

# How Safe are Our Children?

## Sex Offenders are placed in unsuspecting neighborhoods



Photo by Joe Barrett

By Katharine Russ

Residents in neighborhoods all over Los Angeles are angry over the placement of paroled sex offenders where children live, play and attend school. Often sex offenders are placed in neighborhoods with no notice given to residents. During the last week in March, local community members walked door to door and handed out flyers informing residents of the potential risks to families. They contacted a huge network of parents through the PTA and other local parent organizations and called a meeting to discuss what could be done to protect their families from potential risk.

On April 14, Chapel of the Hills Church in Sunland-Tujunga hosted a meeting of over one hundred people with representatives from the Registrant Enforcement and Compliance Team (REACT) from the Foothill Division of the LAPD. The house was within 1,000 feet of a pre-school, which technically does not violate Jessica's Law. Jessica's Law protects only grades K-12 children even though pre-school children are also vulnerable to child predators. Four days after the meeting, the home was reported vacant.

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) Division of Adult Parole Operations (DAPO) placed "six" paroled sex offenders, the maximum allowed in a residential home, located at 9900 Tamarack Avenue in Pacoima in February, 2009. But, according to the "Databank of Residents" from the CDCR dated March 2, 2009, there are actually ten parolees living in that home. Some have been arrested and released back to the home.

Jose Palacios and his family live across the street from this house. He remarked that on April 25, one of the tenants of the house was out at 10:30 pm yelling at someone inside the house and threatening to kill them. Two neighbors called the Foothill Division and no one responded to their calls.

According to neighbors, there are 39 sex offenders living within one square mile of Tamarack Avenue. There are also three elementary schools, two junior high schools, and a recreation center. Palacios said there are 84 children under the age of 14 who live on Tamarack Avenue.

The California Penal Code 3003.5 states, "(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, when a person is released on parole after having served a term of imprisonment in state prison for any offense for which registration is required pursuant to Section 290, that person may not, during the period of parole, reside in any single family dwelling with any other person also required to register pursuant to Section 290, unless those persons are legally related by blood, marriage, or adoption. For purposes of this section, 'single family dwelling' shall not include a residential facility which serves six or fewer persons."

Emails dated January 2008, from Margarita Perez, Parole Administrator (DAPO), say, "Legally, we can only place multiple sex offenders in a house when it meets the criteria of a 'residential facility', i.e., a program with a permit or license from the Dept. of Health Services (DHS) which serves individuals with special needs, e.g. substance abuse, mental health, sober living environment, etc." But, DAPO never issued any documents detailing precisely what type of license is needed. DAPO currently pays \$500.00 per week, per person, to house parolees in "residential facilities".

Retired parole Agent Caroline Aguirre noted, "If DAPO pays for housing for substance abusers, sex offenders or for those parolees with mental health issues, then the department is mandated under the American Disability Act (ADA), to insure that the housing is compliant with ADA guidelines. This applies even when the Parolees are not disabled or fall under ADA medical and/or psych. issues."

Pursuant to the Federal Freedom Of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552 and/or CA GOVT CODE §§ 6250 - 6276.48, requests were made to Chief Deputy Regional Administrator, Kenneth Ford, for copies of licenses/permits/compliance for both the Oro Vista home in Sunland-Tujunga and the Tamarack home in Pacoima via email and also repeated phone messages. No one has responded.

One employee of the CDCR said, "There are 117,000 registered sex offenders in California. There is no national sex offender register and we have sex offenders from other states that we don't know about even though they are required by CA state law to register. The only way they are discovered is when they commit a crime. No one knows if the other state where they came from requires the registering of sex offenders."

In the fall of 2005, Benjamin Singerman and Professor Joan Petersilia delivered a scathing report on the CDCR. It states, "By failing to consistently or adequately provide transitional housing and other 'step down' services to released

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## Veterans Unite to Oppose Sepulveda VA Conversion

By Katharine Russ

North Hills- Veterans will have the chance to voice their opposition to the conversions of Building's 4 and 5 at the Sepulveda VA facility and the proposed public park at the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center, on May 20 during the Greater Los Angeles Veterans' Summit, hosted by the Board of the North Hills West Neighborhood Council (NHWNC).

Veterans will present the facts and their case directly to the public and the media for the first time. Veterans fear that if such developments are allowed, it will open up the entire properties to further private sector development of all kinds and they will lose not only their Medical Centers but also their sacred lands forever. The multi-organizational forum will also address national issues regarding Veterans Administration policies and services.



NHWNC President Lewis Brown said "The Veterans, who rely on the Sepulveda VA for their medical care, are stakeholders in this Neighborhood Council and we are pleased to provide this forum for our heroes."

Keynote speakers include Lawrence Van Kuran, Mike Gombar, past California State Commander of the American Legion, Robert R. Rosebrock, Co-Director of We The Veterans and Director of The Veterans Revolution; Max Huber, Major U.S. Army Infantry (ret.) and life member Military Officers Associate of America, Ernie Hilger disabled U.S. Army Veteran, Tesa Becica, disabled Spec. 4th Class, U.S. Army Dental Corps and board member of the The San Fernando Valley Historical Society and Robert Schol, past 7th District Commander VFW and American Legion Accredited Service Officer at the Sepulveda VA. It will be held on Wednesday, May 20, at New Horizons, 15725 Parthenia St., North Hills at 7:00 pm, and the public is encouraged to attend.

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**VOTE**  
**May 19, 2009**

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Councilmember Alarcon Addresses Community

By Morris Pichon

Councilmember Richard Alarcon, District Seven, appeared at the Pacoima Neighborhood Council Wednesday, March 18. He spoke regarding the many challenges facing the city during 2009 and beyond.

He spoke about the recent financial meltdown and its affects on city, county and state governments and made reference to the necessity for government to tighten its belt to reduce deficits. He spoke about the financial problems plaguing the LAUSD and how teacher layoffs would affect education of their children in their community.

He also addressed the situation regarding the Children's Museum and the shortage of financial support. However, he had favorable comments for the still under construction Plaza Pacoima.

Following opening statements, the floor was open for questions. Stakeholders requested the Councilmember take a personal interest in seeing that City Code Enforcement Agencies be pro-active and compel LAMC violators to conform to the law: I.e., single family residents are being turned into multiple family units; garages are being utilized as living quarters; front yards on residential properties are actually parking lots with five or six vehicles making them look like junkyards. Stakeholders presented Alarcon with 25 8x10 color photographs of residences in their community which clearly show violations of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC). The Code is a written set of policies, directives and laws that sets standards by which citizens are required to maintain a good quality of life for community members.

Board Members echoed their concerns that their community has been neglected and allowed to decline



into a state of decay. They agree that unless the Councilmember takes an active part in improving city services, their community will soon resemble a "third world city." However, stakeholders expressed their gratitude that the Councilmember took time from his busy schedule to attend their meeting to address their many concerns and look forward to improvements in their community.

## You Should Know...

**Tips to prevent Swine Flu** - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the following tips for everyone to prevent spreading the disease

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze.
- Alcohol-based hands cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.

Influenza is thought to spread mainly person-to-person through coughing or sneezing of infected people. CDC recommends staying home from work or school and limiting contact with others, if sick, in order to avoid infecting others.

**Shortage Year Water Rates** - will be enforced by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and will become effective beginning June 1. The shortage year rates will remain in effect until the Board determines a different degree of shortage, or that the shortage no longer exists. Contact the LADWP, at 213-367-1010 regarding usage questions.

**Community Plan Updates** - All of the City Community Plans are scheduled to be updated. The original schedule would have provided for all of the Community Plans to complete the process by 2017. Budget and staffing constraints are already impacting this schedule. At present the following in the North Valley are moving

forward with the additional plan updates to follow as budgeting will allow: Granada Hills, Sylmar, Sunland-Tujunga-Lake View Terrace. Are you prepared? Save Saturday, May 9th for the PlanCheckNC Program on the General Plan Framework and Community Plans. Where is your community on the schedule? How do the General Plan and Community Plans relate to your community? How do they implement your community vision? What tools are available to insure your community vision is realized now and for the future? Info: PlanCheckNCLA.com or contact Maggi Fajnor at maggi4@gmail.com

**The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)** - for Crown Disposal/Community Recycling has been released. It can be reviewed on the city's web site as follows: <http://cityplanning.lacity.org/eir/CommunityRecyclingFacility/DEIR/DEIR%20Community%20Recycling%20Facility.html>

**The USDA National Forest Service** hosted a graduation ceremony for 45 Angeles National Forest Explorer Academy Cadets in the Wildland Fire Explorer Academy Post No. 99, on Sunday, April 26. The event was held at the Don Biedebach Training Center in San Fernando.

The program introduces students to potential careers in wildland firefighting with the U.S. Forest Service and a number of other agencies and departments in southern California. Many graduates of the Academy have gone on to professional careers in the fire service. For more information regarding the Explorer Program visit: [www.anfpost99.com](http://www.anfpost99.com).

**Memorial Day Observance** will take place for the public on Monday, May 25. Historic San Fernando Pioneer Memorial Cemetery in Sylmar is hosting it for their eighth consecutive year. The free event, which begins at 11:00 am, is sponsored by the San Fernando Valley Historical Society. It will include a U.S. flag raising and a 21-gun salute performed by the All Veterans' Burial Squad at noon. A special tribute to the heroes and survivors of the Sylmar fires will be part of the program.

The cemetery is located at 14451 Bledsoe St., Sylmar, at the corner of Foothill Blvd. and Bledsoe St. Call 818-365-5860, or visit [www.sfvhs.com](http://www.sfvhs.com) for further information.

**Sunland-Tujunga Historic Home, Garden and Landmark Tour** - which has been co-sponsored by the Sunland Tujunga Coordinating Council and Little Landers Historical Society for thirteen years, regrets to inform that their fourteenth Historic Home Tour has been postponed until next year. The postponement is due to the present economic situation of property owners and the lack of funds to complete projects that make their property available for viewing. The postponement affects projects such as the Verdugo Hills High School Student Art Exhibit at McGroarty, VHHS Student Scholarship Fund, and the funds to the Little Landers Historical Society. The group views it as a temporary setback and they looking forward to next year. Visit their website, [www.calendarwiz.com/daphne](http://www.calendarwiz.com/daphne), or, if you'd like to volunteer, call Fran and Ray at 818-446-0399, for additional information.

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Lake View Terrace



Long time Activist and Lake View Terrace resident, Cile Borman, was awarded the Council District Seven "Pioneer Woman of the Year" by Councilmember Richard Alarcon. Each year, Councilmembers choose one woman from

each of the 15 Council Districts to be named "Pioneer Woman of the Year."

A "Pioneer Woman" has "made significant contributions toward improving the community within their Council District and/or the City in the areas of education, business, sports, arts, science, community, health or City government."

Alarcon says that Cile is one of the most prolific community members in his District, a strong participant in many boards and committees

Cile is committed to helping the next generation succeed, and is a mentor to high school girls. She is also one of the founding members of the Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council; Vice President of the Hansen Dam July 4th Committee; active with Friends of the Lake View Terrace Library; Lopez Canyon Advisory Committee; Tujunga Wa-

tershed Council; the Day Of The Horse Celebration; an official judge for the Pacoima Christmas Parade, and sings the Star Spangled Banner to kick off the San Fernando Valley Veterans Day Parade.

She is also a recording artist for A & M Records and has traveled throughout the USA. She also appeared in the last season of the long running television series ER, two episodes of "Comedy Central", featuring David Allen Grier, and this year's Verizon commercial, "Something Different."

Cile also co-wrote and sang the female lead in the original stage production of "We Are the Future", and studied news broadcasting at the Don Martin Hollywood School of Radio and Television Arts and Sciences.

## Mary Benson to Moderate Panel on Land Use

A discussion of Land Use Conditions will be moderated by Mary Benson, Vice President of the Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council (SVANC) during the afternoon session of the first San Fernando Valley Congress.

The panel will discuss mitigation as a condition of discretionary land use projects. Information regarding notification requirements for municipal projects not covered in the Neighborhood Councils Planning MOU or bi-weekly CNC notices will also be discussed. Neighborhood Council stakeholders are the ones affected if developers fail to complete conditions of their entitlement.

The session will share the best practices that Neighborhood Councils can use and a discussion

about which resources are available to assist Neighborhood Councils. Simply because the planning process staff, the City Planning Commission and the City Council's PLUM Committee have made their decision, is no guarantee that what was agreed upon is what you will receive. Evidence of a number of projects, which are examples to the contrary, will be presented.

As a stakeholder in Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council, Vice President and Land Use Chair of Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council and Founder of Los Angeles Trails Project, Benson has been involved in complicated entitlement requests with a number of developers. The Northeast San Fer-

nando Valley has been the location of projects involving everything from development of endangered species habitats to major recycling centers and landfills, to industrial redevelopment of brown-fields and City-County water projects not listed or part of the Planning Pilot Program. The Neighborhood Council PlanCheckNC began with an MOU and is still evolving. PlanCheckNC continues to educate NC Boards and their Land Use Committee Chairs on planning and land use in the City of Los Angeles. Visit plancheckncla.com for more information.

The public is encouraged to attend the Valley Congress, May 30, at Panorama High School, 8015 Van Nuys Blvd., Panorama City, 8:00 am - 2:30 pm.

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Granada Hills

By Jim Suumers

**Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council (GHSNC)** - will be holding its next general meeting on Thursday, May 14, 2009 at 7:00 pm at the First Baptist Church of Granada Hills located at 11011 Havenhurst Ave., Granada Hills. Proposed as a community speaker will be Bill Larsen of the L.A. City Attorney's Office attached to Devonshire Division to speak and answer questions concerning Group Homes and also neighborhood nuisances. In cooperation with various City and community groups, the GHSNC will be having the 2009 GHSNC Community Survey mailed to stakeholders. Please take 5-10 minutes to complete and voice your opinions, these surveys help guide GHSNC towards action on the part of the community. Visit the GHSNC website at [www.GHSNC.org](http://www.GHSNC.org).

**Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council (GHNNC)** - Drop by the Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council (GHNNC) community outreach office located at 11139 Woodley Avenue, Granada Hills (Albertson's Shopping Center). General Meetings will now be held there on the last Monday of the month at 6:30 pm. See [www.GHNNC.org](http://www.GHNNC.org) for more information.

**Zelzh Speed Limits** - There is much concern about raising the current speed on parts of Zelzah Avenue from Rinaldi down to Nordhoff in order to allow the LAPD to use radar for speed enforcement. The L.A. City Transportation Committee approved the speed limit raising proposal after the approval of the Councilman of District 12, Greig Smith. This was despite solid opposition against the increase in speed, in part due to the recent increase in vehicular and pedestrian accidents in the area, including fatalities.

Northridge East Neighborhood Council (NENC)-, Steve Patel, President, proposed numerous proven safety measures could be employed to slow traffic in the area south of Devonshire, before raising the posted speed limit. GHSNC voiced strong opposition, since unlike Balboa Blvd., much of Zelzah Ave. was in a low density residential area designated a collector street (not a highway), with single lane traffic, and north of San

Fernando Mission Blvd. were there are no sidewalks. NENC and GHSNC helped inform the neighbors in the area. Opposition letters came from numerous homeowners, renters, religious organization, GH Chamber of Commerce, LAUSD (Granada Hills Charter High School of 4,000 students is located on Zelzah) and private schools in the area, and many of those who know the area, think there should be an actual reduction in the posted speeds and at least keep the current speed limits. The NCs are also requesting information in order to make an educated decision, such as: how much radar enforcement was done previously? Is increased speed responsible for the increase in accidents on Zelzah? To what extent have injuries to those in vehicles been affected due to increases in vehicle speeds at time of impact. As well as injuries to pedestrians? As one GHSNC Board Member said, "It seems like they are trying to use our kids as bait in order to write up more speeding tickets". The City budget isn't that bad off is it?

**Kohls** - the small Community battles City Hall and Councilman's wishes. A long and hard fought battle between quaint and charming Old Granada Hills residents and the billion dollar Florida-based national shopping center developer, Regency Centers, may be coming to an end soon. Regency Centers in December 2006, proposed a Big Box department store (Kohls) to be built where the north Ralphs grocery store was located on the northwest corner of Zelzah and Chatsworth Streets in Granada Hills. The plan requested eight entitlements (special conditions) that needed to be granted, against current laws, in order to build the store that would have been almost twice as big as the next biggest store in the area and about 40 times the size as the average commercial building in the area. Neighbors were outraged and spoke out at the initial hearing (over 100 in opposition, none other than the developer and Council District 12 spoke in favor). The Los Angeles City Planning Department rejected almost all aspects of the proposal. Despite that, the politically appointed North Valley Area Planning Commission approved the overbuilding proposal without stating the findings or how they came

to that conclusion at the hearing. With the backing of CD 12, the proposal was passed by the Planning and Land Use Management Committee (PLUM) when no quorum was present - Councilman Jack Weiss left before the vote. The motion then went before the L.A. City Council, where Councilman Greig Smith requested the opposition's time be reduced from 10 minutes to 5 minutes because of the loss of a City Council quorum - this was after over an hour of awarding certificates. No presentation of the proposed expansion was made to the City Council, the only statement in support of the project that the Councilman made was "It is good for Granada Hills." It then passed the City Council unanimously. With overwhelming opposition to the project, Granada Hills neighbors and community groups, including the Granada Hills Alliance for Smart Growth and the Old Granada Hills' Residents Group, joined together and, decided to take the matter further to the L.A. Superior Court to fight City Hall's decision. Prominent Land Use Specialist, Attorney Mark Sellers, of the prestigious law group Jackson-DeMarco-Tidus & Peckenpaugh, is representing the Granada Hills residents. Mr. Sellers recently received many accolades for successfully representing Sunland-Tujunga residents in their fight against Home Depot. The hearing is set for May 8, 2008, but the principles may be coming to a settlement agreement before that. For more information on this project visit: [www.GranadaHillsAlliance.org](http://www.GranadaHillsAlliance.org) or contact 818-321-6259.

## Mission Hills

LAPD's Mission Area Community Police Advisory Board is seeking volunteers who live in Arleta, Mission Hills, North Hills and Panorama City to join the Mission Area Public Nuisance Committee. Interested parties are requested to contact Betty, at [no1leyblondeangel@yahoo.com](mailto:no1leyblondeangel@yahoo.com) Next meeting TBA.



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**Nikki's Corner Café**, owned by Yervand "Jack" Iskoyan, and the S-T Chamber of Commerce, held a ribbon cutting ceremony for his new business on March 25th. This quaint coffee, sandwich and other "goodies" Café, located at 9925 Commerce Ave. in Tujunga, is a very welcome addition to that "Historic Old Town" neighborhood on Commerce Ave. that is in the process of being revitalized by their community.



**Grand Opening:**  
Photos with representatives from State. Senator George Runner, LA County Supervisor Antonovich, Councilwoman Wendy Greuel, Sunland-Tujunga Chamber, STNC and COBRA.



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Arleta

By Al Piantanida

**Traffic Issues** - Arleta community members have been working closely with residents and city officials such as Dept. of Transportation Parking Enforcement, LAPD, and Street Services to install speed bumps and 15 MPH Speed Limit signs around elementary schools and Arleta High School. They are also looking at the possible need for more regulations in residential areas, for such things as more stops signs, more posting of speed limit signs and crosswalks on heavily used residential streets that are used by regular daily commuters.

**Arleta High School Mustangs Honored** - The L.A. City Football Champions for 2008 were celebrated at a banquet at the Odyssey Restaurant on March 26. Team Letters were awarded to players along with individual awards and introduction of scholarship athletes. The Coaches, Players and Staff members were presented with their individual championship Rings, which also included their engraved initials. Principal Dr. Calvo, Football Coach Engilman and Football Team Captain Raymond Luna presented those awards.

The Arleta community presented the team with a special designer trophy, "First City Championship", to honor the schools. Presenting on behalf of Arleta were Jim Kallas, President of Arleta Neighborhood Council, Lomar Shobly, Arleta Looky Loos Neighborhood Watch, and Al Piantanida, Activist and Past President of the Arleta NC

**Beautification Programs** are under way. A team effort lead by Councilmember Tony Cardenas and including the LAPD's Mission Div., L.A. City Sanitation and Street Service Department, Pacoima Graffiti Busters, Arleta Neighborhood Council, Looky Loos Neighborhood Watch and other non-profit organizations, are working together to clean up the community and are dedicated in addressing environmental concerns. They intend to tackle all illegal dumping, graffiti, advertising signs, abandoned vehicles, and other any other illegal problems that affect the cleanliness of their neighborhoods.

Community stakeholders who are interested in volunteering for the Beautification Team can contact Maria in the CD7 office at, 818-771-0236 or, Al Piantanida, Arleta Community Watchdog at, 818-897-9122.

## Sunland - Tujunga

By Cindy Cleghorn



Tomi Lyn Bowling  
First VP - Community Improvement

**Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council (STNC)** - Tomi Lyn Bowling was appointed as First Vice President in Charge of Community Improvement during the STNC General Meeting on April 8, 2009. Ms Bowling was elected to the council as its Business Representative in April 2008. She also chairs the Land Use Committee.

The STNC is participating with several other Neighborhood Councils and the Los Angeles Department of Transportation in developing a Neighborhood Council Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU will include early notification to NCs, the relationship of planning with transportation, parking, traffic studies and other issues. Meetings are open to all. Visit the nctranspo.com web site for more details and updates.

**Verdugo Hills Golf Course** - The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) is due in May. The community will have at least a 60-day comment period, possibly 90 days. Meetings will be held to allow for comments on the DEIR. Alternative development proposals are expected. Efforts to save the VHGC from development are still continuing.

**K-Mart site** - Mission College (MC) has announced plans to put a satellite campus on that site and are in negotiations with Target to join them. Judith Valles, President of MC, and Larry Eisenberg, Director of Finance and Facilities Development for the College District, gave an update on their progress at STNC's General Meeting on April 8. They said they have been studying the Sunland-Tujunga community for the past two years. The passage of Measure J provides funds for the acquisition of the land and the building. The existing K-Mart building would be demolished. MC only needs 30-50 thousand sq. ft., so they plan to partner with retailers and/or restaurants, which will generate income for operating expenses as well as give them control of the property. The state has cut funds for community colleges so this will also help keep costs down for students. Mission College says they will go through a "community-involved" process regarding design and selection of curriculum and will complete a full Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Target continues to be interested in the site and have completed their economic analysis. The biggest interest has been for a general merchandise store and Target fits that model.

**Auto Body Shop at Plainview and Apperson** - site of the old All American Auto Body. The property has been sold and its new owners have purchased adjacent residences. They have demolished two homes with others "in waiting." They hope to build a 19,000 + sq. ft., two-story addition to the existing corner building for their auto body shop business: Classic Collision Center. They are planning to split the site into three separate businesses, (but in reality will remain one and the same), in order to avoid the Conditional Use Permit process as well as other steps required by the City for auto use property. The original body shop was not in operation for over three years prior to the sale of the property. However, there is now a trailer, which is being used as an office, parked on the site. The STNC LUC is asking for an environmental review and Conditional Use process so the adjacent neighbors and community can weigh in on the proposal.

**710 Freeway connection to the 210** - Geotechnical tests will begin for the 710 Tunnel Technical Study. The Sunland-Tujunga community, who will also be impacted, along with La Canada-Flintridge, Montrose and Glendale, by increased truck traffic caused by the freeway extension, were invited to attend the Crescenta Valley Community Association meeting to hear about the outreach efforts that have begun. Cal Trans District 7 began the geotechnical exploration program in January. Glendale Councilmember, Ara Narjarian, who is also on the Metropolitan Transportation Board, gave an update on the progress of the proposed five mile tunnel, currently planned to run under South Pasadena before connecting with the 210. He said that borings and seismic reflection testing activities will take place at approximately 33 locations throughout the study area. He urges all affected communities to get involved and give their input to the MTA. For more information and upcoming meetings, visit the Crescenta Valley Town Council web site at [http://www.thecvcouncil.com/710\\_freeway\\_tunnel.html](http://www.thecvcouncil.com/710_freeway_tunnel.html)

**Saturday, 4th of July 2009** - Sonia Tatulian and the Verdugo Hills High School Community Grant Fund are moving forward with plans for the Annual Family Fireworks Festival at Verdugo Hills High School. Many sponsors have already come forward with their commitment. To sponsor or become involved in this fabulous community event, contact STNC office at 951-7411, or ask for Sonia at Bank of America in S-T. The 4th of July event is coordinated by several community groups and organizations in the community. The STNC is the title sponsor for this event.

*Editor's note: Ms. Cleghorn is a Community Activist, Secretary of the STNC and writes for the NVR.*

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## Panorama City to Host Valley NC Congress

By Cindy Cleghorn

The San Fernando Valley Regional Congress of Neighborhood Councils will convene on Saturday, May 30, 2009 at Panorama City High School, 8015 Van Nuys Blvd., Panorama City, 1-818-909-4500. The Congress is being planned by and for neighborhood councils. Great networking opportunity on topics related to working with city departments, commissions, alliances, outreach and a forum on land use topics is planned. The Public is invited to participate. Visit the web site at <http://valleyregionalcongress.org/> for more details and how to register. See ad on page 12 of this issue the of NVR.

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# Mark YOUR Calendar

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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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**Saturday May 2**

**Bolton Hall Museum**  
 Presents "Horsin' Around"  
 10110 Commerce, S-T  
 Docent Tours  
 1-4 pm 818-352-3420

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

**MHNC Youth Outreach**  
 10161 Sepulveda Blvd.  
 4 pm 818-892-2412

**Fashion Show /Fundraiser**  
 Sylmar Women's Club Lunch  
 Odyssey Restaurant  
 15600 Odyssey, GH  
 11:30 am -1:30 pm  
 \$35 818-367-4626

**Beautification Cleanup**  
 Historic Verdugo Hills Cem.  
 7000 Parson Trail, Tuj  
 9 am-2 pm 818-352-3420

**JPL Open House**  
 4800 Oak Grove Dr, Pas  
 9 am - 5 pm

**CERT Refresher**  
 LA County Fairplex  
 1101 W. McKinley Pomona,  
 Registration starts at 7:00am

**Sunday, May 3**

**Work of the Hands Exhibit**  
 Little Landers Historical Soc.  
 10110 Commerce, S-T  
 1 pm 818-951-11041

**Beautification Cleanup**  
 Historic Verdugo Hills Cem.  
 7000 Parson Trail, Tuj  
 9 am-2 pm 818-352-3420

**JPL Open House**  
 4800 Oak Grove Dr, Pas  
 9 am - 5 pm

**Monday, May 4**

**SNC Public Serv. Commit.**  
 Sylmar Park  
 13109 Borden, Syl  
 6:30 pm

**STNC LUC Commit**  
 North Valley City Hall  
 7747 Foothill S-T  
 7 pm 818-951-7411

**NAACP Exec. Comm.**  
 11243 Glenoaks, Pac.  
 7 pm

**Tuesday, May 5**  
**Cinco De Mayo**

**ZA Public Hearing**  
 Vulcan Material  
 6262 Van Nuys Blvd VN  
 10 am 818-374-5046

**Bolton Hall Museum**  
 Presents "Work of the Hands"  
 10110 Commerce, S-T  
 Docent Tours  
 1-4 pm 818-352-3420

**MHNC Safety Comm**  
 16161 Sepulveda, MH  
 7 pm 818-892-2414

**Wednesday, May 6**

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

**NHWC Gen Meet.**  
 Holy Martyrs Aremen. Sch.  
 1667 Parthenia, NH  
 7 pm

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

**Thursday, May 7**

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

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

**Saturday, May 9**

**Work of the Hands Exhibit**  
 Little Landers Historical Soc.  
 10110 Commerce, S-T  
 1 pm 818-951-11041

**Youth Job Fair**  
 Sylmar Rec. Center  
 13109 Borden  
 10 am - 2 pm

**Volunteer Orientation & Tour**  
 Wildlife Waystation  
 Verify date & pre-register  
 \$25 9 am-4 pm  
 admin@waystationvolunteers.org

**Sunday, May 10**  
**HAPPY MOTHERS DAY**

**Mothers Day Omlet Bar**  
 Champagne Breakfast  
 S-T Elks Lodge  
 10137 Commerce, S-t  
 9 am Program  
 10 am Moms are free

**Bolton Hall Museum**  
 Presents "Work of the Hands"  
 10110 Commerce, S-T  
 Docent Tours  
 1-4 pm 818-352-3420

**Monday, May 11**

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

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

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

**Trip to Ahmanson Theater.**  
 ABDMP Senior Center  
 11243 Glenoaks, Pac  
 12:30 818-834-6100

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# Mark YOUR Calendar

## Tuesday, May 12

**Bolton Hall Museum**  
Presents "Work of the Hands"  
10110 Commerce, S-T  
Docent Tours  
1-4 pm 818-352-3420

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

**SVANC Gen Meet**  
10631 Vinedale, SV  
6:30

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

**MHNC Board/Land Use**  
LAPD Mission Station  
1121 Sepulveda, MH  
6 pm

## Wednesday, May 13

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

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

**STNC Gen. Meeting.**  
Mount Gleason Mdl. Sch.  
Mt. Gleason, S-T  
7 pm 818-951-7411

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

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

**Bingo Night**  
S-T Elks Lodge  
10137 Commerce, S-T  
5 pm 818-352-2098

**Luncheon**  
Sunland Womans Club  
Church of the Ascension  
10154 Mountair Ave, S-T

## Thursday, May 14

**FTDNC Exec./Gen Meet.**  
9747 Wheatland, SH  
7:30 pm

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

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

**Granada Hills North NC**  
1st Baptist Church of GH  
11011 Hayvenhurst, GH

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

## May 15, 16, & 17

**Family Fun Days**  
Our Lady of Lourdes  
7324 Apperson, S-T

## Saturday, May 16

**Armed Forces Day**

## Sunday, May 17

**Bolton Hall Museum**  
Presents "Work of the Hands"  
10110 Commerce, S-T  
Docent Tours  
1-4 pm 818-352-3420

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

## Monday, May 18

**STNC/LUC Comm**  
North Valley City Hall  
7747 Foothills, S-T  
7 pm 951-7411

## Tuesday, May 19

**Bolton Hall Museum**  
Presents "Work of the Hands"  
10110 Commerce, S-T  
Docent Tours  
1-4 pm 818-352-3420

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

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

**MHNC Beauti. & Cult. Com**  
10161 Sepulveda., MH.  
6:30

## Wednesday, May 20

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

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

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

**No. Hills West NC**  
Sepulveda Va  
16111 Plummer, N. Hills  
7 pm 818-893-8613

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

**Mega Job/Community**  
Outreach & Resource Fair  
L.A. Valley College  
5800 Fulton Ave, Valley Glen -  
Free 9 am- 2 pm

## Thursday, May 21

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

**STNC Safety Comm.**  
NV City Hall  
7747 Foothill S-T  
6 pm 818951-7411

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

**STNC Outreach Comm.**  
NV City Hall  
7747 Foothill, S-T  
7:30 pm 818-951-7411

**S. V. Rotary**  
J. Wells Golf Center  
11501 Strathern, SV  
5:30-7:30 pm 818-767-1954

## Saturday, May 23

**MHNC Outreach-Gen-Youth**  
Volunteers Needed  
2 pm call 818-892-2414

**Rancho Tujunga Valley**  
Talent Show  
Bolton Hall Museum  
110110 Commerce S-T  
7 pm tickets, 818-342-3420

## Sunday, May 24

**Bolton Hall Museum**  
Presents "Work of the Hands"  
10110 Commerce, S-T  
Docent Tours  
1-4 pm 818-352-3420

## Monday, May 25

**Memorial Day**

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

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

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

## Tuesday, May 26

**Bolton Hall Museum**  
Presents "Work of the Hands"  
10110 Commerce, S-T  
Docent Tours  
1-4 pm 818-52-3420

**Emergency Preparedness &**  
Crime Prevention Expo  
CSUN  
18111 Nordhoff.Nrth  
10 am-2pm 818-677-5973

## Saturday, May 30

**Safety Fair & Car Show**  
LAPD Valley Traffic  
Petit Park  
16730 Chatsworth, GH  
9 am - 3 pm

**S.F. Valley Regional Congress,**  
of Neighborhood Councils  
Panorama High School,  
8015 Van Nuy, PC  
8 am to 3 pm

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# PUBLIC SAFETY

## The Right Way to Have a Party



*Captain William Scott  
Commanding Officer  
Mission Area  
Los Angeles Police Department*

Labor Day begins the summer party season for many San Fernando Valley residents. The summer season traditionally signifies an increase in parties and festive gatherings. We encourage everyone to have enjoyable events this summer season. However, it is important that everyone understands the parameters of the City of Los Angeles' noise ordinances, especially as they apply to loud parties.

Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 112.01 (b) states, "Any noise level caused by radios, television sets, and similar devices, which is audible to the human ear at a distance in excess of 150 feet from the property line of the source, within any residential zone of the City or within 500 feet thereof, shall be a violation of the provisions of this section." It does not have to be loud music to qualify. Simply put, any type of loud noise that can be heard from 150 feet from the property line is considered a violation of this section and may lead to a citation.

A loud party that disturbs the peace of another may be a citable violation under Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 112.01 (b). Many of these loud parties often cause related problems such as noise complaints, loud vehicles arriving and departing with loud stereos, neighborhood litter, criminal mischief such as vandalism, and more serious crimes of violence. When Los Angeles Police Officers respond to calls for service for loud parties, officers may cite the person hosting the party on the first response provided the parameters of section 112.01 (b) are met. **No warning is required.** Additionally, amplified music at a loud party is a violation of Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 116.01. There are no distance requirements to receive a citation for amplified music under section 116.01.

The Los Angeles Police Department responds to thousands of loud party complaints each year. Many of these calls for service may be avoided with careful planning, communication with and consideration for neighbors that live in the area of the party.

If you are planning a party, the following suggestions may be helpful to prevent a police response and to avoid a citation:

- Notify neighbors of the planned party.
- Consider neighbors when planning your party.
- Control the guests invited and admitted to your party.
- During your party, periodically check your neighborhood to correct problems.
- Conduct self checks; if you can hear noise from 150 feet, so can others.
- If you lose control of your party end it yourself
- If police officers respond to your party, fully cooperate with them.
- Do not serve alcohol to under-age party attendees.
- Do not over-serve alcohol to adult attendees.
- Be considerate of the time and day of the week of your party.
- Be considerate of the age of your neighbors.

For additional information regarding noise problems or chronic loud parties in your area, please contact your On behalf of the men and women of Mission Area, we wish you an enjoyable and safe summer season!

## Is it Safe to Fluoridate Water?

Years ago, when the Department of Water and Power and City Council was conned into putting fluoride into our water, I and others objected, but to no avail.

According to what I read in the Health News, fluoride is a by-product of the aluminum industry. They used to dump it into the river, but discovered that it kills the fish and the government stopped that. Then they dumped it into the landfills – it contaminated the underground water and the government stopped that.

A slick salesman discovered that in some areas that had a lot of fluoride in their water, children's teeth were harder. They did not disclose that these same children had a mysterious kidney disease.

Due to that fact, people do not want to drink tap water, use of bottled water skyrocketed. Do you notice that at all Department of Water and Power and City Council meetings everyone has bottled water? Horses drink lots of water - not bottled – is this why some are getting sick.

*Joe Carnes*

*Editor's Note: Mr. Carnes is a long time Sunland-Tujunga community activist who just had his 93rd Birthday on May 1 and still going strong. We wish you many more Joe!*

## Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council



*L-R Kevin Davis, Nancy Woodruff, Dale Gibson, Billy Hays & Cris Hughes*

The Election for Executive Board Officers of Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council (FTDNC) was held during their General Board meeting held on April 16.

Dale Gibson, an intelligent, confident, organized and business savvy member, was elected President. He and the Board are rolling up their sleeves to improve the FTDNC's work in advocating for the community.

The Board members who retained their seats are Billy Hays, Vice President of Administration, who pledges

to develop FTDNC "Standing Rules"; Cris Hughes, Vice President, of Communications/Outreach, who is soliciting volunteers to assist in the creation of monthly Outreach projects; Kevin Davis, Treasurer, who will continue to oversee the FTDNC's funds; Royan Herman, Recording Secretary, who is known for the expediency with which she delivers the minutes, and Nancy Woodruff, Corresponding Secretary, who is very detail-oriented.

The FTDNC is striving to bring about change inside and out. Its members invite you to come out and see for yourself. Please bring your concerns so that we can start working for you... the Stakeholder.

The next FTDNC General Board meeting is scheduled to be held on May 21, 2009, at the Lake View Terrace Recreation Center, 11075 Foothill Blvd., Lake View Terrace, CA 91342, at 7:00 pm. Also, check the FTDNC's web site calendar at [www.ftdnc.org](http://www.ftdnc.org) a day or two in advance to verify the location, as sometimes unforeseen changes occur.

The FTDNC is currently soliciting volunteers for the following Committees: Budget & Finance, Equestrian, Grievance, Land Use, Lopez Canyon, Outreach, Rules & Elections, and Watershed. Interested Stakeholders are encouraged to respond by email to [vp-comm@ftdnc.org](mailto:vp-comm@ftdnc.org) or mail your response to Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council, 9747 Wheatland Ave., Shadow Hills, CA 91040, before midnight, June 1, 2009.

### Continued from cover — Children

prisoners, and by failing to coordinate such services with local and city governments, the State has created the chaotic present system: a billion dollar failure. The State cannot keep track of its parolees, and the high recidivism rate (nearly 40%) makes communities fearful to allow parolees into their neighborhoods." These problems have been evident for many years as the CDCR continues to violate its own rules, and Jessica's law, about placement of paroled sex offenders.

Last year, L.A. City Councilmember Greig Smith voiced his concerns, "The burgeoning number of all kinds of group homes, including sober living homes in residential neighborhoods, poses some serious prob-

lems that we want to address. There is no real regulation of group homes and they often don't adhere to the requirement of having six or fewer residents."

Councilmember Jose Huizar called for the creation of a consolidated database that tracks parole violators residing in the City who are known sex offenders, pedophiles, violent criminals and gang members. Yet, no meaningful legislation has "come down the pike".

Currently, sex offenders receive only \$200 upon release and are placed in transitional housing for up to two months in order to find a job and get their lives in order. All sex offenders must wear GPS tracking bracelets for life, but once they are off parole, it becomes the responsibility of the police department to monitor their whereabouts and there is no budget for them to do so.

Whittier is the only city in CA actually tracking sex offenders post-parole. A growing number of sex offenders are now registering as 'transients' - those with no permanent address - and after they complete their parole it will be impossible to keep track of them.

Assemblyman Cameron Smyth, along with Neighborhood Councils and other organization in the North Valley, will be hosting a forum relative to this critical issue. The forum also hopes to address the problems that sober living facilities are creating in neighborhoods as well. More information will be forthcoming when a venue and date is selected for the near future, most likely in June. Watch for upcoming information.

*Katharine.russ@charter.net*



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# COMMENTARY

## A Word from Wendy



By Wendy Greuel

Every spring, especially in the Northeast Valley, I am always delighted to see a spirit of community renewal and cooperation take hold and spread throughout my district. In other words, spring is a time of action, a time of change, and that is exactly what Los Angeles needs right now.

It does not take an expert to know that the myriad of challenges confronting the City, from the gaping budget deficit to a potentially severe water drought, which will require us to change our habits and seek smart solutions. Working together, the City and the community, is the only surefire way we can make the necessary changes to our way of life without compromising our quality of life.

Earlier this week, Mayor Villaraigosa released his proposed 2009-2010 budget. Traditional City revenue sources, such as property and sales tax, have

been greatly impacted by the current economic downturn, resulting in an estimated \$530 million deficit in our city's budget. The Mayor's budget serves as a roadmap on how to navigate our way through this difficult fiscal situation while minimizing reductions to vital City resources. That being said, this year's budget will be subject to vigorous examination and scrutiny to ensure the budget exhibits sound fiscal policy and reflects the needs and values of the Northeast Valley. I vow to pursue these goals as we enter the next stage of the budget process on Monday, April 27 when we begin conducting the Budget and Finance Committee hearing. As Vice Chair of the Committee, I will be looking for measures that will provide short-term savings and long term solutions.

Current circumstances will also require a renewed effort in water conservation. Recently, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California voted to cut water deliveries across the region by 10% this summer. It is the first time such action has been taken since the drought in the early 1990s. In order to prevent a drought that could have hazardous impacts,

we must conserve today so that we may have the water we need tomorrow. That is why the City Council approved a proposal from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) to reduce water use by 15%. Beginning June 1, shortage year rates will become effective and will be applied to all LADWP customers.

All LADWP customers have a specific water budget calculated by a formula, which includes lot size and the region's climate. During shortage years like this one, LADWP reduces the amount of water you regularly receive at the lowest price by 15%. Your specific water allotment is indicated on your water bill as "Tier 1". Customers already conserving 15% below their allotment will not be affected. Customers who exceed the reduced Tier 1 allotment will pay a higher rate for every gallon over Tier 1. These customers will see their water bills rise.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions regarding these or any other city related issues, please contact my Sunland-Tujunga Field Office at (818) 352-3287. Thank you and have a wonderful Spring!

## City of LA Needs to Work for its People



By Ron Kaye

At a recent City Council meeting where water rate hikes that punish single-family homeowners and horse properties were approved, Councilmember Janice Hahn lectured DWP General Manager, David Nahai, in opposing the hike.

She also seized on the failure of the Department of Water and Power to reach out to Neighborhood Councils. "I am very, very troubled that our Department of Neighborhood Empowerment's General Manager, Bong Hwan Kim, says you do not have a good relationship with Neighborhood Councils." She noted the city initiated its first Memorandum of Understanding with the NC movement to bring the community inside the nation's largest municipal utility – a relationship that flourished until Nahai took over and cut off communication.

DWP Commission President, Lee Alpert, raised the same issue just days earlier and Nahai – a man widely criticized inside and outside the DWP for his arrogant and contemptuous attitude – seemed to gag every time he had to utter the words Neighborhood Council. He couldn't bring himself to even refer to the DWP MOU Committee. A year ago relations deteriorated to the point that the committee's president, Soledad Garcia, set up a separate DWP Committee outside the MOU to advocate for ratepayer rights. It

was Garcia's group that set in motion what became the "No on Measure B" campaign that, against all odds, stopped a \$3.5 billion fraud from being perpetrated on ratepayers.

I raise this issue because it goes to the heart of what's wrong with City Hall: Our elected officials think we, the people, are so dumb we don't know what time it is. They think that a little lip service and occasional patronizing smiles will keep us quiet while they cut sweetheart deals in exchange for campaign cash and free lunches at fancy restaurants. They have good reason to think that way because it's worked so long. But economic hard times have a way of waking people up. That's what we saw with Measure B and that's what we're seeing on many fronts today – digital billboards, development that harms the quality of life, rate hikes and, most of all, the city budget catastrophe.

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa nakedly argues in his proposed budget that the public provided input that was used in setting his priorities. He refers to a questionnaire that defined the issues that got him the answers that he wanted. His proposal on how to close a \$530 million budget deficit – that is soaring higher every month – isn't really a plan at all. It contains a bunch of ideas for reducing payroll costs but no deal has been reached with city employee unions. It contains a series of revenue schemes, like privatizing the zoo, Convention Center and parking meters and lots – that amount to mortgaging the city's future even as

the budget deficit is likely to triple in the next few years. He cites as justification for his plan to "sell off the farm" what has been done in Chicago. But Chicago is a city that works for its people despite corruption. LA has all the corruption but is a city that doesn't work for its people.

Most of us are feeling the impact of the financial crisis with home prices falling, jobs in jeopardy, and our future in doubt. LA is at a crossroads. We are at turning point or a tipping point. Our city government simply costs too much and delivers too little. We must get back to basics and reduce costs. The most important single steps to achieving these goals are to open up city government and make it transparent and to bring in the people as full partners. Neighborhood Councils are official government agencies and need to be brought fully into all aspects of city government and made full partners in deciding city policy. This would energize NCs as the centers of community activism and bring together business and residents and start the process of creating a more responsible and responsive city government.

Without such steps, LA will tip over and continue down the road where the only alternative is bankruptcy. Nobody shares power willingly so it will take a massive movement at the grassroots level to turn LA around. So wake up all you people. This is our LA and this is the time for all good men and women to come to the aid of their city.

## Year 2009 California Boys' State Delegates Selected

By Hugh Yoho

The Sun Valley American Legion Post 520, after interviewing a number of outstanding young men in the junior classes at Sun Valley's High Schools, selected Richard Dulce, from Village Christian High School, and Tam Luu, from John H. Francis Polytechnic High School, as delegates to the California Boys' State Convention, which is to be held this summer, from June 21 to June 28, at California State University, Sacramento. Dulce and Luu, along with about a thousand other boys from around the state, will receive hands-on experience

by participating in mock government at the state and local levels. Two of the most outstanding delegates from this group will be selected to attend Boys' Nation in Washington, D.C., later this year. The American Legion in all states, except Hawaii sponsors a Boys' State program.

Richard Dulce has a 4.01 grade point average, is captain of Village's volleyball team and plays varsity football. He is involved in many other school activities and still finds time to perform community service. He says he plans to attend West Point because he intends to pursue a career in the military

Tam Luu has a 4.0 grade point average and is captain of the Poly academic decathlon team as well as being captain of the school's tennis team. He is active in other school activities and volunteers for community service as well. He says would like to attend Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., because he is looking forward to a career in political science or economics.

Past delegates to Boys' State include news anchor Tom Brokaw, basketball players Jerry West and Michael Jordan, astronaut Neil Armstrong, and former president William (Bill) Clinton.

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Sylmar

By Nick Krall

**Sylmar's Relay for Life** was a Success. For 24 hours, Olive Vista Middle School in Sylmar was a cancer-fighting warrior's battlefield. 14 teams totaling 161 members registered. Even more showed up to participate in the Third Annual Relay for Life of Sylmar, funding the research, programs and services of the American Cancer Society.

The co-chairs were Fabian Garcia (adult leader), and Esteban Tabares (youth leader). Lucy Garcia Mejia, Sylmar Relay's ACS support staff partner estimates over \$16,000 has been raised so far, with more to be raised through the August 2009 deadline.

Among the strongest team-raisers and fundraisers were: Angelina Acedo of San Fernando American Legion Post 176 Woman's Auxiliary, who also brought the Color Guard for opening and closing ceremonies, Griselda Padilla and Lucia Espinoza, of Team Anthony (Doors) International, Melody Cutler of Team Park Regency Real Estate, Ana Reyes (Luminaria Queen) of Team The Right Touch (Massage Therapy), and Nick & Anne Krall of Team Purple Reign Over Cancer (Primerica Financial Services).

FUNdraising activities included discount facials by the Nakamura's, Face-painting and temporary tattoos and body-jewelry by Team Pink Rose. Also, an entire afternoon of live acoustic songwriters and musicians, including Entertainment chairperson and local performer, Nick Krall; food cooked on site by La Adelita Restaurant, and food delivered from Denny's, Guido's, China Buffet, Caruso's and much more. Ronald McDonald, Honorary Co-Emcee assisted with healthy stretching and warm-ups before accompanying the children and cancer Survivors on the opening lap.

Great raffle prizes were donated by Thompson Boxing Promotions, Universal Studios, Focus Features Films, Priority One Credit Union and Park Regency. Attendees won shirts, caps, duffle bags, autographed movie posters, soundtracks, DVDs, chocolate, hair-care products from Paul Mitchell, won by the Relay, and ACS because of the prize donations and raffle ticket purchases.

After a strong first Relay of Sylmar in 2007, the following years have been economically challenging and very hard work building momentum in this environment. The Sylmar Relay gained solid momentum in 2009, which is expected to continue. A follow-up Pizza Tour of Sylmar will continue to raise funds, as the Relay Committee and team leaders meet each month to wrap-up 2009 and get an early jump on 2010.

Visit: [www.RelayForLife.org/SylmarCa](http://www.RelayForLife.org/SylmarCa) for the dates and locations of the monthly Pizza Tour & Planning Meetings starting May 20, location to be announced Or call Sylmar Relay founder, Nick Krall, at 818-521-7252, and ask how to get involved.

## New Mobile Skate Board Park Initiated

LAPD Captain Bill Scott, Officer Matt Van Ader and Council aide Nick Krall all tested their skills on the Mobile Skate Park at Sylmar Recreation Center. April 9 was the opening kick-off celebration for the Recreation and Park's Valley Region Mobile Skate Park as part of the "Extreme Teens" Program that provides fun and activities for teams. The Mobile Park will rotate between Sylmar, Lanark and Van Nuys Parks. The purchase of equipment was coordinated through the San Fernando Valley Coalition on Gangs, with \$2,500 donated by the Sylmar Neighborhood Council, and \$5,250 donated by State Farm Insurance.

## Tree Planting for Canines

By Jim Summers

The newly formed Friends of the Sepulveda Basin Dog Park (FSBDP), will be hosting a tree planting on Saturday, May 2, 2009 from 8:45 am – 12:45 pm, at the off-leash park, located at 17300 Victory Blvd., Encino/Lake Balboa 91316 (Cross street Louise). FSBDP will be partnering with Los Angeles Parks and Recreation, the Los Angeles Conservation Corp, and Big Sunday to bring you this special event.

The goal is to start planting a shaded walking path around the large area of the park and adding some perimeter shading in other sections. Thirty-five trees are planned to be planted, almost double the current amount.

Don't worry if you've never planted a tree, experts will be on hand to help! On the day of the event, the Los Angeles Conservation Corp is providing up to ten tree-planting supervisors to assist, and who will also provide the necessary training and tools.

Volunteers should wear good working shoes (preferably boots), bring gloves (very important), hat, water, sunscreen and rain jacket (in case the weather changes). Are you interested in the event but prefer to volunteer for a less strenuous task than tree planting? Not a problem. Volunteers are needed to help at the check-in table, the information table and in other areas as well.

For more information, e-mail [Kathleen.haff@gmail.com](mailto:Kathleen.haff@gmail.com), or call 818.428.8136, or 818.891.0220.

# SOUND OFF

## 10 DAYS and Counting, Without any Water

On the weekend of April 18, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) shut off the water on my property, where I live. Patricia Ruffolo lives on my property. Our water was shut off without my knowledge or consent. That weekend had record high heat in Shadow Hills, over 100 degrees. Patrick Wizmann of California Home Development, LLC ordered DWP to shut off the water. Prior to that weekend, in December 2007 and December 2008, DWP shut off the water to my residence, the same parcel of property, at the direction of the developer, again, without my knowledge or consent.

My residence still has no access to water...a dire and inhumane situation. Some of my neighbors have also had safety problems with the same developer. For example: 75-year old Rudy Madrid had his water turned off around the same time for no apparent reason; Kurtis and Kamini King have access road problems; and Bill McChesney has waterline and boundary line problems.

No to have access to water unhealthy and inhumane. This is not allowed to happen in slum in sum housing. I need your help to get my water turned on I am asking you to send e-mails to Councilmember Wendy Greuel, at [Wendy.Greuel@lacity.com](mailto:Wendy.Greuel@lacity.com), Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, at [mayor@lacity.org](mailto:mayor@lacity.org), and DWP General Manager David Nahai, at [Nahai@ladwp.com](mailto:Nahai@ladwp.com).

Maria Mejia

## Please Save the Verdugo Hills Golf Course

If folks have not driven by the wonderful Verdugo Hills Golf Course recently, I suggest stopping in to enjoy the awesome sight of those amazing ancient oak trees, the expanse of grasses and paths, and the view of the foothills around this site. We already have too much development in this area, and we can agree that it would be a horrible thing to have this space ravaged by bulldozers and buried under hundreds of homes!!! Golf is one sport that draws people. There are many other ideas that have been suggested that could include tennis courts. The clubhouse could become the destination for weddings and various receptions. There are lots of positive uses for this wonderful and rare piece of history.

Narrow roads that are already clogged with traffic surround the area around the golf course. It would become even worse when almost a thousand daily car trips further add to the congestion. We are already under the threat of water rationing. What will hundreds of additional kitchens and bathrooms and people do to the water supply? Do we want to pass on the legacy of a terrible loss of recreation and open space to our children and grandchildren? If we were all forced to live with nothing but paved roads and developed hillsides, we would lose a vital part of our own humanity. Where would the birds go to get insects to eat, make their nests, and chirp their melodies to us? So much wildlife is attracted to the foothills. We need to defend the rights of all life and protect this area.

It certainly is a sad thing when the people in our foothill communities work tirelessly to gather information on an issue of importance and get only lip service from elected officials. I'm referring to the important issue on preservation of the Verdugo Hills Golf Course! A recent article by Sharon Hales entitled "Golf Course Still Waiting for Rescue", April 6, highlights the valiant efforts by residents, Supervisor Mike Antonovich, local community leaders, and even the property owner to close the deal on a multi-jurisdictional purchase that would have preserved the amazing property now enjoyed by so many for recreation and open space. All this could be lost if we don't rally with conviction and remind Wendy Greuel to finish the deal for us before she moves on in her career.

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# HERE'S MY CARD

## Carrick's Journey —Part Seventeen

By Tomi Lyn Bowling



No sooner did Drake finally open his mouth to speak when two guards ran into the room out of breath and upset. Drake swallowed his words and waited. The two guards marched straight over to Sebastian. The first one knelt next to him and whispered into his ear. Sebastian stood up, spoke to Fanella briefly off to the side and out of earshot. He then walked over and apologized to Drake for an abrupt ending to their meeting. He summoned the rest of the men at the table, and all of them quickly left the room.

Fanella gathered up the visitors and said, "We have to get you back to your cabin. Come with me and I will explain on the way out." There was such a strong sense of urgency that Drake was compelled to prompt answers from Fanella before they even reached the doorway. "What's going on Fanella? Is something wrong?"

As the four picked up their pace and walked briskly up the stairwell Fanella explained that the village is fed by sending out Stewards. Well, at least that is what the villagers call them. A group of ten Stewards goes out on a hunting party. They bring back enough food to keep the village well fed for about five weeks. The hunters are usually gone for about one week. The last Stewards were sent out three days ago. Two of them just returned to the village with two others that are badly injured, and apparently the others are dead. Fanella did not know much more than that so the subsequent questions from Drake were left unanswered.

Drake got up enough speed to get out in front of Fanella to stop her. He took both of her arms into his grasp and forced her to look him in the eyes. "Fanella, I am a good hunter, and a very capable marksman. You must tell Sebastian and get him to let me help". Fanella could see in his eyes a dedicated look and she could only agree to do as he asked. "I know you are Drake. I'll talk to him right away." Fanella continued briefing them about life in the village.

Drake knew there was something she wasn't saying. "Who was shooting at me when you found me, Fanella?" Fanella stopped walking for a second, and then resumed as she replied, "That is a longer story than I have time to tell you right now. It's necessary for me to explain a bit more of our history. I promise I will answer all of your questions, Drake. Right now, I can't, we need to go see Sebastian and the Seward's.".... *to be continued.*



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# THIS & THAT

## OTTOMH\*

By Marlene Hitt

Do you twitter? Or text? Of course! Do you speak? Debate? Monologue?

From those who are smart I hear that mankind, like animals, communicated in the beginning with grunts and gestures. As time went by, the mouth began to form words. Those words were remembered and repeated, and finally evolved into a written language.

Every time a group mixed with another group the language was influenced. As we think of our own type of English language we can trace much of our words to other languages.

One source tells us that as long ago as the 1700s, when the Spaniards came into California, those in the Monterey Bay area found that small and isolated groups of people each spoke their own language or a dialect. Even then, after the many years of conquest and intermingling the new speech patterns had formed, yet no group spoke the same.

It has been said that Charles Dickens was paid by the word. Therefore, his stories are long and wordy. Yet, the hobos of the depression days could say all they needed to say with symbols. From a large triangle and three small ones, the meaning was "tell pitiful story". A small circle inside a large one meant "very good".

Morse code, when illustrated, is nothing more than short and long lines in patterns. The advertisements we see are over and done in 30 seconds. In magazine ads a picture speaks a thousand words.

In each world that spins around us we need a specific vocabulary in order to understand each other. Computer people speak computer talk; sports vocabulary is specific to the sport; astronomers use words the rest of us never thought of, and medicine? What are those people saying?

Cowboys had their slang: "His spirits rose like a corn cob in a cistern"... "He felt like a broomtail in a cornfield"... "He was fat in the middle and pore at each end." Or unfamiliar words like demi-bateau (a small boat). What is piffle, a trigon, a trine, or a pommies pittance?

When life is slow, not many words are needed and they can be spoken slowly and far apart. However, in our fast paced lives today we have gone back to grunts and gestures, it seems. Take texting: NM (nothing much or never mind) OTOH (on the other hand), NBD (no big deal), OTB (off to bed). Well, from me to you: I'm OOH and TTFN! Communication. What a fascinating subject! TTYL\*\*

\*off the top of my head

\*\*talk to you later

Copy Editor's Note: Editing and proof reading this particular article with an assist from "Spell Check" proved to be most interesting.

## 6th Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 4,

Sponsored by Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council and L.A. Department of Parks and Recreation. Held in O'Melveny Park. Festivities included a magic show, face painting, moon bounces, and photos with the Easter Bunny.





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Life may have its ups and downs, but life does not have to be an uncontrollable roller coaster!



## Health... "On the Wild Side?"

By Peter V. DiNova

*"First time float-I saw blue light with purple sphere light in middle. Then when I really relaxed, I had sensation that the water was my long, wet hair, and I don't even have long hair." Float Tank testimonial from Kenneth C.*

I would like to introduce you to what just might become your new best friend: the Float Tank. Stay tuned...

I feel stress. Lots of it. I take pills, prescribed and OTC. Lots of them. But "I'm mad as hell and I'm not gonna take [them] any more!" I am now on a mission to eliminate as much medication from my life as possible. I hope to accomplish that through regular participation in a number of homeopathic remedies, such as the Float Tank. "The Tank", as it is affectionately called, is filled with water which is just ten inches deep, and is heated to 96 degrees, along with 800 pounds of Epsom salt, which prevents you from sinking no matter how hard you might try. The "vehicle" is eight feet long, four feet wide, and four feet high. Plenty of room, even for someone who is hugely claustrophobic like myself.

*"Amazing sensation. Could feel specific muscle releases. Tingling in the hands. Sensation of something solid beneath me. VERY still. VERY serene." Float Tank testimonial, Christa L.*

I visited an establishment in Burbank that offered, among other alternative health choices, Float Tank services. I was cautioned that a first session usually only produces, for most people, a great sense of total relaxation, and not too much more. "Other worldly" experiences, if they are to happen at all, usually occur on subsequent visits. Yeah. Right?

I stripped down, showered, and slipped into the solitude of the "cabin", closed the door, laid myself out flat on my back and... floated. Quietly. Peacefully. In the dark. No distractions. My mind began to drift. Suddenly, a strange beautiful, glowing, multi-colored creature which I can not describe, and the likes of which I had never seen before appeared before my eyes. Then another...and another...yet another. All different. They had no legs and, though not bird-like, were hovering in mid-air. They had surrounded me. But they were all very non-threatening, warm, friendly, and smiling at me. And I began to smile back. Hey, I'm 62 years old and have never experimented with hallucinogenics. So, no chance of narcotic-influenced flash backs here. I thought I had fallen asleep and was dreaming. But, to my amazement, I was WIDE-AWAKE with eyes open—and I could still see them! By the time I exited the Tank, I felt like I had spent my whole life with them, though Tank time is only about an hour.

Words can not explain how peaceful and relaxed I felt while showering after that first session. Feelings of stress? Gone! Space does not allow for me to explain to you why "Floating" works. If you want to learn about theories of "left brain/right brain", Neurochemical", "Homeostasis", or "Anti-gravity" explanations, purchase: The Book of Floating: Exploring the Private Sea, by Michael Hutchison. Look for it on-line. It is also available at major book stores. Or, you can also visit one of the web sites of a facility that offers Float Tank Services and prices at Floatation.com. Package deals may be available at some establishments. I hope Craig, who offered the following testimonial, was able to benefit from such a package: "Do it! Do it now! Do it again! Do it as soon as you can! I came back and I will be back again!"

And indeed he was. At last count, for fourteen more visits with his new best friend.

**SF VALLEY**  
REGIONAL CONGRESS



**ONE Valley ONE Voice**

at Panorama High School  
May 30, 2009 8am - 3pm

**Panorama High School**  
8015 Van Nuys Blvd., Panorama City

- Join 31 Neighborhood Councils from the San Fernando Valley
- Participate in Workshops on Building Networks, Alliances & Roads to Empowerment
- Roundtable with Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment staff and Board of Neighborhood Commissioners
- Report Card for Elected Officials
- Learn about New Technologies
- Network with alliances in land use, transportation, outreach and public safety
- Canned food drive 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Everyone is welcome.

Continental breakfast and lunch provided.  
Workshop Schedule updates, info and registration at [valleyregionalcongress.org](http://valleyregionalcongress.org) or call Lisa Cerda at 818-757-1330.

**Save the Date -- Saturday, May 30, 2009**