

Measure B's Huron Report- Fiction minus Fact

By Katharine Russ

The 22 page, \$100,000.00 Huron Report was commissioned by the LADWP and paid for by taxpayers regarding projected costs for a 400MW Solar Plan for Los Angeles to be implemented by 2014. The Report falls drastically short in its analysis because it fails to address critical issues such as employee wage increases, liability insurance, property taxes and easements on rooftops, etc., that will arise over the five year period marked by Measure B.

There are any number of renewable energies that could be utilized to break dependence on coal. To name a few: Geothermal, Hydro power, Solar power, Tidal power, Wave power or Wind power, none of which were considered by Mayor Villaraigosa/ IBEW in their "Green" plan. After taking 45 days and using over 10,000 computer simulations on cost factors, the Huron Report states that to get a greener economy and good jobs in LA, it will cost only .90 - \$1.05 per month, less than a cup of coffee to clean our air," remarked Michael Trujillo, 'Yes on B' campaign manager. But, the Huron Report cannot calculate the number of sunny days required to make solar panels a



G.M., D.W.P., H. David Nahai at LANCC Meeting, February 7, 2009

good investment for any home or business owner, especially in such a fragile economy.

The "Industrial, Economic & Administrative" (IEA) report, prepared by PA Consulting, projects costs to range between \$2.8 billion and \$3.6 billion- a stark contrast from Huron's projected costs of \$1.5 billion and a much higher tab to ratepayers than Trujillo's "cup of coffee."

LADWP's website says, "Solar power systems can be installed almost anywhere that receives unobstructed sunshine. LADWP recommends a location with direct sun from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. year round. Shading is a critical issue, because even a small amount of shade can reduce (or even eliminate) the system's output. PV system installation costs may vary due to the slope of the roof and roofing material." Without architectural and engineering studies, the Stochastic Analysis, or creative hyperbole, asserted by Huron, boils down to a "pie in the sky" wish-list that cannot be accomplished in a five year period.

Los Angeles Controller, Laura Chick remarked in an interview that the recently proposed L.A. Solar Plan "stinks and (she) would not vote for Measure B." Three Councilmen, Dennis Zine, Bernard Parks, and Greig Smith, who voted in favor to place Measure B on the ballot are now in opposition of it. Does this opposition expose an admission that the proposed measure was not read by Councilmembers before an affirmative vote in November 2008?

The Huron Report concludes, "Assuming effective program oversight and implementation, stochastic

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Garbage and Gas in Lopez Canyon

Proposed Training Program Igniting Tempers

By Katharine Russ

The L.A. Sanitation Dept of Public Works filed its initial draft Mitigation Negative Declaration (MND) on January 15, for the Lopez Truck Driver Training Program situated in the 400-acre landfill. Karen Coca, Environmental Officer - Bureau of Sanitation, noted through an email that the review period would close on March 16, giving community members little time for outreach.

In its 'Project Description' the Training Academy will initially consist of one class at a time of twelve students, who will receive 160 hours of instruction and training in each four-week session. At full operation, the Training Academy will start one twelve-student class session every two weeks. A maximum of 24 students will occupy the project site at any one time. Ten trucks will be available for training, two in reserve.



Resident's correspondence to Coca focus on discrepancies in the MND, citing factors that need further mitigation. Among them, air quality, biological resources, hazards, hazardous materials, hydrology, water quality, land use planning, noise transportation and traffic.

Residents in the County of L.A. are angry that they have not received requested documentation regarding the project plans, permits etc. and that this "school" has moved forward with virtually no public notice.

Councilman Richard Alarcon defended the project saying, "The truck driving academy uses a small area of the landfill, which is already being used by city vehicles and cannot be developed into park space for at least 30 years. (160 acres of Lopez Canyon is actual land-fill, and cannot be used for active park space due to the fact it is still settling)." After 30 years, if gas and leachate production (liquid produced from decomposition of waste) and subsidence (sinking down of land) of the ground surface have fallen to minimal levels, public recreation and other uses consistent with a zoning designation of 'Open Space' may be initiated.

Alarcon also noted a 20-year plan that includes seven phases of development including a 5-acre park, called White Horse Canyon, scheduled to open in June. Throughout 1975- 1996, the Lopez Canyon Landfill posed serious environmental and health concerns for residents of the area, resultant of the 19 million tons of trash dumped so close to their homes. Originally, the Lopez Amenities Fund was a \$6 million mitigation fee paid to the City of Los Angeles to benefit the local communities, whose neighborhoods within a 5-mile radius were impacted by the landfill operation.

The full text of the motion shows the 'Training Opportunity Program' is actually the new Teamsters Union-backed Truck Driver Training Program which will be moved from Long Beach to the Lopez Canyon Landfill with money taken from the now-defunct Hansen Dam Environmental Awareness Center Fund. The funds were originally destined for those communities immediately adjacent to the landfill. Those areas includes all of Lake View Terrace, parts of CD 2 and Los Angeles County, while only a small portion of CD 7 falls within that area.

Alarcon said, "The Academy is being paid for by a combination of state funds, federal funds and private contributions. The \$100,000 from the Hansen Dam Environmental Center Awareness Fund was identified for the program to ensure that at least 25% of the students enrolled are from CD 7. This was agreed to by the Lopez Canyon Community Advisory Committee." This Committee was "hand-picked" by Alarcon.

Marlene Rader, resident of Kagel Canyon, and member of the Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council (FTDNC) said, "In these hard times there are many truck

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2009

COMMUNITY NEWS

Golf Course's Certificate of Occupancy Delayed

By Elaine Brown

Sunland-Tujunga - Two recent meetings were held regarding the Angeles National Golf Club (ANGC) because not all interested parties were available for the first meeting in January. The second meeting, held Tuesday, February 3, at the North Valley City Hall, included the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC), California Fish & Game (CF&G), the National Park Service, Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council Watershed Committee (FTDNC/WC), Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council Land Use Committee (STNC/LUC), community members and equestrians groups, and representatives from City of Los Angeles Council District 2.

The subject involved the two-foot package of documents submitted by ANGC regarding their Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to both NCs (Neighborhood Councils) in November 2008. After a thorough review, community volunteers became aware that several documents were missing, including those regarding pesticide applications and water monitoring, which are now questionable, as well as the applications of pesticides and other chemicals.

The Tujunga Ponds, a riparian area to the west of the golf course, is not healthy, therefore, the pesticide applications and water monitoring reports are of primary concern. The Long Term Habitat Management Plan is one of the most important documents missing from ANGC's package. The NCs during both meetings requested those documents from ANGC.

In 1998, the community was divided as to whether a golf course was the best use of the land. However, members on both sides of the issue fought hard to make sure that the Sensitive Ecological/Environmental Area that exists in the Big Tujunga Wash, where the golf course is located, would not be destroyed. After reviewing numerous documents, the NCs have many questions regarding the severe decline of the habitat for the federally endangered Slender Horned Spine Flower. ANGC had agreed, in the original conditions and mitigation's, to protect the habitat, to keep the property clean and clear of trash, and to deter trespassing and prevent dumping. According to pictures presented by volunteers, this has not taken place. Also of concern, two years ago, ANGC built a bathroom on the east side of the property that was not an approved condition, and they also installed a long sewer line which may be in violation of the Spine Flower habitat. The Slender Horned Spine Flower Genus, listed as a federal endangered plant, has declined from approximately 2,800 to about 100 plants. ANGC says this is due to weather and moisture, but their own bioassessment group, Sapphos Environmental, says in their last report, the destruction of the plants was caused by human encroachment.

According to the original conditions, ANGC is supposed to construct two equestrian trails and one biking/hiking path east-west across the property from Foothill to



Photos of trash and debris in the Sensitive Ecological Environment

Oro Vista. They have finished a fourth required trail along Foothill Boulevard, which is supposed to allow equestrians to connect to both the southern and northern equestrian trails, but currently goes "nowhere". ANGC does not intend to build the two-transversing equestrian trails or the biking/hiking path.

Additionally, ANGC does not want to build the northern equestrian trail, but wishes to call the Conover fire road, located on the bluff, the northern trail. Conover is the access road for private property owners on the west, as well as an emergency access road for the Riverwood Ranch residents on the east when the river floods. The use of this fire road as a trail is unacceptable to the community, and the National Park Service says that Conover Road cannot be considered a trail.

The group also questions why the ANGC clubhouse, which was approved in 1998 with 8,100 sq. ft., was allowed to be built in 2008, with 25,000 sq. ft. Also questionable is the unauthorized driving range ANGC built across the south channel, moving their original footprint south and blocking the southern trail that also served as a Wildlife Corridor.

Wildlife used to travel along Haines Canyon past the southern bluffs below Ryderwood Estates and under Foothill Boulevard and the 210 Freeway. Without access and cover, wildlife can no longer travel safely across the property. In 2008, there were two separate puma sightings during daylight hours, east of the golf course property near the Sherman Grove Mobil Home Park, indicating that obstructions to the wildlife corridor, such as chain link fences to the east, and the driving range to the west, have confused them because they are thrown off their path.

Also included in the ANGC conditions is the requirement that 240 acres be dedicated to the SMMC prior to ANGC pulling their grading permits. This required the dedication of the land or the establishment of a conservation easement and/or a habitat preserve. When the land was not dedicated, these follow-up conditions were not met. According to the conditions of the CUP, ANGC is required to pay for continued security against trespassing and dumping, cleanup, monitoring, and care of the Sensitive Ecological/Environmental Area. At this time, ANGC has not agreed to an acceptable figure to provide necessary funds for ongoing maintenance. The community wants the land dedicated to the SMMC, but that cannot take place until a maintenance agreement is created and the conditions and mitigations are completed.

The required removal of Arundo and other invasive non-native plants is an additional issue questioned by the community. CA F&G will address cowbird trapping and other incomplete environmental mitigations when they submit their report.

A letter with several conclusions and recommendations was approved by the STNC Board and submitted at the February 13 hearing to David Weintraub, the City Planning hearing officer, by STNC Secretary Cindy Cleghorn. Hearing attendee, William Eick, representing the Shadow Hills Property Owners Association, was the attorney, who wrote many of the original conditions for the ANGC CUP, and he spoke against issuing the Certificate of Occupancy until all of the conditions and mitigations have been fulfilled.

Others who spoke against issuing the C of O to the ANGC until all conditions and mitigation's are met and all parties have reached agreement on the varying issues, included Paul Edelman, from the SMMC, Mary Benson, FTDNC/WC Chairman, Elaine Brown, Riverwood Ranch Home Owners Association, Barbara Tarnowski, Water Monitor activist, Ricky Grubb, STNC Environmental Representative, Nina Royal, STNC Vice President, Tomi Bowling, STNC LandUse Chairman, and Activist John Laue, who hikes and bikes in the wash.

Dwight Steinert spoke on behalf of the ANGC. Kathy Anthony, representing the Sunland Tujunga Chamber of Commerce, commented on the 20 jobs the ANGC has brought to the community and didn't believe that ANGC should be responsible for the upkeep of the wash. Dale Thrush, CD 2, spoke on behalf of Wendy Greuel, saying that they would not be taking a position until they have heard from CA F&G.

Mr. Weintraub extended the comment period for all parties until March 20, 2009, because CA F&G C was not properly notified. To write a comment letter or to obtain more information visit: www.stnc.org.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

City Election Candidates Meet in Open Forum



Noel Weiss, David Berger, Walter Moore, David Hernandez, David Saltsburg, Phil Jennerjahn, Suzy Evans and Louis Pugliese

By Kathy Arellano

Sunland-Tujunga- Every one of the 75 folding chairs set up in the meeting room of North Valley City Hall was occupied and a dozen more potential sitters stood with their cups of coffee and chocolate chip cookies to listen to local candidates' plans at the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council's Candidates' Forum. They included:

Mayor - Of the ten candidates on the ballot, four agreed to participate in the forum and each urged members of the community to get out and vote on March 3. Misguided or runaway city spending, greedy developers and the disparity between increased revenues and unfinished projects peppered Walter Moore's comments. Clearly eager to see big changes at City Hall soon, Moore said, "If we have a carton of broken eggs, we don't repair them by moving them around."

David Hernandez has been actively involved with communities in the foothills on many occasions when disaster struck. He's "worked on its problems" with residents. "Whether it's a Home Depot or Whitebird Development, the area has always been under attack," Hernandez said. "Development creates jobs but [they shouldn't exist] at the expense of the community."

Armed with his Deming 14-point plan and a fervent desire to get things done, mayoral hopeful David "Zuma Dogg" Saltsburg told the audience that "the mayor has

really pissed me off," urging everyone to do what it takes to "stop the immeasurable waste at City Hall."

Phil Jennerjahn described himself as a "conservative premarket capitalist" and wants to come down heavily on illegal immigration. "Our country has to have the right to maintain its sovereignty," said Jennerjahn.

City Attorney - The two candidates present, David Berger and Noel Weiss, traded credentials and quips while agreeing on the critical need for change in the mayor's office.

"You have the chance to send a tsunami of objection to City Hall," said Berger, "and wash out all the trash there." Berger cited his favorite TV show, "Perry Mason," as the source of his own desire to always "do the right thing." His plans include having his own Bureau of Investigation, complete with 'police' officers who would respond to [lesser] crimes.

Noel Weiss assured the audience of his commitment to be an advocate "for average Angelenos" and outlined a five "P" word mantra for his office: Practicality, positivity, proactive, principled and progressive. He said that, when citizens have complaints, they can go directly to the City Attorney's office for help.

City Attorney hopefuls Michael Amerian, Carmen "Nuch" Trutanich and Jack Weiss were not present.

City Controller - Of the three candidates on the ballot for the office of City Controller two - Kathleen 'Suzy' Evans and Nick Patsouras - participated in the discussion, comparing backgrounds and education and responding to questions posed by the moderator. Both candidates agreed that a solid working relationship with local neighborhood councils was of high importance. "I want to develop a Citizen Listening Post," said Patsouras. Evans said that City Controller Laura Chick "has left a long list of audits that I want to work on." Candidate Wendy Greuel did not attend.

LAUSD District 6 Seat - Louis Pugliese wants schools to offer quality education, job assistance and college information to students, as well as approving participation of parent volunteers, university interns and student teachers. When asked his opinion of charter schools, Pugliese replied, "With a single site plan school, all the monies come directly to the school." Candidate Nury Martinez was not present.

Remember that Election Day is Tuesday, March 3 and polls will be open from 7:00 am until 8:00 pm. For polling place information, call (888) 873-1000, or visit <http://cityclerk.lacity.org/election/>

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Pacoima



By Kathy Arellano

Mural installation at local elementary school brings joy to all. Community members, students and local elected officials gathered earlier this month to unveil and dedicate a new mural – a creative gift from beloved local artist Juan Pueblo and commissioned by Woodcraft Rangers – now on display at Sharp Elementary School in Pacoima.

“My love for art, mother earth and children is reflected in the mural I created for Sharp,” said Pueblo.

The ‘We Are All One Family’ mural, flowing across 60 feet of wall space in the outdoor student cafeteria, depicts the elements of the earth in rich hues and circular patterns – a shape often found in nature. With its soothing deep blues and exciting sunrise yel-

lows, the rendered lakes, trees and sunflowers captivate viewers, making lunchtime a lot more pleasant for the young people that visit that area daily.

School principal, Kayla Hinson, wanted a mural at Sharp and submitted a request to the city, according to Woodcraft Rangers CEO Cathie Mostovoy. “The mural is beautiful,” said Mostovoy, “the kids will enjoy it for many years.”

The mayor’s office selected community artist Juan Pueblo as designer. He has been the resident artist for Tia Chucha’s Café Cultural in Sylmar since 2001 and has generously shared his love of art and music with children and adults in a variety of ways. “Juan Pueblo leaves a unique and abundant artistic footprint wherever he goes,” said Tia Chucha Operations Director Trini Rodriguez.

Note: Woodcraft Rangers has a proud 86-year history of providing innovative and creative programs for children in the under-served areas of greater Los Angeles. Currently, enriching after-school and camping programs are provided to over 15,000 at-risk young people annually, at 64 public schools in high-need neighborhoods of Los Angeles County including the San Fernando Valley, San Gabriel Valley, Central Los Angeles, South Central/Watts, and Southeast Los Angeles. To find out more about Woodcraft Rangers, visit www.woodcraftangers.org

Continued from Front Page– **Garbage**

drivers, already, unemployed throughout the state. It is our neighborhood, not Alarcon’s, who will have to endure the negative impacts from this school. Alarcon promised over a year ago this area would be left as open space for passive, open recreational use, and it’s pretty obvious he forgot to keep his word.”

According to Mayor Sam’s Sister City website, “When questioned last year as to why Alarcon was taking \$100,000 from another of the landfill community funds (the Hansen Dam Environmental Awareness Center Fund) and using it to build a truck driving academy on the landfill property, now slated to be a City park, Alarcon simply dissolved the Environmental Awareness Center fund and moved the money into the Community Amenities Fund where the motion states that the funds are to be spent at the discretion of the councilman. The Community Amenities Fund has, for all intents and purposes, gone from a community mitigation fund to a second discretionary fund for Alarcon, leaving the people impacted most by the landfill, once again, without a true democratic voice in how the funds are spent.”

For further information visit the Bureau of Sanitation’s website also http://www.lacitysan.org/solid_resources/pdfs/2009/Lopez_Driver_Training_Academy_Draft_MND.pdf and http://www.lacitysan.org/solid_resources/pdfs/2009/Project_Description-MND.pdf

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Mission Hills



Commander Villegas

By Betty Ley

LAPD Captain Jorge Villegas’s promotion to Commander was reason for a celebration. Villegas, the former Captain and Commanding Officer of LAPD’s Mission Hills Area Station, was recently promoted and will be leaving Mission Area to report to his new assignment of overseeing the Valley Bureau.

According to www.lapdonline.org, Commander Villegas was appointed to the Department in 1989, and promoted to the rank of Captain in April 2005. He has been the Commanding Officer of Mission Area where he oversaw approximately 250 employees and all Area, Patrol and Detective operations for the past 2 1/2 years. During his tenure, he worked in many capacities, including patrol, narcotics, gangs, detectives, and in administration. His enforcement-oriented assignments include Hollywood, Rampart, Northeast and Van Nuys Patrol. He also worked at Juvenile Division, the Office of Operations, Management Services Division, Operations-Central Bureau, and Detective Bureau Source:

On Tuesday, February 10, 2009, Mission Hills community members, Neighborhood Council, and with financial support from Providence Holy Cross Medical Center, honored Commander Villegas at the Mission Area Community Police Station.

Others took advantage of the festive evening and presented Commander Villegas with framed certificates of Appreciation. Councilmember Richard Alarcon, State Assemblymember Felipe Fuentes’ office, Senator Alex Padilla’s office, and the North Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce also made presentations. Newly appointed Captain and Commanding Officer of Mission Station, Bill Scott, presented Commander Villegas with a beautiful plaque from the Community. Everyone enjoyed an array of sandwiches, a fruit tray, chips, a beautiful sheet cake and drinks along with great conversation and fellowship. The communities in the Mission Hills area congratulated Commander Villegas on his promotion and wished him the best of luck and continued success.

Arleta

By Al Piantanida

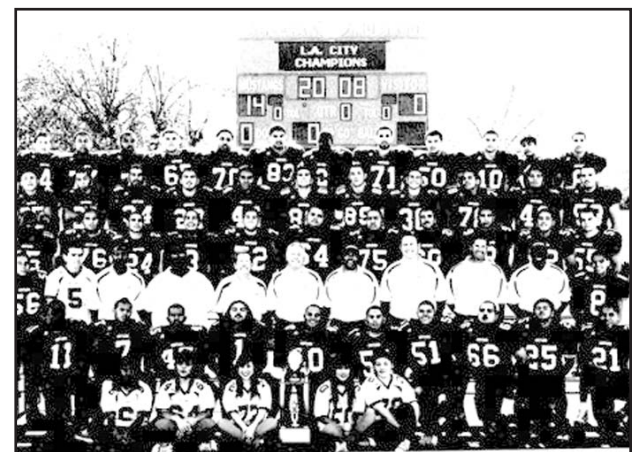
Neighborhood Watch Coalition-The historic Looky Loos and the Arleta Community Watch dogs are seeking support from all neighborhood watch groups, businesses, churches and all concerned residents in Arleta.

Their goal is to come together as a cohesive group in order to improve the quality of life in their community. They are looking forward to cooperation, support and assistance when needed from the LAPD, Council District Six, as well as Public Works and Transportation Departments.

They are also looking for support from community members in controlling graffiti, illegal dumping, illegal vendors, potholes, vacant houses, abandoned vehicles and illegally parked vehicles.

Neighborhood Watch meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month in the Beachy Elementary School Auditorium, 9757 Beachy Ave. in Arleta. Call 897-9122 for further information

Congratulations to Arleta High School Varsity Football Team



Champions and only undefeated Football Team in the San Fernando Valley.

Panorama City

A motion to implement a Business Improvement District (BID) for Panarana City was introduced by Los Angeles City Councilmembers Cardenas and Alaron on Wednesday, February 1. The BID will increase job development, property values, business sales, street safety, and neighborhood aesthetics. The Councilmembers say the BID, which was developed by property owners in the area, will establish a unique identity and a “new look” with banners, logos, and landscaping which will help attract more business occupancies like restaurants and retail. Security teams and maintenance programs will also be established.

The self-imposed assessment by property owners will total \$2 million over the first 4 years. The Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) has allocated \$4 million for improvements to be installed by summer 2010.

The BID boundary includes Parthenia Street to the North, Roscoe Boulevard to the South, Cedros Avenue to the West and Lennox Avenue to the East (also known as the Panorama City Retail District).

“A petition was signed by area property owners and the ballot tally for the BID upon closing, resulted in a 72% “in favor” of the assessment vote. The start of the BID is January 1, 2010, in order to allow the committee overseeing the BID, to start initiating the neighborhood improvements which will also include major landscaping and infrastructure.

VOTE

MARCH 3, 2009

COMMUNITY NEWS

Sun Valley Came through for West Valley



Senior Lead Officers Janet Zumstein and Michele Rodriguez

Members of LAPD's West Valley Division wanted to honor fallen officers in their area in the same manner that was done in the Foothill Division. Senior Lead Officer Michele Rodriguez had spearheaded the memorial for the Foothill Division several years ago. Officer Rodriguez worked with West Valley's Senior Lead Officer, Janet Zumstein, to recreate Foothill's memorial for West Valley, utilizing the same businesses in Sun Valley for donations.

The Family owned business of Laurence Marble and Granite on Olinda Street, constructed the marble base to support the bronzed uniform shirt and cover.

Lexington Company, located on Branford Street, completed the project, designing and installing the monument and mural of the flag, etc.

Cliff Tobin, the artist who designed the monument (uniform shirt and cover), is the son-in-law to Sgt. Theresa Wilson, former Senior Lead Officer for Pacoima.

The following officers were memorialized during its unveiling and dedication: Motor Officer II - Martin Parker, Detective II - Thomas C. Williams, Motor Officer II - Randol L. Marshall, and Swat Officer - Randal D. Simmons.

Laff Night a Huge Success

By Richard Stewart

"Live at the Elks Lodge in Sunland-Tujunga!" was the opening words of Richard Stewart at the "much talked about" Foothill Community Laff Night. Uniting for a great cause, the community and service clubs came together in force to raise over \$1200 for the LAPD "Baker to Vegas" run.

The "Spontaneous Combustion" of the community originated at a joint meeting of the Sunland-Tujunga Rotary and Lions clubs at Coco's Restaurant. Past Rotary Club President, Ellis Robertson, challenged Lion members, Marynance and Pete Schellenbach, to join together with Rotary in a fundraiser for LAPD.

Lion President, John Severano, not only accepted the challenge, he proposed the ideal fundraiser utilizing professional stand up comedians as entertainment, (the Comedy Machine). Dave Belluci got wind of the project and offered the support of the Sunland-Tujunga Kiwanis Club. He recommended the Elks club as a venue. Then it snowballed!

Earl Bouchard promptly announced the Elk's approval of use of their Lodge as the venue, which sealed the deal! Soon, Kathy Anthony offered support of The Chamber of Commerce and Richard Stewart garnered the support of the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council. Nina Royal rallied and coordinated the LAPD to complete the circle and help to pull off a night that will not be forgotten. Many are already talking (and demanding) LAFF Night II. "Word of mouth alone would fill the place!" was one surveyed response. The overwhelming responses included: "Great!", "Fantastic!", "I haven't laughed so hard in a long time", and "On a scale of 1 to 10, this was an 11!"



Comics, Richard Stewart and "The Kid"



Opening the evening was "LA's Young Guns of Classic Rock", the Heist.

"The Comedy Machine". MC, Andy Kern, got the laughs rolling and introduced three pro comics: "Honest John", "The Kid", and headliner, "Tymon Shipp." The biggest surprise of the evening came when the sharp-witted comic, "The Kid", recognized that Dick Cheney was in the audience!! (You had to be there).

Editor's Note: Richard Stewart is president of the Sunland-Tujunga Shadow Hills Rotary Club

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Bake Sale

The Sunland-Tujunga Alliance /No to Home Depot Campaign held fund raising bake sale on February 7. It's always a whopping success because all the goodies are home made.

VOTE

MARCH

3

2009

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Tuesday, Feb. 24

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

Hillside KickOff Meet.
 NV City Hall
 7747 Foothill, S-T
 5 - 8 p.m.

Achievement Awards Dinner
 Sunland-Tujunga BPW
 S-T Elks Lodge
 10137 Commerce, S-T
 6:30 pm 352-3738

Pasadena Radio Ham Club
 Kaiser Permanente Office Bldg.
 393 E. Walnut, Pas.

Thursday, Feb. 26

Public Hearing Re:
 Waste Management
 Marvin Braude Center+
 Van Nuys Blvd, VN
 8:30 am

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

SNC Gen. Meet.
 Sylmar Elementary School
 12319 Phillippin Syl
 6:30 - 9:30pm

MHNC Senior Com.
 10161 Sepulveda. MH.
 6:30 pm

Focus Group for Valley
 Regional Congress
M. Braude Con. Center
 6262 Van Nuys, VN
 6:30 pm 213-473-4529

Saturday, Feb. 28

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

Free Spay & Neuter Day
 Districts 6 and 7 only
 Mission Hills Ani-
 mal Care
 15321 Brand. MH
 6:30 am 756-
 9115/452-7381

Monte Carlo Night
 Elks Lodge 2098
 6 pm 352-2098

Sunday, Mar. 1

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

Monday, Mar. 2

**LA City Businss Tax
 Deadline**

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

STNC LUC Commit

North Valley City Hall
 7747 Foothill S-T
 7 pm 951-7411

**Tuesday, Mar. 3
 VOTE -ELECTION DAY**

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

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

Relay For Life
 Sylmar Park
 13109 Bordon, Syl
 8:15 pm

Wednesday, Mar. 4

NHWNC Gen Meet.
 Holy Martyers Aremen. Sch.
 1667 Parthenia, NH
 7 pm

Thursday, Mar. 5

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

Saturday, Mar. 7

Saving LA Project (SLAP)
 Location Hollywood City Hall
 12 noon
www.Ronkayela.com

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

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

Community Prayer & Lunch

For Fire Victims
 L.A. Luthern High
 13570 Eldridge, Syl
 11 am-12:30 pm 709-0113x187

Sunday, Mar. 8

DAYLIGHT SAVING
 (Turn clocks ahead)

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

Monday, Mar. 9

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

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

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

Tuesday, Mar. 10

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

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

SVANC Gen Meet
 10631 Vinedale, SV
 6:30

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

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

Wednesday, Mar. 11

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



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www.GHSNC.org, www.GHNNC.org,
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Tujunga

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STNC Gen. Meeting.
North Valley City Hall,
7747 Foothill, Tujunga
7 pm 951-7411

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

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

FTDNC Equest. Meet.
9747 Wheatland, SH
7 pm

Thursday, Mar. 12

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

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

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

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

Saturday, Mar. 14

St. Paddy's Dinner Dance
S-T Elks Lodge
11037 Commerce, S-T
6 pm 352-2098

"A Hundred Times Forgotten:"
The Life and Death of Chinese-
American Women in Los Angeles"
Little Landers Historical Society

Sunday, Mar. 15

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

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

Monday, Mar 16

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

Tuesday, Mar. 17

Happy St. Patrick's Day

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

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

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

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

Wednesday, Mar.18

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

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

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

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

Thursday, Mar. 19

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

STNC Safety Comm.
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill S-T
6 pm 951-7411

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

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

Saturday, March 21

Self Defense Workshop
Fernangeles Rec. Center
8851 Laurel Cyn, SV
11 am 771-0236

Sunday, Mar. 22

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

Monday, Mar. 23

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 984-2133

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

Tuesday, Mar. 24

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

Wednesday, Mar. 25

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

Thursday, Mar. 26

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

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

Saturday, Mar. 28

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

Sunday, Mar. 29

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

Sunday, March 30

GNNC General Meet.
Van Gogh Elem. School
17160 Van Gogh, GH
6:30 pm

Tuesday, Mar. 31

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

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Welcome to Mission Area Station



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

On January 4, 2009, the San Fernando Valley welcomed its seventh Community Police Station when Topanga Community Police Station opened its doors. As a result, the boundaries of LAPD community police stations throughout the San Fernando Valley have changed. I would like to welcome the communities of Arleta and the southern portion of Panorama City, which are now within the boundaries of Mission Area. Arleta was formerly a part of Foothill Area and the southern portion of Panorama City was formerly a part of Van Nuys Area. Granada Hills, which was formerly a part of Mission Area, is now a part of Devonshire Area. Mission Area's new boundaries now extend to the 5 freeway/170 freeway to the east, the metro link tracks just south of Saticoy Street to the south, the 405 freeway to the west, and the City boundary to the north. Please note your Senior Lead Officer and the new basic car areas for your community:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 19A1 (West Sylmar) | Senior Lead Officer John Lonergan (818) 838-9848 |
| 19A7 (East Sylmar) | Senior Lead Officer Charles Chacon (818) 838-9847 |
| 19A43 (Mission Hills) | Senior Lead Officer Mike Braun (818) 838-9843 |
| 19A61 (North Hills) | Senior Lead Officer Shawna Green (818) 838-9845 |
| 19A75 (East Panorama City) | Senior Lead Officer Karen Reade (818) 838-9842 |
| 19A79 (Arleta) | Acting Senior Lead Officer Paul Waymire (818) 838-9854 |
| 19A85 (West Panorama City) | Senior Lead Officer Anna-Marie Izzo (818) 838-9844 |
| 19A93 (South Panorama City) | Senior Lead Officer Tarek Ismail (818) 838-9846 |

Former Mission Area Commanding Officer, Captain Jorge Villegas, was recently promoted to Commander and assigned to Operations, Valley Bureau, where he will assist Deputy Chief, Michel Moore, in overseeing police operations for community police stations in the San Fernando Valley. I was honored to be assigned as the new Area Commanding Officer of the Mission Community Police Station upon Commander Villegas' promotion. I am a San Fernando Valley resident and have been a member of the LAPD for 19 years. I was formerly a Patrol Division Commanding Officer at Mission Community Police Station and have also had assignments in patrol, gangs, detectives, Internal Affairs, Operations West Bureau and the Office of Operations.

This year promises to be another great year for our communities as our Department has set goals of achieving the seventh straight year of significant crime reductions throughout the City. I encourage you to be a part of the solution to keep our communities safe and maintained. You can help by becoming a volunteer or by joining or starting a Block Club, Neighborhood Watch, or Business Watch. There are also opportunities for children and teens to become involved and make a difference in our communities through our Deputy Auxiliary Police, Police Activities League, Explorers, Jeopardy, and Juvenile Impact Programs. If you have questions or want to become involved please contact the Mission Community Relations Office at (818) 838-9860.

On behalf of the men and women at the Mission Community Police station we look forward to working with you in 2009 and beyond. Together we can make a difference!

Cell Phone "Eye-tis"? (Keep'm on the Road!)

By Nayri Vartanian

While driving home from work you hear your cell phone go off, or vibrate. So, you either dig into your pockets to feel for that rectangular metal and plastic object you can't live without, or, if you're a woman, you might even lean over to the passenger side and plunge your hand deep within every nook and cranny of your purse and swirl it through all your junk trying to wrap your fingers around what you think is one of the greatest creations of all time...your cell phone!

By the time you've checked your messages—voice mail or text—it is then that you decide to look up because, for that brief moment, while you were fumbling with your cell phone, you forgot you were driving a car! You now suddenly find yourself either sitting on the curb trying to explain to a police officer what happened or, even worse, you—and possibly others—are being rushed to the hospital in critical condition.

You can avoid such a tragedy by purchasing a Blue Tooth (\$19.99-\$99.99, various retailers). It is a simple device, which enables you to legally talk on the phone, "hands free", while driving in the most responsible manner possible.

California's "Hands Free Cell Phone Law" (CVC #23123), was passed on July 1, 2008. With some commercial and emergency exceptions, it prohibits "hands on" cell phone use while operating a motor vehicle. However, some individuals continue to violate this new law, even though, according to the California Department of Motor Vehicles website, the fine for a first offense is \$20, and \$50 for subsequent convictions.

There is also a new law regarding text messaging (SB 28, Simitian), passed January 1, 2009, which prohibits individuals from text messaging while driving. However, people still continue to violate this law as well, which can be even more dangerous than talking on a cell phone because, while texting, your eyes aren't on the road at all!

Text messaging is very popular because it is a fast form of communication, which fits many people's lifestyles, and utilizes an abridged form of the English language. This is why many users love to communicate via text message rather than talking on the phone. It is quick, to the point, and less intimidating. Many words are practically the same as online "lingo". For example, if someone sends a message that makes you laugh, a reply such as "LOL", which stands for "laughing out loud", can be used. Many single letters are also used in place of words. For instance, "r" is used for "are", and "u" is substituted for "you". It is also common to shorten words as much as possible because nobody wants to be texting long words, especially if your phone does not have a full computer type keyboard, common with the latest phones.

Numbers are often used in place of words when texting. The number "0" is easier to access than the letter "o" on most phones; also, the number "2" in place of "to", "too", and "two"; and the number "4" substituted for the words "for" and "four".

Although text messaging is a great way to communicate with others, it can be dangerous while driving a vehicle. So, if you're someone who does text message, or talk on the phone while driving, either invest in a Blue Tooth if you do not already own one, or put your cell phone someplace in your vehicle where you can not reach it. It will make you feel proud, & many Americans will be grateful & feel a lot safer.

If you are interested in more information regarding the wireless phone and text messaging laws, log onto, <http://dmv.ca.gov/cellularphonelaws/>, or, if you would like more information regarding text messaging lingo, log on to, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SMS_language.

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This information was printed in the letters section of Western Horseman Magazine April 2008

COMMENTARY

We Must Beat Measure B



By Ron Kaye

It's hard to believe that something everybody wants and has wanted for so long, like solar energy in L.A., is very likely to be rejected by voters at the ballot box on March 3.

Measure B has become the symbol of all that's wrong with the way City Hall has operated for too long: Back room deals, secrets kept from the public, hidden agendas, empty promises, false and misleading statements, bad policies that reward special interests and fail to serve the public good.

Neighborhoods councils, homeowner and residents' groups, as well as business and labor organizations have come together to demand change.

L.A. is at the tipping point and all over the city people who have been involved in community life, or who have paid any attention at all, now know that Measure B really isn't about solar energy at all.

It's a City Charter Amendment that gives the mayor and council a blank check to raise rates when we can least afford it. Also, it is a license to take our money and reward contracts worth billions of dollars to the DWP's union, IBEW Local 18, contractors, consultants and companies that will perpetuate the system with campaign funds.

Most of all, Measure B rewards DWP with a monopoly on owning, installing and maintaining up to \$3.6 billion worth of rooftop solar installations on commer-

cial, industrial and government buildings. DWP has failed us twice on solar energy and doesn't deserve a third strike.

Back in 1999, then DWP General Manager, David Freeman -- now the top spokesman for the Yes on B campaign -- got the LAUSD, and 29 of the other largest users of electricity to sign long-term contracts by giving them five percent discounts so they wouldn't install solar units.

He also started the practice of overcharging other government agencies to the tune of \$167 million. And he launched a massive solar energy program that squandered more than \$20 million on public relations, lavish parties and sweetheart contracts with phony community organizations. His program not only resulted in a scandal exposed by Controller Laura Chick, but it did not produce a single watt of solar energy.

In 2003, the DWP launched another major solar energy initiative promising to produce 15 megawatts a year. Six years later, the total electricity generated in L.A. amounts to just 12 megawatts.

Now they want us believe the latest version of DWP's solar energy plan will produce 1,280 megawatts -- 400 of that by 2015 under a DWP monopoly.

If your hired a contractor to remodel your kitchen and he ripped you off, then came back and sweet-talked you into a second chance and ripped you off again, would you give him a third chance?

It's a matter of trust. And for too long the DWP and City Hall have betrayed the public's trust.

We have to do better. We have the largest amount of polluting coal-burning power plants in the nation. We have the dirtiest and most unhealthy air in the nation. Nothing in Measure B, or the rest of DWP's solar plans, will close a single polluting power plant or make L.A.'s air any cleaner.

Our DWP rates already are soaring and they will go much higher in the next few years because the entire electrical grid has been allowed to deteriorate from a lack of investment.

Just managing the \$5.3 billion dollar needed to modernize that system is an overwhelming task -- one that an extensive audit questioned the ability of DWP management to carry out successfully.

Let's defeat Measure B and go back to the drawing board and come up with a plan that provides clean energy, clean air, and clean government.

This election is going to be close and every vote will make a difference with turnout expected to be about 10 percent of registered voters. Fewer than 75,000 no votes will defeat Measure B.

Visit VoteNoMeasureB.com, or ronkayela.com for more information. Tell your friends and neighbors. Defeating Measure B will send a shock wave through City Hall and turn L.A. in the right direction where elected officials are again public servants and working to solve the people's problems.

Editors Note: Ron Kaye is former Editor of the "Daily News" and Chairman of Saving LA Project.

Budget



By Robert Barbera

As children grow they show a sense of independence and eventually will understand money and its relationship to acquiring what they desire. From very young they want to have things from necessities to luxuries.

Good parents will introduce them to ground rules, along with concepts like "allowances" and "budgets". Household chores have new meaning to children when they understand that the chores are, in addition to being a responsible part of the family, a means to acquiring the things they want. As the children become more responsible, parents should help them establish a budget for areas in which they wish to spend money on their own. Through this mundane practice, children grow into adults who can be responsible with money and budgets.

The child's budget is set at a limit. If he or she chooses to spend a weekly allowance in two days on

candy or a video game, they need to understand that there is no more money available the rest of the week. If the child wants to borrow on next week's allowance, it must be paid back the following week. If the parents do not hold the line, they become enablers to poor choices and lose the opportunity to use the budget as an excellent training tool.

Pity the child trying to understand responsible budgeting from today's headlines. The excesses of adults and governments, and their neglecting of basic budgetary rules, must surely confuse a child trying to understand the responsible handling of money. The excesses of adults and government understandably befuddle the child, who is forced to live within his or her weekly budget and forego immediate gratification of spending urges.

Temptations to overspend, whether on candy for a child, or give-aways and bailout programs for adults and governments, are always around us. Unfortunately, the federal and many state governments have engaged in grossly irresponsible budgeting practices. Many individuals have given new meaning to

"greedy". Decades of borrowing more and more money to buy more and more goods and services beyond our budgets have finally put our economy in chaos. Many economists, bankers, and elected officials seem to think that an endless stream of "new" money can cure our overspending. However, printing or borrowing more money simply takes us from a temporary problem - a cash short fall - to a more lasting one -- long term inflation.

Government does not earn money from productivity or services. It either prints it or borrows it. The government pays debt by taxation or printing more money. Sadly, the "in vogue" answer to the current crisis seems to be a redistribution of wealth from those who have kept to their budgets to those who did not. It is a truism that when you reward a particular behavior you inevitably get more of it. Sadly, we are rewarding grossly irresponsible economic behavior. More of the same is the last thing we need.

Editor's Note: Mr. Barbera is chairman of The Americanism Education League.

Continued from Front Page-- **Measure B**

analysis indicates an expected production cost for the 400MW LADWP owned solar projects (Measure B) is 11.9 cents per kWh generated."

Those are hefty "assumptions" according to the IEA report that "was critical of the DWP's lack of a comprehensive approach to strategic planning and analysis, its inefficient decision-making, cloudy accountability for key decision-making, and its long-term failure to manage costs and complex projects. The project proposed in Measure B would cost considerably more than the DWP projects, and questioned whether the DWP has sufficient staffing in place to plan and manage the project."

In his comments to the LA City Council on Feb. 6, Joe Vitti, President of Valley Vote and a retired aerospace engineer, said, "There is an overwhelming argument to oppose Measure B simply by the way it was placed on the

ballot. It violated the spirit of openness and transparency as it was rushed through in weeks without review. The Huron report lacks any back-up material to support their assumptions. Huron employs a very sophisticated decision analysis methodology to determine future costs. However, when I was working in private industry we used a phrase when poor data was input to a fine analytical model- 'Garbage in- Garbage out'."

Unlike Measure B, which bars the use of Solar thermal power, and monopolizes the industry, SoCal Edison and BrightSource Energy, Inc's plan to use heat from the sun to create steam that spins turbines did not require a Charter Amendment. According to reports, this project calls for the building of seven plants, (1,300 megawatts), over the next seven years.

Ron Kaye, Chairman of Saving LA Project, reports on his website, "A prime example of getting the most solar energy at the lowest price is One Block Off The Grid, a

San Francisco Bay-area community-based program that pulls together dozens of home owners and buys solar energy units as a group and cuts the best deal for them with a single company. No solar project should block competitive bidding, bar other cheaper alternatives or create monopolies as Measure B asserts." Nick Patsouris, former DWP Board President and now candidate for Controller said, "Let's go back to the drawing board and come up with a renewable energy plan that makes fiscal sense and common sense, that protects ratepayers from catastrophic increases in their bills and delivers what we all want- a renewable energy program that we can afford, that is well-planned, managed and makes Los Angeles the center of a thriving clean energy industry," before they approve a plan that could have ratepayers paying, potentially 40% more for power.

Katharine.russ@charter.net

COMMENTARY

You Should Know...

The Sepulveda Hospital Veterans Administration Zone Variance hearing for Case No. ZA-2008-2304(ZV)(SPR was held Friday, February 20, at the Braude center in Van Nuys. New Directions, an independent enterprise, has applied for that zoning variance in order to obtain a 75 year lease of the premises to be used for persons other than veterans. The leases may be amended or altered at any time. The Asset Management Plan, under which they operate, notes that New Directions/ACOF can purchase 7.5 acres of land buildings anytime during the lease period of 75 years. Also, at the discretion of the DVA Secretary, it (the lease) can be transferred (given or sold) to New Directions/ACOF, if deemed it is no longer needed by the VA. Many veterans and non-veterans alike believe that there is a definite need for that property due to the continuing aging of all veterans from as far back as the 1930's. Add that to the current need as required for our current soldiers from around the globe, especially the wounded returning from Afghanistan and Iraq. In the view of many concerned citizens, the VA must be prepared to afford a substantial number of our soldiers the best quality medical care at the finest facilities possible for the rest of their lives. "Giving away" valuable VA assets, in their opinion, is not the way to go about it.

The room was packed to capacity and overflowed with veterans and citizens opposing the variance. Assistant Zoning Administrator, Linn Wyatt, graciously allowed all that attended to speak during the course of the four and half-hour hearing. Because of the huge amount

of interest in this issue, she has extended the comment period through Friday, February 27. Interested parties are invited to either email Ms. Wyatt at: linn.wyatt@lacity.org or fax her at 374-9955

The Wildlife Waystation is open to the public again. They will be holding volunteer orientations and tours on April 11, May 9, June 13, and July 11, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, for a small donation of \$25, which is used to care for the animals. In addition to providing food and shelter for the animals, the Wildlife Waystation employs two full time Veterinarians.

Fresh N Easy Stores are donating products weekly to the neighborhoods and local food banks. The Van Nuys store partnered with Mend's Emergency Food Bank in Pacoima when it first opened. Pablo Artica, the manager of Fresh N Easy's Van Nuys store, located at 15230 Vanowen St., oversees the donations that are picked up six days a week.

A Plant Sale, sponsored annually by Little Landers Historical Society will take place on Saturday, April 25, in the lot behind Rio's Dress Shop, 9923-31 Commerce Ave., Tujunga. The donations will be used for the maintenance and upkeep of Bolton Hall Museum, which is designated as the second historical cultural site in the city of Los Angeles.

"Grease", a classic 50's-style rock 'n roll musical by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey, showcases Rydell High's senior class of 1959, with the "T-Birds", led by tough guy Danny Zuko (Hugo Ramirez) and his second-in-command, Kenickie (Kenny Baldelomar), along

with their sassy counter parts, the "Pink Ladies", headed up by Betty Rizzo (Marina Turrueles). When the goody-two-shoes new girl, Sandy Dumbrowski (Tina Flores), enrolls at Rydell, she and Danny try to rekindle their summer romance while the rest of the gang sings and dances its way through such songs as "Greased Lightnin'", "We Go Together", and "Born to Hand Jive". Performances are in the John H. Francis Polytechnic High School Auditorium on Thursday 3/19, Friday 3/20, Saturday 3/21, Friday 3/27, Saturday 3/28, all at 7:00 pm, and Sunday 3/22 and 3/29 at 3:00 pm. Tickets are \$5 and are sold at the door. Visit <http://www.polyhigh-drama.com> for more details.

Approximately 132 bodies were found in an unmarked cemetery. "A Hundred Times Forgotten: The Life and Death of Chinese American Women in Los Angeles" and "Bodies Found During the Gold Line Construction" were the headlines in the Los Angeles newspapers August 30th, 2005. Guest Speaker Andrea Milly, a graduate student of Anthropology, will talk about the 132 bodies found in an unmarked cemetery in Los Angeles dating back probably 100 years. Just who were these people and why are they buried there. These are two of many questions that she will try to answer. She will cover the life, death and burial practices of early Chinese American immigrants in Los Angeles. The presentation is sponsored by the Little Landers Historical Society at Bolton Hall, 10137 Commerce Ave., Tujunga, at 1:00 pm, Saturday, March 14. For further information call 818-951-1041

SOUND OFF

America's Flag

Our American Flag must not be lowered for any other cause other than to honor the sacrifice of men and women for an American cause. Such a proposal resurfaced at Sunday's Young Armenian Forum at the Central Library.

Over one million men and women in uniform have died to protect our flag. Thousands of police and firemen have died in the line of duty. We must honor their bravery and their service by lowering the American Flag only for their sacrifice and no other alien cause, irrespective of the atrocity. We must honor the sacrifice that the children, siblings and parents have made at the loss of someone dear to them who lost a life so that we can enjoy the freedoms we have.

For those who think so highly of the American Flag that you seek from its symbolism recognition of the inhumanity perpetrated in lands far away by suggesting the lowering of the American Flag to half-staff, your deference, though well-meaning, is seriously misplaced.

I am dismayed by Laura Friedman and Michael Teahan's support for such a proposal at last night's United Young Armenian Forum. Who besides Bruce Philpott, and Lenore Solis will stand up for the honor of America's symbol?

As a former U.S. Marine who served in Viet-Nam, I hold in the highest honor our pledge to preserve the dignity of our flag. The symbol that everyone in uniform signed up to defend defines the country we love and the spirit that must endure.

We lower the flag for no one but our own.

Herbert Molano
Sunland-Tujunga

Why am I supporting Noel Weiss?

I can best tell you in Noel's own words, "The key to a positive outcome is having a positive expectation, backed by positive action, commitment, love, loyalty, persistence, perseverance, energy, enthusiasm, all wrapped in the mantle of courage."

Elaine Brown
Sunland-Tujunga

Be Careful

Well, the Sunland-Tujunga community got it's wish – no Home Depot. Now we've got to deal with that chain-linked eyesore on Foothill Blvd. No sales taxes to re-invest into the community. Just more complaints from the usual "not-in-my-backyard" crowd about funding their ideas to beautify Sunland-Tujunga. No local shopping by residents to keep the money in the community. No potential sponsors for our youth leagues and other organizations needing corporate help. Need more? How about the loss of a huge employment source for our local residents. This anti-Home Depot union is pumped about bringing down Goliath to the point where they are dictating what they will allow to go into that old K-mart site. Well maybe they should start thinking about what Davids are going to stick their necks out to battle the new Goliath, the union of Socialist Sunland-Tujunga watchdogs. Be careful what you wish for.

Bob Tanabe
Sunland-Tujunga

Sepulveda VA Hospital

When I was a little boy, there were 144 million people in America. And some 12 million of them served under arms during World War II.

Sprechen zie Deutsche? No? How about Italian? Or Japanese? No? Well, the reason you don't speak the language of the losers is that our 12 million men and women won the war.

Today, we have a Nation of over 300 million and less than 2 million are willing to serve....Does that tell you something? It tells me that less than 2 million Americans are willing to serve and defend this Nation, even when we make promises to them that we will provide for their families if they are killed... and for them in facilities such as the Sepulveda VA Hospital when they are in need of physical and mental support. And it also tells me that if we do not keep the promises we have made to every generation of Veterans since the time of George Washington, then one day there will be...no more soldiers...no more veterans...and no more freedom!

That's what today is all about. Freedom. The men and women who serve this Nation will deliver on their promise to keep America free. But we FREE Americans have the moral obligation to deliver on our promises made to them. Keep the promises. Keep the Freedom. Turn our back on the promises, and one day our children and grandchildren will live under tyranny...and speak God only knows what language.

I would like to close by paraphrasing the poetry of the great Rudyard Kipling, who wrote about "Tommy," the British soldier.

"For it's Tommy this and Tommy that.... and throw'im out, the Brute.

But it's Savior of His Country when The Guns Begin To Shoot...".. To which I would add: **And when the guns are quiet, and the Veteran's body melts, do we dare to tell them here today, "Shut up and die, soldier.... Just do it somewhere else?"**

Max Huber
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THIS & THAT

Hearty Affection

By Marlene Hitt

From a Reader's Digest book, *Facts and Fallacies*, comes a Valentine tale.

"On Valentine's Day in medieval times, choosing a sweetheart was literally in the luck of the draw. A girl might find herself paired up with the local buffoon for an entire year because he happened to draw her name in the annual village lottery. On the other hand, she may be joined with her heart's desire – and live happily ever after."

This special day, Valentine's Day, which has always been sacred to sweethearts, goes back to a time nearly 2000 years ago with stories full of fact and fancy. Saint Valentine himself certainly existed. Valentine was an early Christian martyr who, it is said, was beheaded on February 14, 270, on the eve of Lupercalia, an important Roman fertility festival. The two events coming at the same time may have been those which immortalized, a lover's day and a feast of St. Valentine attached to it, thereby making in perpetuity St. Valentine the patron saint of lovers.

Customs were added as time went on, such as the giving of love tokens (16th century). These tokens were usually gloves and garters, or in special cases, a corset stay carved out of wood by a sailor in love. The stays were decorated with flowers, hearts, and a flattering self-portrait.

The French city of Corcieres carried on a tradition of publicly shouting for valentines. After inquiring about the suitability of those eligible for marriage, the elders of the community, having divided into two groups, would enter houses on opposite sides of the street.

"With the lower-floor windows open, the elders called out the names of eligible boys and girls from one window to another. If the couples took a liking to each other, the girl would prepare a feast for her new beau and he would bring a bottle of wine; they then ended the evening in a dance attended by all the people from the village."

If the girl's valentine snubbed her she would have to spend the next week at home alone. Then, for the scorned girls, huge bonfires would be set up in the Village Square on which the offensive scorners would have effigies in their images burned in a fiery act of vengeance. For some reason this practice was banned in 1776.

Would St. Valentine be surprised at all the hullabaloo during these 2000 years? *Editor's Note: Ms. Hitt is a former Sunland-Tujunga Poet Laureate and writes for the NVR*



Carrick's Journey -Part Fifteen

By Tomi Lyn Bowling

The stairwell seemed to go on forever. The darkness prevailed with only the occasional lamp to keep them from falling down the myriad of steps. As they went deeper and further down into the earth the smell of dampness filled the air. The thick concrete that filled the gaps in between the natural stone walls was mostly covered by a thick layer of a kind of dark slime. The slime seemed to be characteristic of a dampness that never goes away. "It's a kind of growth, like a mold," Drake explained to his mother.

Pretending to be impressed with his knowledge, Fanella concurred, and shook her head in agreement.

Fanella took over the discussion and began to explain how this building was constructed many years ago as a bomb shelter for the entire village. "It was necessary to make it large enough to house roughly 1000. That was originally how many of us were in this village. Due to many battles and diseases, that number has dwindled to nearly half of that," Fanella stated.

Alarmed by the drastic reduction in population, Drake was about to ask about the disease issue when they finally reached the end of the stairwell. The dark hallway had doors on either side. Fanella knew exactly what room they were going to and took them down the hall to the third door, double doors. The doors were made of some kind of wood and they were propped open by chairs leaning on them. As they rounded the corner a warm welcome and hug was waiting for Drake as Whiskers greeted him and handed him a mug of some kind of beer.

Whiskers seemed genuinely happy to see Drake and waited for an introduction to the two women. "This is my mother, Whiskers. Her name is Maddie, or Madeline. And I think you've met Fanella," he continued. Whiskers almost snarled at Fanella having been secretly awake during the flight. He recalled that she was the female voice giving out orders to the others.

Fanella seemed to understand his contempt and grabbed his hand and shook it with authority, while at the same time kind of bowing to him, showing him that she really did not mean any harm. Whiskers seemed to be humbled by her efforts. Whiskers was suddenly behaving quite differently. Clearly he was now trying to show some charm to the two women in the room.

Authors Note: This short story is written expressly for the North Valley Reporter (or whatever paper Nina Royal is publishing). It is a continuing story intending to interest readers and have them anticipate the next unfolding episode in each issue. I retain all rights to future use.

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99 Years Young, He's Enjoying Life



Bert Bonnett

Shadow Hills - Resident Bert Bonnett and his lovely wife, Bari, celebrated Bert's 99th birthday together at a shindig thrown for him by ETI Coral 20, and local Friends on Saturday, February 14. Approximately 100 of Bert's friends and neighbors gathered at New Hope Community Church in Sunland for a B-B-Q. They had actually planned to celebrate with a ride on the trails; however, the unpredictable weather made those plans too risky.

Bert, who was born in 1910, came to California from

Provo Utah. His life started prior to World Wars and before many of our modern conveniences. His first job was as a shepherd, and then he moved up to a plumber's assistant. After coming to California he was one of the approximately 100 members who built Union Station. After leaving that job, he went on to work as a ranch hand for Cecil B. DeMile, teaching race horses how to load into trailers. He then took on welding at the Long Beach shipyards during the War.

Besides Bari, his wife of sixteen years, from whom he is inseparable, his next love is and has always been horses. Bert laid out most of the trails from Shadow Hills to La Tuna Canyon. He and Bari ride yearly in the Tournament of Roses parade, and Bert continues to rise at the crack of dawn to tend to his horses and perform daily chores around the ranch. He says a good woman, love, friends and laughter are his secrets for a long life. Plans are already in the works to celebrate his centennial birthday.

YMCA Partners with Local Elementary School

In October, the Verdugo Hills Family YMCA and Pinewood Elementary School entered into a collaboration, which would provide the school's 500 students with one period of physical education each week. Providing age appropriate curriculum, based upon the CA State Framework for Physical Education, this program teaches fundamental motor skills needed to maintain a positive outlook on physical activity.

Physical education improves self-esteem and self worth, and encourages children to enjoy physical activity. The children engaged in this program have made dramatic improvements in their motor skills and social interaction with their peers in just a few months of weekly PE classes provided by the YMCA. Now, because of our involvement, the faculty has the opportunity to have grade level meetings for one hour each week.

Kim Beattie, Director of Communications says, "Our goal is to provide a quality PE program, where the children learn physical skills, social interaction, and most of all, have fun! It is our hope that this successful program will expand next fall into the other LAUSD elementary schools in the Sunland-Tujunga neighborhood. This program represents the core of our mission to build strong kids, strong families, and strong communities." They are currently engaged in their annual Community Support Campaign to raise funds to support these mission driven efforts and to provide financial assistance to families in need of their services. Beattie says she hopes such programs as this will provide knowledge and enthusiasm for the YMCA mission, campaign, and the PE program in place at Pinewood Elementary School. For further information contact kbeattie@ymcacc.org.

The Sunland-Tujunga Shadow Hills Rotary Club sponsored Interact Clubs were recognized by Congressman Buck McKeon and the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council at the February STNC meeting.

