jennifer. Norman Gillan, Marge's older brother, still resides in Sunland.

Marge was a long time member of the Little Landers Historical Society and helped with the current exhibit, "Sports Appeal", featuring sports figures from Sunland-Tujunga. Her husband, Jim, is part of the current exhibit featuring his many medals and awards in motorcycle and mountain bike racing. We have Marge to thank for Huel Howser's visit to Sunland-Tujunga and the 30-minute program about "our town". She worked for two years to get Huel to come out and shoot a segment of "Our Neighborhood". As Program Chair at Bolton Hall, she put together an unforgettable "Variety Show" of local talent, which featured members of the community, from children dancing, to opera. We will never forget the many times she helped the Little Landers Historical Society with her quiet efficient manner and always with a smile. We will miss Marge and we appreciate the time she spent with us.

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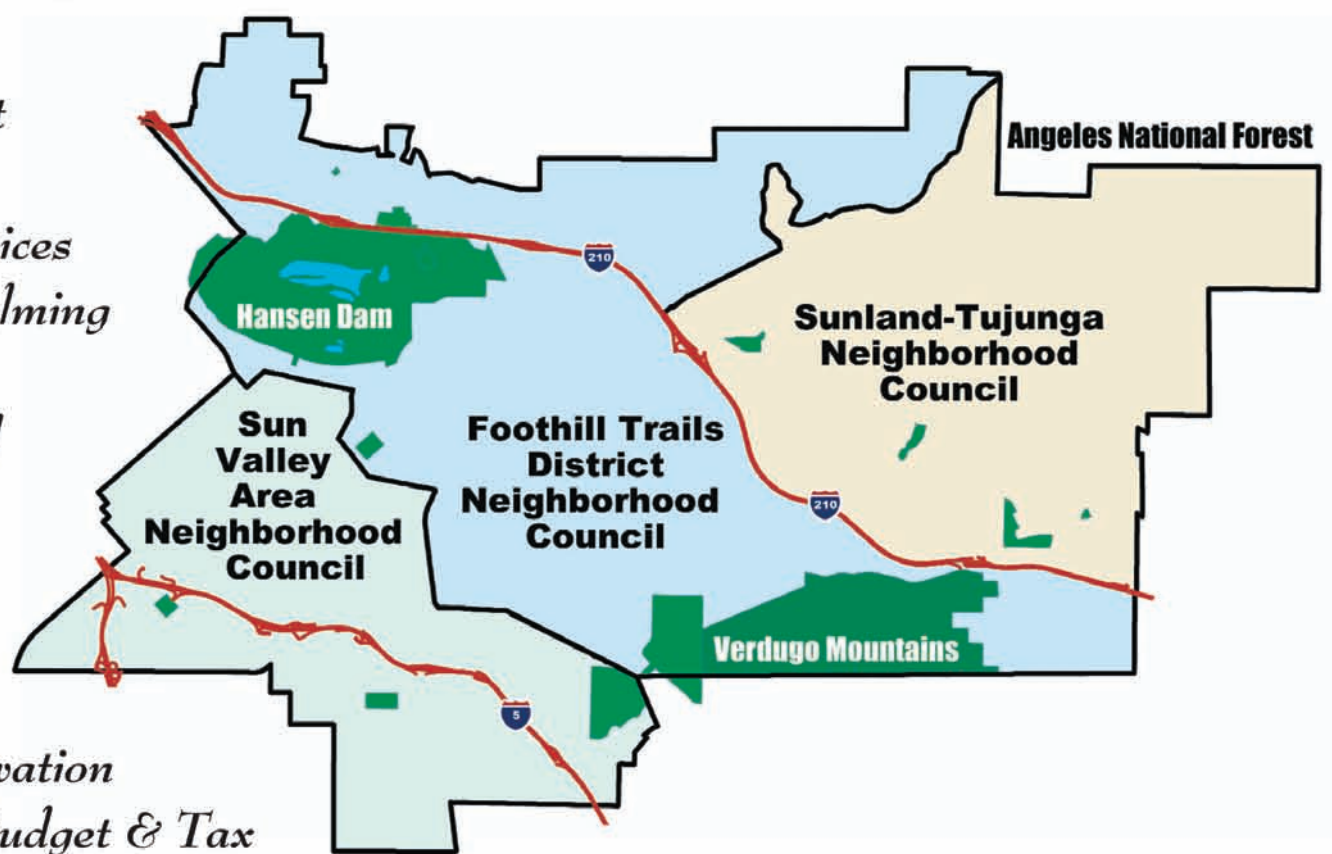
SATURDAY APRIL 5, 2008

SEE BELOW FOR YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL VOTING HOURS AND LOCATION.

WHY IS YOUR VOTE IMPORTANT?

To Improve the Quality of Life in your Community:

- ✓ Zoning & Land Use
- ✓ Planning & Development
- ✓ Police & Fire & Library
- ✓ Park & Community Services
- ✓ Street Repair, Traffic Calming
- ✓ Signage, Parking
- ✓ Crime & Graffiti Control
- ✓ Illegal Dumping
- ✓ Clean Air Programs
- ✓ Community Pride
- ✓ Business Development
- ✓ Scenic & Historic Preservation
- ✓ Community Outreach, Budget & Tax



Show the city that you care about your neighborhood – VOTE!

SUN VALLEY AREA

Neighborhood Council

www.svanc.org

818-767-8262

VOTE 10am - 4pm

John H. Francis Polytechnic HS Auditorium
14321 Roscoe Blvd. Sun Valley

Voting is open to everyone who is a stakeholder within the neighborhood council boundaries; stakeholders must be 18 years old at the time of the election. In order to vote, a stakeholder must by means of "self affirmation" declare that he or she is a stakeholder. No further documentation will be required.

WHO CAN VOTE? Stakeholders are defined as anyone who lives, works, owns property, or is a member of an organization within the SVANC boundaries.

FOOTHILL TRAILS DISTRICT

Neighborhood Council

www.ftdnc.org

818-353-2000

VOTE 10am - 2pm

Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church
10158 Johanna Ave., Shadow Hills

Voting is open to everyone who is a stakeholder within the neighborhood council boundaries; stakeholders must be 18 years old at the time of the election. In order to vote, a stakeholder must by means of "self affirmation" declare that he or she is a stakeholder. No further documentation will be required.

WHO CAN VOTE? Stakeholders are defined as individuals who live, work, or own property within the boundaries of the neighborhood council.

SUNLAND-TUJUNGA

Neighborhood Council

www.stnc.org

818-951-7411

VOTE 10am - 4pm

North Valley Neighborhood City Hall
7747 Foothill Blvd. Rm101, Tujunga

Voters will be required to fill out a Voter Registration Form and show proof of identity and stakeholder status. Some documents that are acceptable are a drivers license, utility bill, student ID, etc.

WHO CAN VOTE? STNC community stakeholders are defined as individuals who live, work, or own property within the boundaries of the STNC as defined in Article IV. In addition, individuals who are identified by participation in business, educational, faith-based, community service, youth and special-interest organizations that are located or that meet regularly in the community are considered to be community stakeholders.

WHY VOTE? The elected board will represent you and our community as a voice to your Council District and the City of Los Angeles. The more stakeholders that vote, the more power we have as a group to affect change in our community.

WHAT ARE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS? Los Angeles City certified neighborhood councils were established with the belief that individuals, businesses and government institutions can work hand-in-hand in solving community problems and coming to terms with issues that are vital to improving and enhancing the quality of life in a community. The Neighborhood Council is composed of elected representatives like you and by you. Neighborhood councils are able to officially address their community's issues with governmental officials and city departments. Each year the board approves an annual operations, outreach and community improvement budget of \$50,000.00.

Get Involved – Come Out & Vote – Bring Your Neighbors With You