

Las Lomas to be Annexed into L.A. City?

By Numan Parada

Los Angeles City Councilmember Richard Alarcón introduced a motion before the City Council on Tuesday, June 26, that would require the developer of the Las Lomas project to pay any expenses related to annexing the location of the controversial development into the City of Los Angeles.

Las Lomas is a proposed commercial and residential development along the east side of the Golden State (5) Freeway, just north of the Antelope Valley (14) Freeway at the Newhall Pass. The development would sit on woodlands and mountains, where slopes exceed 50%. A mix of at least 5,500 homes and 2.3 million square feet of office space would be built on the 550-acre site.

The Las Lomas Land Company has requested Los Angeles to annex the unincorporated area, which lies just south of the City of Santa Clarita. The Company has expressed a desire to pay a “supplemental fee” that would provide funding to the City Planning Department for what is generally a costly and burdensome annexation process that up to now has been conducted with Los Angeles city resources.

“While we must afford the Las Lomas Land Company a fair opportunity to apply to develop this project, it’s important that it is not funded on the backs of the taxpayers,” Alarcón said. “My motion ensures that as the developer moves forward with the applications for development, the City is not unduly burdened by the cost of processing applications for this project.”

Several years ago, Santa Monica-based developer Dan Palmer promised the City of Santa Clarita that he would cancel the Las Lomas project, after Santa Clarita rejected the proposal due to a lack of water supply. However, Palmer then turned towards the City of Los Angeles. Palmer has pushed for the land where the project would be built be annexed to Los Angeles in order to have access to its water, electricity and infrastructure.

In the past these two cities would have competed for projects like Las Lomas. Instead Santa Clarita and Los Angeles have embarked on an approach that would make building the development far more difficult, by splitting the land to the two cities and preventing the developer from easily working with only one city. Santa Clarita officials are looking at possibly gaining planning authority over 75% of the proposed project area while the remainder would be in Los Angeles’ sphere of influence.

Several years ago, representatives from the Las Lomas Land Company went to the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) to earn water rights to complete the project EIR. Normally, the DWP can issue a water assessment report in order for the project to be entitled, provided that it is within the L.A. City boundaries. The DWP commissioners, who were generally opposed to the project, refused to bring forth a motion to provide water for nearly 10,000 homes rather than the previously approved 5,800 homes. Currently the project would develop 5,500 homes.



“Once a proposal has been submitted, the project will be subjected to numerous reviews, such as an Economic Impact Report, which will look at the effect it will have on the surrounding area,” Alarcón said. “During this time, the community will be able to weigh in on the development and let their voices be heard about the project. I hope that the community members will take an active role in the dialog, and engage in a discussion about the vision they have for the area.” According to Los Angeles County Supervisor Antonovich, regarding the land that is presently in the county, he is opposed to any zone change other than what is presently allowed by the County.

Metro Spins Bus Cuts as “Added Service”

By Numan Parada

As Metro touts additional buses in other areas of Los Angeles, passengers in the Northeast San Fernando Valley will have to endure cuts and painful adjustments to their service starting Sunday, June 24.

Indeed, Metro will introduce 8 new Rapid Bus lines and increase bus service by 21,213 operating hours next year for a total of 7.8 million revenue service hours. However, much of the additional service will come to other areas of the city. Only one of the 8 new Rapid Bus lines will serve the Valley, on the southern portion of San Fernando Road. Worse yet, additional service on the Orange Line will come at the expense of other Valley bus lines.

Among the reductions includes elimination of weekend service on Line 239, which runs on White Oak Ave. and Rinaldi St. The bus line is the only one to directly serve the Sylmar/San Fernando Metrolink station, Providence Holy Cross Medical Center and the Los Angeles Police Department Mission Area Station. In addition, the weekend service has become popular with youths who wish to access recreation and entertainment without relying on an automobile.

Certain lines will be severed, thus forcing patrons to transfer if they want to continue their journey, removing important one-seat rides. Lines

90/91 (Foothill Blvd.) will end at Sunland, and service to Sylmar would be provided by a new Line 290. Similarly, Line 92 (Glenoaks Blvd.), would be split in Burbank, with the northern segment to become Line 292, with service to the Sylmar/San Fernando Metrolink station. Metro is advertising these modifications as “new” lines.

The service cuts are a symptom of a major cash crisis brewing at Metro.

The new Rapid Bus lines form part of service

enhancements funded by the proposed FY 08 budget. The budget assumes an increase in fares starting Sunday, July 1, the second in 12 years. The Metro Board voted to increase fares in May after much debate.

However, Metro acknowledges the increases alone will not be enough to preserve bus service. Without a fare change, Metro was facing a projected \$1.8 billion operating deficit over the next 10 years that would have severely impacted service.

“Despite the fare increase, we will still need to use approximately \$40 million of one-time revenues next year to subsidize bus and rail operations,” said Metro CEO Roger Snoble.

This means that Metro must pursue other source of funds. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has threatened to shift funds for transit operations (known as the “Spillover”), to the tune of \$1.3 billion, for other uses. Metro and other organizations are actively fighting the divergence of Spillover funds. To date, a Senate committee restored the Spillover to the full \$1.3 billion on Tuesday, May 22.

The five Metro Sector Governance Councils across the Los Angeles area approved various service cuts under the Metro Connections program during the month of March. Though most of the proposed changes were approved, bus rider opposition prevented several other reductions.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Sylmar Holds Relay for Life

By Nick Krall

Families, couples, businesses and individuals old and young in Sylmar came out for 24 hours to celebrate, support life, raise money in order to battle cancer through research, awareness and support services of the American Cancer Society.

Volunteers and relay teams prepared for about 12 weeks, gathering donations for the community fundraising and awareness-raising event. The goal of the 10-15 people teams was to raise at least \$100 in donations for each team member. They also had a "team mission", regarding some specific aspect of cancer related knowledge, service, awareness, or prevention information to promote and spread to the community.

Each team had someone walking for 24 hours on the on the giant oval "track," on the outside of the baseball field at Sylmar High School. The event started with a group-singing of the Star Spangled Banner, led by event Chairman Nick Krall, and a group started the event singing the Star Spangled Banner and the Cancer Survivors group took a couple dozen event to celebrate successes in treatment, and life after the affliction.

Music was played all day over the PA system, and at night movies were shown on a 10-foot screen, for those who wanted to stay up all night.

Donations of Canopies, the Stage, water, ice, coffee, use of the school ball-field, porta-pottys, an RV for administrative activities, electric generator, powered-lighting, a dunk-tank, food, photography, and sound-systems, came from businesses, public officials' offices, and individuals. Some donations were provided by: Councilman Richard Alarcon, Assemblyman Felipe Fuentes, Barry Sylvan Realty, Providence Holy Cross Medical Center, Reyes Electric, Wachovia Bank, Union Ice, Brewline Coffee, Voila Photography, the Primerica Financial Services office of Nick and Anne Krall, the Kiwanis Club of Sylmar, Guido's Pizza & Pasta, the students and

teachers of Sylmar High School, and LAUSD.

The following team participated: Cancervive, Purple Reign Over Cancer, Rhythm Gym Crew, Carey Ranch Assn, Gutierrez Family, Revolution, Sylmar High Key Club, Alemany High Key Club, Sylmar Women's Club, and The Lost Causes.

A touching "Luminaria Ceremony" was held after dark, as the entire track was lined with hundreds of luminaria (candles in white paper bags) glowing through and showing the dedication of each bag donated "in honor of" or "in memory of" a friend or family member who had or has cancer. After a moment of silence, the names and messages of love to those honored were read over a background of guitar music, along with some special poetry, then everyone walked the track to the light of the luminarias, to the strains of Amazing Grace, sung by the event Chair.

Kiwanis Club of Sylmar provided breakfast and at 9AM, the event was closed with recognition of top fundraisers and fun-raisers, which helped raise over \$15000.00 in donations and pledges. Donations are still coming in and can still be made on-line at www.acsevents.org/relay/ca/sylmar. The ACS Relays are held in thousands of different communities in over 23 countries, and was started over 20 years ago. So, if you or someone you are close to has been touched by cancer, look for a Relay for Life event in your area, and get involved.

Event pictures are here:

<http://voilaphotography.com/RFL-Sylmar/index.htm>
Valerie@voilaphotography.com

L.A. City Fire Medivac Unit Saves Child

On Tuesday, July 3, Four Companies of Los Angeles Firefighters, LAFD Rescu Ambulances, a Helicopter, a command Team, and a total of 29 Los Angeles Fire Department personnel under the direction of Battalion Chief Robert Rose, responded to an Injury requiring an Air Ambulance at 14671 Clymer Street in Mission Hills.

Firefighters entered a one-story single family home to discover a hemorrhaging five year-old boy. The child, who was reportedly visiting the residence, was believed to have fallen or run through a glass

window, sustaining a severe laceration to his torso and lesser lacerations about his body.

Because of the severity of his injury, an LAFD Air Ambulance was summoned to airlift the child to Children's Hospital of Los Angeles, nearly 18 miles away. The boy and his mother were taken by LAFD Ambulance to nearby San Jose Elementary School, where a Paramedic-staffed LAFD Helicopter was poised on the athletic field to take the boy to the pediatric critical care center, where he arrived in serious but stable condition.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

L.A. Becomes a “Certified Local Government”

The City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning Office of Historic Resources announced that the State Office of Historic Preservation and the National Park Service officially approved the City of Los Angeles' application to become a "Certified Local Government" (CLG) for historic preservation under the National Historic Preservation Act. This makes Los Angeles, for the first time ever, able to obtain state and federal historic preservation grants.

Now that Los Angeles is a CLG, the grants can provide significant support for local historic preservation activities, such as preservation plans, historic resources surveys and preservation education and outreach programs. CLG's also receive valuable technical assistance from the State Office of Historic Preservation and are given formal authority to review and comment on nominations of sites to the National Register of Historic Places.

"This will only benefit properties in Los Angeles neighborhoods if neighborhood leadership becomes actively engaged" said Mary Benson, a historical preservation advocate, Vice President of Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council and Treasurer of the

Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council. Benson attended the State's April meeting in Los Angeles and said. "Many Neighborhood sites pre-exist their annexation to the City, sometimes by decades. If we want properties to be preserved, now is the time to bring our nominations to the attention of the Commission."

The Office of Historic Resources - Headed by Ken Bernstein, City Planning's Office of Historic Resources, says property owners can submit Mills Act Applications. The Mills Act program allows historic property owners to enter into a contract with the City of Los Angeles agreeing to restore, maintain and protect their property in exchange for a potentially significant reduction in property taxes. Qualifying properties include locally designated Historic Cultural Monuments and Contributing Properties in Historic preservation Overlay Zones (HPOZs). Created in 2006, the Office of Historic Resources and the addition of specific qualifications for its Cultural Heritage Commission, Los Angeles was finally eligible to apply for Certified Local Government recognition.

LA's Cultural Heritage Commission is working in close partnership with the Office of Historic Resources and is the City's Cultural Heritage Commission (CHC). The CHC is a five member commission that considers nominations of sites as City Historic-Cultural Monuments (designated City Landmarks) and reviews proposed project work affecting existing Monuments. The Commission also makes appointments to each HPOZ Board and certifies the Historic Resources Survey for each new HPOZ.

A Historic Resource Study is now underway. The Los Angeles Historic Resources Survey Project is the first ever-comprehensive inventory of the city's historic resources. The findings will help direct future growth and shape revision of Los Angeles' 35 Community Plans, streamline environmental review and hopefully spur heritage tourism and the marketing of historic neighborhoods. The Office of Historic Resources has created a 25 member Survey Advisory Committee to oversee the inventory.

Wrong Location for a Big Box Kohls

by Jim Summers

Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council (GHSNC) and the Old Granada Hills Residents' Group, (OGHRG) including both residents and business owners voiced their opposition to a big box Kohl's Department store in their neighborhood at many recent meetings. The Plan is to build it in the Granada Hills Village Shopping Center at Chatsworth and Zelzah, which is surrounded by a quiet, serene residential area. Residents are opposed to the project because of traffic, the size of the store, hours of operation, and lack of parking. The owners of the property where Kohls is proposing to lease and build their store are requesting eight variances from the current city building codes and laws. The most amount of variances that have been requested for other currently proposed projects in the North Valley is four. Most projects usually ask for one or two variances.

After the Thursday, July 5th OGHRG monthly meeting at Granada Hills Charter High School, where Councilman Greig Smith was the guest speaker, stakeholders are asking "Who does our Councilman really represent?" Residents have expressed confusion as to why Councilman Smith has not taken the side of his constituents who elected him and have supported him for many years. Instead, he appears to support billion dollar corporations, like Kohls and Regency centers, that are new to the area. For the first time, rumblings to recall Smith, who recently ran unopposed in his last recent election, are being heard from many of his constituents due to his lack of opposition to the many recent overbuilding of projects in the community such as the proposed Kohls.

Much of the information Smith gave at the meeting was misleading, some even outright incorrect. For instance, he said that the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Initial Study and Checklist had only 14 items against the project. Also, that traffic was the only item of any concern and showed only a minor increase in traffic. In reviewing that report, there are only 20 items of the 86 total items classified by the applicant proposing the project, as being "potentially significant unless mitigation incorporated". The fact is there may be more that were not noted by the applicant in the report, such as cultural resources of the area being the first built homes of Granada Hills also the possible negative effects on the children in the five near-

by schools in the area. Many stakeholders strongly believe that a complete Environmental Impact Report is warranted due to the size of the project. It has a proposed floorspace of at least twice the size of any other buildings in the area such as OSH, Steinmart, and TJ Maxx or even the Ralph's Grocery Store that Kohls is proposing to replace.

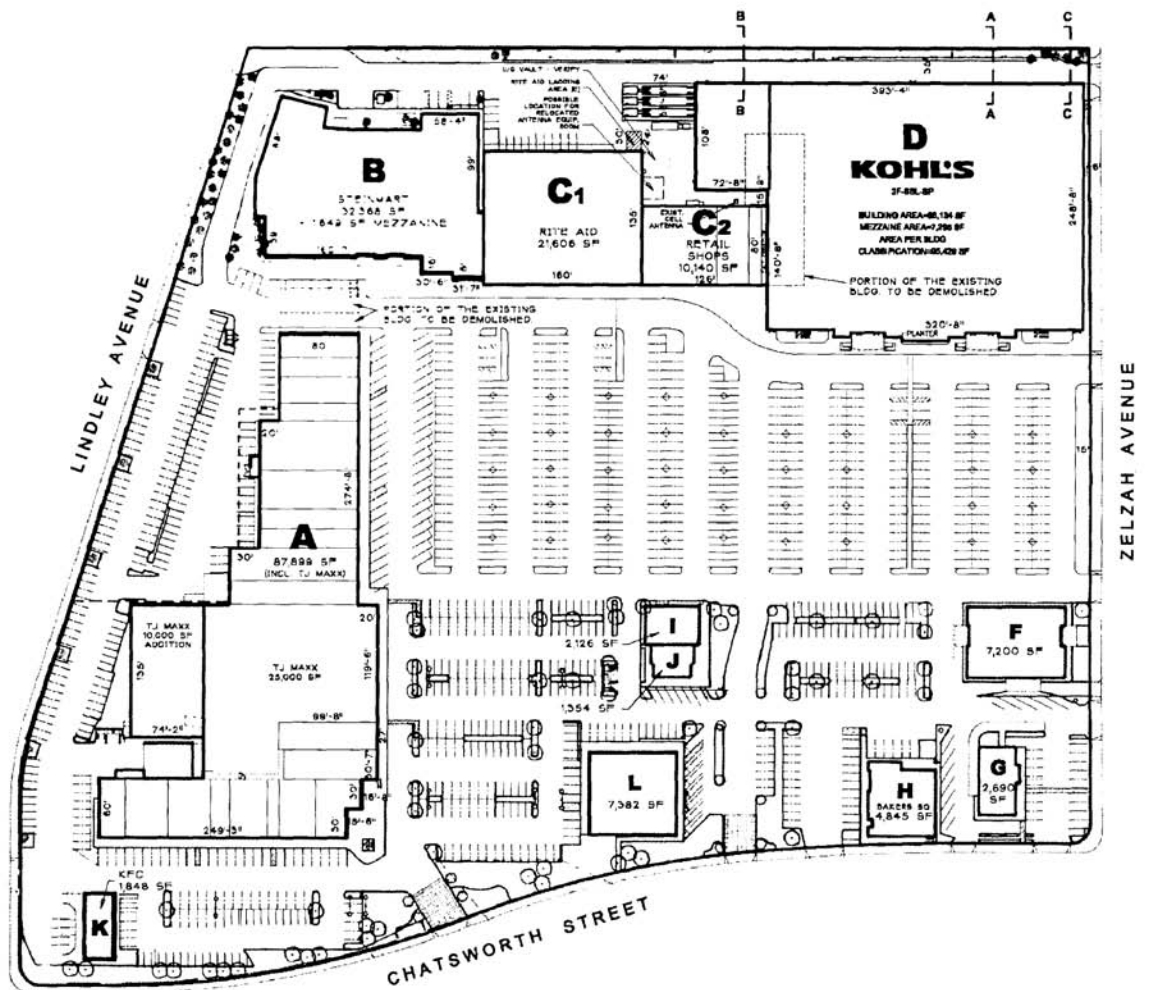
Another main argument is that the proposed department store is just in the wrong place and that much better locations should be sought in other commercial districts that would be a better fit for it's size. The current location is a "Neighborhood Shopping Center" designed to have shops that are small in scale according to the L.A. General Plan. Kohl's is a regional discount department store and almost always located near a freeway, or has two to three designated highways surrounding it. Chatsworth Street is only a secondary highway that feeds into the local residential streets.

Residents and stakeholders in the area were pre-

pared for the Area Planning Commission's hearing on June 21. However, the hearing date was moved out at the request of the developer's new legal representative. The tentative new hearing date is August 2, at 4:30 p.m. in the Marvin Braude Center in Van Nuys. The reason given for the change was to allow the developer to seek alternate solutions according to Frank Quon at L.A. City Planning.

Up to this point, the applicant had not come forward to meet with any community group to discuss alternatives, pretty much keeping within their "my way or the highway" approach. However, strangely enough, the owners of the property, Florida-based Regency Centers, are the nation's leading shopping center development company with a grocery store in over 90% of their centers. Many of the neighbors have indicated that a grocery store at the disputed location is their first choice.

(Jim Summers is a local Realtor and President of the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council)



COMMUNITY NEWS

Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council

By Royan Herman
Vice President, Communications

At last the FTDNC has an office to call its own. By mid-July we will be moving into space at 9747 Wheatland. There will soon be genuine office machines that allow us to copy, go on line, fax and do all those things from a central location, normally done in any office. For FTDNC it's a long overdue blessing.

It turns out we had a house full of sexual predators who are on parole in a Shadow Hills house. We learned that the California State law reads, you'll love this, that any six people sharing a house are considered a "family". Anyone can buy a house, install six pedophiles, then let the State pay their rent and there is no licensing or regulation involved. Fortunately for adjoining neighbors whose equity has gone base jumping, our Council office found a solution that should take care of this problem at least in short order.

In La Tuna Canyon, an investor who purchased property and dolled up the house, put the house and half of the lot back on the market. Fortune smiled again when our Board found documentation clearly showing that this lot could not be split. After all, Foothill Trails is our name and preservation of the horse communities is a significant part of our game. With the document in hand, Dale Thrush phoned the listing agent and suggested he investigate the status of the property he was representing.

Foothill Trails voted to supply Department of Recreation and Parks Rangers with two all terrain vehicles in order to chase and apprehend visitors to the Tujunga Wash more successfully. Some of them abuse the park areas by starting fires, polluting the streams, shooting the Egrets, throwing rocks at horses or fly along the trails on private ATV's, which are absolutely unlawful in the Wash.

The Land Use Committee is up and functioning and the Tujunga Watershed Committee is in formation. Our beleaguered Vice President of Administration, Kevin Davis, and his committee have the huge task of preparing for our next election and drafting bylaw changes that will be needed to get the job done.

The next FTDNC General Meeting will be held on Thursday, July 19 at 7:30 at Stonehurst Elementary School in the auditorium. Snacks for all will be available from 7:00PM. The school is about midway between Sunland Blvd. and Wentworth on the westerly side of Stonehurst. Don't be silent if you need our help. Run, don't walk, if you have help to offer us.

Panorama City Neighborhood Council

By Tony Wilkinson
Chairman, Interim Board

A reminder that Panorama City will host the Neighborhood Council Review Commission Workshop for the North Valley on Tuesday, 6 p.m., July 17 at Panorama High School. This is your opportunity to participate in making recommendations on how you want your neighborhood council to interact with the city and suggest improvements regarding their function and their future, etc. The Review Commission wants to hear from you. Don't miss your chance to be heard.

Las Palmas Bar Conditions UPHELD! According to Los Angeles Police Department, a businessman sought to purchase the Las Palmas Bar and Grill at 9125 Woodman Avenue for the purpose of opening a "Gentlemen's Club", offering adult entertainment. However, the man was dissuaded by 35 conditions that were required by the L.A. City Planning Department, in order to the use the property for a bar, as part of a nuisance abatement process. The property owners then asked the City Council to overturn ALL the conditions, which would help them sell their property. LAPD Senior Lead Officer Karen Reade alerted the Panorama City Neighborhood Council (PCNC) regarding the upcoming hearing. The PCNC organized an effort to attend the Planning and Land Use Management committee (PLUM) hearing held Tuesday, June 19, at L.A. City Hall. Richard Alarcon's Council District 7 staff was very helpful in this effort.

Field Representative Eric Sugay of the Council District 7's Pacoima office drove PCNC representatives to and from City Hall. Planning Deputy Raul Bocanegra also attended the hearing. District Director Ackley Padilla spoke before the PLUM Committee, saying that Councilmember Alarcon supported retaining the present conditions for use of the property. Four representatives from PCNC attended and were also willing to speak in favor of retaining the present conditions of use: Judy Collins, Yvonne Dipre', Steve Martinez and Tony Wilkinson. LAPD vice officers Sergeant Joe Kaylin of Mission Station and Detective Moore of Los Angeles were also present.

Councilmember Jack Weiss, a member of the PLUM Committee, had to leave the hearing and PLUM committee members Chairmember Ed Reyes and Councilmember Jose Huizar were kind enough to stay late to hear the Las Palmas Bar case. Upon completion of all testimony, they both voted to UPHOLD the required provisions of the Bar's Conditional Use Permit (CUP) which must be followed to continue their operation.

Work to control problem properties is an ongoing task. The Bar was open for business the following night as expected. Hopefully, the LAPD will continue to monitor the bar closely to assure they are complying with their CUP.

For information regarding the Panorama City Neighborhood Council, email info@pcnc.us or write P.O. Box 4482, Panorama City, Ca 91412

\$500,000 For Performing Arts Center

San Fernando Valley - In a Press Release, Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich announced a \$500,000 contribution towards the development of the new Performing Arts Center at Cal State University Northridge. It is collaborative effort between the County and the University to improve access to the performing arts for the residents of the San Fernando Valley. The new 1700-seat venue will showcase quality music, dance, theater, films, and theater productions and will be large enough to accommodate full-scale Broadway productions and operas, The hall also will be opening the Valley to such shows for the first time.

"This new Performing Arts Center is the culmination of a 49-year-old dream by CSUN's founders, who intended for the campus to be the cultural and economic heart of the San Fernando Valley," said Antonovich. "It will be the largest arts venue in the Valley and will draw residents from adjoining valleys and across the County."

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council



Cindy Cleghorn,
STC Chairwoman



The Family Fireworks Festival on July 4th was a huge success. We saw close to 3,000 neighbors at Verdugo Hills High School's Turner Stadium. With the support of our Councilmember Wendy Greuel, the City of Los Angeles declared this year's event a "special event". This was one of the biggest outreach events of the year for STNC and kept all of us very busy these past few weeks. Special thanks go to the Sunland-Tujunga Chamber of Commerce for bringing the Fireworks back to Sunland-Tujunga. And...Many thanks to all who helped make it a successful event including STNC board members, stakeholders, high school football players and cheerleaders as well as their parents but most especially all who attended.



The STNC's Design Advisory Committee will take a "Field Trip" on Monday, July 23. This will be an on-site opportunity to see a proposed development site consisting of 4-3/4 acres at the intersection of Oro Vista and Big Tujunga Canyon for up to 20 homes. The area sits in a flood zone and is environmentally sensitive. Across the street is the 9 acre Oro Vista Park that will hopefully soon get approval for funding improvements needed to enhance this passive park for the Sunland-Tujunga community.

Contact the STNC office at 818-951-7411 for more info or visit stnc.org



Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council

By Tina Cameron
Corresponding Secretary

Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council asked Councilman Cardenas' office to investigate the widespread street-cleaning problem in Sun Valley. Numerous complaints were made during the Neighborhood Council meeting held on June 12th regarding the disorganized manner in which streets are being cleaned. Experiences reported were as follows: cleaning on Saturday's when everyone is home and cars are parked on the street; streets being cleaned twice on the same day; cars being ticketed on the day of cleaning but no sweeper arrives; sweepers coming on days other than posted on signs; sweepers working only half a day and seen parked; sweepers working late incurring overtime; and sweeping happening during "odd" hours.

Summer Safety: The SVANC reminds all Sun Valley residents about summer-related crime. Even though we will be experiencing one of the hottest summers on record, safety precautions should be taken. Unlocked doors and windows are an invitation to criminals. Lock and secure your premises, even your doggie door. Let trusted neighbors know your vacation schedule. Use a neighborhood buddy system to watch out for each other. Know who comes and goes in your neighborhood. A seemingly non-descript gardener's truck could turn out to be a burglar in disguise. So be safe and help others to be safe.

Law enforcement was out in force July 4th, looking for illegal fire displays. Citizens were encouraged to take advantage of the many public fireworks displays available, including Hansen Dam, Dodgers Stadium, and Pomona Fairplex.

There are plenty of activities available to youngsters this summer in Sun Valley. There is the Sun Valley Recreation Center at 8133 Vineland Avenue 818-767-6151, which offers a free summer lunch program, swimming pool, basketball courts, baseball diamond, tennis courts, crafts, guitar lessons and much more; the Stonehurst Recreation Center at 9901 Dronfield Ave 818-767-0314 which offers soccer, rugby, guitar, karate, baseball, and much more; and the Youth Arts Center at 8642 Sunland Blvd 818-252-4619 which offers drama, music, crafts and computer graphics.

Sun Valley owes a tremendous round of applause to Sue Bartlett, head of the Sun Valley Graffiti Busters. Her team diligently works 7 days a week to keep Sun Valley clean. In 2006 alone, Sue and her team, removed 1 million square feet of graffiti from Sun Valley. Her skills are such a cut above, she has been asked to assist neighboring communities with their graffiti removal efforts. The way the area lines are drawn currently, Pacoima Graffiti Busters is responsible for a section of Sun Valley – and that section is being neglected. A movement is underway to redraw the line of responsibility so that Sun Valley Graffiti Busters can acquire and be responsible for ALL of Sun Valley.

It's easy to report graffiti; just call 818-767-3133. Leave a detailed message and the graffiti will be removed within 48 hours. Wherever taggers can reach, Graffiti Busters can reach.

A couple other numbers for you: Bulky item pickup 800-773-2489; and for abandoned vehicles call 311 or 800-222-6366 – the vehicle will be tagged and if not moved in three days it will be towed.

Be sure to visit www.sunvalleybeautiful.org for more information on how you can get involved in making your neighborhood more attractive.

The Sun Valley Neighborhood Council meets the second Tuesday of every month at Villa Scalabrini Retirement Center, at 10631 Vinedale Street, Sun Valley CA 91352, 6:30pm-8:30pm.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Revitalizing Our Community



Councilmember Wendy Greuel

I recently won approval for my motion to secure the funds necessary for the new street lighting along Commerce Avenue in Sunland-Tujunga. We can now move forward with

ordering the poles, lights and other equipment. Within the next few weeks we should have a more concrete schedule for a ground breaking.

The construction on new street lights along Commerce seems to be timed to perfectly coincide with a ground breaking at the old Ford property. All the permits have been filed and approved and construction has just begun on the project we've worked together to shape into an ideal property for our community.

As we're seeing great revitalization happening along Commerce Ave, we are reminded of the benefits of partnerships between community groups and city agencies. We have an upcoming opportunity to work together to beautify our neighborhoods as we apply for Community Beautification Grants. Community groups interested in working on neighborhood improvement projects like tree plantings, murals, street furniture, and other beautification efforts can apply for city funds of up to \$10,000. In the past I have worked with members of the North Valley community to secure funding for numerous beautification projects, including the revitalization of the Finn garden. I look forward to entering this process again. The deadline for applications is October 17th, 2007. For more information please check out the website at www.laocb.org or call (213) 978-0226.



Jim Dantona
New Planning
Deputy for CD 2

Councilmember Greuel is thrilled to introduce Jim Dantona, CD 2's new Planning Deputy, to the residents of the North Valley. Jim Dantona brings extensive experience working on the kinds of planning issues unique to North Valley neighborhoods of the Office of Councilwoman Wendy Greuel. Jim spent the last four years overseeing the Planning and Economic Development of projects within the neighboring Council District 6. He has always admired Councilwoman Greuel's work to ensure that community members participate in shaping the development of their own neighborhoods whenever possible. Jim is eager to work with Councilwoman Greuel and her planning staff to continue protecting the unique character of our Valley neighborhoods and promoting sound planning policies.



Asphalt being removed in preparation for new center with restaurants and retail shops on old Ford property at the corner of Foothill Blvd. and Commerce Ave. in Sunland-Tujunga.



Jim Papke former President, and his wife Tania, of Commerce Owners and Business and Restoration Association (COBRA) received awards for their participation in the revitalization of Commerce Avenue. Also pictured is Council District 2 Field Deputy Jackie Keene and Bill Robertson, City of L.A. Director of Street Services.

Verdugo Hills Golf Course

In a statement released to the media on July 12 MWH Development, Owner Mark Handel and his partner confirmed that they are continuing with their plans to close down the Verdugo Hills Golf Course in Sunland-Tujunga and have submitted an application to build 229 two-story detached single family homes against the will of the community. They say that they will develop half of their 58-acre property leaving the majority of it, including the rugged hillsides, in their natural state and preserved as open space. They said they have discussed the project with the community on various occasions over a three year period and plan to continue forward with their project.

Dale Thrush, Wendy Greuel's Planning Director claims that the Developer is entitled to a zoning variance because the Community Plan and General Plan do not match therefore the General Plan applies. The present zoning is RA-1 and A1-1, which is very low-density housing. The community strongly disagrees with Thrush's interpretation and plan to challenge MWH's request for a variance.

The Course is within a mile of the City of Glendale and the rest of the Crescenta Valley region. Also included is the unincorporated communities of La Crescenta and Montrose in Los Angeles County.

Because they are in the "sphere of influence" and don't want to lose what is left of recreational sites and limited open space in the region, the communities have joined forces with neighboring Sunland-


Tujunga and have formed the "Save the Verdugo Hills Golf Committee". They are seeking to have a coalition of the County and City of Los Angeles and the cities of Glendale; possibly Burbank as well as the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy purchase the Course in perpetuity and enhance it for a regional recreation area. They are now seeking funds to accomplish that task.



Early presentation by MWH Development

Neighborhood Council Review Commission • Community Workshop

Announcing Workshop Locations for West, North Valley, Harbor and South regions!



Tell us what you think about our recommendations to improve the Neighborhood Council System.

While attending the workshop, enjoy:

- Free pizza and soft drinks, evening workshops
- Free continental breakfast, Saturday workshop
- Free childcare—with crafts

Everyone is invited and welcome!

Spanish translation will be provided at all workshops. Translation for additional languages and sign language services can also be provided, with 72 hours advance notice.

WEST
Thursday, July 12, 6 pm
University High School
Stivelman Theatre
11800 Texas Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90025
Parking available at school lot on Barrington Ave.

NORTH VALLEY
Tuesday, July 17, 6 pm
Panorama High School
Auditorium
8015 Van Nuys Blvd.
Panorama City, CA 91402
Parking available in parking structure at school. Enter the driveway on Van Nuys Bl.

HARBOR
Thursday, July 19, 6 pm
LA Harbor College
Seahawk Center
1111 Figueroa Place
Wilmington, CA 90744
Free parking available in Lot 8, Student Area.

SOUTH
Saturday, July 21, 10 am
John Muir Middle School
5929 S. Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90044
Parking available on school lot. Enter on 59th Street.

For more information, call 213.978.1074 or visit www.ncrcLA.org

Summer is here...

By Pamela Goldfinger

Let's enjoy our fun in the sun but at the same time, let's be smart, let's be safe and let's all be good neighbors. Here are just a few guidelines for a safe, sane and happy summer.

If you're planning a party or two this summer, be considerate and notify your surrounding neighbors. If you have amplified music at your party, negotiate with your neighbors a reasonable time at which the music will stop (L.A. Municipal Code prohibits amplified music that can be heard from more than 150 feet away). Instruct your party crowd to respect your neighbor's property as they come and go. Give neighbors your phone number for any questions or concerns. Wouldn't you rather have them call you than the police? Be a good neighbor.

Oh Baby, it's HOT in here!! Stanford researchers found that a car's interior temperature can heat up by an average of 40 degrees within an hour, even with outside temperatures as low as 72 degrees. A small opening in the car's window had an insignificant effect on both the rate of heat build-up and the final temperature after an hour. Never, ever leave children or pets alone and unattended in a car not even for a minute!

Be a Good Neighbor . . .

Outdoor Christmas lights and decorations are permitted for a period not to exceed 90 days (LAMC 93.0305.3(B)). If your icicle lights are still dangling haphazardly from your house eaves in July, you are in violation.

Property owners are responsible for the maintenance of the sidewalk and parkways in front of their homes and businesses?

Section 56.08 of the L.A. Municipal Code states that "no person having charge or control of any lot or premises shall allow any soil, rubbish, trash, garden refuse, tree trimmings, ashes, tin cans or other waste or refuse to remain upon any sidewalk, parkway, or

in or upon any street abutting on or adjacent to such lot or premises, or which will interfere with or obstruct the free passage of pedestrians or vehicles along any such street, sidewalk or parkway."

The Bureau of Street Services, Street Use Division may cite non-compliant property owners.

A well kept community sends a positive message and helps improve property values.

And finally, a fond farewell. It is with some sadness and regret that I announce that June was the final newsletter and meeting I planned and coordinated for our neighborhood watch group. Our Mission Hills Board has decided to step down in the hope that someone will come forward and continue what has become a 15 year institution in our community. As President, and on behalf of my fellow Board members; Vice President Carol Gervasi (an original founder), Secretary Lee Bauer, and Treasurer Betty Ley, we salute those who came before us: Timothy M. Falco, Margaret Malch, Ed & Janet Lipkin, Maxine Zewiey, Bryan Arnestad, to name a few; and we offer our good will and support to those we hope will follow in our footsteps and keep the tradition alive. A sincere thank you to our SLO's (Fearless Leader Please Come Home!) and all the many individuals who have assisted, guided, provided information and resources, made presentations and generally helped to make our meetings worthwhile. We offer a very special thank you to State Senator Alex Padilla (aka Senate Boy) whose support was always given freely and unconditionally. To Roberto Negrete, words cannot express our appreciation, respect and affection (Don't make me come over there!). And finally, to our valued members, we leave you with this; "An Involved Community is an Informed Community". Please stay involved and active in your community and please continue to support Neighborhood Watch. We wish a very Happy Summer to all. (Pamela Goldfinger is also a Land Use Committee Member of the Mission Hills Neighborhood Council)

Annual American Heroes Air Show in Hansen Dam

Competition from the Classic Car show didn't slow down attendance at American Heroes Air Show also held on Saturday, June 23. The show consisted of helicopters and airplanes from military and public service agencies and rides were provided on some of them for a fee.

Booths offered information from Military Services, Police Dept's, Fire Dept's and Emergency Preparedness organization.



Persons pictured to the left were waiting in line for their ride.

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Personal Opinions expressed in "Sound Off" are those of the writers only.



Mark YOUR Calendar

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Share your events with your neighbors through: calendar@northvalleyreporter.com FREE!

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

Tuesday, July 17

Livable Communities Council
Economic Alliance of SFV
5121 Van Nuys, Sherm. Oaks
8-10 am Rsvp 379-7000x113

NCRC Community Workshop
Panorama High School
8015 Van Nuys, PC
6 pm 213-978-1074

Arleta N/C
Beachy Elementary
9757 Beachy, Arl
6:30 pm

Wednesday, July 18

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

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

LVT, Sunland & S.H.
Neighborhood Watch
All Nations Church
10000 Foothill, LVT
6:30 pm 634-0705
6:30 pm 590-4792

Pacoima N/C
Pacoima Youth & Family Center
11243 Glenoaks, Pac

Fiction Book Club
Granada Hills Library

Thursday, July 19

Public Hearing
Re: 8040 Foothill Bl
No. Valley Area Planning Commission
Mt. Gleason Middle School
10965 Mt. Gleason S-T
4:30 pm 951-7411

Foothill Trails N/C
Stonehurst Elementary
9851 Stonehurst, SH
Email: royan@peacockhill.com

Car Show Mixer
Sun Valley Area Chamber
Master Auto Parts & Paint Supply
5:30-7:30 pm 768-2014

PreSchool Story Time
Granada Hills Library
Petit & Chatsworth, GH
3:30 pm 368-5689

Friday, July 20

Community Family Concert
All Nations Church
10000 Foothill LVT
\$10 6 pm 470-5235

Steak Dinner
Elks Lodge 2098
11037 Commerce, S-T
\$10 6 pm 352-2098

Saturday, July 21

Senator Alex Padilla's Home Mortgage Workshop
Our Lady Holy Rosary Church
7800 Vineland, SV
10-12 am 901-5588

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

Pacoima NC Presents
Juneteenth Celebration
Hansen Dam Swim Lake
Children 7 & up, swim games, etc 11 am-5 pm

Sunday, July 22

ETI Trails
Hansen Dam
353-4682

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

Monday, July 23

Andres Pico Adobe
10940 Sepulveda, M.H.
Tours, 1 - 4 pm 365-7810

STNC-DAC/Land Use
6:30 pm Field Trip - meet @ OroVista & Big Tuj
7 pm Meeting at NV City Hall
7747 Foothill Bl, S-T
Info: 951-7411

Granada Hills North N/C
Van Gogh Street Elementary
17160 Van Gogh, GH
7 pm 360-4346

Tuesday, July 24

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

Wednesday, July 25

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

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

Thursday, July 26

San Fernando C of C Mixer
El Trasco Restaurant
6 pm 361-1184

STNC Safety Mtg
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
6 pm 951-7411

STNC Budget Mtg
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
7 pm 951-7411

S-T SERVS
NV City Hall
77477 Foothill S-T
7 pm 352-5504

Friday, July 27

Steak Dinner
Elks Lodge 2098
11037 Commerce, S-T
\$10 6 pm 352-2098

Saturday, July 28

Child Seat Safety Education
English & Spanish
Pacoima Community Center
11243 Glenoaks, Pac
896-8878

Sunday, July 29

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

Monday, July 30
Science Program-Richard Wade
7771 Sunland-Tujunga Library
Foothill, S-T
11 am 352-4481

STNC Board Meet
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill,S-T
7 pm 951-7411

Andres Pico Adobe
10940 Sepulveda, M.H.
Tours, 1 - 4 pm 365-7810

Tuesday, July 31

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

STNC Bylaws Mtg
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill,S-T
3 pm 951-7411

Wednesday, Aug. 1

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

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

Thursday, Aug. 2

Kagel Canyon Civic Assoc
Dexter Park
7 pm

Elks Lodge 2098
DD Visit & Dinner
11037 Commerce, S-T
6:30 pm 352-2098

Public Hearing
Re: 7101-11 Foothill S-T
No. Valley Area Planning Commission
Bradue Consitituent Center
6262 Van Nuy, VN
4:30 pm 213-978-1300

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

Public Hearing
No. Valley Area Planning Commission
Re: Kohls, for more info
<http://www.ghsnc.org>

Friday, Aug. 3

Steak Dinner
Elks Lodge 2098
11037 Commerce, S-T
\$10 6 pm 352-2098

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

Saturday, Aug. 4

Hansen Dam CleanUp
11770 Foothill, LVT
8 - 11 am

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Real Estate Websites:
GranadaHillsEstates.com
JimSummers.com
EscapeToBigBear.com
HorsePropertyUSA.com

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



Monday, Aug. 6

STNC-DAC/Land Use
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
7 pm 951-7411

Gigi & Mike , Music, Old tales
Sunland Library
7771 Sunland, S-T
11 am 352-4481

Andres Pico Adobe
10940 Sepulveda, M.H.
Tours, 1 – 4 pm 365-7810

Tuesday, Aug. 7

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

Wednesday, Aug 8

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

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

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

Thursday, Aug 9

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

Friday, Aug. 10

Meet the Author
Rene Colato Laines
Sun Valley Library
7935 Vineland, SV
3 pm 764-1338

Steak Dinner
Elks Lodge 2098
11037 Commerce, S-T
\$10 6 pm 352-2098

Author, for beginning readers
Sunland-Tujunga Library
7771 Foothill, S-T
11 am 352-4481

Lions Club - Watermelon Festival
Sunland Park
8651 Foothill, S-T
5-10 pm

Saturday, Aug. 11

Lions Club - Watermelon Festival
Sunland Park
8651 Foothill, S-T
12-10:30 pm

Sunday, Aug. 12

Lions Club - Watermelon Festival
Sunland Park
8651 Foothill, S-T
12-10:30 pm

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

Monday, Aug. 13

Andres Pico Adobe
10940 Sepulveda, M.H.
Tours, 1 – 4 pm 365-7810

Tuesday, Aug. 14

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

Mission Hills N/C
General Meeting
San Jose St. School
14928 Clymer, MH
6 pm

Northridge West N/C
Beckford Elementary
7 pm

Wednesday, Aug. 15

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

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

Pacoima N/C
Pacoima Youth &
Family Center
11243 Glenoaks, Pac

Wednesday, Aug. 15

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

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

Pacoima N/C
Pacoima Youth &
Family Center
11243 Glenoaks, Pac

Thursday, Aug 16

Elks Lodge 2098
DD Visit & Dinner
11037 Commerce, S-T
6:30 pm 352-2098

STNC Safety Meeting
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
6 pm 951-7411

S-T SERVS
NV City Hall
77477 Foothill S-T
7 pm 352-5504

Friday, Aug. 17

Steak Dinner
Elks Lodge 2098
11037 Commerce, S-T
\$10 6 pm 352-2098

Saturday, Aug. 18

Art Show & Summer Showcase
Tierra del So9919 Sunland,
SH
5 – 7 pm 352-1419x227

Sunday, Aug 19

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

Omlette Bar
S-t Els Lodge
10137 Commerce, S-T
\$6. 9 am 352-2098

Monday, Aug. 20

STNC-DAC/Land Use
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
7 pm 951-7411

Andres Pico Adobe
10940 Sepulveda, M.H.
Tours, 1 – 4 pm 365-7810

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

Tuesday, Aug. 21

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

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

Wednesday, Aug. 22

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

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

Joe Gandelman, a Ventriloquist to close Reading Program
Granada Hills Library
Chatsworth & Petit, G.H.
4 pm 368-5589



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SOUND OFF

Councilman Alarcon, where are you?

As a member of Mission Hills Zoning and Land Use Committee, I was happy to see the support that Panorama City Neighborhood Council recently received from CD7 regarding a land use issue with the Las Palmas Bar & Grill on Woodman Avenue.

At a hearing before a City Council Planning and Land Use Committee and with the assistance of LAPD and CD7 District Director Ackley Padilla, Planning Deputy Raul Bocanegra and Field Representative Eric Sugay; PCNC was successful in quashing a request by the owners of the Woodman Avenue bar in their attempt to overturn 35 conditions that were applied to the bar so the owners could then sell the bar to an individual who wanted to open a "Gentlemen's Club". Congratulations to everyone in this outstanding effort.

Yet, I guess I'm just a little confused. For the past several months, the Mission Hills Neighborhood Council Zoning and Land Use Committee has attempted to schedule a meeting with Councilman Alarcon in order to discuss several issues of concern in our community to no avail.

After providing a broad range of times and dates and following request after request, there has been virtually no follow up from the CD7 office. Are we doing something wrong?

With all due respect, this is not the relationship we were accustomed to with our previous councilman and staff. In the past, we worked very closely with Roberto Negrete and Dan Rosales on numerous zoning and land use matters within our community and always with great success. Mission Hills received overwhelming support and assistance and we always knew that Alex Padilla would support and respect the position and vision of our community at large regarding such important issues.

Our goal is simply to begin developing a relationship and gain an understanding of where our new Councilman stands on supporting his constituents in Mission Hills regarding zoning and land use, among other things.

We certainly understand the demands on Councilman Alarcon's schedule. However, we are extremely flexible to whatever is necessary to come to an agreed way to move forward and make this meeting happen.

We would like to have confidence that the CD7 office will do whatever is necessary to correct this oversight.

Pamela Goldfinger
Mission Hills

Verdugo Hills Golf Course

By Rich Toyon

Three years ago, the Verdugo Hills Golf Course was sold. Not to the City of Los Angeles, who owns and operates golf courses, but to a speculative developer who's express intent was to change the zoning, eliminate the public golf course and driving range as we know it, and either build houses or large scale retail. What is unfortunate is the prior owners of the golf course did not even seem to consider the community in their decision or how much the community of Sunland-Tujunga and the Crescenta Valley value the course. Instead, they sold to the highest bidder and in this case, the highest bidder was MWH Development.

Just what value is the Verdugo Hills Golf Course to our community? Currently, the VHGC is used by every local high school for their golfing programs for both instruction and for tournament play. Glendale Community College also uses the course for the same purpose. Several community and church based organizations use the course for fundraising events, sometimes the respective organization's largest fundraisers are held at the course.

Everyday from 4:00PM until 9:30PM, the driving range is full, the youth golf camps during the early hours of the day are near full, and on weekends the golf course operates at capacity. The developer would like you to think that the course is a dinosaur and is hardly used and should be developed but the fact of the matter is, only the converse is true.

In the last two years the U.S. Center for Disease Control has stated in six separate published papers that our children have elevated levels of heart disease, diabetes and obesity and they specifically call for an investment in "increased recreational opportunities for our kids and for all Americans". What better place to have those recreational opportunities than a safe, family friendly, affordable and accessible facility such as the Verdugo Hills Golf Course that already caters to kids, families and the community?

Those of us on the Verdugo Hills Golf Course Committee, the group who are trying to save the golf course, constantly hear the stories such as, "I learned to play golf there!" "I met my wife on that golf course and now my kids play golf there." "I learned to play golf there, my son learned to play golf there, and now he is teaching his son to golf there." "Our church has our annual fundraiser there!" and the most common, "We need that golf course, what is Wendy Greuel doing about it?!" Good question.

In an area that is desperately park poor, doesn't it

make good, common sense to keep the golf course as a park? The golf course exists. The City of LA already owns and operates golf courses, so the idea that the Verdugo Hills Golf course could be owned by the city is not a stretch of the imagination at all. Mayor Villaraigosa, earlier this year, unveiled his ACTION PLAN TO LEAD THE NATION IN FIGHTING GLOBAL WARMING and in the plan was an action point called "Unpave Paradise". The action point called for "The creation of 35 new parks by 2010 in the city of Los Angeles and to work with schools to build more parks in their communities".

Wow! What a win-win situation this could be! If we could place the golf course on a silver platter and hand it to Mr. Villaraigosa and say, "Here it is! Here is the first of those thirty five and you don't have to do a thing to it but operate it." It's a nice thought but it depends on leadership. Leadership from one person specifically and that person is Councilmember Wendy Greuel. The Verdugo Hills Golf Course Committee has met with Ms. Greuel twice already and she emphatically told us that she supports the idea and wants to preserve the course but to the reader that is hearsay.

What we need is for Wendy Greuel herself to go out to the golf course and stand there with the cameras clicking and rolling, and the reporters scribbling as she says, "I want to preserve the Verdugo Hills Golf Course for this community, for this generation and for all perpetuity!"

Last night, at the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council meeting to a crowd of 120, the VHGC Committee presented a case for the preservation of the course and the question was asked of the audience, "how many of you want to preserve the Verdugo Hills Golf Course?" The response was positively overwhelming with more than 95% of the audience holding up their hands.

This community needs the Verdugo Hills Golf Course. The community uses it, values it, and deserves it. With the population of Sunland-Tujunga increasing we need an increasing amount of parkland, plain and simple. The golf course is the perfect start. Not only does it satisfy and initiate the Mayor's Action Plan, but also, it begins to address a definite weakness in Sunland-Tujunga for developed parkland. There is no need to re-invent the wheel for this park, it already exists. The Verdugo Hills Golf Course must be preserved for our community but it depends on our vigilance. Vigilance to let our city officials know how much we value it and leadership from our elected councilmember, Wendy Greuel. Please Ms. Greuel, step up to the plate.

Coalition Demands EIR

On July 3, a coalition of groups gathered at San Fernando City Hall calling for a full Environmental Impact Report (EIR) regarding the expansion of Providence Holy Cross Medical Center (PHC) in Mission Hills. Many more neighbors attended this meeting and also more groups were present to join in the fight to oppose the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). They are demanding that the city require an EIR for the large PHC project.

Providence Holy Cross and Mission Hills Neighborhood Council, who support the MND, have made it a fight. PHC is doing all it can to eliminate having to actually mitigate the outrageous negative impacts of the three-year expansion project. Leaders of the coalition from other Neighborhood Councils are concerned about the residents and school children of the North Valley area.

The largest new contingent in the coalition was the group from LAANE (Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy), seeking a Community Benefits Agreement and commitments of increased community services as identified in the most recent Health Needs Assessment Surveys. This adds another aspect to the discussion. The basis of the challenge to PHC has been that according to Los Angeles Municipal Codes, an EIR is required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) laws. The City Planning Commission is trying to skirt the law, because the Commission bows down to Providence Health Systems and their desire to "just build it now" without mitigation. The Coalition Group wants PHC and the Commission to "just obey the law and do what's right."

Nick Krall
Sylmar

*NVR wants to know
your opinion about:*

** Providence
Holy Cross*

** Kohls*

** Verdugo Hills
Golf Course*

** Las Lomas*

*Send to NVR,
P.O. Box 674,
Tujunga, CA 91043
or e-mail:
NRoyal9259@aol.com
or
FAX (818) 563-2407*

COMMUNITY NEWS

Arleta Community takes Action

By Al Piantanida

Arleta neighbors participated in multiple Community Cleanup projects that were held on Saturday, June 9, Environmental Awareness Day. The events were sponsored by Councilmember Tony Cardenas, Council District 6, L.A. Dept. Public Works, Businesses and members of the Arleta community.

Volunteers received an event T-Shirt, Cap and lunch. Volunteers at environmental program booths received backpacks with give-aways provided by city and local business with their logos imprinted.

Tools and items such as cotton gloves, trash bags and vehicles were furnished to all clean-up sites by the Dept. of Public Works.

- Each clean up site had an average of 200 volunteers. L.A. City departments and over 1,000 volunteers worked side by side as a team.
- 5 Dept of Sanitation Dumpsters were overflowing at each site.
- 3 new DWP light fixtures were installed and one was upgraded for safety
- 11 DWP light fixtures that were out of service were repaired or replaced.

- 300 or more potholes were repaired throughout the community.
- 7 overgrown trees were trimmed at no cost to residents.
- 45 alleys were cleaned-up of trash, bulky items and hazardous waste removed.
- 3 graffiti groups cleaned up in all areas.
- Many city departments worked together under the "Million Trees Program" and Planted 75 native trees on Arleta Ave., from Branford St South to Tonopalt St.. and Green and Clean Group will handle the watering.

Councilmember Tony Cardenas and the Dept. of Public Works, "Something Special for a Child" project, made a dream come true for a family with a disabled daughter. A new side walk was installed in front of their residence so their little girl could enjoy being outside in her wheel chair and play with her friends.

I want to thank all of our local business, Arleta community members and city departments who donated give-aways, lunch and refreshments and most of all their volunteer time to make this event so successful and special for our community.

(Al Piantanida is immediate Past President of the Arleta Neighborhood Council and continues serve his community as an activist)

Hanging out at your Local Library

Look Beyond Books
by Linda Casteel

There have been many changes in the City of Los Angeles' Public Library (LAPL) over the years. They not only offer books and research material, they offer a meeting area for community members and organizations and also free cultural programs.

Some of the great new things in LAPL are Internet computers, free wi-fi, DVDs, music and books on CD, and Hot-Off-The-Press books. Every library in the LAPL System now has Internet computers available for free public use for a maximum of 2 hours per day. Your library card can be used up to 2 days in advance to reserve time on the computers. Also, you can bring your own computer and use free wi-fi at any of the libraries. There are a limited number of electrical plugs to power your computer. (Sorry, no Starbucks...)

LAPL have both movies and educational DVD's and offer the following to Members:

Up to three movies free for two days

Up to three educational and documentary DVDs free for seven days.

Up to ten music CDs (classical to rap) free for seven days.

Books on CD free for three weeks.

There are now two types of the newly published books by popular authors. There are the regular three-week books with a waiting list that can be hundreds of reserved names long. There are Hot-Off-The-Press copies on display in all libraries and can be checked out free for one week (no waiting list for these copies!). Check your local library for their display of available titles. Some things stay the same. There are still lots of "books - the original laptop." available.

The LAPL still has summer reading clubs for children and teens. Each child and teen that signs up will receive a free book bag. Check your Library Booklet for dates and times. Take advantage of the free entertainment programs for Youth and Adults during the summer. Check with your local library for details.

Linda Casteel is a 35-year employee of the LAPL and will be a regular contributor regarding their events for the North Valley Reporter.

Great Day for A Car Show!

Pictured Captain Joe Curreri, Commanding Officer of the LAPD raffling off announcing the winner of a bicycle at the Classic Car show held by the Foothill Area Booster Association (FABA). The fund raising event was held on June 23 in Hansen Dam on Saturday, June 23. FABA contributes to the needs of the Foothill Div. Lorraine Lisa of Shadow Hills, one of the winners in the car show is also pictured with her award winning Corvete.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Hansen Dam Skate Park Contested

By Kristin Sabo

In the November 2006 meeting of the Hansen Dam Advisory Board, more than 40 children and young adults from the Pacoima area spoke on the CD 7's plan for a regional skate park. Waving banners and speaking with one voice, the local youths made it clear they did not want a skate park located at Hansen Dam. Pointing out that they would have to have their parents drive them in to use the park, the Pacoima youngsters expressed their desire for the regional skate facility to be moved to Ritchie Valens Park. It is an area where young skateboarders are abound but lack any real facilities in the largely working class area of the Valley. The community has suggested a possible location in handball courts in Ritchie Valens Park. The courts are mainly populated by gang-related users in their early to mid twenties who are known to conduct illicit activities in that area. Replacing the handball courts with more traditionally family-friendly facilities, such as the proposed state of the art Skate Park, would make the Skate Park easily accessible to Pacoima youth and change the

atmosphere in that section of Ritchie Valens Park from a negative-impact user base to a family-friendly one.

At the conclusion of the speakers' presentation, the Hansen Dam Park Advisory Board (HDPAB) voted unanimously to support the desire of the community. Contrary to the community's desires former Councilmember Padilla, who was in office at that time, had been pushing the park to be built in Hansen Dam. An aide from Padilla's office, present at the meeting, said that the current funding source for the Regional Skate Park would likely be lost if it was moved per the community's wishes. What was not mentioned was that other funding could likely be procured elsewhere. No real suggestion of investigating other funding sources was offered or suggested. Newly elected councilmember Richard Alarcón has recently publicized his support for the Skate Park in Hansen Dam; however, he may be unaware of the community's desire regarding the facility's location.

There is a relatively new Skate Park in Sunland less than six miles away that is extremely underutilized,

which brings up the question of need. In spite of requests by HDPAB members and members of the community to have a study done, no current relevant Needs Assessment exists. The original justification for building a Skate Park at Hansen Dam is based on a 16-year-old document. The Skate Park was originally part of the 1991 Master Plan for Hansen Dam. The plan is due for an update in 2008 because of the immense changes the north San Fernando Valley has experienced since 1991. Construction on the Skate Park is scheduled to begin late this year, long before the Hansen Dam Master Plan update process is expected to begin.

If steps are not taken soon, while a new Skate Park is underutilized in neighboring Sunland, Hansen Dam will have another piece of rare green space lost to a facility for which a need has not been established. Money will have been spent for that project simply because the funding exists. The Pacoima community will continue to lack skating facilities in Richie Valens Park, while known criminal activity continues to rule that Park's handball courts.

Valley Honors Vietnam Wall

By Nina Royal

Multiple community organizations and volunteers united this year to bring the mobile Vietnam Wall and Commemorative Program to Dignity Pierce Brothers-Valhalla Memorial Park from June 22nd through June 24th. The Wall contains more than 58,000 names of American's who died or are MIA in Vietnam. Some veterans such as Al Piantanida of Arleta spent the entire three days there in remembrance of his lost comrades

Some of the events included firing of the Cannons, Reading of the Names, a Patriotic Band Concert, a Candle Light Vigil, and an all Denominational Worship and Prayer Service .

Assistance was provided throughout the event by Burbank's American Legion Post 150 and The Boy Scouts of America, Verdugo Hills Council/Iron Eyes Cody District Troop 201.



Double photo: Local Veterans Peter DiNova of Glendale and Tony Willis, L.A. City Fire Dept. Disaster Preparedness Coordinator. Individual photo: Al Piantanida, immediate Past President, Arleta Neighborhood Council. Meet in front of the Wall.

Someone We Should Know

By Nina Royal

Meet Linda Mustion, a Military Researcher, Historian and Biographer and a 56 year resident of Burbank Linda attended local schools and graduated from Burbank High. Sadly, she lost two of her high school classmates in Vietnam.



This motivated her to start collecting information on local servicemen killed in Wars. She said she started out researching all the boys from the city of Burbank and Glendale that lost their lives in the service of their country during WWII, Korea, Vietnam and the War on Terror about 12 years ago. She then started researching the boys from the San Fernando Valley and part of the San Gabriel Valley who were killed in Vietnam about two years ago. She shares her collection of war heroes and their history, which are catalogued by communities and placed in binders, for people to look through during special events such as the Viet Nam Wall Commemoration Program held at Valhalla.. When asked what motivated her, Linda said, " I do it because I care! There is a saying: Remember Me Yet, and Do Not Forget, If You Forget, Than I Have Surely Died! It is important that we never forget and teach our future generations about our fallen servicemen"

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SERVING THE PUBLIC

Congratulations Deputy Chief Garner!



Center front - Chief Bratton and Deputy Chief Garner Background - Newly promoted Commanders and Patrol Captains

By Nina Royal

Newly appointed Deputy Chief Kenneth O. Garner, who is now overseeing the LAPD Operations Bureau, was installed in his position during a ceremony at Parker Center by LAPD Chief William Bratton, on Thursday, June 28.

Deputy Chief Garner had been serving as the Commanding Officer of the Personnel Group. He also previously served as Captain and Commanding Officer of the Foothill Division in the North San Fernando Valley, where he was recognized for his strong support of Community Based Policing, Specialized Units and interaction with members of the foothill communities. He has a B.A. Degree in Psychology from Cal State Dominguez Hills. He is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy as well as Boston College's Supervisory and Senior Management Institutes.

Also, during the Installation Ceremony, the following Officers in attendance were promoted to their new positions: Commanders James Cansler-Personnel Group, Stephen Jacobs-South Bureau, Andres Smith-Central Bureau and Captains Todd Chamberlain-Hollenbeck Patrol, Phillip Trotter-West Valley Patrol, Kelly Mulldorfer- Southeast Patrol, Don Schwartzer-Southwest Patrol and Michelle Veenstra - Central Patrol.

Parker Auditorium was packed with co-workers, family and friends of the newly promoted officers, who were there to witness, congratulate and celebrate with them at a reception following their installation.

Supervisors Approve Safety Services

Los Angeles County - Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich announced that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved two safety related programs for funding. One is a \$3.4 million grant for the District Attorney's Victim-Witness Assistance program. The District Attorney's Victim-Witness Assistance program has been providing vital services to victims of crime since 1977. Services include crisis intervention, counseling, emergency assistance, witness protection, child care assistance, and funeral arrangements.

The District Attorney's office operates 29 victim service centers. The need for victim services is still strong, despite an overall violent crime reduction throughout the state. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department reported 382 homicides, 626 forcible rapes, 5,832 robberies and 11,405 aggravated assaults in 2005. Figures for 2006 were not available yet.

They also approved funds to enhance the District Attorney's ability to investigate and prosecute felony gang activity, with a \$150,000 grant from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services. The grant will authorize the District Attorney's Office to hire one additional Deputy District Attorney to take part in the Six Cities Community Law Enforcement and Recovery's CLEAR program. CLEAR's mission is to significantly reduce gang crime through private/public partnerships targeting Los Angeles County's most violent gangs.

Participants in this collaborative effort include the U.S. Attorney for the Central District, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, Los Angeles City Mayor's Office, Los Angeles City Attorney's Office, Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles County Probation Department, and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Plan a National Night Out Activity



Captain Jorge A. Villegas
Commanding Officer
LAPD Mission Area

National Night Out (NNO) 2007 will be held on August 7th and Over 11,000 communities are expected to take part in this event. The first NNO was introduced 1984 and held on the first Tuesday of August. 400 communities in 23 states and 2.5 million Americans Nationwide were included and participation has grown steadily. Last August the 23rd Annual NNO involved 35.2 million people in 11,125 communities from all-50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities, and military bases worldwide. Although the traditional "lights on and front porch vigils" remain a part of NNO, activities have expanded to include block parties, cook-outs, parades, visits from police, festivals, neighborhood walks, safety fairs, contests, rallies and meetings. It's a wonderful opportunity for communities to promote police-community partnerships, crime prevention, and neighborhood camaraderie. Although the one night is certainly not an answer to crime, drugs and violence, National Night Out does represent the kind of spirit, energy and determination that is helping to make many neighborhoods safer places throughout the year. It is a night to celebrate safety and crime prevention successes and to expand and strengthen programs for the next 364 days.

Mission Area has numerous events scheduled for the August 7, 2007. I encourage you and your families to attend a NNO event in our community or in your own. I invite you to attend the following scheduled events that are being held in the Mission Community Police Station's Area:

Basic Car 19A1 - The community will sponsor a block party in the private gated community of Carey Ranch. The block party will include activities stressing crime prevention, neighborhood watch outreach, and entertainment. The event will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Basic Car 19A7 - There will be two separate events held that evening. Both events focus around crime prevention and neighborhood watch outreach. The first event is a barbecue and softball game, which will be held in Sylmar Park. The second event is an ice cream social, which will be held at the Mountain Glen Pool area. Both events will begin at 6 p.m.

Basic Car 19A85 - A mini-block party and march for neighborhood watch outreach will be held at 9700 Kester Avenue beginning at 7 p.m.

Basic Car 19A95 - A march led by Project Amigo members will canvas the neighborhoods drawing residences out to join the march. They will be distributing crime prevention and neighborhood watch outreach materials. Their event will begin at 6 p.m.

Basic Car 19A97 - Community members will canvas selected geographic areas of this basic car distributing crime prevention materials and encouraging the establishment of new neighborhood watches. The event will begin at 1800 hours.

Recently our Department created E-Policing, which will help implement community policing on the Internet.

E-Policing allows geographic areas, senior lead officers or detectives to e-mail crime information, newsletters or any law enforcement information to community members who sign up. All that is needed to sign up is a City address and an e-mail address. E-Policing can help the Department reach its 2007 crime reduction goal, improve communications, and allow geographic area personnel to work smarter and more efficiently. Visit the page on the Department's website at www.lapdonline.org/e-policing, and encourage community members to sign-up. For more information contact the LAPDOnline Unit at (213) 485-1750.

Remember to be aware of your surroundings in your communities and report any suspicious activity that you may be aware of. Our goal is to work together as a team to reduce and prevent crime.

I want to hear your concerns and encourage your participation in our policing efforts. Your questions concerning Mission Area may be directed to me at 818-838-9980 or to Sergeant Adrian Torres, Officer in Charge, Mission Area Community Relations Office, at 818-838-9860. You may also e-mail us at the following listed addresses:

* Area Captain Jorge Villegas, 26714@lapd.lacity.org * Patrol Captain William Scott, 27078@lapd.lacity.org
* Sergeant Adrian Torres, 31467@lapd.lacity.org



Urgent Call to Action to Protect Griffith Park

By Kristin C. Sabo

This is an issue of grave urgency, and a matter of principle of the highest order.

Tom LaBonge, Councilmember Representative for District 4, is planning to give previously undeveloped land in Griffith Park to a private citizens' group to develop as soon as possible. He is moving on this plan as I write this.

Developing undeveloped portions of Griffith Park **MUST STOP NOW, NO EXCEPTIONS!** Urban wilderness is the most precious thing we have left in this City. The remaining undeveloped parkland **MUST BE PROTECTED** immediately!

The three historic gardens built by private citizens in Griffith Park - Dantes View, Captain's Roost, and Amir's Garden - are being held up as precedents. As you know, I am the sole caretaker of Amir's Garden, the youngest of these gardens at age 36. Well-intentioned people built all three in a time before we really understood the value of our urban wilderness and the sensitivity of the ecology

and ecosystem.

We now know better. As steward caretaker of Amir's Garden, I am asking for a permanent moratorium on all new development of undeveloped Griffith Park lands effective immediately! If and I mean of if it means the existence of Dantes View, Captain's Roost, and Amir's Garden cannot be reconciled with this moratorium, I am asking for the total removal of all three gardens. We cannot allow the continued piecemeal destruction of our precious urban wilderness at the whim of any City official, regardless of "who" they are, effective immediately

This is URGENT and a matter! Contact the following City officials ASAP and:

1. Tell the councilmember to stop his plan to hand over urban wilderness to a private group.
2. Call for a total moratorium and immediately stop the destruction of our remaining urban wilderness.

Pass this on to all concerned parties and ask them to contact the officials listed below:

- Council member Tom LaBonge (CD 4),

Chair, Arts Parks Health & Aging Committee, 200 N. Spring St., Rm 480, City Hall, L.A., CA 90012, LaBonge@council.lacity.org, Fax: 213-624-7810

- Jon Kirk Mukri, G. M., L.A. City Rec & Parks Depart., 1200 W. 7th St., L.A., CA 90017, JonKirk.Mukri@lacity.org, Fax: 213-928-9031
- Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, City of L.A., 200 N. Spring St., Rm 303, L.A., CA 90012 mayor@lacity.org, Fax: 213-978-0750
- Rec & Park Commissioners, L.A. City Rec & Parks Dept., Office of Board of Commissioners, 1200 W. 7th St., Suite 762, L.A., CA 90017, rap.commissioners@lacity.org Fax: 213-928-9048

(Kristin is the Steward-Caretaker of Amir's Garden, and an Environmental Community Activist and member of the Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council. She can be reached at ksabo@wildwildwest.org)

Help Document Our Wildlife!

By Elaine Brown

The City of Los Angeles, the developers of projects in our area, and the firms who do bio-assessments for the city repeatedly indicate that there is little or no wildlife in Planning District 35, which covers Sunland Tujunga, Lake View Terrace, Shadow Hills, and La Tuna Canyon. If you live here, you know better.

When you are lucky enough to get pictures of one of our wild animals on a digital, dated camera, please help us. Prove their existence by submitting either prints or CDs stating the location where the pictures were taken to the Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council, c/o Ed Rock, Office/Logistics Manager, Foothill Blvd, Tujunga, CA 91042, or email them to office@STNC.org (Elaine Brown is a save open space and environmental activist)



Proposition "O"

Los Angeles - On June 29, a Press Release was issued by Councilmember Richard Alarcon announcing that the Los Angeles City Council unanimously voted to approve Proposition O funding for the Hansen Dam Recreational Area Parking Lot and Wetlands Restoration Project. Prop O, which is a general obligation bond of \$500 million that was passed in 2004, authorizes the City of LA to issue grants for projects that protect public health by cleaning up pollution in the city's watercourse, beaches and ocean, in order to meet Federal Clean Water Act requirements.

The Hansen Dam project will include the retrofit of one parking lot adjacent to an undeveloped wetland area and will incorporate storm water best management practices to minimize the introduction of pollutants generated from site runoff to the 40-acre Hansen Lake and the surrounding sensitive habitat areas. The project will include installation of bioswales and treatment wetlands to capture, treat and reuse wet and dry weather flows, protect source water, provide incidental groundwater recharge and reduce flooding.

"I'm pleased that our City has chosen to use Prop "O" funds for improvements at Hansen Dam," said Councilmember Alarcon whose district includes most of the Hansen Dam region. "This will help protect the health of our families and ensure our children can play and swim without worrying about what might be in the water. Cleaning our waterways and protecting our lakes, rivers and oceans is a crucial part of maintaining a healthy, active community."

Total cost of the Hansen Dam Recreational Area Parking Lot and Wetlands Restoration Project is \$2.497 million, and there is also a \$297,000 federal allocation that is being used to pay for the improvements.

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Helpful Hints to Manage Your Finances

By Tina Cameron

The most effective way to begin paying down your credit cards is to pay off those with the lowest balances first. It will give you a lift and a sense of accomplishment early on, as well as psychologically prepare you for tackling the cards with the higher balances. Also, paying off smaller balances first will free up money that can be used to pay off the higher balances quicker.

Higher limits are actually good for your credit score. Creditors are looking at the gap between your balance and your limit. The bigger the balances are the better the creditors like it. To improve your credit score, you will want to set a target of using no more than a 30% limit on any of your cards.

Everyone is entitled to a free credit report once a year, by law, plus any time you are turned down for credit by all three major credit agencies. There is no need to pay any service to have a report completed for you. Free services such as freecreditreport.com offer to provide one for you at no charge so they can access information on you that will not only be used for marketing purposes, but, also to entice you to sign up with them for credit monitoring at \$12.95/month. Go directly to one of the major three sources if you only want your credit report. Call 1-800-685-1111 or order online at annualcreditreport.com All three agencies (Experian, Equifax and TransUnion) will send you your reports at no charge.

(Tina Cameron, CTP, has a degree in finance and a member of the Sun Valley Area Chamber of Commerce)

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SOUND OFF...continued

Senate Bill (SB 2) Forces Homeless on Valley

SB 2 Senate Bill forces the issue on moving the homeless out of downtown Los Angeles and into the outlying area without allowing local citizens the opportunity to voice their concerns. It also mandates that local officials (City and County) make this happen. So not only are we being forced to accept it, we are being forced to pay for it and to use our local resources to make it happen.

Mark Stivers, housing consultant of the California Senate Transportation & Housing Committee, produced the following points on March 27, 2007:

"This bill requires cities and counties to identify specific sites with by-right zoning to accommodate the community's need for homeless shelters. It also requires cities and counties to identify zones where special needs facilities and transitional housing are permitted, either by right, or with a conditional use permit. It further prohibits a city or county from disapproving applications for shelters and special needs facilities unless specified findings are made."

Stiver analyses that: "Current housing element law requires each city and county to identify and analyze existing and projected housing needs. The law also requires identification of adequate sites with appropriate zoning to meet the housing needs of all income segments of the community and ensure that regulatory systems provide opportunities for, and do not unduly constrain, housing development. To the extent that a community does not have adequate sites for affordable housing within its existing inventory of residentially zoned land, then the community must adopt a program to rezone land at appropriate densities to accommodate the community's housing need for all income groups. Rezoned sites must allow for the development of housing as a "use by right," which means that the local government may not require a conditional use permit, planned unit development permit, or other discretionary review or approval. Under by-right zoning, projects that meet the community's zoning and development standards are approved ministerially at the staff level. Housing element law also requires communities to include an analysis of special housing needs, including the need for emergency shelter, and an identification of zones where such housing is permitted, but does not require that specific sites for emergency shelters or special needs facilities be identified."

Stivers concludes, "this measure would preclude a local government from considering the overall needs and concerns of its community by limiting its authority to condition or deny certain projects as would otherwise be allowed by law. Such mandated, or by-right, zoning not only presumes that all California cities and counties have a need for these facilities, but also usurps local government discretion and denies the impacted population groups the right to have their voice heard." His full analysis can be found at: http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/0708/bill/sen/sb_00010050/sb_2_cfa_20070322_161958_sen_comm.html

It is time to write and call your State Senators, as well as the governor, that we oppose this legislation. We want to have a voice in our community and will not be forced to accept without question, the deploying of the homeless from downtown Los Angeles into the outlying areas.

A current printout of the bill can be obtained at: http://info.sen.ca.gov/pub/07-08/bill/sen/sb_0001-0050/sb_2_bill_20070702_amended_asm_v93.html

Michelle Seantean
Panorama City

Good Bye and Farewell Senate Bill 1639

The Immigration Bill (Senate Bill - S. 1639) basically died on June 28 when a vote of 'cloture.' (Basically this is a procedure where they can 'throw the bathwater out' without the baby! End of debating, slams that door, but keeps the bill alive!) failed to pass by a 46-53 margin. Said and done? Not really. Now the second-guessing begins along with the finger pointing.

Common sense? When you boat springs a leak you can bail all you want but you better fix the holes or you will sink! Secure the borders before you start 'bailing' the illegals. But for those who operate off 'facts' and not common sense, let's look at the "van sized" holes in this bill.

The bill does NOT require any "triggers" (like the 'fence' completion or hiring of more border agents) before 'granting' amnesty rights. In other words, the dog growls but has no teeth. And the illegals get status before any (!) enforcement begins. So the dog growls, has no teeth and IS chained.

There is a section within the bill that TRIPLES the NUMBER of immigrant allowances through anchor babies' and relationships called "Chain migration." The bill promotes the immigration of unskilled labor (let's face it folks, in the early days of Ellis Island, a 'cobbler was a cobbler, was a cobbler', but today's skill sets are much higher and bringing in 'unskilled', uneducated laborers just drops the overall benchmark. Just look at California's educational scores.)

Terrorism! Do you really think that "only" Mexicans come across our open borders? This bill would allow only 24 hours to complete a required background check on the amnesty applicant. There are so many applications in the system already that the INS imposes a "six minute rule". They look at an applicant's paperwork for six minutes! What the bill does is allow almost anyone, using either false documentation or work history or even an affidavit 'from friends,' (isn't that special) to apply and be processed because there is NO time to determine if they are lying or not. By the way, terrorists do lie a lot.

Okay, what else? The illegal immigrant gets an 'earned income tax credit' (even if they haven't paid into) and they don't have to make up past income taxes (you try that!). They also get better 'school loan' rates than you do and I can get. Plus, they get Social Security benefits (at least many of them do), and we are allowing many numbers of gang members and other less than "really nice" folks to enter into our backyards without background checks or "verified" legal documentation.

In short, the bill does not stop illegals from entering the United States. Indeed, it actually invites them to enter, rip off our Social Security, threaten our sovereignty, and reduce our society to that of a third world nation while telling us it "is good for America".

Sometime ago I heard a saying, a bit crude, about 'urinating down my neck and calling it rain' ... well, this is a perfect example. Secure the border! Stop the leak and then talk to us about the rest.

Rick Yerrinton
Tujunga, CA

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