

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!

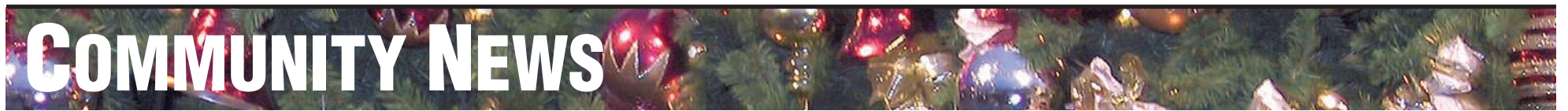
Shavano wormed his way to the front of the group wondering what blessing the Christ child may have bestowed on the people. Before the door he stopped, his whole being quivered with ecstasy and his eyes filled with tears of joy. His little vine had grown mysteriously, had twined itself about and over 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"
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"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"

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



COMMUNITY NEWS

R1 Zones Threatened by Granny Flats

By Katharine Russ

Granny flats aren't just for grannies. They can be used as secondary homes for others and can be rented, not sold, to assist in paying mortgages on principal residences. In August 2003 Sections 65852.2 and 65583.1 of the California Government Code were amended principally to encourage the creation of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU), or granny flats, on lots in single-family dwelling areas, typically in R1 Zones.

Government Code Section 65852.2(a)(3) requires where a local agency has an ordinance in accordance with subsections (a) or (c), an application for a second-unit permit is to be considered ministerially without discretionary review or public hearing after July 1, 2003.

The Intent of Second-Unit Law (Government Code Section 65852.150) was to provide Second unit housing for family members, students, the elderly, in-home health care providers, the disabled, and others, at below market prices within existing neighborhoods. Homeowners who create second units would benefit from added income, and an alleged increased sense of security.

The October 20, 2009 Motion by Council President Eric Garcetti, that has support from Councilmembers Bill Rosendahl, Paul Koretz, Tom LaBonge and Richard Alarcon states, "The current housing crisis is exacerbated by the turmoil in the mortgage lending industry where foreclosures have increased and many other homeowners are on the brink. This situation impacts all segments of the housing market, but is particularly dire for those with low incomes, those with special needs and the homeless.

The number of low income households and the pervasiveness of poverty in Los Angeles are markedly higher than in other urban areas. These factors further speak to the need for more affordable housing in Los Angeles, but creating this housing will require greater subsidies than in other areas as well."

Garcetti, et.al, have asked the City Council to order the Planning Dept. to "study and report back in regard to the legalization of previously unpermitted converted units." It was this rhetoric that alarmed and angered many residents.

According to the Los Angeles Dept. of Planning an ADU can be an apartment within an existing single-family dwelling, an addition to an existing home, a garage or barn or a free-standing structure on the same lot.

In 2003, the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) explained, "A local government may designate areas appropriate for second-units based on criteria such as the adequacy of water and sewer services and the impact of second-units on traffic flow." Any such ordinance must not be arbitrary, excessive, or burdensome provisions and requirements.

Los Angeles Dept. of Planning says, "The Code Amendment proposed concerning Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) is in response to the provisions of AB 1866, effective July 1, 2003 (Government Code §65852.150 et seq.), which mandates the creation of accessory second dwelling units in the single family zones.

AB1866 does not mandate that any city "create" ADU's in single-family zones. AB1866 does say that Cities must consider ADU's ministerially and gives cities discretion to exercise more control through ordinance.

Gabriella Jaurez, Department of City Planning, Code Studies Section, commented, "If we would do something that was different from State Law then we would have to adopt a local ordinance." The state law is what we need to go by unless we adopt something different. The state law says that any residential lot (R-1) to be ministerially considered is 5000 square feet."

Garcetti's motion would exclude wealthier areas such as hillsides, horse-keeping areas, scenic highways and those who live on narrow lanes. Gerald A. Silver, President of Homeowners of Encino and a member of the Encino Neighborhood Council said, "The Planning Dept. claims a City ordinance would provide direction for implementing the State requirements. The pro-housing density forces in the Planning Dept. claim that the State regulations mandate that all residentially zoned properties allow ADU's as a by-right option for the property owner. I believe that Los Angeles should follow the lead of other cities, including Pasadena, placing strict limits on the minimum lot size that allow ADU's. Rigorous parking and building set-back requirements must be imposed on these units, and must be owner occupied, not sold or rented to others. Parking should not be permitted on rear or side-yards set-backs and no tandem parking should be allowed."

Juarez invited any resident with concerns about ADU's in their neighborhood to email her directly with those concerns. Comments will be accepted, at least, until the end of January. Her email address is: gabriela.juarez@lacity.org or her phone number is (213) 978-1337. Comments can be made via the website at: <http://planning.lacity.org> as well.

Both Silver and Juarez encouraged resident participation from all of Los Angeles.

Katharine.russ@charter.net

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Councilmember Elect Makes First Official Visit

By John Blue

Sunland-Tujunga - New Councilmember Elect, Paul Krekorian, made a brief, unexpected visit to Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council's General Meeting Wednesday, December 9, at the North Valley City Hall. Despite his obvious campaign exhaustion, he gamely made the trek, leaving behind an exasperated wife and their two children. (He reportedly was in the middle of making Gingerbread Men with his tykes, 1-1/2 and 4 yrs.) He received a standing ovation by the Board Members and audience upon his arrival, then humbly sat down in the audience until called upon to speak.

Krekorian said he wanted to personally thank the Neighborhood Council members who had supported him so strongly and that simply sending his representative would not do. He asked for their continued support and pledged again to listen, listen, and listen some more.

In a serious note, STNC President McManus noted that Sunland-Tujunga is an activist Council that



Photograph by John Blue

has its own agenda, but believes the STNC and Krekorian share mutual interests. However, he intimated that the STNC would be keeping an eye out on him. Krekorian agreed and said he hoped they would. The community felt his visit was a very promising gesture, which they greatly appreciated

Editor's Note: Mr Blue is an STNC Group Representative and Photographer

Pacoima

By Morris Pichon

Memory Screening is coming to the Northeast Valley Adult Day Care Center. The Northeast Valley Adult Day Care Center is hosting memory screening evaluations for seniors in the Alicia Broadous-Duncan MultiPurpose Senior Center, located at 11300 Glenoaks Blvd., in Pacoima.

Specialized Ambulatory Geriatric Evaluation (S+AGE) of Sherman Oaks Hospital will provide the screening that is designed to check performance in visual-spatial, recall, language, orientation, registration, attention and calculation areas. Each screening takes approximate 30 minutes.

The memory screening is being offered to the caregivers, seniors, and members of the community. Monthly screenings are available starting January 2010. Call Deborah Lomax, Adult Day Program Director at 818-834-6100 to schedule an appointment.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all our North Valley Reporter Volunteers

Which includes our writers, distributors and advertisers. We wish you and your family a wonderful Holiday Season and a safe and successful New Year.

We want to congratulate you, our volunteers and advertisers. We've done the almost impossible. We made it through our third year, which ended September 30, and into the first quarter of our fourth year. Everyone, please give yourself a big round of applause! This is your newspaper...you made it happen! We continue to be committed to our mission of "Keeping you informed."

This year we have covered such issues as:

Accessory Dwelling Units, Affordable Housing, Bicycle transportation, Bus transportation, CD 2 Candidate Forums, DWP rate increases, Equestrian trails, Fires and their aftermath - Marek, Sayer, Sesson and Station, the passing of Deputy Chief Kenneth O. Garner, Home Depot in Sunland-Tujunga, Kohls in Granada Hills, Las Lomas Project, Local community news events, Lopez Canyon Truck Driving School, McMansions, Mission College Satellite for Sunland-Tujunga, Measure B and Solar Energy, Medical Marijuana, Mobil Home Owners plight, your Neighborhood Council news, Public safety concerns, Senate Bill 1818. Veterans issues, the Water Crises- L.A and State, the 710 Freeway, Public Safety information and much more.

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Local Activists Kick Consultants to the Curb

By Katherine Russ

Never before in the three year history of the North Valley Reporter, has an article generated as many comments and as much controversy as the "Consultants Kicked to the Curb" article regarding the City's Bicycle Master Plan. According to Nina Royal, Publisher and Editor, "the North Valley Reporter finds it necessary to launch a full investigation into the claims and counter claims made by a growing number of parties involved and we are committed to publishing a Report of our findings upon completion of our investigation in the near future."

Anyone with pertinent information regarding this subject can contact Investigative Reporter, Katharine Russ" at: katharine.russ@charter.net

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COMMENTARY

Seizing Power at City Hall



By Ron Kaye

Last winter, dozens of community activists fired off emails to thousands, manned phone banks and fanned out across Los Angeles to spread the word that the solar energy Measure B was a fraud – a multi-million rip-off of ratepayers.

They beat the City Hall political machine despite being outspent 70 to 1. It showed that grassroots movements could make a difference if they had truth on their side and a better, well-honed the story line and used all the tools available in this high-tech era. Two months later, community activists came together again and formed the base of support that helped elect Carmen Trutanich as City Attorney over the machine's hand-picked legal gofer Jack Weiss, and nearly pulled off an upset in the Council District 5, where Neighborhood Council leader David Vahedi faced ultra-liberal professional politician Paul Koretz.

In both those elections, solid Republican support was vital. Though only 25 percent of the electorate, Republicans are organized and often vote as a bloc, which means if you have them on your side, you only need a third of the remaining votes to win.

The CD2 special election to succeed Wendy Greuel was trickier. None of the eight candidates, who threw

their hat in the ring, even before the seat opened up, ever stood a chance.

Assemblyman Paul Krekorian and Hollywood lobbyist Chris Essel had all the money and support from public employee unions and the power structure. They easily made the runoff, leaving the activist community in a quandary over who was the lesser of the two evils.

NC members, homeowner groups and other activists spent a lot of time auditing the candidates and overwhelmingly came to the conclusion that Krekorian was the best hope for better representation at City Hall.

The challenge now is to hold Krekorian's feet to the fire, to make sure his staff is responsive to community needs and that he has the support he needs to stand up to the back room dealing and bungling at City Hall and avoid being co-opted.

Krekorian said rightly, that the election represented "democracy as it's supposed to be,"

neighborhood leaders coming together to beat the machine's candidate despite having a 2- to-1 money advantage, much of it spent in nasty hit attacks.

Taken together, the elections this year provide a road map to how to seize power at City Hall.

Campaigns for seven Council seats – the even-numbered districts, including Krekorian's – will get under way next fall for the March 2011 primary, so the time to start to work to win some of those seats is now.

We need to identify strong potential candidates who can beat Tom LaBonge, Tony Cardenas, Herb Wesson, Bernard Parks, Jose Huizar and Greig Smith's anointed successor, his chief of staff Mitch Englander. And we need to start our own political action committee to raise funds to support candidates who will stand up for the city's residents and fight for reform.

At the least, a well-organized, citywide citizen's reform movement will put heat on the incumbents and put them on notice that we are watching their every action and capable of ousting them from office.

Help those who help you, punish those who hurt you – that's how DWP union bully boy Brian D'Arcy operates, why he spent another fortune in Essel's losing cause. As far as he is concerned, winning or losing don't matter as much as having everyone in office looking over their shoulder all the time, fearful that he will come after them.

If the activist community wants a seat at the table of power, it will have to act just as ruthlessly and have a credible capacity to intimidate, as well as help those who hold office.

Anyway, that's my take-away from this year's elections.

Editor's Note: Ron Kaye is the former editor of the Daily News and Chirman of Saving LA Project (SKAP), www.ourla.org or www.ronkayla.com.

Only Some Women Count

By Debora Wright

California cuts Cancer Screening to the Young and Poor and puts Older Women on hold. Last week providers of the largest breast cancer screening program for underserved women in the nation received notice from a state agency that the lifesaving Cancer Detection Program will be closed to all new women until late 2010. A deeper cut is being made to women under 50, who will no longer be eligible for services through the 21 year old Every Woman Counts Program. Ironically, this happened on the very same day the US Senate rejected a proposal to exclude mammograms for women under 50 in the health care bill.

On first glance, it is easy to understand how this program went broke. Last year 170,000 women were screened for breast cancer. This year 311,000 women

received services as demand nearly doubled. But, there has been lax oversight and little monitoring of the program by the state, since another program, Family Pact, offers most pre-menopausal women breast cancer screening, as well as pap smears and pelvic exams. A large portion of these women could have been referred for a mammogram through that program, leaving Every Woman Counts Intact.

If the Dept of Public Health had been monitoring this program properly, many of the women between 40 and 55 could have been screened through the Family Pact Program. It would leave plenty of money left over to serve the older, more at risk women over 55, who the state must now put on hold. The Dept. of Public Health mandates that the federally backed Cancer Detection Program is the 'payer of last resort', only when no other program will cover costs.

Interestingly, though the department cites budgetary causes, 40% of the women screened by this program were under the age of 50, and this announcement comes on the heels of the misguided mammography guidelines that have not been adopted by any other state or insurer.

When they attempt to reopen the program in the latter part of 2010, it will only be to new and returning women who are 50 and over.

What a shame. The CDP/EWC Program saved lives and mandated a high level of quality. It is unfortunate that the state did not enforce their own regulations to ensure that every woman really counts-including those under 50.

Editor's Note: Ms. Wright is President of Inner Images, Inc and a Mammography Technologist

Governor Sidetracking Rail Safety Projects

By Bart Reed

Southern California Leaders should reverse Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's sidetracking of Rail Safety Projects. After the first anniversary of the Metrolink crash in Chatsworth, Governor Schwarzenegger forgot about concern for the safety of California rail users. Caltrans, Metrolink, and local rail agencies collaboratively developed a program to improve safety for the LOSSAN (Los Angeles-San Diego-San Luis Obispo) Corridor between San Diego and Santa Barbara to prevent accidents such as in Chatsworth. It included a statewide commitment for early development of Positive Train Control (PTC), and will be standard requirement nationwide by 2015. However, it would save lives today.

On October 2, Caltrans was in the process of submitting \$1.1 billion in rail safety, speed and capacity projects on Metrolink, Coaster and Amtrak, including PTC, to the Federal Railroad Administration for funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. However, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger quietly blocked the Caltrans projects from being submitted without any advance warning. He prevented a project list that included hundreds of millions of dollars for rail safety improvements from being filed with the Federal Railroad Administration because the projects might compete with a future high-speed rail system.

Had the state received those funds, local jobs would be in place by Spring or Fall 2010. Since that action was publicized in the media, other political leaders have called the Governor's action misguided and underhanded. The impact will delay safety improvements indefinitely. "We may never get this money now," said James R. Mills, former President Pro-Tem of the California Senate, who helped create Southern California's rail network. "The lives of rail travelers will be jeopardized by this."

According to Senator Alan Lowenthal (D-Long Beach), "The Governor's action is contrary to what he told me and a group of legislators, local officials, high-speed rail board members, and commuter rail operators when we met with him earlier this year. He told us there would be one state application for the \$8 billion in President Obama's rail stimulus program and it would include both high-speed rail and conventional rail improvements. Had this technology been installed last September, it is unlikely that 25 people would have died in the Chatsworth crash of a Metrolink train." Unfortunately, the governor's action continues to put the lives of Amtrak and Metrolink riders at risk.

It appears Schwarzenegger is unaware of the huge traffic on current Southern California rails. The LOSSAN Corridor carried ten million passengers last year, making it the second most popular rail line in the country. Caltrans and local governments in the LOSSAN Corridor spent \$934 million on upgrading the corridor with the

goal of trains traveling between Los Angeles and San Diego in two hours. Since 1975, less than 20 percent of funding came from Washington. Yet, at the same time, the federal government has spent billions acquiring the Northeast Corridor. The governor's action only ensures the dismal federal commitment will continue.

The deleted conventional rail stimulus projects had three funding goals: 1) to install positive train control for passenger safety; 2) to shovel ready grade separations to improve motorist safety by reducing collisions between trains and motor vehicles. 3) to track and signal projects that would have brought substantial segments of the service up to 110 miles per hour, making the two hour travel time goal between Los Angeles and San Diego achievable.

All projects would have been constructed before 2017, the federal deadline for spending stimulus funds. The high-speed service scheduled to begin in 2020, was a very optimistic date. Southern California would have had an unparalleled regional rail network complementing the high-speed trains.

Governor Schwarzenegger's deceitful action put California on the wrong track. However, it is not too late for citizens and leaders to right the wrong. Congress is looking for viable public works projects that are truly shovel ready that embrace the \$1.1 commuter rail safety and capacity project list.

Editor's note: Bart Reed is Executive Director of The Transit Coalition

COMMUNITY NEWS

Chief Beck Meets Citywide NC Members



Newly appointed Los Angeles Police Chief Charlie Beck was a Guest Speaker at the City Wide alliance of Neighborhood Councils at L.A. City College in early December. He addressed Neighborhood Council members concern regarding Community Based Policing. Beck assured citizens that his goal is to continue the Community Police Advisory

Board program and to improve upon it by giving Captains more decision making authority because neighborhoods needs are different, but his is also going to make them accountable.

Historic Pole Dedicated



A dedication of the New Flagpole at Bolton Hall Museum in Tujunga was celebrated on Friday, December 4th. The beautiful 45 foot custom wooden pole replaced the pole stood in front of Bolton Hall for 93 years. City Controller and former District 2 Councilmember, Wendy Greuel, who helped

achieve the goal of repairing the pole while in office, was a guested speaker. Councilmember Elect, Paul Krekorian presented Lloyd Hitt, Little Landers Historical Society President, with a flag that flew over the California State Capital on behalf of Assemblymember Cameron Smythe who was not able to attend. A flag was raised on the refurbished pole by the Verdugo Hills High School ROTC Color Guard while Broadway vocalist, Franny McCartney sang God Bless America.



Pacoima Christmas Parade



Granada Hills Holiday Parade



Granada Hills

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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 12

Las Posadas Re-enactment
SFV Historical Society
Andres Pico Adobe Park
10940 Sepulvedam MH
5:00 p.m

Holiday Party-Broadway Singer
Franny McCartney's Holiday Music
Little Landers Historical Soc.
10110 Commerce, ST
1 pm

Sunday, Dec 13

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

Children's Holiday
Crafts Boutique
Sylmar Library
Polk & Glenoaks, Syl
10 am - 2 pm

Tree People Tree Planting
Elmer & Stagg, SV
818-771-0236

A Parents Guide-
Computer Social Networking
Shadow Hills Presby. Church,
10158 Johanna, SH
Free 9 am

Monday, Dec 14

Christmas Mixer
SFV Branch NAACP
Boys & Girls Club
11251 Glenoaks, Pac
7:00pm

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

GHNNC, Rules & Policy Comm.
11139 Woodly, GH
4 pm

Tuesday, Dec 15

MHNC Beautification Commit
LAPD Mission Station
11121 Sepulveda, MH
7 pm

Board of Public Works
Dept. of Sanitation
Low Impact Dev Ordinance
200 N. Spring, LA Rm 350
www.lastormwater.org/teameffort
9:30 am

Wednesday, Dec 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
4 pm -Senior Advocate
5 pm -Comm. Outreach
6:30 -Gen. Meet.
Pacoima Comm. Center
11243 Glenoaks, Pac

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

GHNNC Outreach & Publicity Meet.
11139 Woodley, GH
7 pm

MHNC Quarter. Outreach
LAPD Mission Station
11121 Sepulveda, MH
7:30 pm

Northridge East NC
Andasol Elem School
10126 Encino, NR
7 pm

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

Thursday, Dec 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

FTDNC Gen. Meet
www.ftdnc.org for location
7 pm

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

SVA Chamber Mixer
Bardwell's Florist
8820 Sunland, SV
5:30 -7:30 pm

Saturday, Dec 19

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

Annual Santa Photos & Craft Faire
Century -21 Parking lot
8307 Foothill, S-T
818-352-8935

Sunday, Dec 20

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

Open House & Tour/ Beautification Day
Pioneer Mem. Cemetary
Foothill & Bledsoe, Syl
9 am - 12 pm

Monday, Dec. 21

GHNNC-Gen Meet.
11139 Woodley, GH
6:30 pm

Tuesday, Dec 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

Friday, Dec 25

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Monday, Dec 27

GHNNC Gen Meet.
Van Gogh St. Elem School
1716 Van Gogh, GH
6:30-8:30

Monday, Dec 28

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

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

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

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

Region B Neighborhood Councils Candidate filing
Date begins
Info:
http://nc2010elections.blogspot.com/

Thursday, Dec 31, 2009

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Friday, January 2010

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Mountain & Vacation Properties: Big Bear, Lake Arrowhead, Hawaii www.EscapeToBigBear.com

Mark YOUR Calendar

Saturday, Jan 2

Friends of GH Library
10640 Petit, GH
10:30 am 368-568
Sunday, Dec 6

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

Tuesday, Jan 5

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

MHNC Budget & Finance
LAPD Mission Station
16161 Sepulveda, MH
7 pm 818-892-2414

FTDNC Land Use
9747 Wheatland SH
7:00 pm

Wednesday, Jan 6

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

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

Thursday, Jan 7

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

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

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

Friday, Jan 8

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

Sunshine Cyn Advis. Comm
Knollwood Country Club, GH
3-5 pm

S-T League of Women Voters
North Valley City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
1:30 pm 818-782-4236

Saturday, Jan 9

PlanCheck NC
Hist. Downtown O.R. Center
114 W. Fifth, L.A.
10 am-1pm

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

Monday, Jan 11

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

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

GHNNC, Rules & Policy Comm.
11139 Woodly, GH
4 pm

Tuesday, Jan 12

STNC-LUC
7747 Foothill S-T
7:00 pm 818-951-7411
Info: stnc.org

Tuesday, Jan 12

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

Wednesday, Jan 13

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

PNC - House/Econon. & Land Use Comm.
11243 Glenoaks, Pac
5:30 pm 818 890-1563

S.H.P.O.A. Gen. Meeting
Tierra del Sol
9919 Sunland SH
7 pm

Thursday, Jan 14

Northridge West NC.
Beckford Ave. Elem. School
19130 Tulsa, NR
7pm

FTDNC Exec Board
9747 Wheatland, SH
7:00pm

STNC Gen Meet.
N.V. City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
7 pm 818-951-7411

Friday, Jan 15

Sun Valley Beautiful
9081 Tujunga, SV
11:30

FTDNC Equest Comm.
9747 Wheatland, SH
7:00pm

GHSNC Gen. Meet.
Granada Pavilion
16916 S.F. Mission, GH
7:30 pm 818-668-5969

Saturday, Jan 16

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
7\$ 9 am-12 pm 818-352-2098

Sunday, Jan 17

Open House & Tour/ Beautification Day
Pioneer Mem. Cemetary
Foothill & Bledsoe, Syl
9 am - 12 pm

Martin Luther King Day

MHNC Beautification Commit
LAPD Mission Station
11121 Sepulveda, MH
7 pm

Monday, Jan 18

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

Tuesday, Jan 19

Pacoima NC
4 pm -Senior Advocate
5 pm -Comm. Outreach
6:30 -Gen. Meet.
Pacoima Comm. Center
11243 Glenoaks, Pac

Wednesday, Jan 20

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

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

Thursday, Jan 21

1st Wendy Greuel Women's Dialogue Series
Location TBA
6 pm

Fruit Tree Giveaway
CD6 Office, 2nd fl
9300 Laurel Canyon, Pac
818) 771-0236

Thursday, Jan 21

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

GHNNC Outreach & Publicity Meet.
11139 Woodley, GH
7 pm

MHNC Quarter. Outreach
LAPD Mission Station
11121 Sepulveda, MH
7:30 pm

Friday, Jan 22

Northridge East NC
Andasol Elem School
10126 Encino, NR
7 pm

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

Saturday, Jan 23

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

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

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

Sunday, Jan 24

FTDNC Gen. Meet
www.ftdnc.org for location
7 pm

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

Monday, Jan 25

Used Book Sale
Granada Hills Library
10640 Petit, GH
9 am-1 pm 818-368-5687

STNC-LUC
7747 Foothill S-T
7:00 pm 818-951-7411
Info: stnc.org

Tuesday, Jan 26

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

Wednesday, Jan 27

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

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

Thursday, Jan 28

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

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Maxx Takes the Quilt!



Maxx Warner left, presented Quilt by Terry-Hake Church, right

By Terry Hake-Church

Sunland-Tujunga - A beautiful quilt donated to the "Owners and Business Restoration Association Inc". (COBRA), held a fundraiser to contribute toward improvement to their historic business community on Commerce Ave, was won by Maxx Warner, a young man from Sunland. Paula Warner, his mother, was ecstatic because she anticipated winning it. She remained seated in her booth at Joselito's Restaurant in Tujunga long after dinner, waiting for or the drawing

that took place on Monday, December 7. Restaurant owner, Jose Grijalva was given the honor of pulling the winning ticket because he has always volunteered to host fundraisers for assorted community groups.

CORBA member Terry Hake-Church, who spearheaded the fundraiser, is a member of a quilt group who has created and donated quilts for many causes. The quilt was originally displayed at Joselito's in June then hung at

the Patchwork Penguin until the day of drawing. The super king-sized priceless quilt, consists of a center block of 5,372 1" purple and white squares, bordered in white and took countless hours to complete. When the winning ticket was drawn at 7 pm, Maxx Warner and his elated mom went home with the prize quilt, which netted over \$400.00. COBRA members say they are grateful to all that participated in order to help them acquire their community improvements and thank everyone whole-heartily for their participation.

Editor's note: Ms. Church is Secretary of COBRA and a long time community activist and guest writer.



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and

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from encroachment

by private sector developers!

Attend our monthly meetings:

First Wednesdays at 7pm Committee Forums (Holy Martyrs Elementary, 16617 Parthenia St, NH)

Third Wednesdays at 7 pm Board Meeting (New Horizons, 15725 Parthenia St, NH)

PUBLIC SAFETY

Be Smart. Be Ready for the Rains.



*Deputy Chief Michel Moore
Commanding Officer, LAPD
Operations Valley Bureau*

The rainfall predictions this year for the hillsides surrounding the San Fernando Valley are grim. Should the anticipated El Nino

weather pattern materialize, we will see more frequent and substantial rainfall this winter than in years past. The typical consequence of our rainy season involves an occasional mudslide or flooded intersection. However, given the damage done by the Station, Sayre and Sesnon fires, this year's potential is much more severe. This article is meant to serve as a reminder of the importance of everyone living or working in the communities around hillsides of the San Fernando Valley to:

1. Identify your risks;
2. Have a plan;
3. Be prepared to take care of yourself, your family and your neighborhood.

It is incumbent upon all of us who live near or next to these identified areas to begin to plan on how

to protect your home. This cannot wait until the first rain storm of the season. This preparation needs to begin now. It is recommended that everyone involved conduct their own inspection of their home and property. Only you, the homeowner, know where your problem areas might be. Begin to take precautionary measures to protect your family, home and property. Once the mud and debris flow starts, it is too late to plan for protection. Put your plans in action and be smart.

In the event that you are ordered to evacuate your home, ensure that your plan includes evacuation routes, emergency telephone numbers, notification procedures and medical information. Additionally, ensure that you have a sufficient amount of money, clothing and medication. Inform each of your family members and relatives of your emergency plan in the event that they are separated from you or unable to reach you.

The City of Los Angeles has been utilizing various public agencies to do its part in preparation for the upcoming rainfall this winter. Much work has been done in emptying established debris basins and reinforcing drainage capacities wherever possible. It is the goal of the City of Los Angeles to protect the pub-

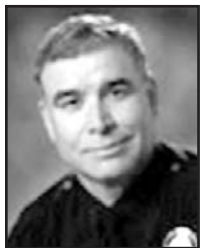
lic as much as possible during any natural disaster, but the entire burden cannot be placed on your City Government to mitigate the mud and debris flow on your property. It is our responsibility as community members to take a proactive attitude and prepare for such an event and help our neighbors prepare as well.

Identify your risks. Have a plan. Be prepared to take care of yourself, your family and your neighborhood. You may argue that others should or could do more, but simply said, we need you to act responsibly for yourself and your family.

For further information regarding the importance of flood and debris flow preparedness, please refer to the Emergency Management Department websites: [.ReadyLA.org](http://ReadyLA.org), Updatela.org, <http://emergency.lacity.org/>, <http://twitter.com/readyla> and <http://www.facebook.com/readyla>

Editors Note: Deputy Chief Moore has recently been promoted to First Assistant Chief and will be leaving the San Fernando Valley's "Top Cop" position in January. Deputy Chief Kirk Albanese has been named as his successor and will assume the "Top Cop" position at that same time.

News From Foothill



*Captain Ivan Minsal, LAPD
Acting Commanding Officer
Foothill Division*

This month the Chief of Police announced the promotion of the new Foothill Area Commanding Officer. Please join me in welcoming Captain Jon Peters to Foothill. He will be joining us officially on January 3, 2010. Captain Peters and I have been co-workers and friends for many years. Captain Peters is a person of great integrity, vision and character, and is a knowledgeable, experienced leader and manager. He is a very personable and approachable man who enjoys an exchange of ideas and information. As our Commanding Officer, you will find that Captain Peters is also very supportive of all communities and community policing projects. He will be heavily involved in all levels of the community that affect the quality of life for you, your family and/or business. Please join me in giving Captain Peters a big welcome and offer him your support as he takes over in January. I am excited to be working with him again and I know all of you will share that excitement as we move forward into the next year.

As the wet weather season begins, all communities must continue to be aware of changing conditions in weather and landscape. We must all work together to ensure the safety of our communities from mudslides, floods and the like. The City of Los Angeles has worked hard in putting together a group of representatives from LAPD, LAFD and many other City departments to work together to ensure the safety your homes, communities and families.

As for Foothill Area crime issues, our current overall Part 1 crime is down to -5.0 % from last year. We continue to hold the line on violent crime at about -6.0% compared to last year. Property crimes are "crimes of opportunity" that allows criminals easy access to our homes and cars. Areas of continued concern are burglary, burglary from motor vehicle and grand theft auto. Continue to lock up your home and your car. Most property crimes are committed because victims have left their car unlocked, their window or garage door open or left personal items in front their property unattended.

As the holiday season swings into high gear, take extra caution as you go shopping such as: walking to and from your vehicle, locking your purchases out of sight in your vehicle and choosing a safe location to park your vehicle. Always select a location that is populated and well lit. We want you to have a Happy and Safe Holiday Season!

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Bettercise Your Health

By Ben Fury

The Resolution - So you've decided that 2010 is going to be different, eh? You're really going to get in shape this year? That spare tire is going to go? You're determined to lose that junk in the trunk?

Good! Now how are you going to beat the odds that you're going to actually do it this time instead of failing by February like everyone else? Just remember two simple words:

Fail Fast - Fail Fast means that when you fail to exercise or eat right, notice it. Notice it right away. Don't make excuses for eating that chocolate cake. Don't make up a convoluted reason you didn't walk for twenty minutes like you promised yourself. Instead, notice it, call it what it is, and then fix it.

Do Say, "I ate a piece of chocolate cake. Ok, that's done. What healthy thing am I going to eat at my next meal?"

Don't Say, "Oh my God I ate chocolate cake again! What's wrong with me? Why do I always break down and eat this junk? Oh well, I've blown my diet for the day, might as well break out that ice cream and where's that bag of chips?"

Do Say, "My, my, didn't get that walk in. When can I squeeze in the next one?"

Don't Say, "You missed your walk you fat lazy slob. You never follow through on your New Year's resolutions. Why do you even bother making them?"

Positive, practical, reality-based self talk is essential to making Fail Fast work. Simply acknowledge reality without playing the blame/shame game and make plans to succeed next time. Acknowledge the faulty behavior without defining you as a faulty person. You are a successful person who sometimes makes mistakes and that's OK! So Fail Fast to be a success at building your perfect body.

I am "Bettercise", the evidence based method to achieve better health with less effort than ever before. Read this column in the months to come to learn the secrets of how to maximize your exercise results while minimizing your exercise hours. Also, how to eat in order to avoid disease, change your attitude to move into your new healthy body and feel totally comfortable as a very attractive fit person for life. Send you question for this column to: ben@bettercise.com

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North Valley Neighborhood Councils 2010 Election Dates

Region A Election Day: March 6, 2010

- Canoga Park
- Chatsworth
- Granada Hills North
- Granada Hills South
- North Hills West
- Northridge East
- Northridge West
- Porter Ranch
- West Hills
- Winnetka
- Woodland Hills - Warner Center

Region B Election Day: March 27, 2010

- Arleta
- Foothill Trails District
- Mission Hills
- North Hills East
- North Hollywood Northeast
- Pacoima
- Panorama City
- Sun Valley
- Sunland - Tujunga
- Sylmar

Get Involved. Run For Office. Make a Difference in Your Community...and VOTE on Neighborhood Council Election Day (see above dates).

For further information please contact the City Clerk Election Division office at (213) 978-0444 or visit the Neighborhood Council 2010 Election Blog at www.nc2010elections.blogspot.com

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HERE'S MY CARD

In Reverie This Christmas

By Marlene Hitt

A fire. And some china cups.
The taste of tea upon the lips
flavored by lovely moments that cling
to Time's delicious sips.

Christmas dreams, so many pass,
join chain-like into long thought strings,
chains linked up to smile and song
tear-stained, circled, like table rings.

A fir tree always centers here
beside the sofa and this chair.
Circles of light in green and red
mingle with the scented air.

The oldest Grandma sat right there
dressed in a home-sewn skirt.
Grandfather's pipe, unlit, unsmoked
spilled ash-brown leaf upon his shirt.

And now some little slippered toes
step on those ghostly feet,
those memories of time passed by,
of life in slow retreat.

Here, dreaming by the fireside
mixing sad with cinnamon,
all the Christmas remembering
blends and mixes and steeps till done

Editor's note: Marlene Hitt is Director of Bolton Hall Museum, a former Sunland-Tujunga Poet Laureate and writes for the NVR



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*

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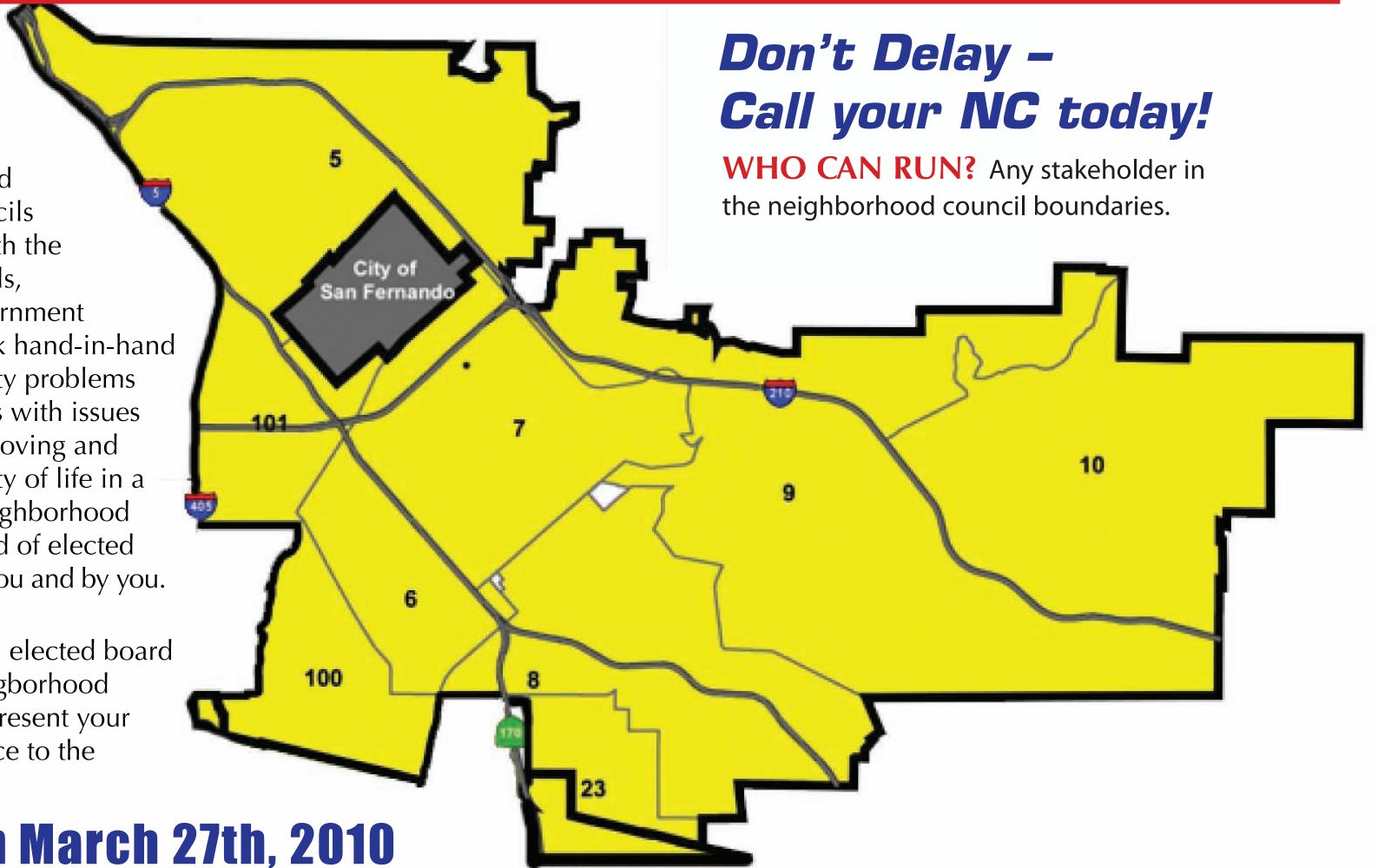
Get POWER for your Community! Neighborhood Council Elections

RUN FOR OFFICE & EMPOWER YOUR COMMUNITY!

WHAT ARE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS?

Los Angeles City certified neighborhood councils were established with the belief that individuals, businesses and government institutions can work hand-in-hand in solving community problems and coming to terms with issues that are vital to improving and enhancing the quality of life in a community. The Neighborhood Council is composed of elected representatives like you and by you.

WHY RUN? As an elected board member of your neighborhood council you will represent your community as a voice to the City of Los Angeles.



Don't Delay - Call your NC today!

WHO CAN RUN? Any stakeholder in the neighborhood council boundaries.

Election on March 27th, 2010

CONTACT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL FOR MORE INFORMATION OR the Los Angeles City Clerk at (213) 978-0444 or <http://cityclerk.lacity.org/election/ncdocs/website.pdf>

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Get Advisory POWER on LA issues in your community...

As a neighborhood council board member, you are involved in an advisory capacity with the City of Los Angeles including zoning, land use and development plans, citywide budget planning and working with city departments.

Neighborhood councils are able to officially address their community's issues with governmental officials and city departments.

Each year the board approves an annual operations, outreach and community improvement budget of \$45,000.00.

Improve the Quality of Life in your Community:

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

Candidate Filing Period Ends January 27, 2010