

Council District 2 Candidates Square Off



By Katharine Russ

Ten candidates are vying for the seat vacated by Wendy Greuel, former District 2 Representative on the Los Angeles City Council, in a Special Election to be held by the city on September 22. Residents from District 2 submitted questions to the candidates via the *North Valley Reporter*, and the following four questions were chosen for them to answer:

1. There are hundreds of instances where restrictions by the Department of City Planning were/are ignored by the Department of Building and Safety. As an elected official what will you do to insure that there is project compliance?

MARY BENSON: Create and fund a Compliance Unit of DBS with fines. Assess and collect those fines through an administrative process (no PLUM). Move Environmental Protection Unit to DBS. Make fines a "per day until corrected" and make the violator responsive to a correction timetable with fines doubling after a reasonable correction time has expired. Create a Civil Service Commission to evaluate the performance of City Employees and limit the power of the Mayor to hire and fire General Managers.

JOE ESSAVI: As an elected official I will make sure that all departments adhere to planning and zoning standards which are codified. I will give the city planning commission veto ability on all projects when they get NC inputs in favor or against developments.

CHRIS ESSEL: Enforcement is extremely important. As a City Councilwoman, I'll assemble a staff that puts pressure on DBS to abide by planning restrictions on a project-by-project basis. I'll also introduce legislation to implement recommendations from former Controller Laura Chick's audit of DBS's ineffective enforcement policies.

TAMAR GALATZAN: Building and Safety and Planning Department, which used to be part of the same agency, work out of separate offices and use different computer systems. The agencies need to work closer together. As councilmember, I will set up a monthly planning meeting for Building and Safety, and Planning, and interested community members to discuss every project submitted in the previous month and enforcement issues that have arisen. In addition, Building and Safety Code Enforcement needs enough inspectors to cover the huge caseloads they are assigned.

PAUL KREKORIAN: I will make sure that all planning and building and safety codes are enforced. As Councilmember it will be my job to advocate on behalf of communities who are being overrun by haphazard code enforcement.

DAVID SALTSBURG (Zuma Dogg): I believe that "compliance" begins by putting the Dept. of Planning as well as Building and Safety on notice that I will work closely with enforcement agencies and Neighborhood Councils to insure all projects comply with local laws and community plans as well. The people, not City officials, know what is best for their communities.

PETER SANCHEZ: I will study and review the requirements and procedures to determine why enforcement is failing. Is it staffing, training, attitude? I will work with the Department of Building and Safety to fix those problems. District 2 staff would be required to follow a project complaint to resolution, not just turn it over to the Department of Building and Safety.

FRANK SHEFTEL: I will fund and provide resources for an individual who will be answerable to the Neighborhood Council. This individual will be charged with the duty of reviewing all requests for permits, variances and any other request concerning land use within the Neighborhood Council District. The Community Land Use Coordinator (CLUC) will provide a weekly status report to the Planning and Land Use Committee of the Neighborhood Council and a monthly report to the full NC Board at each meeting. The CLUC will have a base of operations within the NC district where they will maintain a current database of all proposed projects, pending projects and all projects currently in development.

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Fate of Veteran's Mojave Cross Uncertain

U.S. Supreme Court to Decide

By Katharine Russ

On October 7, 2009, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear oral arguments on the "Mojave Cross" (Salazar v Buono) that has been standing in a remote area of the 1.6 million acre Mojave Desert Preserve since 1934. At issue are two questions: 1. Whether an individual has Article III standing to bring an Establishment Clause suit challenging the display of a religious symbol on government land and 2. if the Act of Congress directing the land be transferred to a private entity is a permissible accommodation.

The cross was erected in 1934 by a group of World War I veterans in memory of fallen soldiers of WWI. For 50 years, John Riley Bemby, a World War I medic, cared for the cross. When Bemby died in 1984, Henry Sandoz and his wife, Wanda, resumed its care and have done so until today.

The Court battle over this cross has been going on since 1999 and has been the subject of several pieces of legislation over the years but for 65 years prior, the cross stood without any Court challenges. In 2001, Frank Buono, a former National Park Service employee filed a suit claiming an "Establishment Clause" violation.

In 2002, the District Court held that Buono "has standing because he was "subjected to an unwelcome religious display, namely the cross" and ordered the cross to be removed.

With the help of their Congressman in 2002, the Sandoz's were able to trade five acres of their land within the Preserve for one acre where the cross stands. The land was transferred to VFW Post 385E pursuant to a Congressional designation.

Wanda Sandoz said, "This has been going on for over ten years now. The cross was covered in 2002 or 2003. Originally it had a canvas bag over it but that was too easy to get off. We were accused of removing it, but we didn't have to because others removed it."

In September 2007, the Court of Appeals affirmed the District Courts judgement reasoning "that Buono had suffered a "concrete, personalized injury" rather than "an abstract generalized grievance," because he "will tend to avoid Sunrise Rock on his visits to the Preserve as long as the cross remains standing." The Court of Appeals further invalidated the land transfer and ordered the Government to comply with the original injunction. The Court, later in 2008, refused to hear the case again.



The contentious covered Cross

Photo Courtesy of Liberty Legal Institute

Peter Eliasberg, Counsel of Record, ACLU of Southern California, said, "My client lives in Arizona. There is no argument that client doesn't have standing because he doesn't live in the Preserve. He regularly visits the Preserve. He is offended by the fact that the government has engaged in this sectarian religious endorsement. He has a very large hand in the Preserve actually becoming a Preserve. He was a park ranger there so his connection to the area is as great or greater than anybody who lives there. And the fact the court has regularly said that people have standing to bring environmental challenges with respect to national parks or preserves whether they live there or not. The cross is the preeminent symbol of Christianity and that symbol has no religious meaning to any other

Continued on Page 2

COMMUNITY NEWS

Students Lose, Who's to Blame?

Special Assignment
Part 1 of 2

By: Nayri Vartanian

Do college administrators and instructors have a moral obligation to inform their students that a program they are enrolled in is non-accredited, even if no mention is made of it one way or the other in any of its printed material? Student Arlene Alvarez, from Sunland-Tujunga, and many other students who were enrolled in Santa Clarita's College of the Canyons (COC), Medical Assisting Program, would like an answer.

Although some students at COC joined the Medical Assisting Program with hopes of simply finding a job after completion of the course, for Ms. Alvarez, the motivation went much deeper; it was so she could provide better personal care for her ill mother. In the Spring 2008 semester, she, and other students inquired about taking a certification examination to become a Certified Medical Assistant (MA) or a Registered Medical Assistant (RMA) in the future. They were stunned to learn that, three months into the semester, the Medical Assisting Program they were enrolled in was not accredited, and had never been since its inception. It was devastating news because they learned they can only take the exam if they graduate from an accredited Medical Assisting Program.

What is accreditation and why is it important? According to the Commission of Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP), programmatic accreditation "examines specific schools or programs within an educational institution (e.g., the law school, the medical school, the nursing program). The standards by which these programs are measured have generally been developed by the professionals involved in each discipline and are intended to reflect what a person

needs to know and be able to do to function successfully within that profession."

The U.S Department of Labor states that medical assisting "is expected to be among the fastest growing occupations between 2004 and 2014." The salary for medical assistants is reasonable for entry-level first time job seekers. Depending on a number of factors, such as education and experience, yearly salaries can range from \$24,205 to \$38,610.



Ms. Alvarez stated, "We were never told the program was not accredited. They made it seem like it was 'all golden' on the first day of class." When asked why medical offices would not be willing to hire students from non-accredited programs, Ms. Alvarez responded, "Most companies see you as a liability because the school is not accredited..."

Adding to the students' frustrations is that the courses taken for the Medical Assisting Program at COC are not UC or CSU transferable, meaning they cannot use those courses to complete their general education requirements in order to transfer to a University of California or a California State University. So,

did the college not have, at minimum, a fiduciary obligation to advise its students of this through a verbal and/or written disclaimer?

Tuition for Spring semester 2008 alone was \$420, plus expense for books and other supplies needed to complete the course. It was certainly a "bitter pill to swallow" for students who enrolled based on erroneous information.

Unfortunately, nobody has been able to help students with this matter. Ms. Alvarez, as well as other students who have requested anonymity, tried to seek answers from Sue Alberts, Dean of Allied Health at College of the Canyons. When Ms. Alvarez queried her about her disillusionment concerning the accreditation issue, she alleged the Dean's remarkable response was, "This is the United States. You have to get used to it." Ms. Alvarez further stated that the professors "kept trying to persuade us to go into other fields within the program." For example, with the knowledge they would obtain from the Medical Assisting Program they could "possibly get a job as a receptionist, then work [our] way up the ladder" and eventually become a medical assistant. Clearly, doing something like this would not be consistent with their original goals. But had the program been accredited, students could apply as Certified Medical Assistants and would be qualified to receive jobs in the field for which they were trained. In fact, the Medical Assisting Program was going to get accredited in the year 2000, but when the person who was in charge left COC, Dean Alberts, who had, by then, become the new administrator in charge, for reasons yet to be explained, never tried to complete the accreditation process.

So what is College of the Canyons current position on this matter? Read the conclusion to this story in "The Blame Game" in the next issue of your *North Valley Reporter*.



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Continued from Cover—Fate

religion other than Christianity. To call it a war memorial does not change the fact that it is the symbol of Christianity and to tell the family members of the 250,000 Jews who fought for the United States in World War I that they are being honored by a symbol that says "Christ is the Messiah" is really offensive to them."

In a February 2009 Press Release, Chief Legal Counsel of Liberty Legal Institute, Kelly Shackelford's amicus brief of November 2008 asked for certiorari on behalf of the

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW), The American Legion, the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH), Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of California, and American Ex-Prisoners of War (AXPOW).

"The VFW erected the memorial and originally owned the land on which the memorial sits, and had donated it to the government in 1934. The ACLU sued for removal of the veterans' memorial on the grounds that it is unconstitutional, and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals agreed and ordered the memorial and cross dismantled." The cross still stands covered by a wooden box.

The United States Supreme Court agreed to hear arguments on the case.

Shackelford said, "It is bad enough to say that the veterans' memorial is unconstitutional, but it is outrageous to say that the government cannot give the monument back to the people who spilled their blood and put it there in the first place."

The VFW fears an ACLU victory will put other veterans memorials at risk of removal. Among those, the Canadian Cross of Sacrifice in Arlington National Cemetery donated by Canadian Prime Minister MacKenzie King in 1925.

The inscription on the cross reaffirms the sentiment regarding Americans who served in the Canadian Armed Forces. Following World War II and the Korean War, similar inscriptions on other faces of the monument were dedicated to the Americans who served in those conflicts.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

You Should Know...

By Nina Royal

You can help select the new Chief of the LAPD. The Police Commission announced they are holding four meetings throughout the city to obtain public input for next Chief of Police. Public input is critical in this process. Police Commission President John Mack says that the next Chief of Police will serve all of the diverse communities in Los Angeles, and it's extremely important to hear from those communities. Their meeting in the Valley will be held on September 10, 6:30 pm, at One Generation, 18255 Victory Boulevard in Reseda.

A satellite extension of Mission College is coming to the Northeast Valley region and will be located in the former Kmart site in Sunland-Tujunga. Everyone will have the opportunity to weigh in on the curriculum they feel will best serve the community. You are invited to send your comments on what you believe the educational focus should be, i.e., re-entry into the work force, trades, health, entertainment, culinary, general education classes toward a four year degree, etc. Send your comments to comments@stnc.org and put in the subject: Mission College. Please include your name and

address and add if you are also a student in high school or college for survey purposes.

"Breathe!" the History of the Sunair Home will be presented on Saturday, September 12th at 1:00 pm. at Bolton Hall Museum in Tujunga. Reverend John Simmons, former Director of the old Pacoima Lutheran Hospital in Lake View Terrace, and long-time president of the Sunair Foundation, will be the guest speaker. Many people remember the Sunair Home for Asthmatic Children that was located in the 7700 block of McGroarty Street for years. The facility was nationally known for treatment of severe and intractable asthma in children. Many inner city children, who looked like they might not survive, blossomed in the clean dry air of Tujunga. The Sunair Foundation plans to turn over their historic archives for safe keeping at Bolton Hall Museum.

A new "Rainy Day Games" exhibit will also open at Bolton Hall Museum after their program. Ancient games still popular today, pastimes brought to this country by immigrant groups, games that grew out of hard times and those created to fill newly found leisure hours will be on display. See the calendar section for more information regarding both programs.

"Deaf Awareness Month" begins September 1st Councilmember Tony Cardenas will lead the City of L.A.'s effort to increase awareness regarding deafness. L.A. City will be honoring deaf individuals and organizations that have dedicated their efforts to the deaf and hard-of-hearing community.

DEAFestival-Los Angeles will be held on September 26 at Woodley Park, 6350 Woodley Ave., Van Nuys, 12 - 5 pm. It will benefit the deaf and hard-of-hearing community, by connecting them within a positive and engaging atmosphere that recognizes their talents and achievements. Several agencies and organizations will be attending to showcase their services and how they can provide assistance. The festival is expected to attract over 12,000 attendees this year. Councilmember Cardenas has invited 18 year old Ashley Fiolek, X GAMES super Motor Cross Champion, (www.ashleyfiolek.com) and first deaf medallist in X GAMES history as a special guest of honor. For more information call 213-473-7006 or email bertha.ve-lazquez@lacity.org.

DWP Reclaim Doublespeak?

By Mary Benson

The Energy and Environment Committee at City Council asked the DWP to look into buying reclaimed water from the City of Burbank and selling it here in LA. Perry did this by opening a Council File (09-1640) and skin for report.

Nothing in the report said anything about the DWP coming up with a policy. Nothing was mentioned about selling LA's own recycled water that is currently being dumped into the LA River and the ocean. Why not?

For twenty years DWP's water supply philosophy hasn't changed one bit. "We buy it from someone else." That means they can pass along every cost increase to ratepayers. Evidentially that policy is also going to apply to reclaimed water --now that there's someone to buy it from.

For two years, DWP has been stalling and giving excuses to a group from the Los Angeles Horse Council about why they can't sell reclaimed water direct to customers. "Too many restrictions" they say. "State Law stops them" they say. "No way to prevent misuse" they say. "not enough infrastructure" they say.

I say they don't want to account for the cost of water delivered through purple pipes. Reclaimed water is a byproduct of sewage treatment and taxpayers have ALREADY been paying for the process that creates Reclaimed Water. DWP can't CHARGE us for the cost of water if the cost is already being paid for by taxpayers, so they have had no profit incentive to sell it.

Now it looks like the DWP has found a loophole. Buying it from someone else to assign an assumed cost to a product they can then turn around and charge ratepayers for. THEN the DWP can justify a "cost" . Then DWP can charge for the water.

The procrastination by DWP in supplying a purple pipe water system has resulted in dying golf courses and parks. A perfect example of this is the Hansen Dam Golf Course. It was plumbed with purple pipes two years ago. Problem is there's not enough pressure to charge the line. So all that money spent by our parks department was wasted.

Did the DWP even ask for federal stimulus money to help defray the cost of the infrastructure? LA ratepayers appear to be the only source being "tapped" for the purple pipe system.

Looking at what is in store for all the reclaimed water produced at the plant in the Sepulveda Basin, I can only conclude that residents and businesses are not going to be part of the DWP's plan when it comes to reclaimed water unless DWP can factor in some kind of cost for the water itself. Right now, the plan is to keep that water until it can be put back in the ground, where DWP can charge us on the flip side.

We need to push for independent oversight in the policies and practices at the DWP. We need someone who works directly for the ratepayers. We need a ratepayer advocate. Visit http://www.lacity.org/san/lasewers/treatment_plants/about/water_reclamation.htm

Editor's Note: Ms Benson is Vice President of the Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council, Land Use Chair, and writes for the NVR.

Arleta

Arleta High School honored – Dr. Linda Calvo, Principal, was chosen High School "Principal of the Year for 2009" by ACSA, Region XVI. Social Studies teacher, Mrs. Cynthia Villatana, was one of eleven LAUSD teachers chosen to win one of their 2009 "Teacher of the Year" awards.

Valor Academy Charter School – The school will hold a Grand Opening Celebration on Saturday, August 29, at Panorama Baptist Church School, 8767 Woodman Ave., Arleta. It will begin with a Parent Orientation Program and will be followed with a Bar-B-Q. The school, whose classes will begin on Monday, August 31, is located at 8755 Woodman Ave. Its classes range from grades five through eight only. Other grades will be added each year. They presently have 120 students enrolled and nine teachers and administrative staff. For further information call 818-528-5467.

LAPD's Community Police Academy – Classes begin on Thursday, August 27, at the E.M. Davis Training Center, Granada Hills. The three hours a week ten-week session will touch on Community Based Policing, Criminal Law, LAPD Pursuit Policy, Narcotics Enforcement, and Narcotics Investigation. Arleta participants include Hayden Cuervo and Al Paintanida.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Continued from Cover—Candidates

2. Would you support the election of, instead of the appointment of, planning commissioners by the region in which they live?

MARY BENSON: As a step, I promise to work with NCs in their advisory capacity to get qualified people appointed. I want to be the Councilmember that helps Neighborhood Councils implement Community Advisory Committees (CAC) and participate in roundtables for each distinct community.

JOE ESSAVI: Yes, I would support election of Commissioners based on their community involvement and by the region that they live.

CHRIS ESSEL: I support the idea of planning commissioner elections. That said, I also think we should study the idea of giving Neighborhood Councils new Commissioner appointment powers before deciding on elections as the best course of action.

TAMAR GALATZAN: I am open to exploring new ways of selecting Planning Commissioners. The current system does not guarantee geographic representation, and knowledgeable community members are frequently overlooked in favor of politically driven nominations.

PAUL KREKORIAN: I support having fair representation for each community on the Planning Commission. As of now, there are no members of the Planning Commission from Council District 2. If elected, I will remedy that immediately. Elections will not necessarily bring about fair representation and they will add costs to our already strained budget.

MICHAEL McCUE: Yes.

DAVID SALTSBURG: Elections are expensive and the Mayor makes appointments. I would vet any Commissioner thoroughly, ask my constituents for their opinions and do certainly support Planning Commissioners living in the area for which they are representing.

PETER SANCHEZ: Yes, I would support election of Planning Commissioners by region.

FRANK SHEFTEL: Not at this time. First we must insure there is a system set in place where we can judge the effectiveness and responsiveness of process. Without a clear and distinct procedure in dealing with land use issues, the way in which the Commissioner is seated is secondary.

3. It is no secret that Council members have pushed projects through Council by those who have

contributed heavily to their campaigns. Will you disqualify yourself from voting on any land use matters that come before the City Council involving any of your financial contributors?

MARY BENSON: My financial contributors are the people who fight land use projects, so no. The CD2 Councilmember is going to sit on the Planning and Land Use Committee. I'm running in this election primarily to change the way land entitlements and condition enforcement is done. My plan is to fight to restrict discretionary projects especially where there is controversy or development of Open Space/Agricultural land. This would encourage the City, developers and community to get a Community Plan we can all support.

JOE ESSAVI: Yes. I will disqualify myself and ask all of my staff to stand down from any influence peddling on each of those projects.

CHRIS ESSEL: I think it's important to note that the City of Los Angeles has stringent campaign ethics laws. No contributor can give more than \$500 to a Council candidate. As a Councilmember, I will be an independent voice fighting for change at City Hall. My votes on land use issues will be based solely on the wants and needs of the community.

TAMAR GALATZAN: I am not taking contributions from anyone with a project in CD 2, so I will not be confronted with this type of conflict.

PAUL KREKORIAN: My votes and my policies have never and will never be influenced by campaign contributions. As for the Verdugo Hills Golf Course and Studio City development projects, I have been on record for over one year in opposition to both projects. Preserving our open space is a priority for me and that is why I oppose both those projects.

MICHAEL McCUE: Yes.

DAVID SALTSBURG: There are always loopholes for lobbyists and lawyers to crawl through. There is also a tremendous amount of greed within our City government. Absolutely, it would be my policy to in no way further the gains of those who contributed to my campaign simply because they want something. The bigger issue is that one person cannot mandate ethics through all these measures.

PETER SANCHEZ: I have not accepted any contributions from anyone with a pending or future project in

District 2. I would disqualify myself from any land use matter vote involving a financial contributor.

FRANK SHEFTEL: On numerous issues too many elected officials have recused themselves from a Committee vote or Council vote due to a possible conflict of interest. The result was an item passed by a very few individuals without the benefit of the experience and or perspective from the other members. Once elected I will not accept contributions from any group or individual who has business pending with the City of Los Angeles.

4. When the Citizens' Advisory Committee on redistricting is formed will you commit to making your appointment based on a list of nominees submitted by your Neighborhood Councils?

MARY BENSON: Without question.

JOE ESSAVI: Yes, As a County Commissioner and Neighborhood Council Member, I can not help but feel proud of our Neighborhood Councils and would want their input in everyday council decisions including appointments.

CHRIS ESSEL: I will weigh the recommendations of neighborhood councils heavily for all appointment decisions including the redistricting advisory committee.

TAMAR GALATZAN: Nominees should come from neighborhood councils, homeowners' associations, residents' groups, chambers of commerce, and other community-based organizations in the District.

PAUL KREKORIAN: I will commit to sitting down and listening to what the neighborhood council's have to say and who they believe will best serve the community.

DAVID SALTSBURG: I will commit to nominees from Neighborhood Councils and from those who I know as well.

PETER SANCHEZ: Yes. I like the idea to have nominees submitted by NC's for a Citizens Advisory Committee on redistricting.

FRANK SHEFTEL: I will certainly commit to reviewing the list of nominees presented by the Neighborhood Council. I would also look to the NC to review and vet any additional individuals being considered by me for the position.

AUGUSTO BISANI: also a candidate, did not respond to any questions for this publication

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MISSION HILLS
Neighborhood Council

**Board of Governors &
Stakeholders General Meeting**
July 7, 2009
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
San Jose Street School Auditorium
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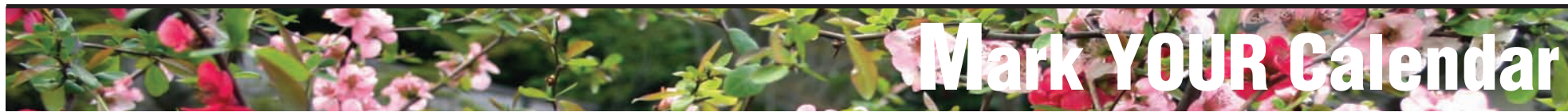
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 LAPD Mission Station
 16161 Sepulveda, MH
 7 pm 818-892-2414

Wednesday, Sept. 2,

Beatification Workshop
 Mid Valley Branch Library
 16244 Nordhoff, No. Hills
 6:00 pm

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

NHWNC Gen Meet.
 Holy Martyrs Armenian Sch.
 1667 Parthenia, NH
 7 pm

MHNC Safety Comm.
 LAPD Mission Station
 Sepulveda, MH
 7 pm

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

Thursday, Sept 3

Public Forum-Food Safety
 League of Woman Voter LA
 North Valley City Hall
 7747 Foothill, S-t
 1:30 pm

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

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

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

Saturday Sept 5

Bolton Hall Museum
 Presents "Rainy Day Games"
 10110 Commerce, S-T
 Docent Tours
 1-4 pm 818-352-3420

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

Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition
 Info: <http://www.lancongress.org/>
 10:00 am

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

Sunday, Sept 6

Bolton Hall Museum
 Presents "Rainy Day Games"
 10110 Commerce, S-T
 Docent Tours
 1-4 pm 818-52-3420

Monday, Sept 7

LABOR DAY

Tuesday, Sept 8

Bolton Hall Museum
 Presents "Rainy Day Games"
 10110 Commerce, S-T
 Docent Tours
 1-4 pm 818-52-3420

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

LAPD Devonshire Station
 Community Meeting
 Shepard of the Hills Church
 19700 Rinaldi, Port Rch
 7 pm

FTDNC Land Use
 9749 ceatland, SH
 7 pm

Wednesday, Sept 9

STNC Monthly Board Mtg
 NVCH, 7747 Foothill, S-T
 7 pm Info: www.stnc.org

Thursday, Sept 10

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

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

Foothill Comm. Police
 Advisory Board (CPAB)
 Villar Scalabrini Retir. 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

MOMS Club of the Foothills
 St Luke's Church
 2563 Foothill Blvd. La Crescenta
 10 am

Friday, Sept 11

Check for local
 memorials scheduled

Magnolia Park
 United Methodist Church
 2828 W. Magnolia Bur.
 7-9pm

Saturday, Sept 12

Valley Regional Roundtable
 *Gang Reduction & Youth Development
 & NC Leader Training
 Marvin Braude Bldg
 6262 Van Nuys, VN
 8 am-12:30pm 213-485-4415

Harvest Moon Barn Dance
 ETI Corral 20
 818-352-3634

Saving LA Project
 Loc. To be determined
www.ron@ronkayle.com

Sunday, Sept.13

Bolton Hall Museum
 Presents "Rainy Day Games"
 10110 Commerce, S-T
 Docent Tours
 1-4 pm 818-52-3420

Monday, Sept. 14

F.A.B.A. Golf Tournament
 Knollwood Golf & Country Club
 12024 Balboa, GH
 For info. 818-535-0482

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

STNC/Land Use Comm
 North Valley City Hall
 7747 Foothill, S-T
 7 pm 951-7411
 Info: stnc.org

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

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

Wednesday, Sept 16

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

North Hills West NC
 New Horizons,
 15725 Parthenia. NH.
 7 pm 818 893-8613

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

FTDNC Gen. Meet.
 Check www.ftdnc.org
 for loc. - 7 pm

Thursday, Sept. 17

STNC Safety Comm
 NV City Hall
 7747 Foothill, S-T
 6:00 -6:45 pm

S-T SERVS
 NV City Hall
 7747 Foothill, S-T
 6:45-7:30 pm

STNC Outreach Comm
 NV City
 7747 Foothill, S-T
 7:30 pm

September 18

Park[ing] Day LA
 is coming to a street near you on
info:parkingdayla.com

Saturday, Sept 19

Emergency Prepare.Fair
 13306 Branford St, Arl
 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Monday, Sept 21

GHNC Board Meet.
 Van Gogh Elem. School;
 17160 Van Gogh St. GH
 6:30 pm



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VOTE

Special Election
 for
 City Council
 District 2

**Tuesday,
 Sept. 22, 2009**

Info:
cd2election.blogspot.com



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The League of Women Voters of L.A. hold public forum.

*Are we eating edible food-like substances instead of food?
 What is in our food and why does it matter?*

North Valley City Hall, 7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga
Thurs. Sept. 3, 1:30 p.m.

See what the League is about and join a discussion of our food safety and better food choices.

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CD2 Candidates Speak Out



Mary Benson

I have been working on citywide issues like recycling, water, transportation and the “out of control” cost of government. We have common concerns that affect both our district and the entire city.

I will represent you, the residents and Neighborhood Councils, not “special interest groups.” Now is the time to elect a qualified grassroots candidate, and the place is Council District 2.

My staff will consist of our homeowner groups, businesses, religious organizations, non-profits and volunteers that are working on a daily basis to improve where we live, work and play.

I am committed to act on the promise made by the City Charter in 2000 to include the voice of Neighborhood Councils. Neighborhood Councils have been my training grounds. I am proud that my peers have recognized my accomplishments while serving on the Council as well as citywide committees.

Planning and development is the number one issue affecting everyone. There's no “Vision”, only developer facilitation. One of the first things I promise after I am elected is to demand an infrastructure inventory. Our city is allowing development to ruin our neighborhoods and doesn't care about its impact on our future.

I promise I will introduce an Interim Control Ordinance (ICO) that will lower the number of discretionary projects. The way to encourage development is to support those “by right” projects and provide incentives. We must stop converting private open space and scenic highways into cookie cutter housing. Both Sunland-Tujunga and Studio City have projects to turn golf courses into residential housing. These areas should be preserved and promoted for tourism and recreation.

I'm a life long resident of our district, where my children also went to school and still live. My parents and grand parents also lived within our boundaries. I have no intention of moving away, or seeking another political office.

My goal is to empower and improve the quality of life of our community members. I can win and serve you fairly, as I promise, with your vote. That's why you should vote for me, Mary Benson, on September 22.



Joe Thomas Essavi

I am a community candidate, not a career politician.

I am currently a Los Angeles County Commissioner for the Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Commission, a two term Neighborhood Council member, a small business owner, an education reformer, a troubled youths Mentor, a former Neighborhood Council to Los Angeles Congress of Neighborhood Councils (LANCC), and Controller for a non-profit organization.

My experiences have given me the knowledge and insight to fight for the good of the community, while standing as an independent voice for the voters of the district.

Career politicians are once again descending on our district to make sure that one of their own is elected.

These are some of the issues that I am running on. For full info please visit my Website: www.Vote4Essavi.com



Christine Essel

I am running for City Council with over 30 years of experience as a business and community leader.

Throughout my career, I have championed efforts to promote economic growth, sustainable development and empowered neighborhoods. Now, I am running for L.A. City Council to make L.A. work again by creating jobs and ensuring honest, ethical government. As your Councilwoman, I will:

Cut business taxes to create new jobs. I will work to implement tax reforms that give L.A. companies incentives to create good jobs. I will also work to reform City departments to cut through the red tape and allow small businesses to thrive.

Provide unparalleled constituent service to the people of the 2nd district. I will work to ensure the delivery of basic city services by managing a council office that puts constituents first.

Fight for honest and ethical government. I will work to stop waste, fraud, and abuse by making sure the Council acts to implement the findings from audits by City Controller Wendy Greuel, who has endorsed my candidacy. As a business and community leader, I have already:

Worked to create jobs for residents of the Valley as a leader in the entertainment business. As a corporate affairs executive at Paramount Pictures, I worked to manage studio budgets, manage dozens of employees, and turn a dilapidated studio lot into a state-of-the-art production facility.

Fought for L.A.'s fair share of support from Sacramento as Chair of the California Film Commission. As Commission Chair, I was a leading representative for L.A.'s entertainment industry in Sacramento. During my time on the Commission, I fought to save thousands of production jobs for Southern California.

I stopped noise and blight as a community activist and homeowners association leader. As a founding member of the Hollywood Terrace Homeowners, I successfully reversed a decision by L.A. County to reclassify the John Anson Ford Theater as an amplified venue for loud events when crime and traffic overran my community.



Tamar Galatzan

Watch the news this week or pick up a newspaper, and you will see the tremendous challenges the City faces: the freezing of new police hires, slashing of City services, neighborhood businesses closing, furloughs and layoffs, mammoth buildings and billboards rising up on our streets. But there is hope for turning things around. It starts with fresh, independent leaders standing up for the Valley and doing what is right. That is why I am running for City Council.

I have a record of getting things done. As a criminal prosecutor, I take proactive measures every day to stop crime. I have earned the praise of many Valley civic organizations for resolving community problems that had been ignored by city agencies for decades.

In just two years on the Los Angeles School Board, I have led the fight to bring accountability and reform to how we govern our schools. We have started cutting the waste from the budget, and we've put new computers in every Valley school. I invite you to review my website at TamarForCityCouncil.com for a more in-depth list of my accomplishments.

As your Councilmember, I will be focused on making our streets safer, our schools better, and improving the quality of life in the Valley.

I grew up in the Valley, and I live in Studio City with my family. I graduated from Birmingham High School in Lake Balboa, before going to college at UCLA and later law school. My husband, Brendan, (who owns a small business here) and I have two young sons, who attend public school in Sherman Oaks and we are members of Temple Beth Hillel in Valley Village. No candidate in this race has deeper roots or more experience in this council district than I do.

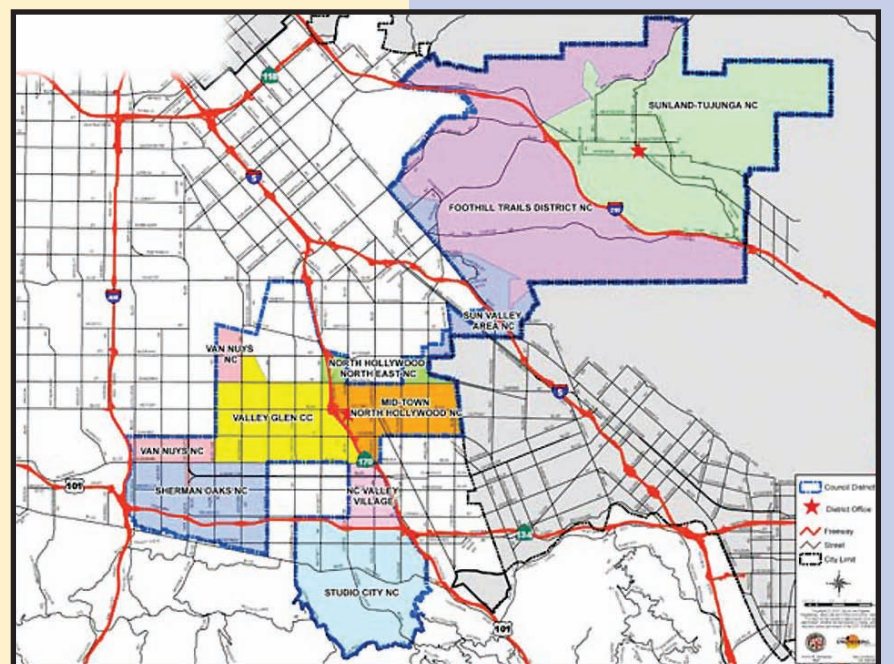
Those of us who live, work and raise our families in the Valley need a Councilmember who is willing to stand up for us. With your help, I will provide the new, independent leadership that our community deserves.

**Tuesday,
September 22, '09**

**For Polling Place
Information Go to:
<http://www.lavote.net/Locator/>**

***Be sure to check your
Sample Ballot before
Election Day for your
Polling site as many
have changed just for
this election.**

**For the latest info and resources
on the
CD2 Special Election
go to: cd2election.blogspot.com**



CD2 Candidates Speak Out



Paul Krekorian

I'm running to be your voice on the City Council.

I have a proven record of success in solving big problems, fighting for ordinary people and creating positive change. I have over 20 years of experience in the business world, and I've been serving the public most of my life in the nonprofit arena, in local and state commissions, on the Burbank Board of Education and in the Assembly.

I'm proud of the reputation I've earned for listening carefully to the people I represent and serving their needs effectively. For example, through my very successful Government At Your Doorstep program, my staff and I have visited over 3,000 homes in the Valley to identify individual families' concerns, solve their problems, and make sure government agencies respond to them.

I have the independence and the experience we need to bring change to City Hall. I have a proven record of creating good jobs and getting people back to work. I've actually had to make the hard decisions about spending priorities in tough times. I've done the real-life work of improving public schools, protecting our environment, and making our streets safer.

I grew up in the Valley when it was a dream destination for families around the country. A middle class family could buy a nice house in a great neighborhood, with safe streets and the best public schools in the country. It was a time when rush hour only lasted an hour. We trusted our government and we had confidence that our kids would have even more opportunities and an even better city than we had.

We can have that kind of city again – but it will take leaders who know how to listen to the people, and who have the independence, experience and ethics necessary to turn City Hall around. I'm ready to do the job with your support.

My name is Paul Krekorian, and I'd be honored to earn your vote on Sept. 22.

NOTE:
Augusto Bisani and Michael McCue did not respond.



David Saltsburg

You may know me as, "Zuma Dogg" from my non-stop attendance of the L.A. City Council meetings as broadcast on TV 35; my frequent radio calls; or constant blogging. I championed the people's voice at L.A. City Council meetings that were covered by ABC News Nightline, LA Times, LA Weekly, talk radio and local TV news (FOX, KNBC, KCAL, KTLA, KCBS).

It's old news how the mayor and his cronies have destroyed the fabric and character of our community while driving it to the edge of bankruptcy. He is backing three of these candidates and hopes to win the seat from the actual community and take control of the district.

My biggest find was discovering pension money was being invested in extremely risky Wall Street stocks and real estate projects. We now know the effect this has had on the city. I warned of this. If ONE Councilmember had stood up and demanded an accounting of the LACERS pension money then, it would have saved the city. I was "on the record" with warnings of "sub prime" problems and asked council to prepare for the effects.

I have over 15 years experience working in an exceptionally competitive radio and record industry as Program Director, Operations Director and Research Director working for some of the biggest stations in Houston, Washington, New York and Los Angeles.

I was also Director of Charts for Billboard Magazine (BPI) and oversaw the weekly production of five international trade magazines, including the HOT 100 Chart. I was responsible for the oversight of large staffers with HUGE budgets for hiring, promotion, marketing and research.

I can say that I have not only studied quality management (how to actually accomplish my goal of constituent services), I was published on the topic (including in "Quality Digest"). I have been recognized by Deming himself and have implemented this in my radio career that took me from Columbus, Ohio to NYC, the #1 Radio Market in the world. Please visit my website at <http://ElectZuma.com> Thank you for your vote on Tuesday, September 22.



Pete Sanchez

I'm a community activist, your neighbor and a long-time resident. I have lived in Valley Village for 17 years. Since I made Los Angeles my home in 1989, I have led a life of service for our community.

I spearheaded the effort to create the Neighborhood Council Valley Village and served as its first President for three years. As the organization took root, I focused on the Valley Village Homeowners Association - where I currently serve as president.

I am very concerned with how our city spends money and continues to spend beyond its means. Los Angeles faces unprecedented financial challenges. Cuts to our fire department are already in progress. The city's pension plan is projected to be four billion dollars under funded. This threatens to sink the city's budget and could force bankruptcy. We need to be projecting our budgets for the long term, such as five to seven years out.

It has become increasing difficult for businesses to function in this city. The entertainment industry is leaving the city in droves. We have to attract our city's core business back to Los Angeles.

The city's infrastructure - streets, sewage, and utilities - are being excessively strained. It has not been addressed in the overall city master plan – if anything the infrastructure is being further undermined by developers and the city's implementation of SB1818. As we restudy the master plan, we have to look at our options for adjusting density downward or enhancing infrastructure.

As a community leader, I have demonstrated my leadership by being at the forefront of issues that have challenged the neighborhood and the city.

As your City Councilmember, I will push for more fiscal responsibility and accountability. I will only support sound financial policies – not pushing current problems into future years.

I will support measures which protect the character of all of the neighborhoods in this district.

I am Pete Sanchez and as your councilmember I will be your voice. I will show up, stand up, and speak up. I will listen, act and work for you!



Frank Sheftel

I was born in Kaiser Hospital on Sunset Boulevard in Hollywood, California. My parents, Melvin and Gloria Sheftel, moved to a tract home in North Hollywood almost thirty-five years ago and still reside there.

I am a product of "local schools" and attended James Madison Middle (Jr. High) School in North Hollywood, and Grant High School and Los Angeles Valley College in Valley Glen. My family and I attended Valley Beth Israel in Sun Valley and my Bar Mitzvah was in 1974.

My Family's business is a local landmark in the community. I have owned and operated The Candy Factory 12508 Magnolia Boulevard, North Hollywood, Ca. 91607. for more than twenty years, 818 766-8220. <http://www.candyfactoryla.com/> .I am very aware of the challenges facing small business.Los Angeles Daily News Columnist Dennis McCarthy described me as the Valley's Willie Wonka.

I have been a supporter of Chabad's TV Telethon. I have also been an active Board member of The Thaliens for five years and associated with them for ten. "The Thaliens was founded in 1955 by a group of young actors and allied professionals from the film industry who wanted to give back some of their blessings to the community. They met at actress Jayne Mansfield's home to discuss how they could use their time, talent and energy to help children with mental health problems. Taking the name from Thalia, the Muse of Comedy and the Shepherdess of straying and lost lambs, the first Hollywood "celebrity" charity was born, and just four short years later, The Thaliens Clinic for Emotionally Disturbed Children at Mt. Sinai Hospital was established." <http://www.thethaliens.org/> (Information purposes only, no endorsement implied)I have also been a board member of the Academy for New Musical Theatre for three years. <http://www.anmt.org/> (Information purposes only, no endorsement implied)

As the owner of a small rental unit, I am very aware of the challenges facing small rental property owners. Remember Frank Sheftel, From and For the Community.

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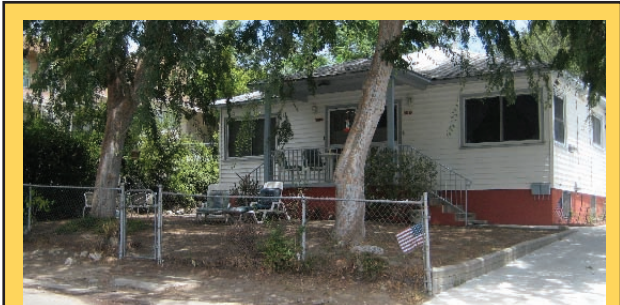
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Mark YOUR Calendar

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.

Valley Vote Meeting
 Galpin Ford
 15555 Roscoe, N. Hills
 6:30 pm

Saturday, Sept 19
ROSH HASHANAH

Sunday, Sept 20

Bolton Hall Museum
 Presents "Rainy Day Games"
 10110 Commerce, S-T
 Docent Tours
 1-4 pm 818-52-3420

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

Tuesday, Sept 22
Bolton Hall Museum
 Presents "Rainy Day Games"
 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, Sept 23

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

Bingo Night
 S-T Elks Lodge
 10137 Commerce, S-T
 6:30 pm 818-352-2098

Thursday, Sept 24
Assemblyman Smyth
 & STNC Public Safety
 Forum Re: Sex. Pred. etc.
 North Valley City Hall
 6:30pm 818-951-7411

Panorama City NC
 Mission Community Hospital
 14860 Roscoe Blvd., PC
 6:30 pm 818-785-9355

Sylmar NC Gen. Meet
 Sylmar Elementary
 13291 Phillippi, Syl
 6:30 pm

STNC Budget Comm
 NVCH, 7747 Foothill, S-T
 6:30 pm
 info: stnc.org

S. V. Rotary
 Mandarin Terrace
 8815 Sunland, SV
 12-1:30 pm 818-768-9888
 Officer Apprec. Day
 LAPD Mission Area Station
 Info: 818-599-1589

Saturday, Sept 26
DEAFestival-Los Angeles
 Woodley Park,
 6350 Woodley, VN
 12 - 5 pm

Book Sale
 Granada Hills Library
 10640 Petit, GH
 9am-6pm (818)368-5687.

Laff Nite Comedy Show
 Community Sponsored
 S-T Elks Lodge
 11037 Commerce, S-T
 \$20 pm 818-352-5912

Sunday, Sept 27

Bolton Hall Museum
 Presents "Rainy Day Games"
 10110 Commerce, S-T
 Docent Tours
 1-4 pm 818-352-3420

Monday, Sept 28
YOM KIPPUR

STNC/Land Use Comm
 North Valley City Hall
 7747 Foothill, S-T
 7 pm 951-7411

Wednesday, Sept.30
Recycle Forum
 L.A. County Aboretum
 301 N. Baldwin, Arcadia
 \$15 am-5:30pm
 conservationforum@
 parks.lacounty.gov

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Empower LA

A Congress of Neighborhoods Community/Mayor's Budget Day

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2009

City Hall
 7:30am - 3:15pm
 Info: 213-485-1360

SHARE THE HISTORY OF OUR COMMUNITY

TO OUR SUNLAND-TUJUNGA NEIGHBORS & FRIENDS

C&M is looking for historic family, home, event, and community photos for inclusion in the 2010 issue of the Historic Sunland-Tujunga Calendar.

Your photos will be archived at Bolton Hall Museum and recognition for the photos will be included in the 2010 Historic Calendar. Start looking now.

Bring original photos to C&M. If you wish to keep the original photos C&M will scan the original & return it to you.

THIS IS AN WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE THE HISTORY OF OUR COMMUNITY.

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COMMENTARY

Stopping the City Hall Machine



By Ron Kaye

With the money rolling into their war chests, Chris Essel and Paul Krekorian are on track to raise ten times as much as the other eight candidates running for City Council District 2.

That makes them, in the eyes of the press and pundits, heavy favorites to come out of the Sept. 22 special election first and second and to face off in the December runoff.

How can voters choose between a candidate that has represented the entertainment industry and downtown development interests for years, and a state Assembly leader who bears a full share of responsibility for putting California in such dire financial straits?

It may well come to a choice between Essel, with heavy backing from the increasingly unpopular mayor, the powerful DWP union, IBEW, and the same developer and Hollywood interests, and Krekorian who is backed by City Hall unions and the Democratic Party organization.

Before voters from Sunland-Tujunga to Sherman Oaks face that choice, they first need to ask themselves if either of them is qualified to represent their values, their needs – whether either of them will stand up to the City Hall machine and fight for what the residents in CD2 want.

Neither of them lacks the intelligence or experience to serve CD2. The biggest problem they share is they are carpetbaggers, moving into the district just in time to run for

the Council seat left vacant by Wendy Greuel's election as City Controller.

From her background as a lobbyist for Paramount Studio, leadership role in the Central City Association and service on the Community Redevelopment Agency Board, Essel, on the face of it, would have been more suited to seek election in the CD5 Westside area earlier this year. But she chose not to run, preferring to seek office from a district that her tenuous ties date back to her youth.

Krekorian, too, has youthful roots in the Valley, though his political career is based on school board and state Legislative service to Burbank and Glendale, with a small portion of his Assembly District stretching across the border into the Valley Village area. He is an ambitious and smart politician, rising rapidly to a top post in the Democratic Assembly leadership. Concerns about Krekorian focus on his role in going along for the ride as the Legislature drove the state down the road to a financial catastrophe. If he couldn't stand up to the people's interests in Sacramento, can he do any better at City Hall in the face of a tight little power structure that demands near total obedience? Can he tell his backers in the SEIU that they have to take some tough medicine to keep LA from crashing into bankruptcy?

If not Essel or Krekorian, who?

Can LA school board member and Van Nuys neighborhood prosecutor Tamar Galatzan raise enough money and overcome her own negatives – LAUSD's failures, her former support from the mayor, her hus-

band's role at VICA in support of Home Depot – and force her into the runoff?

Can any of the other seven community candidates, each with their own bases but lacking campaign cash, emerge from the pack and somehow beat the odds? It's clear they will not unite behind a single person that would make the emergence of a community candidate more likely and there's no sign yet of any of them leaping ahead of the pack.

So voters who want to make a difference face a tough choice: Do they vote for the community candidate they know and respect even though it's unlikely their vote will matter? Or do they choose between Essel, Krekorian and Galatzan and affect the outcome?

My only advice is to read all you can about the candidates, their records, their statements, where their funding comes from and meet the candidates if you can so you can make up your own minds.

Just know this: Even one Council member who consistently stood up for his or her constituents, who stood up to the machine, could make a huge difference.

The community stopped the machine on Measure B in March and elected the City Attorney in May. Electing a Council member committed to the community in the CD2 election will send City Hall a powerful message and inspire the growing effort to change the city's direction and save LA from the destructive course it's on.

Editor's note: Ron Kaye is the former editor of the Daily News and Chairman of Saving L.A. Project (SLAP). You can reach him at: www.ronkayela.com

Los Angeles is Bleeding Red Ink



By Doug Epperhardt

Every week, the city is spending a few million more than it's bringing in. Councilman Bernard Parks, who chairs the city council's budget and finance committee, is warning that L.A. may run out of money before the end of the year. He's not kidding.

At his recent Neighborhood Forum, City Attorney Carmen Trutanich said, "After making payroll, my office is \$7 million in the hole." He's not kidding either.

Meanwhile, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's response to the current fiscal crisis is to go on vacation. Since July 1, he's been to South Africa, Iceland, and Las Vegas. I'm sure the people who run those places appreciate what he's doing to boost their economies, but what about us?

City council members, too, are operating in a "business as usual" mode, shutting down for their usual August recess. Apparently our leaders have little or no sense

of urgency despite the fact our city is in the worst financial crisis in nearly 80 years.

A couple of years ago, most of the city's civilian employees were granted 23 percent pay increases. When the bubble burst, the mayor negotiated an early retirement scheme favored by the union. The deal put most of the financial burden on the city. The council rushed to approve it without waiting for the legally-mandated actuarial report.

The report was presented earlier this month. The result? The deal doesn't work. Now the city council is stuck between violating its fiduciary duty to the taxpayers or honoring the current contract. Either way, the red ink continues to flow.

To be fair, there have been moves to deal with the cash-flow crisis. These include a hiring freeze and employee furloughs. It's not enough.

It's time for the politicians to step up and deal with the current economic re-

ality. The federal government is not going to bail L.A. out. The state government isn't going to bail L.A. out. In fact, it's taking money from the city. And, for once, voters aren't likely to vote for higher taxes. That doesn't leave a lot of options.

There's really only one choice: "Don't spend money you don't have."

At a time when many of us—by choice or necessity—are heeding these words, government is not.

Editor's Note: Doug Epperhardt serves on the board of the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council as well as various other community organizations.

Freddie Mac Working Against USA Businesses



By Tomi Lyn Bowling

Freddie Mac subprime lenders hired Ocwen to list and sell their foreclosure properties in the U.S. However, Ocwen outsources all the administration normally done by licensed U.S. real estate agents, to hired employees in India.

Ocwen (New Co. spelled backwards), well known for its horrible service and volumes of lawsuits, was mysteriously picked up by Freddie Mac to list and sell their REOs despite being sacked by HUD for too many complaints and lawsuits.

A March 2009 edition of Huffington Post outlines this practice. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/propublica/freddie-mac-hires-ocwen-i_b_179060.html

Ocwen has a licensed broker whose name is on all documents although CAR legal could not find a valid license for him. The boiler room in India uses stamps with the broker's name on it and handles the entire transaction from start to finish.

American Realtors must go through rigorous training, including updates of training every four years, as well as background checks including fingerprinting. This work is being done outside of the U.S. by unlicensed, unchecked and untrained employees through Ocwen.

"Not once during any transaction do you ever speak to anyone inside the U.S." reports one local real estate agent. The beginning is marked by a bidding war on line. The rest is done by an assigned staff member in India. All of it is done by way of email. Every attempt to reach anyone by phone is met with a message taken by the staff in India.

Given the current Administration's promises to keep American dollars and business in the U.S., this is a demonstration of the exact opposite. The National Association of Realtors web site states their membership is 1.1 million Americans. Allowing outsourcing of this profession is a travesty to all homeowners who expect the high ethical standard enforced by the Association and a slap in the face to the American real estate professionals.

Editor's Note: TomiLyn Bowling is a columnist, California Real Estate Broker and member of the National Association of Realtors.



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PUBLIC SAFETY

Violent Crime in Los Angeles



*Commander Jorge Villegas,
Los Angeles Police Department
Valley Operations*

Combating violent crime in the City of Los Angeles remains a top priority for the Los Angeles Police Department. It is the focus of many of the men and women who dedicate themselves to protecting and serving the millions of residents and visitors who come to this city for work and vacation. The focus is often times trained on the violent street gangs that might negatively impact our desires to live, work and play in peace and tranquility.

In addition to LAPD's ongoing efforts at referring "at risk" juveniles into intervention and prevention programs, they continue to rely upon innovative enforcement strategies as well as the keen awareness and abilities of the officers working on the streets.

One of the innovative enforcement strategies Operations Valley Bureau has been working on in order to combat gun violence, is tracking down illegal possessors of firearms ammunition. Knowing that the bullets expended from firearms often times create

senseless tragedies, Officer Debra Malinowski, assigned to the Violent Crime Task Force, has been tracking the purchase and possession of live ammunition by convicted felons. When an individual is convicted of a felony, that person surrenders his or her right to lawfully possess firearms and ammunition. Over the course of this year, Malinowski has identified several felons, some of whom have been convicted of violent crimes, who have been in possession of live ammunition. Recently, she has been able to secure and serve arrest and search warrants which have resulted in the arrest of convicted felons along with the recovery of illegally possessed firearms. Her efforts and investigative ingenuity have removed some of the people, ammunition and firearms from our streets. This will most assuredly pay huge dividends as we continue to strive to make our City the safest big city in the country.

A benefit of having more police officers on the streets is the Department's ability to, not only prevent crimes from occurring, but in catching suspects as soon as possible after a crime has been committed. On July 19, 2009, at approximately 7:45 pm, Training Officer Robert Beatty was working with his partner,

Probationary Officer, Michael Wilson. They were in the area of Norhoff St. and Tobias Ave. when they heard the report of several gun shots. Soon after hearing the shots, they observed a vehicle speeding away from the scene. After the termination of a short vehicle and foot pursuit, Beatty and Wilson coordinated Officers from Foothill, Mission, Devonshire and North Hollywood Divisions to contain the suspect. With the assistance of a Police Helicopter and Metropolitan Division Officers and police dogs a search was conducted. Meanwhile, additional units responded to the area where the shooting occurred and located one individual who had sustained non-life threatening gunshot wounds.

Along with the help and cooperation of the residents in the area of the containment, the event culminated with the recovery of one suspect, one handgun believed to be the weapon used in the crime, in addition to several leads on another suspect involved.

These Officers and their activities are several representations of LAPD's service to our communities. They are undeniable indications of their dedication to driving down the rate of crime and removing violent predators from the streets of the San Fernando Valley.

Operation Adopt-a-Block



*Captain William Scott,
Commanding Officer
LAPD Mission Station*

Mission Area has enjoyed a nine- percent decrease in Part I crime as of August 17, 2009. Part I crimes include homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, grand theft auto, burglary and theft from vehicle and other thefts. In order to achieve sustainable and long-term crime reduction within our communities, Mission Area personnel continue to work in partnership with the many communities we serve.

In the spirit of a true partnership between the communities within Mission Area and the LAPD, we coordinated Operation Adopt-a-Block on August 20, 2009, from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Simply put, the focus and main goal of Operation Adopt-a-Block was to enhance the safety of our communities by increasing the amount of citizen observers, i.e. eyes and ears willing and able to observe and report suspicious, and/or criminal activity in their neighborhoods. In all, 66 residents from the communities within Mission Area took to the streets of their neighborhoods and did just that. From the onset of this operation, the citizen observers worked in partnership with Mission Area Senior Lead Officers and reported suspicious activity. When it was all said and done, three individuals were arrested. Fifteen calls, as well as subsequent police investigations of suspicious activity were initiated by these citizen observers. Reported crimes for Thursday, August 20 were reduced to almost to half of the average number of daily crimes reported. Even more impressive was that there were only three crimes reported for the entire Mission Area (25.6 square miles) during the hours of Operation Adopt-a-Block.

Operation Adopt-a-Block was a huge success both statistically and in terms of enhancing the partnership between the LAPD Mission Area personnel and the communities that we serve. This operation is just another example to show that "Together we can truly make a difference!"

LAFD- CERT on the Move



*Captain Stacy Gerlich
CERT Commander
Los Angeles
Fire Department*

Well, it's hard to believe that we are already beginning the month of September! We have been busy here in the city's LAFD Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) arena, as many of you know. We have had our two bi-annual refreshers with great success.

Los Angeles County Fire hosted the March refresher at the Pomona Fairgrounds. It was a great day of practicing putting out fires, triage, search and rescue, ICS (Incident Command Station training), and medical treatment. We had approximately 300 participants from the Southern California area.

LAFD hosted the second refresher on August 16. We too, had a very successful day of practice for our CERT volunteers. It was a nice hot afternoon for our folks to get out there and put their skills to test. Two hundred thirty three participants filled the back area of Fire Station 88 in Sherman Oaks. As you know, that is the headquarters for the great CERT program!!! We had two individuals who had a little trouble with the heat but nothing emergent.

This is the beginning of fire season...fire above Lake View Terrace, August 18, 2009



Photo by Lloyd Hitt

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HERE'S MY CARD



Carrick's Journey —Part Twenty-One By Tomi Lyn Bowling

A ruckus at one of the entrances to the large hall began to detract from the speaker and eventually caught even his notice as all eyes turned toward the noise. Sebastian paused as he looked across the distance seeking to understand what could possibly be worthy of an interruption. Several guards ran towards the entrance commanding even more attention. The motion stilled and finally two guards emerged assisting a woman across the hall and over to the landing where Sebastian spoke. Sebastian jumped from his high platform down to the woman. She was barely standing and, but for the two guards propping her up, she wouldn't be. Her head was drooping over and Sebastian lifted her head up and forced her gaze upon him. "Justine, what's happened?" She could not speak. Her eyes continually rolled back in her head. The dried blood caked on her lips cracked as she opened her mouth and struggled to form words. Her throat was parched and she could not make the sounds necessary. She was able to impart a very faint whisper. Sebastian brought his ear close to her mouth so he could hear her "...rant... gone- Scott's too." By the time the last word came out she had completely collapsed. Sebastian understood what she'd meant and signaled to the guards to take her to the medic. Now, completely unable to walk, two more guards came and they all carried her off.

Standing near enough to touch Sebastian, Fanella could see great sadness in his eyes. She and the others fell silent as Sebastian climbed back up to the sound system. His head was hanging low as he slowly walked up to speak. Sebastian looked out at the people for a few seconds, shook his head a little, wiped his forehead and then spoke out. "We have lost two villages, Arantior and Vanitia. Justine is the sole survivor of her village and Scott was lost along with his."

Fanella had turned to Maddie and Drake. "Scott was the high counsel leader for Vanitia, a small village, of about one thousand, on the outskirts not far from Jusitine's village of Arantior, also about one thousand. Justine would go through Vanitia on her way to our village for high counsel meetings. She and Scott would always travel together. The pair had been summoned to come here and meet with counsel."

The interruption hastened a decision from the villagers. The speech was short and there wasn't much time so a vote was taken and it was decided. The villagers decided to separate into three groups. The first group would take on the task of moving out this large colony seeking refuge deeper into the woods. The second group would remain and turn this meeting hall into a fortress to build up their armies and learn the art of fight. With a little work they could learn to fight off their enemies using the arms and weaponry they'd been saving for many years, mostly stolen from the camps of their enemies. The third group, mostly mechanics and pilots that had been working to build up their old air ships, would leave the planet and seek out a new place.


The colony had hoped that the third group would never need to take off from this planet. Earlier thoughts of leaving the planet were quickly voted down realizing the enemy would have been aware of the ships leaving as they had electronic devices to warn them when anything came into or left the planet's surface. The colony had never wanted to give away their existence by having ships take off. Now that the enemy has attacked and slaughtered two villages, it is clear that the colony are no longer a secret people. The number of villagers in this colony may not be known. So perhaps the knowledge that the ships have taken off will lead the enemy to believe that the entire colony has left the planet.to be continued.



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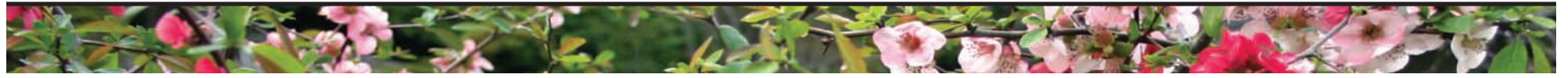
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Foothill Division



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Little Landers Park
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Mission Division



Over 350 people attended the event Blythe Street The event was co-sponsored by the Panorama City Neighborhood Neighborhood Council and Councilmember Tony Cardenas



Mission Area Station
Los Angeles Police Senior Lead Officer Tarek Ismail receives award from Councilmember Tony Cardenas, on Blythe Street in Panorama City



Panorama City

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LAPD's Mission Station's area sponsored National Nigh Out events in Arleta, Mission Hills, Panorama City and Sylmar

LAPD's Foothill Station's area sponsored National Nigh Out events in Lake View Terrace, Pacoima, Shadow Hills and Sunland-Tujunga



Sunland-Tujunga Lions Club - 48th Annual Watermelon Festival

