



CHRISTMAS SPIRIT IS DISCOVERED

by Marlene Hitt

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Verdugo Hills Golf Course on the Chopping Block Again

By Katharine Russ

It's "round three" for MWH Development who has filed a notice of Preparation for an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The developer proposes to construct 229 single family detached units on approximately 25 acres of a 58 acre tract. Homes will be two stories 2200 sq. ft. Site preparation would require 250,000 cubic yards of grading that includes 150,000 cubic yards of import. The draft EIR would determine how many of the 634 trees would be removed however, the plan filed in June 2007, called for the destruction of 97 mature native oak trees.

In their August 27, 2007 letter to the Dept. of Planning, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy writes, "The proposed development of high density residential development on the subject site located at the northwest corner of Tujunga Canyon Boulevard and La Tuna Canyon Road, would unequivocally result in unavoidable significant adverse ecological and visual impacts within the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor zone. The numerous oak trees onsite provide both important habitat and give the site its unique character. The various economically feasible DEIR alternatives must integrate the permanent protection of well over two-thirds of the 97 oaks trees proposed to be cut down with the 229-unit project."

In 2005, MWH Development had purchased the golf course with plans for building a 320-unit condominium complex or a 300,000 square foot commercial complex. A year later the developer returned with revised plans that showed a nine-hole course surrounding a 269-unit condo complex.

The original zoning was R, A and C, but the notice sent for the preparation of an EIR states, "The

project site is designated as Low Medium I Residential with corresponding zones of R2, RD3, RD4, RZ3, RZ4, RU and RW1. The project site is further defined by Footnote No. 20 in the Community Plan which limits density to no greater than that permitted by the RD5 zone." The developer wants the zone change to be RD5-1.

VHGC has been a landmark of the community for decades and is a place where hundreds of families go for recreational golf because of its affordability. The course is utilized by high schools and community colleges for programs and tournaments and features an 18-hole course. Historically, the VHGC is the site of the ancient Tongva/Gabrieleno village of Wiganga, and during WWII it was the location of Japanese and Italian internment depot.

"The loss of the Verdugo Hills Golf Course would be tragic for the people of Sunland-Tujunga, La Crescenta, and Glendale. Everyone knows these communities are deficient in developed parkland. If the golf course can be saved, we believe it can become part of a much larger park that could include tennis courts, picnic areas, hiking trails, and even a community center," said Marc Stirdivant, Chairman of the Board Glendale-Crescenta V.O.I.C.E.

Volunteers Organized in Conserving the Environment (V.O.I.C.E) maintain, "The project would result in an estimated 2,060 auto trips per day in and out of the project along La Tuna Canyon Road and Tujunga Canyon Boulevard, streets on which traffic accidents and even fatalities occur on a regular basis. Moreover, these impacts would be exacerbated by the impacts from the recently approved Canyon Hills project, a high density residential development less than a mile away."

Supervisor Michael Antonovich issued an 11/28/07 letter confirming the County of Los Angeles' commitment to providing Fifth District Proposition A Excess Funds. He has committed \$1.7 million to acquire APN's 2572-028-028; 2572-026-024 and 006; and 027-0331 and 019 in the Verdugo Mountains; and \$1.7 million to be used towards the acquisition of the Verdugo Hills Golf Course. Both these acquisitions will provide valuable open space and recreational facilities for the public's enjoyment."

"Councilwoman Greuel supports the preservation of Verdugo Hills Golf Course and will continue to work with elected leaders, conservation groups and community members to identify possible funds to purchase the golf course," said Nell Abernathy, Communications Deputy for the Councilwoman.

Karen Zimmerman, member of the VHGC Committee, said, "Dozens of Senators, Congressmen, State Assemblymen, Neighborhood Councils, and Civic Organizations wrote letters in support of saving the VHGC."

The Verdugo Hills Golf Course Committee has requested a Scoping Meeting to be conducted prior to the Public Comment deadline to assure community input. It, further, asked that the due date for comments relative to the EIR be moved beyond January 1, 2008 because of the Holidays and the short notice.

Presently, all comments will be considered in the preparation of the EIR. Interested parties can direct written concerns to: David Somers, Environmental Review Coordinator, Dept. of City Planning, 200 N. Spring Street Rm. 750, Los Angeles, CA 90012 by December 28, 2007.

Home Depot Drops in on Sunland-Tujunga

Jeff Nichols, Home Depot's Western Region Real Estate Director, made a surprise appearance and received a cool reception during a Neighborhood Council meeting, Wednesday, December 12, in Sunland-Tujunga.

He could only speak during their open public forum because he was not included on their agenda. Home Depot is currently suing the city of Los Angeles and Nichols could not address the Neighborhood Council because they are a city entity.

When questioned by community member Tomi Lyn Bowling, if Home Depot would be willing to give up their lease to a Target Store, Nichols replied that Home Depot had already spent 30 million dollars on the site and owe it to their stockholders to follow through with the project. He also alluded to the fact that no other store would want to take over the lease because of the climate Home Depot has experienced with the community. He was evasive when Bowling continued to query him saying "I am a Real Estate Broker and I will find a store to take it over, would Home Depot be willing to give up the lease?" Nichols continued to avoid the question and left without answering



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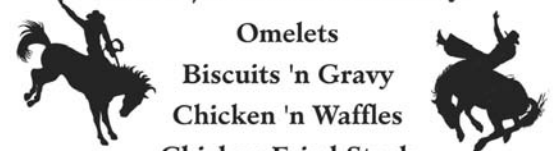
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Families Forced to Live in Urban Decay

Another Local Mobile Home Park Uninhabitable

By Katharine Russ

Van Nuys - Poor homeowners are forced to live in squalid conditions in the Woodley Trailer Park at 7936 Woodley Avenue. Their children are exposed to unsafe, dangling live electrical wiring and raw sewage. Dangerous and unstable burned out buildings remain on the premises and the only source of drinking water appears to be garden hoses for all but two of homeowners in the park.

The 28 families living in the park have an average income of \$12,000.00 per year. Sixty percent of these tenants are disabled. Jose Cornejo, Chief of staff for Councilman Tony Cardenas, toured the park. When asked what the City could do to help improve conditions at Woodley, Cornejo refused to comment. However, Cornejo did comment elsewhere, citing unfair practices of the Loftin Law Firm hired by the park homeowners to represent them.

Mobile home Residency Law Section 798.85 of 2007, rebuts Cornejo's statement. The Law says, "The prevailing party shall be entitled to reasonable attorney's fees and costs." In addition, Section 798.86 allows the prevailing party in a civil action to "be awarded not more than two thousand dollars (\$2,000) for each willful violation by the management. Prevailing parties may also be awarded either punitive damages pursuant to Civil Code Section 3294 or the statutory penalty provided by subdivision.

Sue Loftin responded by saying, "Cornejo, obviously, did not take the time to understand the financial issues related to representing residents in mobile home parks, including the provisions of the Mobile Home Residency Law which require the park owner to pay the legal fees of the residents if the residents prevail in a lawsuit. Contrary to the implications in the Cornejo comments, these types of lawsuits are not money makers, but are done by the Loftin firm as a way to pay back the industry within which we work."

Loftin further stated, "In the 25 plus years I have been representing mobile home park residents, I have never seen such deplorable conditions and am shocked that no one from the local governmental agencies have come forward to help and protect these disabled and very poor residents. The conditions within which these residents live belies the duty of local government to protect the health, safety and welfare of its citizens."

According to the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) website, health and safety is its

"number one concern." Yet, this very Department is responsible for reading the Master Meter every month at Woodley Trailer Park. However, there have been exposed to wires that could easily melt the flesh off any human being. LADWP never reported these hazards to any agency for nearly five years.



Park resident Cheri Tucker said, "My wiring is going to my neighbor's house. Someone spliced both our services into one box." Residents say the electric shuts off on a regular basis.

Resident Dawn Couch says, "The owner has a private meter reading company read the individual meters and write down the actual kilowatts each person uses and the amount is added to the rent." Couch believes that most residents are being overcharged for electricity. Couch's average use is 300 kilowatts per month but her November bill shows 2059 kilowatts for that month.

"The North side of the park has evidence of a natural gas delivery system. There are a number of meters placed underneath the homes. This poses a serious risk because gas meters vent when they are overcharged and in a confined area, such as under a mobile home. A potential for explosions and expulsion of carbon monoxide throughout the home exist," reported Glenn Bell, President of Neighborhood Friends, a non-profit mobile home advocacy organization.

Bell added, "This park has more than fifteen exposed live open junction boxes. The inner-workings of the Master Meter are, approximately, 18 inches off the ground and in the only playing area available for the

children in the park. The meter has not had a metal cover for years. There are many breaker boxes that are exposed and one meter that had become an integral part of a palm tree. The sewer system has open and exposed sewage flowing throughout the park."

Jeff Thomas, Attorney for park owner, Hedamar Development, Inc., said, "According to the report I have from the County, they want the work done immediately." Thomas said the owner is cooperating with the City.

Ron Javor, Assistant Deputy Director for the Division of Codes and Standards at the Dept. of Housing and Community Development (HCD), commented, "We received a complaint about a week ago. The inspector went out, initially, to address the sewage leaks. While he was there, he saw a number of other serious violations and instructed the manager to begin the process of correcting them. The inspector went back a few days later and did a full park inspection because of all the violations he observed. The violations, in their seriousness, are equal to the worst urban park that I have seen in a number of years. An order for an immediate health and safety threat requires that violations be addressed within three days. We will be doing another slower inspection in a few days."

In the two weeks since HCD's inspection there has been little improvement despite the order to comply within three days. Residents fear that electrical repairs have not been done correctly or to code.



Retaliation or Vindication?

By Katharine Russ

Shadow Hills - What appears to be the final blow in a series of a neighbor Vs neighbor disputes which have been going on for several years, has resulted in Shadow Hills property owner and resident Maria Mejia, living without water for days. Patrick Wizman, owner of California Home Development

(CHD), ordered the Los Angeles Dept. of Water and Power (LADWP) to shut off the water which serves her residence, on Tuesday, December 11, because a minor leak in her pipe that crosses his property. The connection has been in place for many years. Wizman refused to let the DWP cross his property to repair the leak as they have done for many years in order to read her meter.

Area Residents believe that Wizman's actions may be in retaliation against Mejia, who successfully sued him, in an action, which required CHD, his company, to prepare an EIR for his proposed residential development. Mejia was recently awarded over \$25,000 in attorney's fees from Wizman. Mejia and her neighbors

have been "at war" with Wizman continually since 2003 regarding his excessive tree cutting, failure to repair roads, dust control and brush clearance.

The City of Los Angeles has offered little help. Mejia said, "On December 12, 2007, the DWP told me that they would provide me with temporary water and connect me to a meter on Wheatland Avenue. It is my understanding that Wizman did not allow the DWP to provide me with temporary water because the water lines would have to traverse CHD property."

Shadow Hills Resident, Bob Renna said, "By parking his 4x4 truck and placing the bulldozer on the exact spot of Maria's water leak, Wizman caused a larger leak in the pipes requiring the DWP to shut off Mejia's water. He has blocked the entrance to the dirt road, using a bulldozer to move large tree trunks and root balls which now blocks access for Fire Department trucks and other emergency vehicles."

Dale Thrush, Director of Planning for Councilmember Wendy Greuel, replied to Renna's email regarding the issue, saying, "CD-2 learned about this situation late Friday afternoon. We are in touch with the DWP and the City Attorney in an effort to help Maria." Because of Wizman's refusal to allow the DWP to cross his property to access and fix her problem, One of her options is to cart water to her home for herself and her animals. Attempts to reach Wizman were unsuccessful.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Las Lomas Memo Leaked From City Hall

Developer Campaigns for Support of "Fabled Mini City"



By Katharine Russ

San Fernando Valley – Earlier this week a privileged communication from the Los Angeles City Attorney's office was circulated beyond the intended recipient, Councilmember Bernard Parks, Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee. The memo included information concerning Councilmember Richard Alarcón's motion to create a supplemental fee agreement for the processing of permits and application for the proposed Las Lomas project. The leak occurred in advance of a Budget & Finance meeting where the supplemental fee agreement was scheduled for discussion. Alarcón said, "This project is very large in scope and the leak of this memo could have undermined our strength as a city to deal with this development and could have jeopardized the protections the city would seek regarding the project."

Councilmember Alarcón's motion asks that the City Attorney's report include actions to penalize the perpetrator(s) of this breach. He asked for assistance from the Los Angeles Police Department and other law enforcement agencies as well.

The Budget and Finance Committee's Special Meeting scheduled for Monday December 10, 2007, was continued to January, 2008. The meeting was called relative to a Supplemental Fee Agreement with the Los Lomas Land Company for the ongoing and future processing of discretionary actions for land use entitlement applications in connection with its Las Lomas mixed use development. It includes but is not limited to the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report, related technical documents, and other related land use discretionary actions as determined by the Planning Department.

The City of Los Angeles had been processing the developer's application to annex this property into the City of Los Angeles. However, December 2006, the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) terminated the developer's annexation request because "there has been no further effort on the part of Las Lomas to cure deficiencies associated with the application."

Opposition for the supplemental fee agreement came from Paul Brotzman, Director of Community Development in the City of Santa Clarita. Brotzman said, "The processing of the EIR may be in violation of CEQA and the City's own CEQA policies." Santa Clarita's Mayor, Marsha McLean, and County Supervisor, Michael Antonovich, expressed similar concerns.

Councilman Richard Alarcon, whose district would border the proposed project said, "Support for this motion in no way means support for the project or any kind of special treatment for this developer. On the contrary, I am opposed to this project in its current form and the Department of Planning is on record saying there will be no expediting of permits because of this agreement. It is important that City of Los Angeles keeps control of this project because of its size and the potential impact the project would have on the City of Los Angeles. We cannot cede control over a project of this size and rely on another jurisdiction to make a choice that is in the best interest of our city and our communities."

The "fabled mini city" continues to create controversy as more and more citizens are denouncing Las Lomas. Building a community of 5,800 or more dwellings and nearly three million sq. ft. of commercial, industrial, and retail uses on land that has slopes of 50% or more, in a seismically active area, and without annexation into any city, is considered by many to be implausible and preposterous. Neighborhood Councils in the North Valley have also determined that the project is outrageous and are on record as being united in their opposition. They want answers as to why the City of Los Angeles would continue to process an application for a project outside its boundaries. Las Lomas is in the unincorporated County area and there is no annexation request pending before LAFCO.

katharine.russ@charter.net

Mission Hills North Neighborhood Council

By Betty Ley

The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council (MHNC) was one of the many proud sponsors of the San Fernando Valley Veterans Day Parade on November 11, 2007. The MHNC was also a proud co-sponsor of the "Be Well" Senior Fair hosted by the Community Integration Services who provides senior resources.

Our Annual Winter Social was held on December 11, at San Jose Elementary School, in place of our general meeting. The MHNC provided the main entrée and drinks.

January 8, 2008 is the MHNC Board of Governors and General Meeting at San Jose Elementary School at 7:00 pm. The Los Angeles Dept. of Health will make a presentation regarding the health risks involving feral cats. Also giving a presentation will be the Stray Cat Alliance.

Stakeholder candidates filing for the MHNC Board Elections begins in January 2008. The filing deadline is February 28, 2008. There will be a Candidate Forum March 11, 2008 at San Jose Elementary School beginning at 6:30 pm. Elections will be held on Saturday, March 29, 2008. Candidates, ages 13 to 17 years old, are encouraged to file for Youth Member candidate. Adult Board Members must be 18 years and older. For more election information or if you are interested and want details on becoming a candidate call the MHNC Office at 818-892-2414

Plan to attend our February 12, 2008 MHNC General Meeting presentation at San Jose Elementary School. A presentation will be made by the Palmer Group regarding the Las Lomas Project at 7:00 pm.

To keep up on the latest information, read our MHNC monthly newsletter. If you are not receiving it, call our office at 818-892-2414 and leave a clear detailed message with your contact information.

Can Anybody Hear Us?

Jerry Lagunzad

Chair, Zoning & Land Use

On November 7, 2007, the City Council convened regarding Communication from the City Planning Commission relative to a Conditional Use appeal regarding the proposed expansion of the Holy Cross Medical Center's 101 Bed Patient care Tower Project in Mission Hills. Lee Bauer and myself, past and present zoning and Land Use Chairs, were asked to speak at this event on behalf of the Mission Hills Neighborhood Council.

Although other neighborhood councils were given the opportunity to express their views on this hotly debated topic, we were not allowed to be heard at that meeting due to a lack of time. This was a sad event for the Mission Hills Neighborhood Council because Holy Cross lies within our boundaries and we were unable to present our stakeholders' views to the City Council.

Dr. Timothy German, a stakeholder of Mission Hills, filed an appeal with the City Council to overturn a decision by the City Planning Commission, which approved the expansion project with a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). He has said he is not against the expansion, provided that Holy Cross files a full Environmental Impact Report (EIR). For an explanation of the terms MND and EIR visit the Dept. of Planning website: <http://cityplanning.lacounty.org/> for information.

An environmental review requires planners to evaluate the potential effect on the environment of any project filed with city planning as mandated by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Department's Environmental Review Section prepares documents for all discretionary projects that may result in a significant environmental impact.

The Department issues a Negative Declaration (ND) for projects resulting in less-than-significant impacts, or requires an EIR when potentially significant impacts cannot be mitigated. The Environmental Review Section often prepares MND's that contain a number of conditions called mitigation measures that will reduce any potential effect to an insignificant level.

An environmental review committee issued Holy Cross a Mitigated Negative Declaration because the expansion has a less than-significant-impact on the environment. The word "Mitigated" in the MND means "fix", the "less-than-significant impacts".

Holy Cross did not file an EIR because the project has a less-than-significant impact on the environment according to the Environmental Review Section. Holy Cross has already addressed those less than-significant-impacts in subsequent meetings with the Planning Commission and various neighborhood councils and groups. The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council has voted to support and continue to support the expansion with the MND.

What does this mean to us? Patients being admitted to Holy Cross don't know an MND from an EIR. Doctors and staff don't either. The hospital is a place of healing and caring about the communities. It is a place to aid our loved ones in time of need. Our communities need this expansion. As a stakeholder in Mission Hills, you need to have your voice heard. Join us in our general meetings; tell us, your neighborhood council, what is important to you and your community.

We wish to thank council members Tony Cardenas, Wendy Greuel, Jan Perry, Bill Rosendahl and Greig Smith for understanding the issues at hand.

Upcoming Sunland- Tujunga Neighborhood Council Meeting—Join us!

January 9, 2008 at 7 pm
at Mt. Gleason Middle School, 10965 Mt. Gleason Ave

Check the STNC web site often at www.stnc.org

COMMUNITY NEWS

Holiday Thoughts of Giving and Wellbeing



Councilmember
Wendy Greuel

As my family celebrates the holidays, my husband and I often remind our son that community service must accompany our religious and gift-giving traditions. In the spirit of volunteerism, I have

the opportunity to sponsor gift-giveaways at schools across the city, including Stonehurst Elementary and Plainview Elementary this December. Thanks to the generosity of the California Highway Patrol and Keyes Automotive, we will be distributing toys, including Barbie Dolls, Dora the Explorer dolls, and remote control cars to over 300 low-income children in Council District 2.

In addition to distributing gifts, I will also be providing food to needy families. I encourage all Los Angeles residents to take this time to reflect on those less fortunate than ourselves. If you would like to contribute to our food or toy donations or if I you

know a family in need this holiday season, please contact my office at 818-352-3287.

While the holiday season is a time of celebration and festivities, it is also critical that we are mindful of holiday safety tips. The LAPD asks that we take precautions, when shopping, not to leave gifts visible in the car. Further, we are reminded to stay safe on the roads especially as we see the advent of inclement weather. Of course, we remind all residents, whether you're on your way home from a holiday party or a family visit, never drink and drive. Please stay safe and enjoy a happy and healthy holiday season.

State Lottery Should Pay off Debt not Fund New Programs



By Sen. George Runner

Governor Schwarzenegger recently introduced the idea of selling the State Lottery to help "paper over" the state's runaway debt. The governor has also presented plans to use the lottery as a potential revenue source for his health care plan.

I believe the idea of privatizing the Lottery in order to get the state out of the gambling business is worth discussing, however, money that the state would receive from the sale should be used to pay off the structural debt, not to shore up continued budget overspending and new programs.

A household should reduce spending, not sell household assets in order to support irresponsible spending habits. For California to sell the lottery to pay for ongoing programs would be like the family selling

a car to pay off the minimum credit card balance. Yet the governor continues to contemplate selling the Lottery to fund the government's ongoing spending spree.

California has been in financial dire straits for more than five years now – a situation that will not improve anytime soon, according to Legislative Analyst Elizabeth Hill, who released a five-year fiscal outlook Wednesday that forecasts \$10 billion deficit in next year's budget. Part of the deficit is attributable to the slowing housing market and lending crisis. But largely, it is the result of poor fiscal planning.

Republicans in the Legislature have consistently called for reduced spending and restoration of fiscal sanity in the budget process. We must acknowledge that the state cannot continue to spend more than it receives in tax revenue. Taxpayers understand this concept. That is why most households spend only what it receives in income. The average family cannot use credit cards to buy expensive cars, fancy meals and luxury vacations, if the household income won't sustain such spending. In fact, the average California family must practice restraint with the household budget, which often means making tough decisions.

The same philosophy should be practiced by government. Unfortunately, the state does just the opposite. It racks up enormous amounts of debt through issuing bonds (the government's form of credit card use), and spends more money than it receives in revenue every year. Furthermore, the state rarely saves for a rainy day.

The state desperately needs to bring its finances back into order, once and for all.

I believe Hill's report has exposed the ruinous effects of past budget gimmicks and charades. Hopefully, the governor and Legislature will heed her message that "all the easy solutions are gone," and look at meaningful ways to balance next year's budget and curb the desire to employ quick-fix solutions. *Editors Note: Senator Runner is the chairman of the Senate Republican Caucus. He represents portions of the San Fernando, Santa Clarita, Antelope and Victor Valleys and Ventura County. For more information visit: <http://republican.sen.ca.gov/web/17>*

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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, Dec. 22

Mission Hills NC
Outreach/Youth Outreach
10161 Sepulveda, MH
2 pm

SNC Land Use
Sylmar NC Office
13515 _ Hubbard, Syl
3:30 pm

Sunday, Dec. 23

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

Monday, Dec. 24

CHRISTMAS EVE

Monday, Dec. 25

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Wednesday, Dec. 26

Happy Kawanza

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

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

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

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

Sunday, Dec. 30

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

Monday, Dec. 31

New Years Eve
Designate a Driver

Tuesday, Jan. 1

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Wednesday, Jan. 2

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

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

Thursday, Jan. 3

Kagel Canyon Civic Assoc
Dexter Park
7 pm

Elks Lodge #2098
11037 Commerce, S-T
6:30 pm 352-2098

Sylmar Women's Club
Odyssey Restaurant
15600 Odyssey Dr. M.H.
11:30 am 833-8033

Saturday, Jan. 5

Christmas Tree Recycling
Sunland Park & Sylmar Park
9 am - 4 pm

Sunday, Jan. 6

Christmas Tree Recycling
Sunland Park & Sylmar Park
9 am - 4 pm

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

Monday, Jan. 7

Sunland-Tujunga DAC/land use
North Valley City Hall
7747 Foothill - Tuj
7 pm

Tuesday, Jan. 8

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

Mission Hills NC
General Meet.
14928 Clymer St. MH
7 pm

Northridge West N/C
Beckford Elementary
7 pm

Sun Valley Area NC
Villa Scalabrini Center
10631 Vinedale, SV
6:30 pm 767-6766

Wednesday, Jan. 9

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

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

STNC Gen.Meeting
Mt. Gleason Middle School;
10965 Mt Gleason, S-T
7 pm 951-7411

Granada Hills South N/C
Granada Hills Rec Center
16730 Chatsworth St.
7- 8:30 pm

Thursday, Jan. 10

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

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

Saturday, Jan. 12

Bolton Hall Museum
The Ubiquitos Big Red Car
10110 Commerce, S-T
1-4 pm 951-1074

Sunday, Jan. 13

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

Tuesday, Jan. 15

Martin Luther King Day

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

Mission Hills NC
Beautification &
Cultural Affairs Comm.
10161 Sepulveda, MH
6:30

Sun Valley Area NC
General Meeting
Villa Scalabrini Ret. Home
10631 Vinedale, SV
6:30 pm 767-2024

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HorsePropertyUSA.com

Community Websites:
OGHRG.org, GHSNC.org,
GranadaHillsHistory.com

Mark YOUR Calendar

Wednesday, Jan. 16

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

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

Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB)
Villa Scalabrini Ret. Home
10631 Vinedale, SV
6 pm 756-8866

Sunday, Jan. 20

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

Monday, Jan. 21

4H Meeting
Shadow Hills Pres. Church
Sunland, SH
7 pm 352-0864

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

Sunland-Tujunga DAC/land use
North Valley City Hall
7747 Foothill - Tuj
7 pm

Arleta NC
Beachy Elementary School
9757 Beachy, Arl
6:30 pm 897-9122

Tuesday, Jan. 22

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

Wednesday, Jan. 23

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

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

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

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

Thursday, Jan. 24

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

Saturday, Jan. 26

Mission Hills NC
Outreach/Youth Outreach
10161 Sepulveda, MH
2 pm

SNC Land Use
Sylmar NC Office
13515 _ Hubbard, Syl
3:30 pm

Sunday, Jan. 27

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

Tuesday, Jan. 29

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

Wednesday, Jan. 30

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

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

Sunday, Feb. 3

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

Monday, Feb. 4

Sunland-Tujunga DAC/land use
North Valley City Hall
7747 Foothill - Tuj
7 pm

Tuesday, Feb. 5

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

Wednesday, Feb. 6

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

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

Thursday, Feb. 7

Kagel Canyon Civic Assoc
Dexter Park
7 pm

Elks Lodge #2098
11037 Commerce, S-T
6:30 pm 352-2098

Sylmar Women's Club
Odyssey Restaurant
15600 Odyssey Dr. M.H.
11:30 am 833-8033

Sunday, Feb. 10

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

Tuesday, Feb. 12

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

Mission Hills NC
General Meet.
14928 Clymer St. MH
7 pm

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Happy (And Safe) Holidays To All



*Captain Joe Curreri
Commanding Officer,
Foothill Area
Los Angeles Police Department*

My best wishes to everyone for a very happy, healthy and SAFE holiday season. We at Foothill Station will work hard to help this season be safe for everyone,

but please remember, the person primarily responsible for your safety is YOU. Throughout the year I have

been giving you tips to help you avoid becoming a crime victim. I ask you to please use those tips to avoid having this joyous season turn into a tragic one for you. Use your common sense. Try not to walk around and shop by yourself; there is safety in numbers. Don't keep any valuables in the passenger compartment of your vehicle. Keep the doors and windows of your home locked when you are not at home. Purchase a timer to allow lights and/or a radio to go on periodically when you are not home.

With your help, we have made tremendous progress in reducing crime throughout the Foothill Area this year. I ask you all to keep up the good work.

As a point of interest, you should know that there have been two changes in the management team of Foothill Area. I am remaining in place as the Area Commanding Officer; however, recently promoted Captain Ivan Minsal is the new Foothill's Patrol Commanding Officer. Lieutenant Ted Matthew has also recently arrived as the new Foothill Detective Commanding Officer. I am very happy with my new management team. Both new commanding officers are very talented and dedicated leaders.

Again, I hope you all have a safe and joyous holiday season. I look forward to working with you in 2008

Updates Begin on Two Local Community Plans

North Valley – Starting in January 2008, two Community Plans will begin an updating process. The plans will guide new growth and development by designating land for uses such as housing, industry and open space. The City Planners want to engage community members who will help identify issues, set goals for development, address infrastructure, design, transportation and mobility issues for their neighborhoods.

City Planner, Katherine Peterson, is overseeing the Sunland-Tujunga/Lake View Terrace/Shadow Hills/East La Tuna Canyon Community Plan. She can be contacted at: Katherine.Peterson@lacity.org or 818-374-5049, Fax 818-374-5074.

City Planner, Anita Cerna, is overseeing the Sylmar Community Plan. She can be reached at: Anita.Cerna@lacity.org or 818-374-5042, Fax 818-374-5070.

They plan to do extensive outreach and hold small community meetings. Let them know if you want to participate and be advised of their scheduled meetings and locations. For further information regarding the process, visit the department's website at: <http://cityplanning.lacity.org>.

Safety Tips for a Safe Holiday Season

Many families celebrate Christmas, Chanukah, and New Years, and commonly decorate their homes with electric lights, candles, wreaths, and Christmas trees.

Christmas Trees are the most common source of fire during the holidays.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) says that almost half of Christmas tree fires are caused by an electric source malfunction and about a quarter are caused by heat sources being too close to the tree including items like decorative candles, electric lights, and fireplaces.

The U.S. Fire Administration says the most common form of heat in igniting Christmas fires is that of gas-fueled equipment, including pilot lights and gas fireplaces. When the ignition point is a Christmas tree or other holiday decoration, the fire is typically more severe and injuries, fatalities, and property loss are higher than average. This is indicative of the potentially rapid ignition and spread of a tree or decoration fire.

The following are ways to reduce the risk of structural home fires during the holidays.

- Check your smoke alarm.
- Use tree lights with a reflector bulb rather than a bare bulb.
- Always unplug Christmas tree lights before going to bed or leaving the house.
- Keep your tree well watered and moist to deter it from drying out.
- Keep tree away from fireplaces and radiators.
- Only purchase 'Fire-Retardant' type artificial trees.
- Keep candles AWAY from the Christmas tree.
- Don't overload electric sockets.
- Don't leave cooking unattended.
- Don't place decorations on lights or heaters.
- Have an Escape Plan and make sure the entire family knows it!!!

Don't hesitate to share these tips with your family and friends.

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SOUND OFF

Confessions of an Illegal Trash Dumper

I operate my own dump trucks in a trash hauling business and I have been very successful. My sons and myself drive my three trucks.

After ten years, we have learned the finer points of trash hauling. When bidding a job I always include the price of going to the dump to discard the load. I charge the customer dump fees for each truckload, even when I don't take it to the dump.

The fee charged to the customer serves as a bonus when I can find a dark street in Pacoima. Anywhere in CD7 is a good dumpsite. We never worry about the LAPD in this area of the city because our favorite dump areas are never staked out. My friend was caught once and the LAPD told him "... don't do it again..."

I have been dumping on Peoria Street for the life of my business. I have never been busted. Even when residents have witnessed us dumping, no one turned us in.

I have learned from others in my profession that there is no investigative arm of the Public Works Section of the City of Los Angeles. Consequently, a load can be dumped and forgotten. No one is going to come after us.

My friends have also said that even if we get busted, the City Attorney won't bother to take us to court. It is easy to make a deal and pay a \$10.00 fine if we get caught. Although they can take our vehicle, they never do. There is no need to comply with rules when there are no consequences,

I have learned that the only crimes that will get the LAPD out of their cars are shootings and robberies. LAPD does not have time for minor crimes against the environment, terrorism, destruction of property, or quality of life issues within the city.

When hauling used tires, we can simply drop three or four at various locations and no one gives a damn. There are no investigations, no concern, nor penalties to pay for illegal dumping.

It is not necessary to be concerned about the condition or health of our community. The Department of Street Services will clean up our mess in a couple of days, just in time for us to drop another load.

*P.A.M.
Pacoima*

Reason to Save Verdugo Hills Golf Course

It has been over forty years since Los Angeles Recreation and Parks proposed building the 1.6 acre park in Tujunga called Little Landers Park. This pocket park, with a playground for small children, was built when Tujunga's population was much smaller than it is today and it is the last park of any size built in Tujunga for children.

Parks are infrastructure for families and children just like streets and bridges are infrastructure for cars and buses; but it's obvious that the city of Los Angeles places parks low in its priorities. As two and three story apartments and condos go up in the same neighborhoods with very little to no play area, children are left to play on busy streets as narrow as 24 feet. So where do the children play, and do we even care? If we look at L.A.'s record in Tujunga, it appears that they don't think much of families as they allow more and more multiple dwellings into areas with no open space set aside for children.

In this rare moment of time, an opportunity appears with over 50 acres of oaks and grassy fields for sale. At this very instant there is a small "Par 3" golf course for sale in Tujunga on Tujunga Canyon Blvd., which could be of so much benefit for children, teenagers and adults if it became part of the park system.

The Verdugo Hills Golf Course is being threatened by a developer who wants to build 229 homes on the last large open space in Tujunga that is not on the side of a mountain. The lovely area sits on watershed from the Verdugo and San Gabriel Mountains and acts as a corridor for wildlife in the area. The fact that almost a hundred fully grown oaks are to be leveled and the watershed is to be paved over with homes and asphalt may be lost on Mr. Handel, the developer. However, it is not lost on the communities of Sunland-Tujunga, La Tuna Canyon, Glendale and La Crescenta who oppose this environmental nightmare. Even if we put aside the historical events that took place at this site, we can not ignore the traffic nightmare, the carbon monoxide from 800 to 900 added cars a day, or the increase in auto related accidents on this narrow two lane winding road. The total carbon imprint from the loss of trees and plant life and the increase of energy used by homes, appliances and cars can not be ignored. Write your L.A. Councilmember and County Supervisor for your district today. Editors Note: Lloyd Hitt is President of Little Landers Historical Society

*Lloyd Hitt
Sunland-Tujunga*



We Are Here to Help You!

By Glenn Bell

If you live in a Mobile Home Park (MHP), or know someone who lives in a Mobile Home Park who needs our help, or if you would just like to volunteer, please call Neighborhood Friends at (818) 890-1113. We are a local non-profit organization that advocates on behalf mobile home owners only. We work on your behalf with government and park officials. As many as 70% of mobile homeowners are seniors on fixed incomes and the rest are, on average, the working poor. We are currently addressing local concerns of residents in Blue Star Mobile Home Park, the Starlight Trailer Park, Woody Trailer Park and many more.

We are very knowledgeable about issues surrounding MHP's, which are complex, dif-

ficult and sometimes heart breaking. Please contact us - this is what we do. If you would like more information about our non-profit organization, and if you have access to the web, visit www.neighborhoodfriends.us, or you can e-mail me directly at: gbell@neighborhoodfriends.us.

We are a member-supported organization. We also accept contributions. Your contributions over and above the member/partner contribution will sponsor other senior mobile home owner's memberships. Many living on social security cannot afford to eat. We ask those who can, to become a sponsor.

We also are grateful for donations. So, if you would like to help this holiday season, please call: (818) 890-1113. *Glenn Bell is President of Neighborhood Friends*



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THIS & THAT

Carrick's Journey -Part Four

By Tomi Lyn Bowling

The night sky was masked by the tips of the tall pine trees. Drake decided it was too dark to travel further, found a spot, and lay on the ground. He had made himself a little bed out of a pile of leaves and pine needles he'd brushed together. From where he lay he could see a small patch of sky between tree tops.

From his spot he could see that the moon was accompanied by scores of stars. Between the moon and stars the night sky was bright enough to give the appearance of early evening rather than the dead of night. There was a horrible odor coming from someplace nearby. He could not recall what that smell was but it was very familiar.

In a sudden flash of terror he rose up and started brushing the leaves off. The unmistakable odor came from under the pile of leaves. He had suddenly remembered that distinctly awful odor. The kind, he thought to himself, that only comes from decomposition. He looked through the darkness trying to see what was decomposing there. He could make out the shape of a cold, dirty and stiff human hand sticking up from the pile of leaves.

Drake ran off, terrified, trying to get away from the corpse and any recollection of it. By the time he stopped running he had traveled another ten minutes, running all the while. He stopped long enough to notice that he could smell clean air, and then he felt safe enough to try to sleep again.

Drake parked beneath a huge old tree where the roots had formed a small cavern. He was thinking of his brothers and sisters, just for a few seconds, as he drifted and fell fast asleep. /- to be continued/



Hey, Ya know what?...

You can recycle your Christmas Tree by removing all ornaments and the stand, cutting it in half and placing in the green yard trimmings waste bin. Larger trees can be brought to drop-off sites throughout the City on Saturday, Jan. 5 and Sunday, Jan. 6, 2008. Your tree will be turned into mulch and reused. Tree drop-off locations in the North Valley are Sunland Park, 8651 Foothill Blvd, Sunland, and Sylmar Park, 109 Borden Ave., Sylmar. They will be open from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm.

There is a safe way to properly dispose of toys manufactured in china, that have been recalled because they contain toxic substances such as lead-based paint: They need to be returned to the store of purchase, or brought to a S.A.F.E. Center. This will ensure they will be safely and properly disposed of so they do not pollute the air, soil and groundwater. The nearest center is in Sun Valley, at 11025 Randall St, and they are open from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Call 213-978-0333 for more information, or email pao@bpw.lacity.org

Care Packages are going to our Troops. Sunland-Tujunga Elks Lodge No.2098 is collecting donated items for gift boxes to send to our troops overseas. The items most requested by our troops are DVD's, CD's, Batteries,

Computer Flash Drives, Disposable Cameras, Prepaid Phone Cards, Travel Size Board Games, Handheld Electric Games, Mini-Battery Operated Fans, Hand & Foot Warmers. Commercially wrapped individual packets of Trail Mix, Beef Jerky, Nuts, Energy Bars, Sunflower Seeds, and Candy. Also ready to eat Tuna or Chicken Salad Kits, Boxes of Girl Scout Cookies, small tins of Danish Cookies, packets of Powdered Cold Beverages, Commercially sealed lip balm, roll-on deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, foot powder. Individual packets of moist towelettes, Screen-printed T-Shirts, Socks, Baseball Caps, Knit Hats, Gloves and blank Greeting Cards. They have collected items to fill four transfer file size boxes to date. For further information regarding donations call Margie at 818-352-2098.

Children are offered free lunches and snacks. The City of L.A. Dept. of Recreation & Parks serves free nutritious lunches & snacks to children 1-18 years old. All children are invited to participate. Stop by and pick up a flyer listing their serving schedule at any of these selected recreation centers in the North Valley: Sylmar, Richie Valens, David M. Gonzales, Sepulveda, Fer-nangeles, Stonehurst and Sun Valley.

Watch Your Wallet

It's Never Too Late To Save

By Tina Cameron

After my grandfather passed, my family found numerous recycled mayonnaise jars and coffee tins, full of coins and small bills, hidden all over his house. He saved for a rainy day. The depression certainly left its mark on that generation. But the principals of saving for a rainy day are as valid today as they were then. Americans still do not save anywhere near what they should and studies indicate over 20% of Americans are still only 1-2 paychecks away from homelessness. People realize this and continue to live as though tomorrow will be their last day on earth.

You don't need to have an enormous income or be born rich to become financially secure. Ordinary people with average incomes have proven that. Wealth is something that you make yourself. You do it by saving and investing wisely, not by spending every dime you ever made. Not by purchasing the latest gadget that comes along or buying the latest fashions.

That may sound boring but if you lay a foundation of savings first, then eventually you can afford, without fear, most of what you want.

So how do you save? It actually starts very easily. Take all your loose change and put it in a jar; start buying EE bonds through payroll deduction; sign up for a 401k at work; open a savings account and designate a certain percentage of your paycheck to that account through payroll deduction; save up at least three months of living expenses for a rainy day. Pay off your car and don't buy a new one for

awhile – take what you would have spent on a car payment and put that in savings. Put bonuses and half of the money you get at Christmas into savings. Treat yourself to just one iced mocha frappachino a week. Do you really need to go out to the movies or could you make popcorn at home and rent that movie? Why exactly does everything have to be right now? There's no logical reason for it.

We may not have had another depression, but we have had many rainy days. In the mid-1990's, the San Fernando Valley saw rough economic times and many two-income families were decimated when both earners lost their jobs at the same time. These middle-class families had huge mortgages, high credit card debt, two car payments and no savings. The economy was changing and they were unprepared. The older you are and the more you are in debt, the more savings you need should the worst-case-scenario actually happen. Anyone over 40 should have 6 months savings put aside because over 40, and particularly those over 50, have a harder time finding a job and usually own a home that still has a mortgage. Anyone over 35 is at greater risk for a serious injury or illness – that's just life. Savings will ensure the next time life throws you a curveball, you'll still have a roof over your head, food on the table and time to get your life back on track. *Editors Note: Tina Cameron holds a Bachelor of Finance and a Certified Treasury Professional credential, is a corporate Risk Manager and Sun Valley small business owner.*

Holiday Celebrations Around Town

By Nina Royal

Van Nuys - Tony Cardenas, Councilmember for District 6, held his 6th annual Turkey Dinner Giveaway at the Sun Valley District office on November 19. Vendors and sponsors donated the items to needy families. Menorah and Christmas Tree lightings took place during the Holiday Festival on November 24. Entertainment was provided by Grupo Folkoria from the Bernardi Senior Center and was topped by a visit from Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus. Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky and State Assembly member Felipe Fuentes also held informal open houses for their constituents, which included discussions along with refreshments.

Granada Hills Hills Chamber of Commerce held their 24th Annual Christmas Parade spectacular on Saturday, December 1. Over 100 entries cruised down Chatsworth Street between Petit and Zelzah to the cheering crowd of approximately 4,000 people Mark from KOST 103.5 was Grand Marshall and Author / Historian Jim Hier was community Grand Marshall. Neighborhood Councils from both North and South Granada Hills were also participants.

Continued on page 11





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Holiday Celebrations—Continued from page 10

Sunland-Tujunga – McGroarty Arts Center held its annual open house on December 8. Members and students displayed their unique gifts of hand-made jewelry, ceramics and pottery. Participants were treated to live music while dining on the patio.

Little Landers Historical Society also held their annual Christmas Celebration at Bolton Hall on the same day. Highlight of the event was Broadway singing star Franny McCartney who encouraged guests to join in the singing of Christmas carols. Homemade refreshments were served while winners of the raffle were announced. No one went home without a prize.



Pacoima – The Pacoima Chamber of Commerce sponsored its annual Christmas Parade on Sunday, December 9. It started on Van Nuys Blvd at Argyle St. and ended on Herrick St. with approximately 5,000 people looking on. Public Official participating included Council Members Richard Alarcon and Tony Cardenas, U.S. Congress Member Howard Berman, State Senator Alex Padilla and Assemblymember Felipe Fuentes. Unfortunately, the pictures taken during this wonderful event did not turn out because of this reporter's broken camera.

Mission Hills– The San Fernando Valley Historical Society and CultuAtzlan/SFV Latino Arts Council co-sponsored Las Posadas, their annual Christmas Pageant at the historic Andres Pico Adobe on Sunday, December 10. The Volunteer actors dressed in traditional costumes participated in the beautiful re-enactment of Mary and Joseph's journey and the birth of Christ. There was also music and traditional Mexican folk dances, entertainment, plus customary refreshments



Sunland-Tujunga- Margie Bouchard and Jim Saurer, Loyal Knight, sampling the hors-d'oeuvres prepared for the annual Christmas Mixer for the Sunland-Tujunga Chamber of Commerce hosted by the Sunland-Tujunga Elks on Wednesday, December 12.



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Pony up the Money!

It's Just A Drop In The Bucket

By Mary Benson

Councilmember Alarcon, citing manure piling up in commercial boarding stables as a potential significant health issue, intervened on behalf of the equine community with State regulators and the City's Bureau of Sanitation. The concentration of horses in the Northeast Valley has spurred an outcry for assistance, but our outcry is reduced to a whisper by the fact that so many horse owners refuse to pay the \$14.00 license fee. Residents keeping horses at their homes can call the City's Sanitation department and arrange for curbside pickup. Call 800.773.2489, or email SAN.CallCenter@LACity.Org. Monday-Friday, 7:30 am to 4:45 pm. Residential curbside pickup requires that horses be licensed.

Details of the pilot program at the Lopez Greenwaste Facility, set up by District 7 Councilmember Alarcon, were discussed at a follow-up meeting December 4. "This program must be limited because of its emergency status granted by regulatory agencies", explained Mr. De la Rosa. "The program will only be open to deliveries that have been pre-inspected and drop-off pre-arranged."

Talk to the Licensee: The "poop" problem is just the "back end" of issues facing Northeast Valley equestrians, but horse owners must bear some of the responsibility for being ignored.

The financial contribution horses provide to the Northeast Valley is significant. It is part of the \$17 Billion contributed by the Horse Industry to the State's economy. Many people derive 100% of their annual income from the horse industry in our area, such as farriers (horse shoers), veterinarians, trainers, barn owners, plus full time managers of the ranches and employees of feed and tack stores. *That contribution is ignored because the entire industry is "Below the Radar".*



Photo Courtesy of Nancy Cole, Equestrian News

Los Angeles counts the number of horses within the City by counting the number of horse licenses. Currently, only 800 horses are registered. Because there are so few registered horses in the system, the City does not consider horse issues as a high priority. To continue the dialogue and to "get the attention" of City Hall, my goal is to license 2,000 of the estimated 4,000 horses in the Northeast Valley by January 30.

Fourteen dollars is a small price to pay for the preservation of horsekeeping and a voice through a Horse Advisory Board, but we must pay that fee to officially demonstrate the significant role horses play here in the City of Los Angeles.

My plan is to collect registrations and fees and submit them to City all at one time.

If you board your horse, please arrange with your barn manager to register and pay the fee. We will be asking organizations to participate by bringing blank forms to their meetings. Chris at East Valley Feed has volunteered to help you with the paperwork.

Let's put our money where our mouths are and pony up those license fees. It's the best present we can buy for trail advocacy and preservation of horse property this New Year. *Editors Note: Ms. Benson is Executive Director of Los Angeles Trails Project.*

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A-380 Air Bus takes VIP's for a ride

Two community members from the North Valley were selected to join officials and VIP's to take part of the inaugural demonstration flight of the Flagship A-380 Air Bus on November 29. Bill Manning of Sunland-Tujunga, and Al Piantinada of Arleta, were invited along for the ride. According to Piantinada, the plane was exceptionally quiet and smooth. He said the noise was barely audible as they circled around Los Angeles and he is excited about the experience and the future of the Air Bus.

