



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.

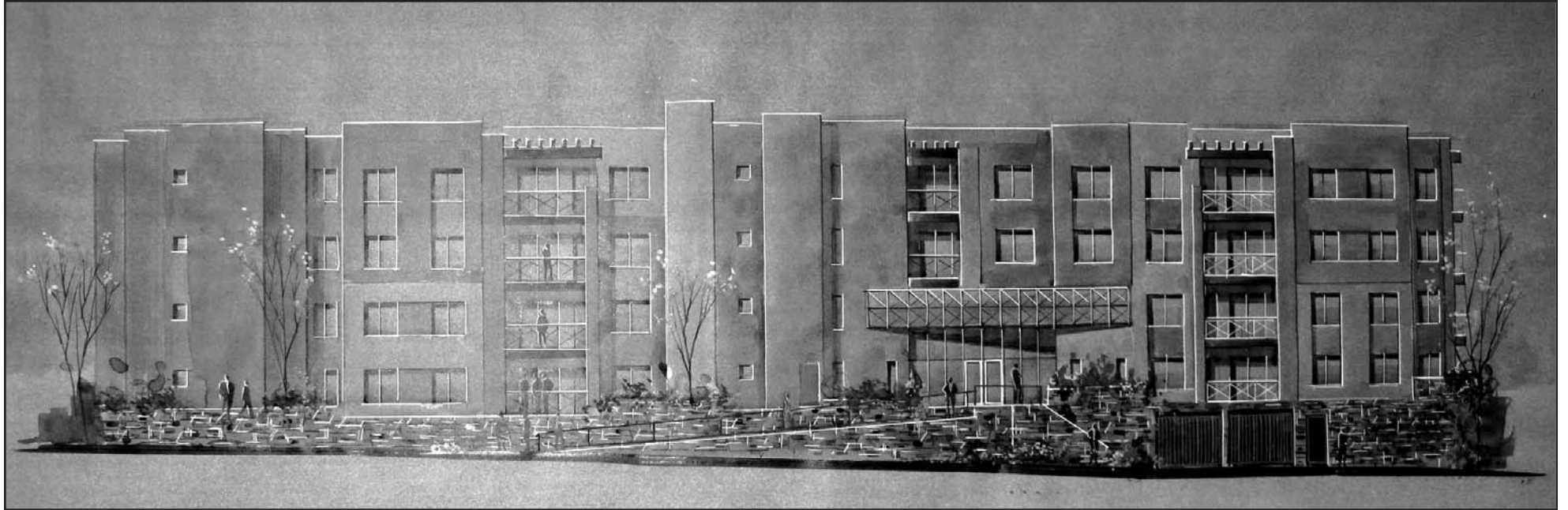
Whether our memories are of Posadas, fiestas, prayers, decorations, lavish gifting, a military outpost, a prison cell, or a lonely room, Christmas season means much to all faiths and those of all beliefs. Let us once more petition for the gift of love, pray once again, and again, for the gifts of peace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

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Sunland -Tujunga Project Deemed SB 1818



Proposed design for the Samoa Project.

By Tomi Lyn Bowling

A new housing development called the “Samoa Project”, is currently under review by the Los Angeles City Planning Department. It is slated for construction in the 10000 block of Samoa Ave., Tujunga, and is a 64-unit project promoted as being 100% “affordable” housing units.

Driving through the streets of Sunland -Tujunga today, note there are no shortages of for rent signs. Just a quick glance at Craigslist.com, a popular site for listing rentals, will confirm that there were sixteen available units under \$1000 in Sunland-Tujunga.

Comparatively, out of the 64 units proposed in the Samoa project, only two units are under \$1000. It seems we already have much more affordable housing that is both available and vacant.

As a result of this discrepancy, plus other quality of life issues for it’s neighbors, a storm is brewing as the residents of Samoa Avenue take to petitioning, letter writing, banners, even talk of picket lines in protest of “The Samoa Project.” The Sunland- Tujunga Neighborhood Council’s Land Use Committee has stepped up to support the out pouring of opposition to the project by enlisting the aid of committed and knowledgeable volunteers to research the details of the Developer’s recently filed application.

This narrow street has no sidewalks, no curbs, no lights, and a huge parking shortage due to the many existing buildings erected long ago, at a time when parking was not so critical. Currently, due to cars parked along the side of the undersized road, it is not wide enough for two cars to pass in opposite directions at the same time. Adding to concerns regarding problems with this project, is the lack of planned open space for children, who now clamor to play in the open fields as well as in the street.

The simple fact is, availability of such housing in Sunland Tujunga is already abundant. For example: The units on Craigslist that are under \$1000 are a range of studio, guesthouses, and on up to two bedroom apartments. With all of these affordable housing vacancies already existing in the community, the locals shake their heads and wonder what need is really being filled with this project.

The Samoa Project application, as of this writing, shows the following breakdown:

(a) One bedroom unit for the manager; (b) one 1 bedroom unit for \$776; (c) one 2 bedroom unit for \$932; (d) three 2 bedroom units for \$1,119; (e) three 3 bedroom units for \$1,076; (f) twenty-nine 3 bedroom units for \$1,292; (g) three 4 bedroom units for \$1,201; (h) Twenty-three 4 four bedroom units for \$1,441.

At the center of this controversy is the 2005 State of California adoption of amendments known as Senate Bill 1818, or the Density Bonus Implementation which is clearly meant to supply affordable housing in areas where currently there is none.

With the abundance of affordable housing already in Sunland-Tujunga, it would seem that this community should not be required to comply with mandatory implementation of additional affordable housing.

Current housing that exist in Sunland-Tujunga already, by empirical observation, is far more affordable than the proposed project on Samoa. A hopeful community has cried out seeking the help of Councilman Paul Krekorian and, meanwhile, the storm continues to brew.

Editor's Note: Tomi Lyn Bowling is Vice President-Community Improvement and Land Use Committee Chair for the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council and a licensed real estate agent. She can be reached at tomi@tomirealty.com



The undersized width of the 10000 block of Samoa Avenue shows one and two story buildings, no sidewalks, no curbs and gutters and insufficient parking.

You Should Know...

Green Electricity - Assembly Bill, AB 306 – authored by State Assemblymember Mike Gatto passed the State Legislature. Under the bill, the California Energy Commission (CEC) would research the possibility of using piezoelectric technology in roads and railways to generate green electricity from passing cars, trucks, or trains. The bill would also require the CEC to develop a pilot project if they deem that the technology has potential for use. When a car or truck passes over pavement, the pavement vibrates. By placing relatively inexpensive piezoelectric sensors underneath a road, the vibrations produced by vehicles can be converted into electricity to power roadside lights, call boxes, and neighboring communities. For more information, visit: www.asm.ca.gov/gatto

Renter’s Right to Recycle Act – Assembly Bill AB 818 – Authored by Bob Blumenfeld requires the owners of multifamily housing with five or more apartments to provide recycling services to tenants starting next year for paper, plastic and can recycling services to their tenants. Currently fewer than 40 percent of Californians living in multifamily dwellings have such access

A dog is a “nuisance” – if it barks continuously for 10 minutes or for 30 minutes in a three-hour period. The owner first receives a written warning allowing them to improve the situation. If it persists, a hearing is held where the owner could get a \$250 fine for the first offense, \$500 for a second offense and \$1,000 for a third offense. To report nuisance barking dogs, call 888-452-7381.

Donate your gently used coats, jackets, sweaters and blankets to the Kiwanis Club of Chatsworth for their 4th Annual Warm Coats Project, to be distributed to the needy during cold weather through **December 16**. Locations are: Chatsworth/Porter Ranch Chamber, 10038 Old Depot Plaza Rd. -Los Toros Mexican Restaurant, 21743 Devonshire St., Chatsworth High School, 10027 Lurline Ave., and Chaminade High School, 7500 Chaminate Way, West Hills

The first Boys and Girls in the San Fernando Valley, is holding their major fundraiser to support their service to children on **Tuesday, January 10**, at the Sheraton Universal Hotel, 333 Universal Hollywood Drive in Universal City. Their Golden Honorees are: Los Angeles

County Sheriff Leroy Baca, Christine Holifield, President, Elite Aviation and Sergio Rascon, Business Manager for Local Labors Union 300. Reception begins at 6:30 pm and Dinner is served at 7:30 pm. Donations are \$250.00. each. Reservations are required. Call Nicole Chase at 818-621-1444.

Winter Faire in Sunland-Tujunga – Saturday, December 10 at 5 p.m. at Little Landers Park corner of Valmont and Commerce Avenue. Tree lighting ceremony with Councilman Paul Krekorian, snow for the kids, games and more. For more information contact Brenda Fortune at 949-374-3950 or the STNC office at 818-951-7411 or stnc.org

The Annual Fundraising Concert for the purchase of instruments Verdugo Hills High School and Mt. Gleason Middle School is being hosted by the VHS on **Wednesday, December 15**. Local students with the support of Foothills Music Academy/Tujunga music School are performing the concert. Call Tujunga Music School at 818-951-5077.

COMMUNITY NEWS

SFV Congressional Leadership Fails Veterans



Sepulveda VA

Courtesy of NHW Neighborhood Council

By Katharine Russ

Conversions of Sepulveda Veterans Administration Buildings 4 and 5, to apartments for the homeless, is scheduled to break ground in January despite huge opposition and contrary to the no bid leases that say the project is to be completed by December 2011 (48 months from the signing of the lease), rather than beginning construction in January 2012 (Article 7, Sec B.6). On November 8, Congressman Brad Sherman and Los Angeles Councilman Mitch Englander's staff met with members of the Veterans Administration (VA) for updates on the conversions. Neither Sherman nor Englander has responded to requests for comments regarding that meeting.

Over four million residents, Neighborhood Councils, Veteran Service Organizations (VSO) and Civic organizations want the VA to restore the property back to a full service Hospital to accommodate the medical needs of veterans and returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan, plus, rescind the Enhanced Use Leases (EUL) signed with New Directions Sepulveda I and II LP (ND) and A Community of Friends (ACOF) in December, 2007.

The hospital, built in 1955, was damaged by the 1994 earthquake and demolished in 1998. Buildings 4 and 5 were the Spinal Cord Unit and the Psychiatric Unit and in 1998 were leased to the Film Industry for filming.

Congressman Brad Sherman supported the project for the past eight years as expressed in his February 10, 2006 letter to ND and ACOF: "I am personally impressed with what ND and ACOF are doing and are planning to do for our troubled veterans and will do whatever I can to convince federal agencies to provide funding." HR 1642, sponsored in May, 2007 by Sherman, was consistent with his approval of conversions and sought a guarantee that the buildings would house veterans only. The Bill passed the House and was received in the Senate, and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. However, he dropped the ball because the Bill never became law. Critics suggest that had the Bill passed, ND might not have been eligible for funding from HUD Section 8 housing, knocking them out of, potentially, millions of dollars. Sherman was, however, opposed to the no-bid lease that gave ND a 75-year lease to over seven acres of land at no cost.

The VA violated its own 2008 Asset Management Plan (AMP) that called for local government and community involvement. This sentiment was echoed throughout the Enhanced Use Lease (EUL) in such a way, they say "will address any concerns early in the planning and development process." With construction set to begin in January, a scant two months away, time for community input, "early in the process" is long gone. Community members are outraged that the project has proceeded without any outreach within the Community as stated by the VA.

In 2010, Sherman, only in the midst of heated community opposition, appeared to do a complete "flip-flop" on the project with a letter to Secretary of Veterans Affairs, General Eric Shinseki. He wrote, "I remain opposed to the project and request that the VA cancel the lease with ND and ACOF. I believe the property should be used to provide expanded health care for the veterans in the San Fernando Valley and throughout northern Los Angeles County." To placate the mounting opposition, he also requested VA assurances that they would cease telling his constituents in the San Fernando Valley that he gave his approval to the project.

Mark Reed, congressional candidate for the West San Fernando Valley and brother of four Vietnam combat veterans, has long been a supporter of veterans. Reed has fought with the masses to rebuild a much needed hospital for veterans at the Sepulveda property. He declared, "This lease violates that contract we have with our Veterans and their families. Congressman Sherman misrepresented our Veterans and local residents by stating, without their knowledge, that they strongly supported the project at the Veterans Advisory Committee on Feb. 14, 2007. Sherman also supported the lease without the knowledge or support of our Veterans or local residents. This lease should have never been supported by Sherman without our Veterans support. This is a perfect example of failed Congressional leadership in the West San Fernando Valley for our Veterans and the families of our Veterans."

Larry Van Kuran, spokesperson for the Los Angeles County Council, American Legion, announced months ago, "As far as can be determined, there has been absolutely no discussion or contact made with any of the major VSO's, or with local community leaders regarding this possible resumption of efforts. This is in direct conflict with stipulations in Title 38 USC, and with the VA's own Asset Management Plan, both calling for close communication and coordination with VSOs and the local community."

In 2005, ND estimated the cost of the conversions at about \$25 million dollars and now, in 2011, according to the developer's figures, costs for the adaptive reuse of buildings 4 and 5 into 147 apartments, thus far, exceed \$62 Million dollars. The cost breakdown for each 250 sq. ft. studio apartment is over \$440,655.00 in existing medical buildings of which ND will collect \$435.00 per month in rent. Each building will have a manager's apartment of 540 sq ft as well.

ND and ACOF are poised to receive VA and HUD Section 8 Project-based Vouchers (100%), annual tax credits of nearly \$2.2 million dollars, potential grant money from the state, potential energy credits and 90% of filming revenues. The revenues of \$17,280,475.00 were estimated in 2005 by Theresa Castillo, Public Affairs Specialist Asset Management- Filming and Land Use, and presented to Ralph Tillman, Director, GLA Asset Management, They do not include the \$5,452,284.00 in potential donations over the following five year period.

A 2004 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between New Directions and the Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (GLA) clearly indicates that the State of California, through the Multifamily Housing Program-Supportive Housing Program (SHP) component, will amortize the cost of rehabilitating Building 4 and 5. The Approved Developer Fee for ND is \$2.4 Million dollars.

Peggy Burgess, long time veteran activist, proclaimed, "This project is a sham perpetrated by a corrupt VA Administration in collusion with ND and ACOF and condoned by a corrupt Administration and Congress! These apartments will NOT be rented to homeless or disabled Veterans-(sic) homeless veterans cannot pass eligibility requirements. They are homeless because they have no money, cannot afford to pay rent and substance abusers are NOT 'disabled'. This is unconscionable and unacceptable by any standards. Seventy five 3-bedroom houses could be built for less than \$31 Million it will take to convert just one of the two buildings."

Calls to ND were referred to the Public Affairs Dept. at the VA and a website that touted a Q&A fact sheet from ND with no details of the project. http://www.newdirectionsinc.org/about_sepulveda.html Wilen Hernandez, Public Affairs spokesperson for the VA, offered the VA's Q&A fact sheet dated November 10, 2011 that gave no more than promises and suppositions about the project. Hernandez stated, "The VA recently learned that this project was actually going forward in early 2012. There will be a couple of meetings for the Community and VSO's but no dates have been set. The units will be fully furnished, counseling, case management, and 24/7 security there as well. All of this is built into the cost of each apartment."

On November 17, the VA, in conjunction with ND and ACOF, gave a 30-minute presentation to the North Hills West Neighborhood Council (NHWNC) on the status of the housing project but the NHWNC mislabeled the Agenda on their website to reflect "October 2011 General Board Meeting Agenda", leaving many interested parties to believe the meeting had already passed. There was no notice by the VA to anyone in the community regarding this presentation. The phone number on the NHWNC agenda has been disconnected leaving no way to verify attendance of any dignitaries at the meeting.

For those who wish to make statements with regard to the adaptive reuse of Buildings 4 and 5 at the Sepulveda VA., you can share your opinion with your ongress representative at: www.house.gov, your senator at: www.senate.gov, and Secretary of Veterans Affairs, General Eric Shinseki at: eric.shinseki@va.gov Katharine.russ@charter.net



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COMMUNITY NEWS

How Safe Are Our Airports

By Denny Schneider

Los Angeles World Airport (LAWA) informed the City Council Trade, Commerce, and Transportation Committee that the promised Runway Status Lights (RSL) will not be installed by the end of the year as previously promised. Runway status lights are like stoplights at the intersections of runways and taxiways to warn aircraft of a dangerous situation. They are an important part of the runway safety actions at LAX. In 2009 the FAA released a "fact sheet" indicating that RSL reduced incursions by as much as 70%.

Mayor Villaraigosa saw the importance of RSL and told the FAA that LAWA would pay for a pilot program that was installed almost three years ago. The worst incursion in the past three years was a near miss collision

at an intersection where RSL had NOT been installed. LAWA knew of the FAA funding issue for completion of the RSL since May, but neglected to tell anyone.

Regionalization is going in the wrong direction. LAX has increased its market share to over 75% of all flights. Ontario (ONT) airport, in particular, has lost flights to LAX. This month an airline from Mexico was told that Customs would not support the landings at ONT and that they should go to LAX! I doubt this would have happened if ONT it was controlled locally. LAWA appears to be pushing flights to LAX in preference to ONT.

Los Angeles Residential Helicopter Noise Relief Act of 2011, H.R.2677, was introduced by Congressman Howard Berman on July 28, and cosponsored by Congressmen Adam Schiff, Brad Sherman and Henry Waxman. The LA County Board of Supervisors also voted to support this bill. It is currently in the House subcommittee on Aviation. A date has not been scheduled yet for a congressional vote.

Editor's Note: Denny Schneider is President of Alliance for A Regional Solution to Airport Congestion (ARSAC) www.RegionalSolution.org. Contact him at Denny@WeLiveFree.com 310 641-4199 or 213 675-1817 mobile

LA City Council Redistricting Hearing Schedule Released



Special Commission meeting held November 28

By Nina Royal

The L.A. City Council Redistricting Commission will be holding public hearings in the 15 council districts between Monday, December 5, and Tuesday, January 10. They are soliciting input from all stakeholders throughout the city before preparing a draft of map for proposed new boundaries of council districts.

It is imperative that all community members participate in this process because of the potential huge impact that new boundaries will have throughout the city during the next decade.

Input received at the hearings, or via e-mail, will be used by the commissioners to make recommendations to the City Council on the proposed boundaries. The Commission will also make online mapping software available to the public to enable them to submit alternate map proposals. Members of the public can provide up to two minutes of public testimony or complete a hand-written testimony form at the hearing.

A website for the commission will begin accepting testimony and/or proposed maps from the public on Monday, Dec. 5. Visit: (www.redistricting2011.lacity.org)

The commission expects to release a draft map of proposed Council District boundaries by the first week of February, 2012. It will be followed by a second set of hearings to solicit further public input before a final map is adopted.

Contact Executive Director Andrew Westall, at andrew.westall@lacity.org, for more information. The following public hearing schedule is listed by date:

Date	Time	Location
Mon. Dec. 05	7:00 pm	LAPD Devonshire Youth Center, 8721 Wilbur Ave. 91324
Thu. Dec. 08	6:30 pm	WLCAC Phoenix Hall, 10950 S. Central Ave. 90059
Sat. Dec. 10	11:00 am	Alicia Broadous-Duncan Senior, 11300 Glenoaks Blvd. 91331
Sat. Dec. 10	11:00 am	Santee Educational Complex, 1921 South Maple Ave. 90011
Mon. Dec. 12	6:30 pm	North Valley City Hall, 7747 Foothill Blvd. 91042
Tue. Dec. 13	6:30 pm	Boyle Heights Senior Center, 2839 E. 3rd St. 90033
Thu. Dec. 15	6:30 pm	IMAN Cultural Center, 3376 Motor Ave. 90034
Sat. Dec. 17	11:00 am	West Valley Christian Church, 22450 Sherman Way 91307
Tue. Jan. 03	6:30 pm	Nate Holden Performing Arts Center, 4718 W. Wash. Blvd. 90016
Tue. Jan. 03	6:30 pm	Van Nuys City Hall, 14410 Sylvan St. 91401
Wed. Jan. 04	6:30 pm	Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Dr. 90027
Thu. Jan. 05	6:30 pm	Fairfax High School Auditorium, 7850 Melrose Ave. 90004
Sat. Jan. 07	11:00 am	St. Peter's Italian Catholic Church, 1039 N. Broadway 90012
Mon. Jan. 09	6:30 pm	Los Angeles City College Theatre, 855 N. Vermont Ave. 90029
Tue. Jan. 10	6:30 pm	Expo Center, 3980 Bill Robertson Lane 90037

Dr. Edward Trimis New VHHS Principal



Dr. Edward Trimis, a local Foothills area resident, has taken the reigns as principal of Verdugo Hills High School. Dr. Trimis is returning from LAUSD's Local District 2 after serving the students as principal of Manual Arts High School, City of Angels School, and also

as Assistant Principal at Polytechnic High School, Sun Valley, during the years 2000 through 2006.

Verdugo Hills High School (VHHS) officially opened on September 13, 1937. There are now over 1800 students enrolled in grades 9 through 12, that are served by a staff of 85 teachers in 15 academic departments. VHHS serves the communities of Sunland-Tujunga, Shadow Hills, Lake View Terrace, La Tuna Canyon, and parts of Sun Valley.

Dr. Trimis says he is excited about being at VHHS. "It's great to have the opportunity to work at a school with such a rich history and in a school community and local district very dedicated to school improvement and change. In many ways, leading the school community at Verdugo is like coming home. Verdugo is where my kids used to swim in the City Aquatics program on Saturdays, where I used to come all the time to supervise athletics when I worked at Poly, and even where my daughter played a part in a film when she was 12 (she's now 26). The opportunity to work in the community where I've lived for 30 years and where my kids grew up is a dream come true. Together, we will truly make a difference in our students' lives and will continue to take our school forward to new heights. My hope is that when we celebrate our Diamond Jubilee just one year from now, we will see a Verdugo Hills High School which meets and exceeds the state-wide goal of an 800 Academic Performance Index (API) and a school which sets the bar for all of our schools in the Sunland-Tujunga area. It will be an exciting time for our faculty and students and a thrilling ride for all of our stakeholders. So here we go. To the future and to the Dons: 'Victory with Honor.'"

Editor's Note: Dr. Trimis can be reached at, etrimis@lausd.net Phone: (818) 951-5400 - Fax: (818) 352-3577

National Park Service Holds Regional Meeting



The National Park Service (NPS) held a regional Study Meeting, November 17, at North Valley City Hall in Sunland-Tujunga. The purpose was to gain community input in helping to determine if any portion of the San Gabriel Watershed and Mountain study area is eligible to be designated as a unit of the national park system. The NPS has identified strategies to manage, or enhance, recreational opportunities in order to protect important resources in ways that do not necessarily require the commitment of funds from the NPS.

Attendees, who came from approximately a dozen areas in the county, were divided into four working groups to give their ideas and ask questions. The NPS will be issuing a report on the results of their regional meeting.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Congratulations to LAPD's Foothill Division



On Friday, October 21, Captain Joseph Hiltner, along with Senior Lead Officers of the Foothill Division, were honored for Foothill's 50th anniversary serving the city. The celebration was lead by Councilmember Richard Alarcon and the entire City Council.

The Council was not aware how well deserved Foothill's recognition would be that time. The Foothill Division proudly claims the title of being Number One in the San Fernando Valley in Crime Reduction as well as Number Two in the entire city. That's a record to be proud of. It will be a challenge for everyone to match next year.

Sidewalk Repair Up in the Air

By Brad Klimovitch

In 1974, the city adopted Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 62.104 subsection (e) recognizing the city's obligation to repair sidewalks damaged by trees planted by the city. Now, faced with fiscal shortfalls and concern over liability, the city is attempting to renege on its responsibility with little or no notice to the citizens of Los Angeles.

The Mission Hills Neighborhood Council (MHNC) is taking the lead in the San Fernando Valley in opposing the proposed repeal of the above referenced ordinance, that would shift responsibility for sidewalk repair to the property owner.

They opine that, the City needs to do an aggressive community outreach campaign in order to receive feedback from their constituents before this unjust ordinance is voted on by the City Council. Results of their community outreach should be shared back to all the stakeholders in each Council District and throughout the city-at-large.

A spirit of transparency seems to be missing in this proposed controversial ordinance. Therefore, the Mission Hills Neighborhood Council requested honest feedback from their Council Representative, Richard Alarcon. They believe that all councilmembers should include their neighborhood councils (NC) as well, via

a written response and/or personal appearance, before all stakeholders regarding sidewalk damage caused by tree roots in the public parkway, which is beyond the control of adjacent property owners.

In most cases, Property owners did not plant the offending trees and they are not permitted to remove them. An added insult, is that property owners received a letter issued by Amy Schulenberg, Project Coordinator for the City of Los Angeles, requesting residents and business owners order "free" trees from their Tree Program to be planted in front of their residence or business in order to improve the neighborhood and combat negative effects of pollution. Stakeholders, would like to know why the city is promoting this type of program, instead of maintaining the problem trees planted years ago. They believe wrapping arms around a tree that needs help before planting new ones just makes better sense.

A letter received from Antonio. Villaraigosa and the head of Public Works and Bureau of Sanitation is an insult to the intelligence of all affected by the repeal of this proposed ordinance. They should secure funding to fix our infrastructure first. City Hall does not realize what an oxymoron situation they are placing themselves in.

The issue of sidewalk repair is not new. It has been discussed and debated within the council for several

years. Last year the Public Works Committee passed a motion instructing the Bureau of Street Services (BSS) to conduct citywide outreach. However, most NCs throughout the City did not receive notice that such outreach had taken place. Many stakeholders are unaware the City is considering this action.

To pass this ordinance without all NCs weighing in, is an equivalent to taxation without representation. It is the duty of the city's legislative body to insure that outreach is performed to all NCs before placing legal responsibility of sidewalk maintenance on property owners. The city should give an additional six-month extension, starting in the beginning of 2012, then publish each Neighborhood Council's position on the proposed repeal of the original 1974 ordinance

If the city listens, they will discover a willingness to seek and share in finding solutions to this "quality of life" issue. However they should first conduct an analysis to determine insurance liability and insurance affordability since both insurance questions relate to property owners and the City alike. The MHNC is requesting all NC members and stakeholders to vote "No" on the proposal to repeal the 1974 ordinance and collaborate together to resolve this issue.

Editors note: Brad Klimovitch is the Outreach Chairman for the Mission Hills Neighborhood Council

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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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Thursday, Dec 1
PCNC Land Use
Mission Comm. Hospital
14860 Roscoe Blvd., PC
6:30 pm 818-894-7841

Saturday, Dec 3
LADWP MOU Meeting
Hollywood Com. Center
6501 Fountain Ave., Hillywd
8:45 am

LANCC Meet.
Hollywood Comm.
Center-6501 Fountain Ave.,
Holly. 10:00 am

Holiday Boutique & Luncheon
Sylmar Woman's Club
Odyssey Restaurant
15600 Odyssey Dr, GH
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
\$35 818-661-286-2177

Sunday, Dec 4
Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "The Boomer Years"
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours

Sylmar Cleanup Day
Meet at Sylmar Park
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Monday, Dec 5
STNC Land Use
7727 Foothill Blvd., S-T
7:00 pm

FTDNC Outreach Com
9747 Wheatland Ave., SH
7:00 pm

MHNC Board & Gen Meet.
Mission Police Station
1121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH
6:30 pm

NENC Gen. Meet
Penny Lane Rainbow Rm
15314 Rayen, North Hills
6:30 pm.

SFV's Historic Pico Adobe
10940 Sepulveda Blvd. MH
10:00 am - 4 pm

Tuesday Dec 6
S-T Chamber/S-T Elks
Holiday Party Mixer
S-T Elks Lodge
10137 Commerce, S-T
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "The Boomer Years"
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
818-352-3420

FTDNC Land Use
9747 Wheatland Ave., SH
7:00 pm

MHNC Zoning & Land Use
LAPD Mission Station
1121 Sepulveda Blvd., MHT

LAPD Community Coffee
Albertsons Starbucks
6240 Foothill, S-T
8:00 am 818-756-8866

Wednesday, Dec 7
Pearl Harbor Remembrance

Rotary Club
Coco's Restaurant
10521 Sunland Blvd.,
S-T 7:00 pm 818-951-5299

NHWNC Comm. Forum
Holy Martyrs Armenian
School 1667 Parthenia St., NH
7:00 pm

MHNC Safety Com
Mission Police Station
1121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH
6:30 pm

S. V. Rotary
Mandarin Terrace
8815 Sunland Blvd., SV
12:00 pm -1:30 pm
818-768-9888

PCNC-Commerce Com
Wells Fargo Bank
8548 Van Nuys Blvd., PC
2:00 pm

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

NHNE NC Outreach
Valley Plaza Library
12311 Van Owen St., No Ho
6:30 pm

Thursday, Dec 8
Valley Alliance of NC's
Sherman Oaks Hosp.
4929 Van Nuys, Sherm. Oaks
6:30 pm

Kagel Cyn Civic Assoc.
Dexter Park, KC
11053 No. Trail Rd., KC

Holiday Mixer/Toy Drive
Sun Valley Area C of C
NEVHC Sun Valley
7223 No. Fair, SV
5:30 pm (check website)

GHSNC General Meet
Granada Hills Pavillion
11128 Balboa, GH
7:30 pm

Friday, Dec 9
GHNNC Policy & Rules Comm
11139 Woodley Ave., GH
4:00 pm

Saturday, Dec 10
Plan Check NC
Hist. Downtown O.R. Center
114 W. Fifth St., L.A.
10:00 am -1:00 pm

City Redistricting Hearing
Alicia Bordous-Duncan Senior
Center
11800 Glenoaks Blvd., Pac.
11:00 am

Annual Holiday Party
Little Landers Hist.
Society
10110 Commerce, S-T
1:00 pm

Holiday Boutique
McGroarty Arts Center
7570 McGroarty Terr,
S-T 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Los Posados Pageant
S.F.V. Historical Society
Andres Pico Adobe
10940 Sepulveda Blvd, MH
10:00 am -5:00 pm

GHNNC, Rules & Policy Comm.
11139 Woodley Ave, GH
4:00 pm

Sunday, Dec 11
Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "The Boomer Years"
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
818-35-3420

Monday, Dec 12
City Redistricting Hearing
North Valley City Hall, S-T
7747 Foothill Blvd.
6:30 pm

FTDNC Budget Comm
9797 Wheatland Ave., SH
7:00 pm

SNC Land Use Comm
Sylmar Park 13109 Bordon
Ave, Syl 6:30 pm

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

Tuesday, Dec 13
SVANC Gen Meet
10631 Vinedale Ave., SV
6:30 pm

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

Northridge West NC
Beckford Elem. School
19130 Tulsa St., Nrdge
7:00 pm

MHNC Budget & Finance
LAPD Mission Station
16161 Sepulveda Blvd., MH
7:00 pm 818-892-2414

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

GHNNC Safety Comm
11139 Woodley Ave., GH
2:00 pm

Sun Valley Chamber Meet
Villa Scalabrini
10631 Vinedale Ave., SV
12:00 pm

SFV's Historic Pico Adobe
10940 Sepulveda Blvd. MH
10:00 am - 4 pm

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "The Boomer Years"
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
818-352-3420

Wednesday, Dec 14
STNC Gen Meet.
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
Refresh. 6:30 pm
7:00 pm 818-951-7411

FTDNC Exec. Board
9747 Wheatland Ave., SH 7:00
pm
Sun Valley Beautiful
9081 Tujunga Ave., SV
11:30 am

No Hollywd.Nh'brh'd Watch
Pentecostal Church
6800 Radford St., No Ho
6:30 pm 818-331-1398

FTDNC Equestrian Meet.
9747 Wheatland Ave., SH
7:00 pm

Pan. City Neighborhood Watch
9261 Wakefield, PC
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Thursday, Dec 15
FTDNC Gen. Meeting
www.ftdnc.org for
location 7:00 pm

Neighborhood Watch
Block Captains Mtng.
Sylmar High School
13050 Borden Ave., Syl
6:30 pm

Northridge East NC
Northridge Academy
9601 Zelzah Ave., Nrdge

NHNE NC Board Meet
Arminta Elem. School
11530 Arminta St., No Ho
7:00 pm

Friday, Dec 16 - 18
Snow Queen Contp. Ballet
Glendale Comm. College
Performing Arts Theater
Fee, E/M:
info@caballet.com

Saturday, Dec 17
City Redistricting Hearing
West Valley Christian Church
22450 Sherman Way,
W. Hills

SFV's Historic Pico Adobe
10940 Sepulveda Blvd. MH
10:00 am - 4 pm

Open House
Historic Pioneer
Cemetery
Bledsoe & Foothill Blvd, Syl
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Sunday, Dec 18
Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "The Boomer Years"
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

SFV's Historic Pico Adobe
10940 Sepulveda Blvd. MH
10:00 am - 4 pm

Monday, Dec 19
Valley Vote
Galpin Ford
15555 Roscoe Blvd., NH
6:30 pm

GHNNC Land Use Comm
11139 Woodley Ave., GH
7:00 pm

SFV's Historic Pico Adobe
10940 Sepulveda Blvd. MH
10:00 am - 4 pm

Tuesday, Dec 20
HAPPY HANUKKAH

Arleta NC Gen. Meeting
Beachy Elem. School
9757 Beachy, Arl.
6:30 pm

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "The Boomer Years"
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
818-352-3420

S-T Neighborhood Watch
7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T
6:30 PM

Wednesday, Dec 21
LAPD-CPAB
Mission Division
11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH
6:30 pm

Rotary Club
Coco's Restaurant
10521 Sunland Blvd.,
S-T 7:00 pm 818-951-5299

Pacoima NC
Gen. Meeting
Pacoima Comm. Center
11243 Glenoaks Blvd., Pac
6:30 pm

Northridge East NC
Northridge Academy HS
9601 Zelzah Ave., Nrdge
7:00 pm

North Hills West NC
New Horizons
15725 Parthenia St., NH
7:00 pm

Strathern Nh'brh'd. Watch
Church of the Nazarene
12120 Strathern St., NoHo
6:30 pm

Sylmar NC Green Comm.
Sylmar Park & Rec. Cent.
Susan B. Anthony Bldg. Polk
& Bordon Ave. Syl 7:00 pm

Sun Valley Chamber Mixer
John Wells Driving Range
11501 Strathern St., No Ho
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Hansen Dam Park
Advisory Board
Lake View Terr Rec. Ctr.
11075 Foothills, LVT
7:00 pm

Friday, Dec 24
CHRISTMAS EVE

Saturday, Dec 25
MERRY CHRISTMAS

Sunday, Dec 26
KWANZA begins

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8236 Foothill Blvd. Sunland



Mark YOUR Calendar

Monday, Dec 26
GHNNC Gen. Meeting
 Rinaldi Adult Center,
 17450 Rinadli St., GH
 6:30 pm

By-Law Reform Group.
 Bario Family Center
 4927 Huntington Dr, LA
 10:00 am - 12:00 pm.

Tuesday, Dec 27
Bolton Hall Museum
 Presents "The Boomer Years"
 10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
 Docent Tours
 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
 818-352-3420

Friday, Dec 31
NEW YEARS EVE
 (Enjoy - please have
 a Designated Driver)

Sunday, Jan 1
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Bolton Hall Museum
 Presents "The Boomer Years"
 10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
 Docent Tours

Monday, Jan 2
NEW YEAR'S DAY HOLIDAY OBSERVED

FTDNC Outreach Com
 9747 Wheatland Ave., SH
 7:00 pm

MHNC Board & Gen Meet.
 Mission Police Station
 11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH
 6:30 pm
 818-902-2361 for info

NENC Gen. Meet
 Penny Lane Rainbow Rm
 15314 Rayen, North Hills
 6:30 pm.

Tuesday, Jan 3
Bolton Hall Museum
 Presents "The Boomer Years"
 Docent Tours
 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
 818-352-3420

City Redistricting Meeting
 Van Nuys City Hall
 14410 Sylvan St., VN
 6:30 pm

FTDNC Land Use
 9747 Wheatland Ave., SH
 7:00 pm

MHNC Zoning & Land Use
 LAPD Mission Station
 11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH

LAPD Community Coffee
 818-902-2361 for time & info
 Albertsons Starbucks
 6240 Foothill, S-T
 8:00 am 818-756-8866

Wednesday, Jan 4
Rotary Club
 Coco's Restaurant
 10521 Sunland Blvd.,
 S-T 7:00 pm
 818-951-5299

NHWNC Comm. Forum
 Holy Martyrs Armenian
 School
 1667 Parthenia St., NH
 7:00 pm

MHNC Safety Com
 Mission Police Station
 11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH
 6:30 pm

S.V. Rotary
 Mandarin Terrace
 8815 Sunland Blvd., SV
 12:00 pm -1:30 pm
 818-768-9888

PCNC-Commerce Com
 Wells Fargo Bank
 8548 Van Nuys Blvd., PC
 2:00 pm

NHNE NC Outreach
 Valley Plaza Library
 12311 Van Owen St.,
 No Ho 6:30 pm

Thursday, Jan 5
PCNC Land Use
 Mission Comm. Hospital
 14860 Roscoe Blvd., PC
 6:30 pm 818-894-7841

Kagel Cyn Civic Assoc.
 Dexter Park, KC
 11053 No. Trail Rd., KC
 7:00 pm

Saturday, Jan 7
LADWP MOU Comm.
 Hollywood Com. Center
 6501 Fountain Ave., Hillywd
 8:45 am

LANCC Meet.
 Hollywood Comm. Center
 6501 Fountain Ave., Holly.
 10:00 am

Sunday, Jan 8
Bolton Hall Museum
 Presents "The Boomer Years"
 10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
 Docent Tours
 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm 818-35-3420

Monday, Jan 9
FTDNC Budget Comm
 9797 Wheatland Ave., SH
 7:00 pm

STNC Land Use
 7747 Foothill Bl, Tujunga
 7 p.m.

SNC Land Use Comm
 Sylmar Park
 13109 Bordon Ave, Syl
 6:30 pm

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

SVANC Gen Meet
 10631 Vinedale Ave., SV
 6:30 pm

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

Northridge West NC
 Beckford Elem. School
 19130 Tulsa St., Nrdge
 7:00 pm

MHNC Budget & Finance
 LAPD Mission Station
 16161 Sepulveda Blvd., MH
 7:00 pm 818-892-2414

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

GHNNC Safety Comm
 11139 Woodley Ave., GH
 2:00 pm

Sun Valley Chamber Meet
 Villa Scalabrini
 10631 Vindale Ave., SV
 12:00 pm

Tuesday, Jan 10
Bolton Hall Museum
 Presents The Boomer Years"
 10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
 Docent Tours
 1:00 pm-4:00 pm
 818-352-3420

Wednesday, Jan 11
STNC Gen Meet.
 NV City Hall
 7747 Foothill, S-T
 Refresh. 6:30 pm
 7:00 pm 818-951-7411

FTDNC Exec. Board
 9747 Wheatland Ave., SH
 7:00 pm
 Sun Valley Beautiful
 9081 Tujunga Ave., SV
 11:30 am

No Hollywd.Nh'brh'd Watch
 Pentecostal Church
 6800 Radford St., No Ho
 6:30 pm 818-331-139

FTDNC Equestrian Meet.
 9747 Wheatland Ave., SH
 7:00 pm

Pan. City Neighborhood Watch
 9261 Wakefield, PC
 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Thursday, Jan 12
LAPD Foothill Div. CPAB
 Japanese Amer. Comm. Ctr
 12953 Branford, Pac
 6:00 pm 818-756-8866

Valley Alliance of NC's
 Sherman Oaks Hosp.
 4929 Van Nuys, Sherm.
 Oaks 6:30 pm

Friday, Jan 13
GHNNC Policy & Rules Comm
 11139 Woodley Ave., GH
 4:00 pm

Saturday, Jan 14
Plan Check NC
 Hist. Downtown O.R. Center
 114 W. Fifth St., L.A.
 10:00 am -1:00 pm

GHNNC, Rules & Policy Comm.
 11139 Woodley Ave, GH
 4:00 pm

Sunday, Jan 15
Bolton Hall Museum
 Presents The Boomer Years"
 10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
 Docent Tours
 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Monday, Jan 16
MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY

Valley Vote
 Galpin Ford
 15555 Roscoe Blvd., NH
 6:30 pm

GHNNC Land Use Comm
 11139 Woodley Ave., GH
 7:00 pm

Tuesday, Jan 17
Bolton Hall Museum
 Presents "The Boomer Years"
 Arleta NC Gen. Meeting
 Beachy Elem. School
 9757 Beachy, Arl.
 6:30 pm

S-T Neighborhood Watch
 7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T
 6:30 pm

Wednesday, Jan 18
LAPD-CPAB
 Mission Division
 11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH
 6:30 pm

Rotary Club
 Coco's Restaurant
 10521 Sunland Blvd., S-T
 7:00 pm 818-951-5299

Pacoima NC
 Gen. Meeting
 Pacoima Comm. Center
 11243 Glenoaks Blvd., Pac
 6:30 pm

Northridge East NC
 Northridge Academy HS
 9601 Zelzah Ave., Nrdge
 7:00 pm

North Hills West NC
 New Horizons
 15725 Parthenia St., NH
 7:00 pm

Strathern Nh'brh'd. Watch
 Church of the Nazarene
 12120 Strathern St., NoHo
 6:30 pm

Sylmar NC Green Comm.
 Sylmar Park & Rec. Cent.
 Susan B. Anthony Bldg.
 Polk & Bordon Ave. Syl
 7:00 pm

Hansen Dam Park
 Advisory Board
 Lake View Terr Rec. Ctr.
 11075 Foothills, LVT
 7:00 pm

Thursday, Jan 19
FTDNC Gen. Meeting
 www.ftdnc.org for location
 7:00 pm

Neighborhood Watch
 Block Captains Mtng.
 Sylmar High School
 13050 Borden Ave., Syl
 6:30 pm

Northridge East NC
 Northridge Academy
 9601 Zelzah Ave., Nrdge

NHNE NC Board Meet
 Arminta Elem. School
 11530 Arminta St., No Ho
 7:00 pm

Sunday, Jan 22
Bolton Hall Museum
 Presents "The Boomer Years"
 10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
 Docent Tours 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
 818-352-3420

Open Poetry Reading
 The Village Poets
 Bolton Hall Museum
 10110 Commerce, S-T
 818-352-3420
 4:30 pm dskiles@ca.rr.com

Monday, Jan 25
GHNNC Gen. Meeting
 Rinaldi Adult Center,
 17450 Rinadli St., GH
 6:30 pm

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Signs Drew Police Attention



Commander James Cancler
Assistant Commanding Officer
Operations Valley Bureau
Los Angeles Police Department

The Los Angeles Police Officers assigned throughout the San Fernando Valley take pride in their work and strive to be vigilant at all times. These police officers are constantly looking for indicators of criminal activity, or addressing seemingly minor hazards that may or not be affecting the community at large. This willingness to investigate and correct activities within the community is the hallmark of a police agency focused on public safety and taking care of the residents and people traveling within the Valley.

Frequently, an officers' low-key inquiry into the activities of a potential suspect can lead to larger indicators of criminal intentions. Such was the case on the evening

of September 27, 2011, when officers assigned to the Operations-Valley Bureau, Valley Crime Task Force were assigned to plain clothes surveillance in Mission and Foothill Divisions with the primary intent of investigating auto-related thefts.

However, at about 8:30 PM, the officers driving through the intersection of Laurel Canyon and Osborne Street observed an unleashed dog running around the gas pumps at a gas station. As the officers looked closer, they saw an adult male smoking a cigarette under a "No Smoking Sign" beside the same gas pumps. Alarmed by what appeared to be an obvious hazard to public safety, the officers drove into the gas station and asked the male to extinguish the cigarette and step away from the gas pumps.

During the conversation, in which the man was warned about the hazards of an open flame near the gas pumps, the man became nervous and told the officers that

he was on probation due to his extensive criminal history, which included narcotics and firearms violations.

With this information, the officers drove the man to his residence to verify that he was in compliance with his probation conditions. At the residence, the officers identified the man's brother, who was also on probation due to his criminal history of violent crime, which included attempted murder and assault with a deadly weapon.

As the officers conducted their probation compliance check, they discovered a quantity of methamphetamine and a loaded 9mm pistol. Since these items were accessible to both men, they were both arrested for being in violation of their probation conditions, possession of a loaded firearm, and felony possession of methamphetamine.

This story represents a clear example of how officers taking action on a minor infraction can have a positive impact on criminal activity in the San Fernando Valley.

Crime Fizzles in Foothill



Captain Joseph M. Hiltner
Commanding Officer
Foothill Area Station
Los Angeles Police Department

Foothill Area has become the safest Division in the Valley as we have seen a 15% decrease in serious crime as of December 1. This reduction is due, in part, to you, our community members. Your role has continued to be extremely important as you pass the word to your neighbors, friends, and relatives to ensure to lock and secure your homes and cars. Without this component, crime fighting would be even more challenging than it already is. Remember, during this Holiday Season, please take extra caution by ensuring that you do not leave your gifts in plain view in your car after shopping. Thieves will take advantage of potential victims particularly during the holidays.

In the next two months, the Los Angeles Police Department will be launching an extreme advertising campaign that reaches out to young people throughout the

entire city to join our Cadet program. This program is designed to offer youth an opportunity to develop skills that will help them throughout their lives while working with one of the finest law enforcement agencies in the country. The program is offered at each of the 21 community police stations across the city as well as at two specialized divisions – Metropolitan Division and Communications Division.

Cadets are as diverse as the city they represent. Each of them comes from different backgrounds and has different goals and paths that they are following to get there. However, what remains the same in all Cadets is their desire to achieve excellence within their own lives and to then leverage those achievements to positively impact the community where they live.

But, before someone can begin experiencing the benefits of being a Cadet, they must first meet the eligibility requirements and go through the Cadet Academy as a Recruit.

In order to be eligible, Cadets must meet the following conditions and requirements: 1) be between 14 and

20 years of age; 2) Do well in school; 3) Have no record of serious arrests or convictions; 4) Maintain good moral character; 5) Present a written recommendation from a teacher, faith leader or other responsible adult who is not a relative; 6) Obtain a medical examination (to qualify for insurance); 7) Attend and graduate from the Cadet Academy; 8) Demonstrate a willingness to serve the community and participate in Cadet activities. United States citizenship is not a requirement to participate in any of the LAPD youth programs.

For more information on the Foothill Cadet Program contact Officer Caloca or Officer Lopez at (818) 756-8861.

As the year 2011 comes to a close, I wish you all a very Happy and Safe Holiday Season. Reminder, it is illegal to shoot a firearm into the air in Los Angeles. Also, it's a very bad idea to drink and drive. Please plan to stay safe by including a designated driver whenever you are out celebrating in order to assure that you will be with your family to happily celebrate these holidays again next year!

Holiday Season Safety Tips from LAPD

With the holidays rapidly approaching, the Los Angeles Police Department would like to remind everyone to be mindful of locking their vehicles and taking steps to prevent them from becoming victims of a theft from their motor vehicles. Traditionally, the weekend following Thanksgiving remains one of the highest volume retail sales weekends of the year. As a result, holiday shoppers tend to load their vehicles with new purchases and may not take the time to put valuables in the trunk or lock their doors.

All too many times, our police officers respond to a theft from a motor vehicle and the victim states, "I was just going in for a minute." Without witnesses or other means to identify the suspects, the chances of recovering valuable property are limited. As a result of increased holiday shopping in the weeks following Thanksgiving, auto-related theft crimes tend to rise.

The annual holiday message remains the same. The police department reminds all members of the community to:

"Lock It" – always lock your vehicle.

"Hide It" – if you leave your valuables in a vehicle, hide them from plain sight.

"Keep It" – a positive reminder that personal responsibility and prevention can safeguard your valuables from theft.

As shoppers go about their busy days, it is possible to forget to lock car doors while leaving valuables in view. Items left in view of passersby provide an easy target for an opportunistic theft. The best way to deter these crimes and protect your valuables is to take these simple steps:

Simple Crime Prevention Tips to Protect Your Valuables:

- Always lock your vehicle and close your windows

- Do NOT leave any valuables in your vehicle
- Use your vehicle's alarm system
- If possible, park your vehicle in a garage
- Park your vehicle as close to a streetlight as possible
- Do not leave garage remotes in your vehicle
- If you see any suspicious activity near any vehicle, call the police
- Check on your vehicle and neighbors' vehicles periodically

Some prime targets of these thefts include IPODS, IPOD Docking Stations, money, portable GPS Systems, mail, checkbooks, wrapped presents, new merchandise visible from outside of the car, other documents.

The men and women of the Los Angeles Police Department who work and provide service to the various communities of the San Fernando Valley wish everyone a safe Holiday Season!

Protecting the Community



By Carmen a. Trutanich

Mobile advertising trailers pose a significant public nuisance and safety risk. These cumbersome trailers hoard limited parking space and limit visibility to passing cars, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

Last year, the State Legislature sought to address this problem by enacting AB 2756, which authorized local governments to regulate the use of these unhitched trailers. Unfortunately, unscrupulous mobile billboard owners are exploiting a loophole in state law, which prohibits their impounding even after 72 hours of continuous, illegal parking, as long as the billboards are hitched to a vehicle. To avoid this restriction and retain high-exposure. In effect, these trailers remain illegally parked, ostensibly immune from regulation.

Two bills drafted by my office which include legislation that will allow for local jurisdictions to better regu-

late mobile billboard advertising displays and provide new tools to go after the most extreme nuisance operators, as well as separate legislation which will confirm a local jurisdiction's authority to regulate the location and operation of medical marijuana collectives using both civil and criminal enforcement.

The California State Senate on a 35-3 vote passed AB 1298, authored by Assembly member Bob Blumenfield (D-San Fernando Valley), August 18, 2011. The legislation was previously approved by the California Assembly on a vote of 59-11. It was signed by Governor Jerry Brown last month and will take effect on January 1, 2012.

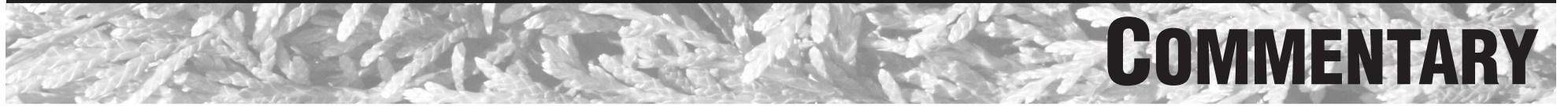
The bill specifically authorizes cities to define minimum distances illegally parked vehicles with hitched advertising trailers must move within a 72 hour period or else they may be impounded.

The State Senate on a vote of 38-0 approved AB 1300, also authored by Assembly member Blumenfield. The legislation was previously approved by the California As-

sembly on a 71-0 vote. It was signed by Governor Jerry Brown last month and will go into law on January 1, 2012.

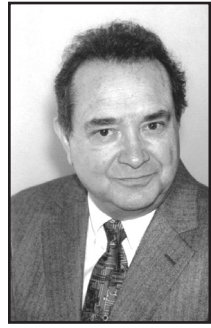
This bill will allow cities and counties to adopt local ordinances that regulate medical marijuana cooperatives and collectives to better protect the health and safety of the patients who need safe access to medicine, and the residents who live in the neighborhoods surrounding existing facilities. Specifically, AB 1300 would amend Health and Safety Code Section 11362.83, to confirm the authority of local jurisdictions to enforce existing regulations relating to the location, operation, or establishment of medical marijuana cooperatives, or collectives, by way of both civil and criminal penalties.

I am committed to doing everything I can to put our city back on track toward recovery and prosperity and a quality of life appropriate to the city of angels. Please do not hesitate to contact me if my Office if I can be of service to you. I can be reached at CTrutanich@lacity.org



COMMENTARY

Protect America



By Robert Barbera

Is it the same for you when you travel around the world to be grateful to return home? Many of us take America's greatness for granted. Our Natural resources are so bountiful. Forests for lumber are in greater supply from the time the pioneers came through. Fertile land is in such abundance that we are net exporters of food around the world. Our fishing industry has an enormous supply of fish, and huge land ranges provide us with an ample supply of animals. Gold mines of the past, and silver, coal mines and other natural minerals are plentiful. We have powerful rivers to produce dams for electric power.

Our landscapes are the most spectacular vistas imaginable. Our east and west coasts, mountains, and valleys are magnificent. We are environmentally aware by enriching our soil, plant rotating, cleansing our streams and lakes, and limiting hunting and fishing.

Our Founding Fathers unleashed the greatest society for freedom and independence. A man can set a goal and usually the only limit is his ability and his tenacity to reach his goal. A person from the lowest social status can reach the greatest heights in the political system. National origin, race, and sex are not limits to a person's ambition. Diversity and culture are celebrated. Formal education is available to everyone and even loans and subsidies when there are special circumstances.

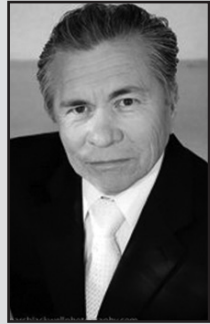
We are a kind and generous nation. Not only do we support our poor with medicine and housing but

restore places of disaster in our country and around the world. The poor today, a relative concept, have households including refrigerators, televisions, automobiles, cell phones, and computers.

We can't continue to praise our country if we lack the leadership to guide our future well being. Our leaders must have core values, which make our country great. The leaders must have incentives to live up to their ability. They must embrace and love America. We can only stop the looters from our greatness if we support good people of like mind. Our goal is to instill leaders with American Stewardship. For this we need your help.

Editor's Note: Mr. Barbera is Chairman of the Americanism Educational League. To contact him visit: www.americanism.org

Respect Those Who Protect and Serve Us



By David Barron

We should respect all officers who have chosen to join law enforcement. It's a job where plain clothes or uniformed officers risk their lives everyday. This is especially true while being a moving target in a 'Blue' uniform, or driving a black & white cruiser, often dealing with the worst of human beings. Then there are those times when they must deal with persons who want to crucify them for enforcing the law they

are sworn to uphold. The manner in which the officers of the LAPD handled the "Occupy LA" issue is a shining example of their professionalism and commitment to keep our city safe.

As a resident, and as an LA City employee, I am grateful for LAPD's service, and I am aware of what they must go through in order to protect the public. Therefore, I object to the required financial disclosure policy for the Gang Task Force units. Make note of the fact that not even our mayor will put out a financial accounting of the tens of millions of dollars he receives from taxpayers for his 'anti-gang' programs. And, if City Controller Wendy Greuel is not asking Villaraigosa for any disclosure, those who "Protect and Serve" shouldn't be required to do so either.

The LAPD already does an extensive background check on proposed candidates before they are hired. The Department and public are not naive; they know that out of 9800 officers some will fall from grace. When such an incident is discovered, Internal Affairs, Human Resources, and/or the criminal prosecution system should be allowed to conduct their own investigation without outside interference. For additional insurance, instead of the Financial Disclosure Policy now being enforced, former police officer Dennis Zine and former Chief of Police Bernard Parks, who currently serve on the L.A. City Council, should "stiffen their 'spine'" and introduce an ordinance that will make it a crime for a supervisor or upper management to interfere with the investigation of an employee that is being conducted by Internal Affairs and/or Human Resources. Laws such as that will prevent supervisors from protecting 'pet' employees and also avoid retaliation against employees and those who may be apprehensive about reporting criminal or bad behavior.

Editor's Note: David Barron is a Civil Servant with the City of Los Angeles.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



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THIS N THAT

The Canyons

By Marlene Hitt

John Robinson's wonderful book, "The San Gabriels", 1991, devotes about 300 pages to information about the canyons between Soledad and Cajon Pass. The book includes a great deal of historical information.

Robinson writes "This is inviting country, and mankind, for various reasons, has long been attracted to it. Few mountain ranges on the continent have been so swarmed over, dug into and built upon as have the San Gabriels."

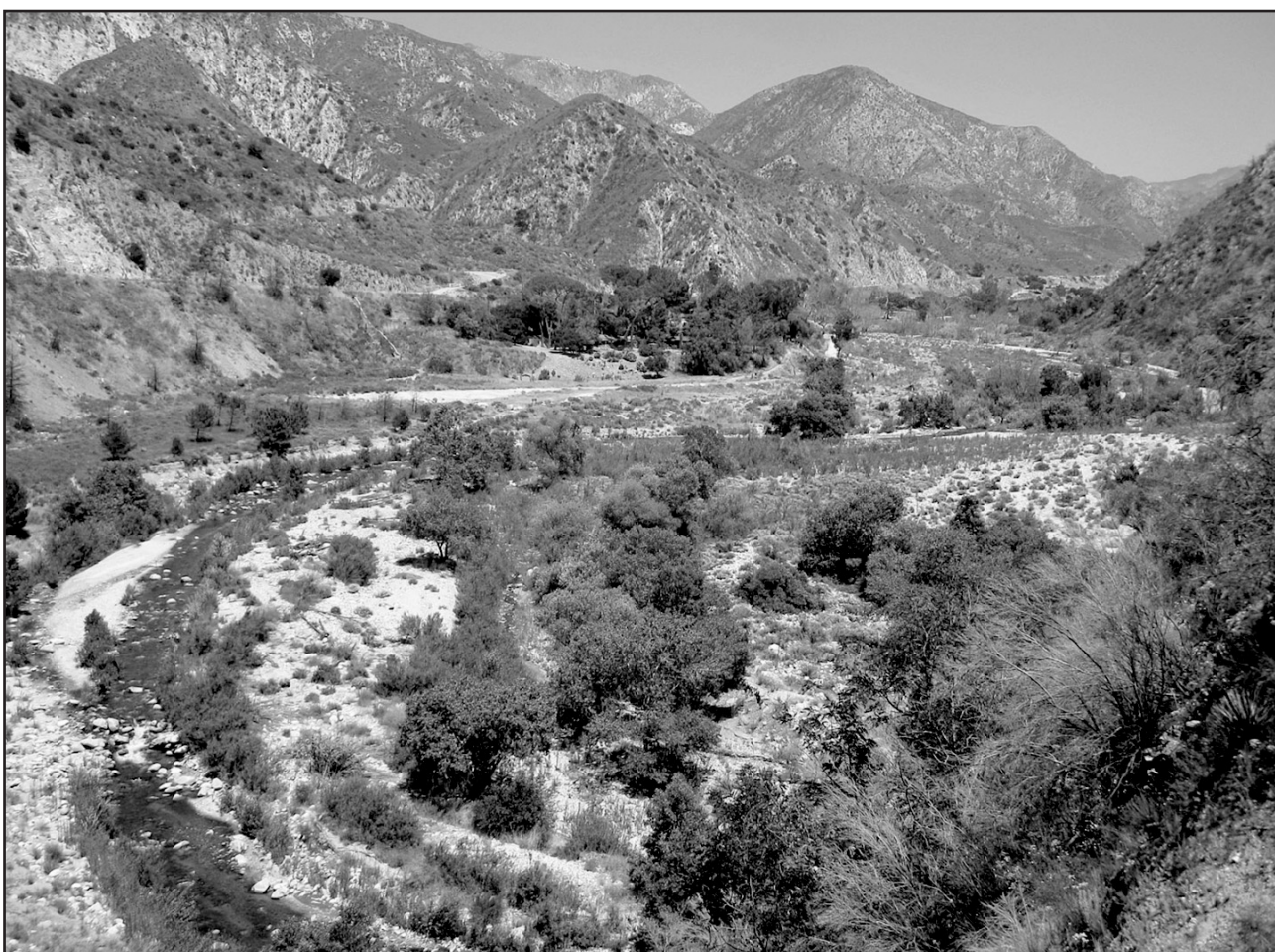
To the West of Sunland-Tujunga is Pacoima Canyon, one of the legendary sites of the "Lost Padres" gold mine supposedly worked by mission personnel. The mine was rumored to have brought fabulous wealth to the mission, but lengthy searches never brought forth proof of the place, or even proof of the existence of the mine.

The fabled mine is said to be under the waters of the present flood control reservoir, which was completed in 1929 (at that time known as the world's third tallest dam). Part of the folklore placed the "Dutch Louie" mine in that location as well.

The Little Tujunga Canyon to the east was settled by families. On an oak-shaded flat near the head of Gold Creek, in the 1890's, the Watt family grew fruit, vegetables and livestock. They found an old adobe shack on their place they thought to be a cattle station built by the Lopez brothers.

The Stunden Ranch along Alder Creek was sold in 1916 by Flint and Mamie Stunden to Hollywood film director Cecil B. DeMille, who renamed it "Paradise Ranch". He increased its size to over 300 acres and built a palatial retreat for his family and motion picture friends. The home was built of native stone with walls three feet thick. It was destroyed in the 1975 forest fire. Now the Wildlife Way Station is in full swing close by.

The Big Tujunga Canyon, known affectionately as "Big T", drains 87 square miles of mountain watershed. Big T is fed from a huge semicircle of high country which provides 'first' water, the upper slopes joining above the "narrows" and down past Big Tujunga Dam. Lower, the canyon receives drainage from many side streams and provides the avenue for about ten percent of rainfall waters flowing through the San Gabriels.



Big Tujunga Canyon 2009 This Canyon's bed swells with water during heavy storms.

Robinson says: "As early as the 1870's a wagon road, fording the creek some 23 times, ran up the canyon past 'pig pen flats' (just south of the Ybarra Ranch)... to a clearing where Wagon Wheel Camp was located. Beyond, the well-used "Horsethief Trail" led up the canyon and over the range into Antelope valley". In the canyon were lodges such as Hansen's Lodge, Pine Cliff and Wildwood Lodge, which were popular places, especially during the prohibition era.

It was in 1952 that LA County road crews using inmate labor began construction on the canyon highway and the spectacular Upper Big Tujunga Bridge. The bridge was completed in 1958.

Many camps and recreational opportunities abound

in the Big T. The local canyons are spectacular in their rugged beauty, geological features, and wild space. Much has been destroyed by flood or fire in the Big T, but much, marvelous in nature, is there to be respectfully enjoyed, and much history whispers there.

To the east the rise and fall of mountain and canyon call forth names like El Prieto, Arroyo Seco, Echo Mountain, Eaton Canyon, Monrovia Canyon, San Gabriel Canyon, Millard Canyon, and Chantry Flats. Canyon discovery can be a tantalizing hobby for those who wish to investigate. So much treasure can be found.

Editor's Note: Marlene Hitt is a former Poet Laureate of Sunland-Tujunga and Director at Bolton Hall Museum.

Memories



By Alexandra Rose Goodale

Saying goodbye... Saying goodbye is maybe the hardest thing anyone will go through. Saying goodbye to a house, someone you love, your school...anything and everything is hard to let go of. Even the things you don't particularly like or enjoy, you'll still miss them. Sometimes even saying good-night is hard. What if you won't say good-morning?

I've had many losses in my life, many good-byes. I lost both of my grandfathers at an early age. I've also lost cats, dogs, fish, and even friends. Some-

times losing them to death, sometimes to moving away, and sometimes losing them in my memories.

One of my losses was in memories... I'll look at pictures of myself playing with my friends when I was very young...friends that felt like they were my BEST friends at the time. Now, I don't even remember their names!

Another loss of mine was lost to moving away. Recently, I left my school. At that school, I had my family. I knew all the kids in my class for eight years! Saying good-bye to my family at school was so hard that words can't describe. Even while writing this, I'm starting to tear up. I knew everyone there so well. So many memories, good and bad. They were all in that school, left behind.

Later on, I realized that I would always carry my memories with me, no matter where I am or where I go. Sometimes we all need to remember that. That even if those family, friends, or places are out of our lives, we will still have them close to us, either in pictures or journals, or even our minds.

And yes, sometimes it feels good to just cry your heart out at the thought of never seeing your family, friends, or place again; you just have to remember that you will always carry their memories with you.

Editor's Note: Ms Goodale is an 11-year-old middle school student. Her goal is to become a journalist.

*The North Valley Reporter
is in its 6th year.*

*Thank you to all
our supporters,
readers and volunteers.*

*Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year*

*-Nina Royal, Publisher
and Staff*

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WE CHERISH OUR VETERANS!

Special Commentary

I Was Just Thinking...

About Our Vets—Am I home? Who am I?
 "In war, there are no unwounded soldiers."
 Anonymous

By P. Vincent DiNova

PTSD. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. What is it? An uncomplicated definition is that it is an anxiety disorder that usually develops as a result of a terribly frightening, life threatening, or highly unsafe experience.

It can affect anyone, any place, at any time. It is most commonly associated with combat soldiers due to their potential for extremely high levels of stress exposure over long periods of time. Depending on certain trigger mechanisms, symptoms can be immediately apparent, or they can take weeks, months, or, in some cases, even years to exhibit themselves. Although, most assuredly around since man's first traumatic experience, PTSD was first diagnosed as a medical condition, referred to as "Shell Shock", by a Civil War doctor but wasn't formally or "officially" diagnosed as PTSD until 1980.

According to government statistics, 30% of Viet Nam vets were/are afflicted with PTSD; Gulf War, (Desert Storm), 10%; Afghanistan, 6%-11%; Iraq, 12%-20%.

Why so high from Viet Nam? Just a guess here. I couldn't find any hard facts to validate the ratios. In Viet Nam, for the most part, we were up against a hidden enemy. Much of the time we couldn't see whom we were fighting against. In all wars the stress level is through the roof. In Viet Nam, it was to the moon! I believe the stress level in later "wars" was mitigated, in my opinion, in part, because of marvelous advances in medical technology--our soldiers knew they were going to receive the best of care. And improved medical evacuation capabilities—they were confident that, in most instances, their extraction from the field, if necessary, would be reasonably immediate. Terrific morale boosters.

Once the troops had returned home from Viet Nam, Congress was curious to learn how "well" (or not) America's soldiers had been filtering back into society. So, in 1983 they commissioned the National Vietnam Veterans' Readjustment Study. A wealth of information was amassed from that comprehensive, statistical profile of Viet Nam returnees' societal behavior.

Among one of the more significant findings was one that matches an identical and more recent declaration professed by Roxanne Dryden-Edwards, M.D. She concludes that some sufferers [soldiers] have a smaller hippocampus (an area of the brain that participates in memory function), than others who may not have been traumatized by the same event(s). This may help to explain why some war returnees are able to accomplish a fairly seamless transition back into main stream society to continue in their pursuit of their American Dream, while others punch a ticket for an express pass to their own private hell...one filled with nightmares in the dark, as well as instances of frequently reliving the event(s) during awake hours; feelings of detachment; lack of interest in normal activities; feelings of guilt (I can relate); avoidance; difficulty concentrating; frequent irritability and outbursts of anger; lack of intimacy; hypervigilance; if single, never marrying. This, of course, is a partial list. Let's not forget substance abuse. On and on it goes.

Without question, untreated, the affliction can—and usually does-- have devastating affects in many areas of the soldier's life, such as family, the ability to engage in social discourse, employment, and sobriety.

Although I am curator of a sizeable emotional vault of graphic images of the horrors of war, as a Viet Nam vet, I am one of the fortunate ones. And, although such memories will be forever entrapped in both my consciousness and subconsciousness, I returned as basically a "whole being." My only occasionally, obvious physical affliction resulting from my 14-month tour in Viet Nam seems to be a permanent condition called "Startler Response Syndrome." It likes to exhibit itself--depending on volume and/or decibel levels--at celebrative fire-works displays, balloon poppings, car back-fires, and the like. At times, my reaction is an auto-neurological response of instantly dropping whatever happens to be in my hands, hitting the ground to begin crawling frantically, aimlessly, in no particular direction beneath the curious eyes of bemused on-lookers.

Yes, I am lucky. Perhaps it is because my "role" in the "farcical play" with real life casualties that was the Vie Nam Conflict was not to kill the enemy, but rather to try to patch our guys up and keep them alive till they could be evacuated to a safe, well-equipped, "behind-the-lines" medical facility.

At home, I was apolitical. I never watched the news or read the newspapers. Too busy partying. Didn't know anybody who'd been sent over there, let alone been wounded or killed there (wherever "there" was). I arrived in Viet Nam as a kid... A good-bye kiss from my girlfriend, Suzie, still fresh on my lips. Still angry at the CHP officer who had given me a speeding ticket on the 101 Freeway on my way home from her house ...on the night before I was supposed to leave for that God-forsaken country that I knew next to nothing about. I returned home as a man. A whole lot confused and feeling a whole lot guilty, to be sure. (And that's a whole other story.) But very much aware of who I was. However, it wasn't long before I was able to meld into my new 3rd Spirit. The same can not be said for many of those returning from multitudes of our other wars.

My new 3rd Spirit? I have a theory...

Conclusion, Part 2, in the next issue of The North Valley Reporter

Veterans Day Parade Thank you everyone who participated or attended our Veterans Day Parade which was significantly held on 11-11-11, at 11-11 am on Laurel Canyon Blvd., between Brand Blvd. and Paxton St., when we honored past and present Veterans. Thank you for helping to make it a great success.

Joe Pinoy Lozano, *Semper Fidelis* ~ USMC 1954-1957

