

Oro Vista Wildlife Corridor Endangered

By Elaine Brown

The North Valley Area Planning Commission (NVAPC) ruled against the Sunland-Tujunga community on Thursday, June 19, when they voted to support a zoning upgrade from RA to RS. Their vote allows 18 houses to be built on 4-3/4 acres of property in the wildlife corridor located at 11130-60 Oro Vista Ave. on the corner of Big Tujunga Canyon Road and Oro Vista Ave. in Sunland. There was an extensive effort to maintain the RA zone for horse and animal keeping. Approximately two hundred residents wrote letters to the NVAPC asking that the property remain undeveloped and at least remain horse property. Both the General Plan and Community Plan indicate that horse-keeping property is to be protected and preserved.

The property is located less than 100 feet from the Big Tujunga Wash. Hikers, bikers, and horse riders had direct access to the riverbed and to official and unofficial trails that conjoin at the location. By closing the property off with a chain link fence and a subsequent housing project, it destroys the ability of hundreds of people who live in the area to have easy access to the wash to hike with their families and animals in the riverbed. They must now walk long distances or drive.

The property not only has a county flood channel buried diagonally across it; it is also located in a FEMA designated flood plain. It is rated in the top of the Mercalli Scale for earthquake risk at 9/10 and located in a Scenic Corridor according to the San Gabriel Verdugo Mountain Scenic Corridor Specific Plan. The Plan designates that a project built in a Scenic Corridor must preserve, enhance or compliment the view.

In response to the community outcry, Councilmember Wendy Greuel helped to get a bio assessment of the wildlife. However, the developer completely graded the acreage and dumped tons of dirt and debris on the property prior to the bio assessment completed by Christopher Joseph & Associates, the same firm that did the wildlife assessment for Canyon Hills and recent environmental reports regarding a proposed Home Depot in Sunland. Because of these violations, the Zoning Administrator asked for a second bio assessment. However, the developer again dumped approximately 200 ten-wheelers of illegal dirt and debris on the property. Now, the wildlife have either been destroyed or fled and have been unable to return to the disturbed land. The developer has not been punished for these egregious acts to date. Dale Thrush, Planning Deputy to Greuel, and the NVAPC agreed, illegal dumping of dirt and debris without a permit or a haul route had nothing to do with the application to build, even though they destroyed the environment prior to the bio assessments. The fact that a bio assessment is done to decide whether the application can be approved is ignored. The property is designated a Sensitive Environmental Area by Los Angeles County, but the City of Los Angeles does not.

It's unclear whether the project may be subject to the new Baseline Mansions Ordinance (BMO), which will allow the developer to build McMansions at a Floor to Area ratio of 50% and higher because of bonuses. The BMO allows for



Red lines = Corridor boundaries 2007. Yellow lines = major wildlife migration routes.

much larger houses than what is allowed in the Sunland Tujunga Interim Control Ordinance (ICO,) which is a temporary ordinance that presently holds down the size of the houses built in Sunland-Tujunga to a 40% floor to area ratio, bonus not allowed. The ICO is due to expire on September 19, 2008. Even if the law becomes permanent by then, it may not apply to those parcels because Council District 2 maintains that they are not Hillside even though presently designation so.

Evidence accumulated over the last year regarding this property proves it is part of a Regional Wildlife Corridor. Rick Grubb, Environmental Representative of the Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council, traced puma/mountain lion tracks found close to the west side of property last year. Other animals have been sighted since then. Recently, another puma/mountain lion was sighted within a short distance of the southwest area of the wildlife corridor property on Sunday, June 8. It appears that the developer's chain link fence, which now cordons off this property, is causing wildlife to seek a new way to pass and they are straying into nearby residential areas. Maintenance of wildlife corridors is extremely important, and that property is at the narrowest point along the wild life corridor. If that corridor is permanently destroyed by a housing project, it will never recover.

When the written determination is issued, the community plans to appeal the decision to the City Council. The Council may turn down the subdivision tract map

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Assembly Bill 212 Shot Down by City Council

By Katharine Russ

Assembly Bill (AB) 212, supported by the MWH Development Corporation, California Building Industry Association, California Home Builders, Catalina Pacific Utilities, and Spiegel Development Inc., was offered up by Northeast San Fernando Valley Assemblyman Felipe Fuentes to add to Sec. 65860.5 of the Government Code. The bill will effectively amend zoning ordinances to accommodate a developer who specifically wanted to build houses on a former golf course and who applied for a zoning ordinance amendment that would be consistent with designations within the Community Plan. Fuentes' bill called for an urgency statute, and based the need "to ensure proper housing planning and zoning in local communities."

In his Motion to Oppose AB212, William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer for Supervisor Michael Antonovich, wrote, "Existing law requires county and

city zoning ordinances to be consistent with the general plan. For a zoning ordinance to be considered consistent with a general plan officially adopted by a city or county, the various land uses authorized by the ordinance are required to be compatible with the objectives, policies, general land uses, and programs specified in the general plan. Existing law also applies these provisions to specified charter cities. According to the Senate Local Government Committee analysis, AB 283 (Thomas) was passed in 1978 requiring the City of Los Angeles to make its zoning ordinance consistent with its general plan. The City was given a deadline of January 1, 1981, which was subsequently extended through legislation to January 1, 1982. The City filed a lawsuit against the State and in 1982 the District Court of Appeals upheld the zoning consistency statute. To date, the City has not made its zoning ordinance consistent with all of their community plans that collectively comprise the general plan's land use element.

While AB 212 would currently only apply to the City of Los Angeles local land use decision-making authority, the Department of Regional Planning indicates that AB 212 would establish a precedent that could subsequently be extended to other jurisdictions. In addition, the Department emphasizes that local land use planning is best carried out by the local agency. However, given the exclusive application of this legislation to the City of Los Angeles, opposition to AB 212 is a matter of Board policy determination. Existing policy does exist to oppose legislation that infringes upon boards of supervisors' local land use decision-making authority."

AB212 was slated for the City Council meeting on June 4, 2008, and voted down by the Council in a 13-0 vote. The bill is opposed by the City of Los Angeles, American Planning Association - California Chapter, California State Association of Counties, League of California Cities, and the Regional Council of Rural Counties.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Las Lomas Suing City of Los Angeles

By Katharine Russ

Las Lomas Land Co., LLC, filed a lawsuit on June 16 against the City of Los Angeles, seeking \$100 million in damages because of the City Council's decision to strike down Las Lomas plans for a mixed use development that would include 2 million square feet in commercial and 5553 residential units in the Newhall Pass.

On March 19, 2008, the Los Angeles City Council voted 10 - 5 to halt the Las Lomas project, to stop the land annexation into the City of Los Angeles, and to reject the Supplemental Fee Agreement proposed by Councilman Richard Alarcon.

Case Number BS115358 was filed June 16, 2008, in Los Angeles Superior Court. The petition and complaint is for: "(1) Violation of CEQA; (2) Violation of Federal and State Procedural Due Process; (3) Violation of Federal and State Substantive Due Process (4) Violation of federal and State Equal Protection of the Laws".

The lawsuit, filed in Los Angeles Superior Court, would also compel the city by, Writ of Mandate, to complete its environmental review of the project indicating that the City terminated its review process prematurely. Initially, Dan Palmer/ Las Lomas Land Co. applied for annexation into Los Angeles in May 2002 but never completed the process.

The lawsuit states, "Councilman Greig Smith launched a major attack against, not only the Supplemental Fee Agreement (SFA), but against the very notion that the City should continue processing the Las Lomas Project EIR and entitlements. In his efforts to stop further processing, Councilman Smith made a series of blatant misrepresentations about the Las Lomas Project, its management staff, and about the City's obligation to complete its environmental review. Furthermore, irrespective of CEQA's requirements that the City complete its processing of the



EIR, Councilman Smith repeatedly tried to convince City Department officials to cease or slow down their review of the Las Lomas EIR".

Carlyle Hall, Attorney for Las Lomas Land Co., argued that their position is that the City Council actions in March denied the CEQA process that would have identified any problems and find solutions to mitigate them. "For Smith to pull the plug on the project because he didn't like it and because he could convince other Council members not to like it was denying that CEQA played any important role in the process. The City Attorney, in our situation, completely agreed with our legal position, which is: once you start the legal process and the developer begins spending millions of dollars, the City must see that process through to completion. The CEQA process must come to a conclusion."

Smith gave his official reply to the lawsuit on June 17, 2008. "It is appalling that Mr. Palmer would sue the City after being denied by a super majority of the City Council. Palmer stands little chance of winning this lawsuit, yet because of self-greed and personal fi-

nancial gain he is perusing it. This means the City will now have to spend a lot of money defending this suit that should be used for Police and Fire Services. The residents of this City should be outraged and Mr. Palmer should be ashamed. When any developer proposes a project they must assume all of the responsibility of financial risk. This was by far one of the most risky projects ever proposed and is not even in the City of Los Angeles. The City of Los Angeles exercised its authority that is clearly expressed in the Charter. This lawsuit was fully expected as Mr. Palmer is extremely litigious and has a history of using lawyers and lobbyists to try and get his way."

Bart Reed, Executive Director of The Transit Coalition, member of the Angeles Chapter Sierra Club Transportation Committee and editor of www.stoplaslomas.com, "The Las Lomas lawsuit appears as a fantasy lawsuit, and a judge will determine its merits in court. The Las Lomas development was doomed from the beginning. There were serious issues involving environmental, traffic, water, sewer capacity, and density as well as the fact that Las Lomas would have been built on one of the most seismically active area in the region".

In recent months, Las Lomas had been the center of controversy. That controversy was highlighted when Supervisor Antonovich filed a motion asking several County departments--Regional Planning, County Counsel, and Assessor--to investigate and resolve, issues surrounding ownership of parcels and Smith. Additionally, State Assemblyman Cameron Smyth called for an investigation into whether Las Lomas developer Dan Palmer committed perjury when he submitted official City and County documents stating he was the sole owner of the property to be developed into Las Lomas.

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Continued from cover – Wildlife

or they could restore the proposal for a hiking/riding trail to the project. The trail would not accommodate the wildlife, however, because there would not be sufficient space or required cover. Wildlife corridors must be about 500 feet or more wide and contain plenty of preferred ground cover to accommodate the skittishness of the wild animals that travel through.

The project will not be reviewed for violation of the Scenic Corridor Specific Plan until the developer has received all his approvals and applies for a permit. According to community members, this does not lend much credence to the city processes because they say Specific Plans should be the first item of approval.

Elaine Brown is a Community Activist and Columnist for NVR.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Home Depot Gives Up LAUSD School Permit

By Katharine Russ

Home Depot cancelled their open house that was to be held at LAUSD's Mt Gleason Middle School in Sunland-Tujunga on June 24. An overwhelming number of emails were sent to City Officials and LAUSD School Board members in opposition to what appeared to be a permit issued to Home Depot (HD) that violated LAUSD rules because they are a for profit corporation.

The "Open House" invitation sent to the community from HD boasted a smaller, more friendlier store and sought support from the community for this commercial endeavor. It read, "As we begin the permit application, The Home Depot wants to encourage neighbors to voice their support for a new store in Sunland. Your support will help HD restore the currently vacant and deteriorating Kmart building into a vibrant commercial property, create approximately 150+ new jobs with excellent health care benefits, and generate substantial fiscal benefits for the City."

But the Civic Center Act 38131 states, "(a) There is a civic center at each and every public school facility and grounds within the state where the citizens, parent teacher associations, Camp Fire girls, Boy Scout troops, veterans' organizations, farmers' organizations, school-community advisory councils, senior citizens' organizations, clubs, and associations formed for recreational, educational, political, economic, artistic, or moral activities of the public school districts may engage in supervised recreational activities, and where they may meet and discuss, from time to time, as they may desire, any subjects and questions that in their judgment pertain to the educational, political, economic, artistic, and moral interests of the citizens of the communities in which they reside."

Opponents of HD cited that HD was, in no way (yet), a member of the community and their commercial store was not a non-profit organization. On June 12, 2008, LAUSD changed the language in the Civic Center Act from "non-profit" to "The activity requested must be not for profit" making Mt. Gleason School suitable for HD to hold its open house.

In LAUSD Board member, Julie Korensteins written statement, "The Civic Center Act mandated by the California Education Code provides that each and every public school is a civic center of the community in which the school resides. As a civic center, the members of the public and other organizations may meet and discuss any subjects pertaining to the educational, political, economic, artistic, and moral interests of the citizens of the communities."

Joe Barrett, president of the Sunland Tujunga Alliance adamantly disagreed. In his written response to LAUSD, he noted "Home Depot should not be allowed to promote their For Profit business in a public school facility; the activity they will be presenting does not qualify as Non-Profit nor are they a community benefit organization. In essence, they will be utilizing school facilities to promote their business. In the 'Request for Use of Facilities' section, the LAUSD permit application states, "Any form of announcement or advertisement regarding activities held on school property for non-school purposes must include the following statement, 'This meeting is neither sponsored by nor is it in any way connected with the LAUSD'. If announcement is in printed form, statement must appear in equally large and prominent type." The required disclaimer was missing.

In a turn of events the afternoon of June 18, Home Depot and unknown City/School Board Officials had a

meeting to discuss the permit for the open house that garnered so much opposition. According to Kathryn Gallagher, spokesperson for HD, "After some public debate about the meeting location, LAUSD requested that we withdraw our application to use Mt. Gleason Middle School as a venue for our community open house. While the school district publicly said that our use of the school for this open house was appropriate and that the permit to use the school venue was validly issued, The Home Depot agreed at their request and out of courtesy to the school district to withdraw its application to use the venue."

Jeff Nichols, Real Estate Director, Western Division for HD added what appeared to be a bitter comment in his letter to RESIDENTS AND STAKEHOLDERS OF SUNLAND, TUJUNGA, LAKE VIEW TERRACE, SHADOW HILLS & LA TUNA CANYON.

"Unfortunately, the Sunland_Tujunga Alliance and their "No To Home Depot" unit seemingly did not want you to receive the information directly from us and applied pressure to the school district to revoke our permit. Ultimately, we did not want to subject residents seeking information to a hostile environment created by some people in the community. It is regrettable that some of your neighbors would prefer that you not have the opportunity to get the information about our store at a community workshop."

On Wednesday, June 18, HD released their 863 page Environmental Study prepared by Christopher Joseph & Associates and paid for by Home Depot that, effectively, concluded there would be no negative impacts on the City of Sunland. The report can be viewed in its entirety on the No2HomeDepot.com website.

Residents are wondering what will come next.

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P.O. Box 674, Tujunga Ca 91043

Publisher/Editor

Nina Royal

Layout Design

Paccio Ad & Design

Contributing Writers

Mary Benson, Tomi Lyn Bowling, Elaine Brown, Cindy Cleghorn, Capt. Joseph Curreri, Peter DiNova, Dr. Lloyd Hitt, Marlene Hitt, Ron Kaye, Dan McManus, Al Piantanida, Mo Pischion, Nayri Vartanian, Capt. Jorge Villegas

Investigative Reporter

Katharine Russ

Proofreaders

Adam Berkley and Paula Warner

Photographer

Bill Wiggins

North Valley Sales Representative

Gordon Lee

Special Recognition to

Elaine Brown, Cindy Cleghorn, Peter DiNova, Erna Royal, Bobby Royal, Mark Seigel

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NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL NEWS

Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council



By Dan McManus
President

As Independence Day approaches there is much to think about and even more to cherish here in Sunland-Tujunga. On July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was read aloud in Philadelphia while other copies were taken

across the colonies to be shared with the citizens of this new nation trying desperately to give birth to itself.

Declaring the reason for the new nation, they read, "When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them to another..."

Then the glorious words of the second paragraph rang out: "WE hold these truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness."

With those words the world was put on notice that this loose collaboration of colonies would separate itself from the King, declare its new existence, and announce that every person possessed the God-given

right to live free and chase their dreams, whatever those might be. Basically, that central authority would no longer dictate the direction of life and that, from that moment onward, we would chart our own course. We would chart our own destiny because it became painfully obvious that a King sitting thousands of miles away could never understand the local conditions enough to accurately set course for our distant ship of state. Control, to be effective and accurate, would need to be local because only we could properly understand our own needs, desires, and direction.

When I think of Sunland-Tujunga, I understand these words and actions so completely. We are part of the city of Los Angeles but even those downtown in City Hall are too distant to understand our unique needs or to set our necessarily-individual course. They hear the words "open space" but have no concept of how dear these words are to we who live here. Corporations, like Home Depot, give profit-driven lip service to the Foothill Boulevard Corridor Specific Plan without making any effort to understand or to honor the spirit or intent written into the words and concepts of the plan. They do not understand or appreciate our locally implicit realities. They don't live here. How could they possibly understand what we need, what we wish, or what our dreams are?

The neighborhood council system was created to give voice to the often-forgotten parts of the second largest city in the United States. Its purpose is not at all distant from the words of that Declaration of Independence that still ring true in each of our souls. We have the God-given right to live our lives, to be free in our community, and to pursue our own particular brand of happiness. We can define it ourselves and defend it ourselves. We do not need any assistance from distant authority to tell us how to do either. Local control made sense on that day two hundred and thirty-two years ago. It certainly makes sense today.

Reminder: personal fireworks are dangerous and illegal in the city of Los Angeles. Because we want you to have a safe and happy Independence Day, we invite you to join us in celebrating our freedom at Verdugo Hills High School on July 4th for our wonderful and affordable Family Fireworks Festival. Tickets are only \$5. Kids under 36" are free. Doors open at 4:00 pm. Don't forget to attend the Rotary Club's 4th of July Parade which starts at 10 am at Mt Gleason and Foothill Blvd.

We invite you to join us at our next General Meeting, Wednesday, July 9, 7 pm at Mt. Gleason Middle School. For information regarding the STNC, visit www.stnc.org or call 818-951-7411.

News from Arleta

By Al Piantanida

On Sunday, June 1, the LAPD and Dept. of Public Health worked together in removing 15 illegal food vendors using Push Carts in Arleta, Pacoima and Lake View Terrace. Push Carts were inspected for proper permits, Health Certification and tainted food products. Carts that were in violation were confiscated. The Departments are trying to reach out and educate the illegal vendors on proper business procedures, laws and proper food handling to protect consumers. The public is urged not to purchase from illegal businesses to protect their health.

We are also being inundated with illegal advertising signs and posters on city owned property made from a variety of materials. They range from big business, small business to private signs regarding a wide range of subjects.

The community of Arleta has zero tolerance for these illegal signs. Lead by Arleta Watchdogs, residents work closely with Maria Valdinia of CD (Council District) 6 in the Sun Valley Field Office, LAPD

Foothill Div., and our Neighborhood Prosecutor that the law is enforced, fines levied, and signs and posters are removed.

We believe the City Council needs to put forward stronger legislation to regulate the illegal installation of the signs on city property, with more enforcement and higher fines.

We must continue to work together to contain the sign blight. Contact the Council Office, Neighborhood Council and local organizations to help make it happen before our communities become eyesores.

Our community is slowly becoming a giant used car sales lot on the weekend's year around. Private used cars for sale take up 80% of all public parking. This affects the quality of life for both residents and business in the community. Residents can't park close to home and shoppers can't find convenient public parking. Again, residents have teamed up with CD 6, LAPD Foothill Division, LA City Parking Enforcement, Dept. of Transportation and CA Dept of Motor Vehicles to mitigate this problem. The city has in-

stalled "No Parking" and "Parking with Hours" signs in heavily utilized parking areas.

A Task Force made up of the California DMV, Parking Enforcement, and LAPD are issuing traffic citations for parking violations.

Citizens can do their part by reporting vehicles with "For Sale" signs and/or parked over 72 hours by calling 311.

Because of the recent fire bombing of churches and synagogues in the area, Councilmember Alarcon has instituted a Worship Watch Program. Approximately 50 members attended the first meeting at the Braude Center in Van Nuys. The Worship Watch Program is patterned after the Neighborhood Watch Programs. Los Angeles is one of the most religiously diverse cities in the nation with approximately 600 faiths practiced. All religious groups and organizations are making a concerted effort to work together to stop the hate and are attending joint Worship Watch Programs to keep our communities safe.



Mike Antonovich

Dear Friends:

I want to thank you for your vote of confidence and for the honor and privilege of representing you on the Board of Supervisors.

My office will continue to prioritize public safety and the foster care system. We are streamlining the adoption process and recruiting mentors for our foster children. State legislation must be enacted to raise the age of emancipation for foster children from 18 to 21.

Our County's mentally ill and homeless require mental health and/or alcohol/drug abuse treatment for them to lead productive lives. The current mental health laws must be changed to provide mandatory treatment.

To meet our regional transit needs, we will fight for cost-effective, at-grade and above ground transit systems – not wasteful subway extensions. Expanding our regional airports in Palmdale and Ontario will provide air travelers an alternative to the over-extended LAX for the future.

We will work to continue the expansion and improvement of our equestrian and hiking trails, parks and nature centers and the enhancing of our County libraries, cultural facilities, gardens and museums.

By encouraging the participation of all our cities, unincorporated communities and town councils, we are finding solutions to our County's problems and improving the quality of life.

My office will continue to provide our communities with quality, responsive, proactive, constituent service.

Full House for Casino Night

Sunland-Tujunga Chamber of Commerce President Jim Moore was a volunteer Black Jack Dealer for the American Legion's Casino Night held Saturday, June 7. They had a full house and attendees went home with a full stomach and arms full of prizes. The funds raised by the Legion are used to help support services for local veterans.



COMMUNITY NEWS

The 26th Annual Fourth of July Parade



Judy Norton
Grand Marshal

Judy Norton, Grand Marshal

“Celebrating a Small Town With a Big Heart” is the theme picked by the Sunland-Tujunga-Shadow Hills Rotary Club who have been sponsoring the local 4th of July Parade for 26 years. This is their special message to the community: “The Sunland-Tujunga residents have witnessed first-hand what a small, but mighty, community voice can have on the effect of our everyday lives. This year we honor the men and women of our community that give so much of their own time to ensure that our town continues to thrive and grow, while still protecting our rural lifestyle.”

This year they have selected Judy Norton for Grand Marshal, best known for her role as Mary Ellen on the TV show “The Waltons,” to lead their parade. Ms. Norton has also appeared in *Stargate STI*, *Millennium* and *Beggars and Choosers*. Her stage credits include *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Hello Dolly*, and *Cinderella*. Additionally, she has written and directed over 45 theatrical productions in the United States and Canada, while as a singer has performed in North America, Europe and Malaysia.

The Rotary is inviting everyone to attend and celebrate our country’s birthday. Get there early to get a good seat on the parade route. Also the Department of Transportation will start closing off Foothill Blvd. at 9 am. The parade starts at 10 am at the corner of Mount Gleason Ave. and Foothill Blvd., and continues on Foothill to Sunland Blvd. For further information contact Ellis Robertson at 818-352-3671 or Michael Lucas at 818-621-3304.

Flag Day Honored



American Legion members held a PotLuck in celebration of Flag Day on Saturday, June 14. They burned retired flags brought to them by community members to the ranch of host Bud Fales in Shadow Hills.

Welcome Home Veterans

Earl Brouhard, District Chairman, National Veterans Service & VAVS Representative proudly announced that the BPO Elks Metropolitan District cooked and served food to veterans and their families who attended their Welcome Home Veterans program at Sepulveda VA Medical Center on Saturday, June 7. The program was an overwhelming success with 100% of the Elk’s Lodges in the Metropolitan District participating with both donations of money and volunteers.

The Elks cooked and served over 500 each of hamburgers and hot dogs, 15 watermelons, 60 cases of soda and water, and approximately 600 packages of chips to over 500 guests. All was accomplished in 1-1/2 hours.

According to Brouhard, the volunteers found it to be a very heartwarming experience and were extremely appreciative of the compliments they received from the veterans and their families. He said 46 Elk Members, and eight associates, drove over 2,600 miles, worked over 390 hours and contributed over \$1,800 to make the program successful. The On-Site Director of Volunteer Services for the VA was very pleased and thankful that the Elk’s Lodges provided that special feast to honor our country’s veterans. He also said that the Sunland-Tujunga Lodge will be putting on their annual 4th of July Veterans Picnic at the VA again this year and volunteers are encouraged to share the experience with them by calling 818-352-2098.



Picture from left to right: Mark Flint, Margie Bouchard, Dean Kiel, Micki Hollien, Pam Senecal, Kathy Rogers, Karen Kiel, Sharron Robinson, Earl Bouchard, Mike Aiello

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July 1 -29

"Jewels of the Foothills"

Art Show/Exhibit
At Bolton Hall Museum
10110 Commerce, S-T

Tuesday, July 1

Bolton Hall Museum

Presents "Jewels of the Foothills"
Art Show/Exhibit
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420

Wednesday, July 3

PCNC Land Use

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

Elks Lodge #2098

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

Sylmar Women's Club

Odyssey Restaurant
15600 Odyssey Dr. M.H.
11:30 am 833-8033

Kagel Canyon Civic Assoc

Dexter Park
7 pm

S-T Art Assoc. Meet

Guest Artist
Sunland Senior Center
8640 Fenwick, S-T
call 352-2484

Friday, July 4

Happy Independence Day

S-T Rotary's 4th of July Parade

Foothill & Mt. Gleason to Sunland Park - S-T
10 am - 12 noon

Family Fireworks Festival

Verdugo Hills High
Turner Stadium
Entrance off Hillrose
Gates open 4 pm

Carnival & Lazer Light Show

Hansen Dam
11776 Foothill, LVT
11 am - 10 pm

Sunday, July 6

Bolton Hall Museum

Presents "Jewels of the Foothills"
Art Show/Exhibit
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420

Monday, July 7

STNC-DAC (Land Use)

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

Tuesday, July 8

Bolton Hall Museum

Presents "Jewels of the Foothills"
Art Show/Exhibit
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420

PCNC Commerce

Wells Fargo Bank
8548 Van Nuys Blvd., PC
2:30 pm 785-9355

SNC Outreach Com.

13515 Hubbard, Syl
6:30 - 7:30pm

MHNC General Meeting:

San Jose Elem. School
14928 Clymer St. MH
7: pm

Wednesday, July 9

Rotary Club

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

STNC Gen. Meeting.

Mt. Gleason Mdl. Sch.
Mt. Gleason, S-T
7 pm 951-7411

PCNC-Commerce Com

Wells Fargo Bank
8548 Van Nuys, PC
2: pm

Thursday, June 12

Foothill Div. Community Police

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

GHSNC General Meet.

1st Baptist Church of GH
11011 Havenhurst, GH
7:00 pm.

Thursday, July 10

Foothill Div. Community Police

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

Saturday, July 12

American Heroes Air Show

Hansen Dam Rec. Complex
11480 Foothill, LVT
9 am- 4 pm

Sunday, July 13

Bolton Hall Museum

Presents "Jewels of the Foothills"
Art Show/Exhibit
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420

Monday, July 14

Sylmar NC Land Use Com

13515 _ Hubbard, syl
6:30 - 7:30pm

PCNC-Outreach Comm

Plaza del Valle
8614 Van Nuys #B PC
6:00 p.m.

MHNC Zoning & Land Use

10161 Sepulveda,. MH.
6:30 pm

Tuesday, July 15

Bolton Hall Museum

Presents "Jewels of the Foothills"
Art Show/Exhibit
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420

PCNC Finance Committee

PC Public Library
14345 Roscoe Boulevard
6:30 pm

MHNC Beauti. & Cultural Com

10161 Sepulveda Blvd. MH.
6:30 pm

Wednesday, July 16

Rotary Club

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

PCNC Rules Committee

Mission Comm. Hospital
Office Building, 2nd Floor
14860 Roscoe , PC
6:30 pm

MHNC Senior Commit

10161 Sepulveda. MH.
6:30 pm

Pacoima NC Gen. Meet.

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

N.Hills West NC

Sepulveda Va
16111 Plummer, N. Hills
7 pm 893-8613

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Mark YOUR Calendar

Thursday, July 17

FTDNC Gen Mtg
7 p.m.
Info: 818.897.5204
www.ftdnc.org

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

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

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

Saturday, July 19

Cruise Night
Brand Blvd., Glendale
5:30-10:30

Sunday, July 20

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Jewels of the Foothills"
Art Show/Exhibit
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 352-209+8

Monday, July 21

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

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

Tuesday, July 22

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

Wednesday, July 23

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

MHNC Outreach/Youth Commit.
10161 Sepulveda, MH.
7 pm

Thursday, July 24

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

Friday, July 25

BPW Ice Cream Social
VHHS Scholarship Award
Entertainment @Penny
Blackwell's
Adults \$5 Children \$3
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Saturday, July 26

Car & Motorcycle Show
F.A.B.A./LAPD
Grace Community Church
13248 Roscoe, SV
10 am 756-8866

Sunday, July 27

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Jewels of the Foothills"
Art Show/Exhibit
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420

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

Tuesday, July 29

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Jewels of the Foothills"
Art Show/Exhibit
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420

Wednesday, July 30

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

Sunday, Aug. 3

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

Tuesday, Aug 5

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

All Community's Safety Fair
Food & Entertainment
Little Lander Park
Commerce & Valmont
5 - 9 pm

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

Wednesday, Aug. 6

PCNC Land Use
Mission Community Hospital
14860 Roscoe Blvd., PC
6:30 pm 785-9355

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

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

Kagel Canyon Civic Assoc
Dexter Park
7 pm

S-T Art Assoc.Meet
Guest Artist
Sunland Senior Center
8640 Fenwick, S-T
call 352-24
Rotary Club
Coco's Restaurant
10521 Sunland, S-T
7 pm 951-5299

Sunday, Aug. 10

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

Tuesday, Aug 12

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

PCNC Commerce
Wells Fargo Bank
8548 Van Nuys Blvd., PC
2:30 pm 785-9355

SNC Outreach Com.
13515 Hubbard, Syl
6:30 - 7:30pm

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Come to a Free Car Show



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Foothill Area
Los Angeles Police
Department*

On Saturday, July 26, beginning at 10:00 am, the Foothill Area Booster Association will hold its Second Annual Car & Motorcycle Show. The event will take place in the parking lot across the street from Grace Community Church, located at 13248 Roscoe Blvd. Many outstanding cars, trucks and motorcycles will be on display, each hoping to take home one of the 47 trophies to be distributed. Also on display will be several unique Los Angeles Police vehicles. A live band will entertain, and lunch from Outback Steakhouse will be available for a nominal charge. This event is an outstanding outing for the entire family, and it is FREE to all spectators. So come

on by. If you have a vehicle that you would like to enter into the Car & Motorcycle Show, you can receive additional information by phoning Foothill Station's Community Relations Office at 818-756-8866.

Foothill Area is again experiencing a decrease in crime when compared to last year. Year-to-Date, there has been a three percent decrease in overall crime, although burglary (residential and commercial) has seen a 10.7% increase and incidents of burglary from motor vehicle have increased by 6.5% so far this year. We are working hard to get those figures into the negative column by the end of the year, so please help us by taking a few common sense precautions to avoid becoming victimized. As I've written many times before, please lock all windows and doors when you are not at home. I know we like to keep our homes ventilated during the warm summer days, but unlocked and open windows also give burglars easy access to your valuables. Don't leave anything of value in the passenger compartment of your vehicle when you leave your vehicle.

Unfortunately, we also traditionally see an increase in violent crimes when the weather heats up. More people tend to be outside, and the heat, at times, causes some folks to quickly lose their temper. We have already seen evidence of this phenomenon throughout the area. Year-to-Date, Foothill Area has had ten homicides, six more than the same time last year. A number of those homicides are gang related, so I'd like to close this article with a word to the wise for any youngsters who might be reading. Some believe that the baggy pants, t-shirts and other attire typically worn by gang members have become somewhat of a clothing fashion for young people. We have had a number of youngsters killed because they were walking in the wrong area and looked like a gang member. Don't allow yourself to be mistaken for something you are not. Think twice before you wear the type of clothing worn by members of street gangs.

Pacoima Senior Lead Officer Promoted

Members of the LAPD Foothill Area Station's Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB) surprised departing Pacoima Senior Lead Officer, Julian Almarez, (pictured above), with a "Congratulations!" cake during his last official meeting with them on Thursday, June 12. He has been promoted to Sergeant and is now on duty at the Van Nuys Division.



Former Arleta Senior Lead Officer, Adriana Mungia, is Almarez's replacement. A new Senior Lead Officer for Arleta will be chosen jointly by the Captains of the Foothill and Mission Area Stations.

Walk for Peace Held in Pacoima



Despite the heat, approximately 250 people participated in the First Annual Fathers' Day Walk for Peace in Pacoima on Saturday, June 14. The LAPD did a rolling close of Osborne St. as participants started from Laurel Canyon Blvd., and continued to the Police Station. They wore pictures and held banners of loved ones lost their lives due to acts of violence. Councilmember Richard Alarcon participated in the kick-off. They finished with a rally in front of the station. Among the guest speakers were Councilmember Tony Cardenas, Blinky Rodriguez, and Deputy Chief Michael Moore.

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COMMENTARY

Come and Join With Us on "Saving L.A. Day"

By Ron Kaye

All across Los Angeles, thousands of people -- many of whom I've gotten to know over the years -- have been fighting City Hall to preserve, protect or improve their neighborhoods.

These are often long, drawn-out struggles that test their endurance, their ability to organize and mobilize their neighbors, whether it's to get a streetlight or crosswalk, stop or modify a development, crack down on criminals and nuisances or the hundreds of other issues that come up from time to time. Often, these socially conscious community members are treated with arrogance bordering on contempt, drowned in meaningless lip service, beset with bureaucratic obstacles or overwhelmed by the clout of insiders -- the developers, contractors or the influence peddlers who posture as lobbyists, lawyers, public relations types or consultants of one type or another. And, of course, there are the unions. I don't honestly know how so many never give up and stay true to their cause.

I've been fighting City Hall too out of my own sense of right and wrong, but I was also paid for it as an editor at the Daily News. Now that I'm retired from that role, blogging and being involved as a community activist, I can now speak openly about my motivation and personal beliefs.

Like most of the people who don't get involved, I could go on just fine and look the other way and pretend not to see the giant flashing billboard around the corner, the Megastore down the street, the McMansion at the corner or the failure of my neighborhood schools. In fact, I do that in a lot of ways but what I can't stomach is what has happened to LA during the last 30 years, an era in which city government has become owned and paid for by special interests who have no sense of purpose beyond their own greed.

The result is L.A. is at the tipping point. Decades

of being under siege because of destructive policies has sent tens of thousands of decent-paying jobs out to the suburbs or even out of state and with those jobs have gone the middle-class people who held them and the opportunity for others to reach the middle class standard of living. The result is a city that is increasingly rich and poor with a middle class population that is shrinking. And with the exodus dies the hope that tomorrow will be a better day.

Most of those who stand up to City Hall are put down by the ruling elitists as NIMBYs, gadflies, cranks, small-minded little people who stand in the way of progress. That isn't my experience, my perception, my belief. What I see, the people I meet, who are active in their communities as volunteers, members of service clubs, political groups, neighborhood organizations and the local business communities, are actually people who have a larger sense of themselves and a vision of L.A. that is greater -- greater by far -- than most of the people with money, power and access.

L.A. is a city of light and dark, good and evil, a place where the dreams of absolute freedom to be oneself, to be a star, to reinvent and transform oneself brings people from all over the world in pursuit of something great. Only fools would endure the hardship and temptations of LA without some kind of dream. Sharing in greatness is my dream of L.A. being part of something greater than myself. I feel I'm the luckiest guy in the world in having found that to a degree that's more than I had hope for when I arrived in 1980. Too often those whose dreams come alive -- the stars, the wealthy, the powerful, the enormously successful -- look down from high on all the ordinary "joes" and "janes." But, the dream that made this country is all I believe in today, all I ever believed, even when I lost all other faith: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with

certain unalienable Rights, among these Rights are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness". That's what being an American means to me, and I've met people all over the world that believe in that, who live that, whatever their race, religion, nationality or circumstance. That's my religion, my nation, my faith.

I settled here, raised my son, found happiness, because L.A. was the one place on earth where that dream is ready to come true... the dream of people living freely and equally, and achieving a measure of harmony that leaves no one out.

The moment is ripe to make dramatic changes in the way we live, in the way we treat each other. A wonderful group of committed people is coming together to help organize the Saving LA Protest at noon on Monday, July 14, at City Hall. And they're ready to follow up by creating the Saving LA Project, a permanent organization of concerned citizens. There is no simple agenda beyond wanting a seat at the table of power for the people. There is no simple demand. There is no set of conditions.

I can only speak for myself and all I want is to live in a great city, a green city, a city that is a beacon to the world of what free people can achieve when they love the place they live in and work together to make it better, with love and respect for all. In the face of global warming, and endless war and strife, is it too much to ask that we would act like civilized human beings? Probably. But I've reached a point in life where I'm either going to help make the world I believe in come to life, or I'm going to find a quiet corner of the planet where I can live out my days in peace and happiness. *Editor's Note: Mr. Kaye is a guest columnist to NVR who was a journalist for 23 years and Editor for 3 years at the Daily News. He is sponsoring Saving L.A. Day. For more information visit www.savingla.com and/or www.ronkayela.com*

City of L.A. Needs to Start Saying "NO"

By Mary Benson

It looks to me like David Palmer and Home Depot's Latham and Watkins have nothing to lose. After all, if the City Attorney's office allows a practical joke like dog food in spaghetti to settle for half a million, what's something on the scale of Las Lomas worth?

Hasn't LA ever heard about the old saying: "The best defense is a good offense?" What about LA City counter-suing some of the mega-corporations behind these proposals? How can LA possibly have jurisdiction or be liable for land use not within the boundaries of the City? What about the inconsistencies of property ownership? Isn't there a law that you have to own or control the property before you can start making changes to the land use? How about the City suing the Las Lomas folks for all of the City's time and effort defending their decision to "Just Say NO"

But then look at Home Depot- they've gone from denying there's a special needs elementary school within 500 feet, to re-writing the LAUSD "after the bell" rule for night time use of a school campus by a for-profit businesses. I feel this entire effort was in order to orchestrate a propaganda session. Was all of this was in order to get a free pass on complying with a law which Home Depot's own Lawyers helped to write?

Why doesn't the City sue these companies back? Didn't they lie about what they were REALLY up to? Couldn't the City counter-sue for taking up all of the City's time trying to push through an action? If they'd told the truth from the beginning, would they have a \$10 Million bill they could threaten with?

These two mega-million lawsuits are the perfect opportunity for the City to fight back and give those who try to get their way through bullying and threatening the City with lawsuits something more to think

about than what they stand to gain when the City settles out of court

The City doesn't seem to have a problem suing Sacramento for requiring the them to comply with tough rules to clean up trash in the LA River. Yet, when it comes to making it tough on developers, the City is a permanent victim that tries to negotiate its way out rather than fight for what is right.

The City needs to start saying "NO" to projects and backing up their decisions with a little legal backbone so that our land use laws and our City Planning Department does not move any further towards being a developer facilitation firm. We shouldn't even have to ask.

Editors note: Ms Benson is Vice President of the Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council, Founder of Los Angeles Trails Project and the IRWMP Steering Committee (Prop. 84)

Internal Terrorism

The Collapse of the US Economy

By Tomi Lyn Bowling

The current crisis being faced by the American people, and largely played down by the mainstream media and officials, is worthy of closer scrutiny. While one simply focuses on the one aspect, mortgages, there is a much bigger picture. One has only to look at the average wage and the average cost of living to get the drift. Add to this the recent skyrocket of fuel prices and the subsequent rise in price of just about anything else and you have the recipe for disaster unfolding before your eyes. While all eyes focus on the fight against geographical terrorism the truth of an internal implosion is starting to form.

The true terrorists are succeeding where the alleged militant fundamentalists failed. The US economy is sporting record failing banks. Corporate bankruptcies and employee layoffs are in the news daily. The recent dramatic increases in unemployment coupled with a steep one-day fall in stocks represent themselves as ominous warnings. The image of "recession" has slowly given way to images of depression. Photographs of hopeful employees lining up for one or two jobs a week is reminiscent of the great depression. Now there's a word no one wants to confront. No matter what your political affiliation, no matter your choice for President in the upcoming election, solving this one issue is of paramount importance.

We must insist they realize that the true terrorist activities have been the internal bleeding of the

United States Economy, taking full panoramic views of how that came to be. Will they seek to resolve these situations immediately or spend a few years blaming those who should have recognized and handled this sooner. Let's hope the blame game is skipped while we move right into solutions and, lest we hope, punishments for those that pandered the safety and well being of the American people for personal profit and gain. One thing is certain, until the reality of what is really going on is confronted, the situation will not change. It's time to stop pointing the finger and focusing on this one situation, the "mortgage" meltdown, and see the big picture for what it really is. Only then can one establish true solutions.

Editors Note: Ms. Bowling is a Real Estate Broker and Community Activist for many years.

THIS & THAT

Local Resident Painting for Royal Highness of Saudi Arabia



photo by Alain-Gilles Bastide

Artist, Danielle Eubank

By Nayri Vartanian

Can you imagine what it would be like to create a piece of art work for the Royal Highness, Prince General Khaled bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz of Saudi Arabia? Danielle Eubank, an artist who lives and works in Tujunga, while maintaining a studio in London, has had the great privilege of doing so.

What exactly is it that she paints that has the Prince General

of Saudi Arabia interested in her work? It may be any number of subjects, including, as revealed on her website, Ms. Eubank's adroit ability of creating paintings that capture "the essence of light and water, resting on the line between abstraction and representation." Ms. Eubank states that the behavior of one of the greatest elements in the world, water, is what continuously engages her to paint masterpieces of streams, channels, ponds, rivers, and seas.

Aside from having the unique opportunity of creating a series of paintings for the Prince General of Saudi Arabia, as noted in her biography and quite extensive c.v. (Circumvitae), Ms. Eubank, a 1994 UCLA graduate, has also produced portraits for Standard Chartered Bank and the Naval and Military Club in London. She continues to be among the most popular exhibitors at the prestigious Thompson Gallery, London, England.

Ms. Eubank is motivated by creating memorable images that "grow and unravel over a period of time while provoking the viewer into a heightened awareness of his or her experience in front of the canvas." Her recent work "highlights questions of propinquity, which brings the subject right up to the surface of the canvas, nearly into the viewer's space."

In addition to water themes, Ms. Eubank also paints landscapes, people, and animals. Upon viewing many of her paintings, which are available for purchase on her website, persons enjoying the displays might become fooled into thinking that some of her artwork is of such beautiful, precise, articulate quality, they may be left wondering whether they are, indeed, witnessing paintings or photographs.

Also, Ms. Eubank has been an artist in residence in Bali, an Indonesian island, and has already "sailed ten thousand miles around the continent of Africa on the Borobudur Ship, a replica of an eighth century Indonesian wooden boat."

In the coming autumn she will experience the pleasure of sailing as an Expedition Artist on the Phoenicia, which is a six hundred B.C. Phoenician vessel. The ship will sail from the Mediterranean, through the Suez Canal, around Africa and back into the Mediterranean. Then in the summer of two thousand and nine, she will "set sail on another voyage to bring the Phoenicia to the United Kingdom," as affirmed by her website.

Ultimately, creating paintings for the Royal Highness and for other prestigious people and organizations around the globe is an occupation like no other. Danielle Eubank has the opportunity to travel and stay connected with the environment by creating astonishing pieces of artwork people around the world all enjoy. Much of what you have read here was provided by Ms. Eubank's website. For further information about Danielle Eubank please visit www.danielleeubank.com.

Friday the 13th Around the Campfire



Bob Sullivan of Tujunga

By Tomi Lyn Bowling

Several Foothill residents had stories nominated for publication in the first of its kind.... "The Best Campfire Stories book: A Collection of Chilling Campfire Tales to Spook, Thrill and Freak You Out in the Woods". This month, on Friday, the 13th, a fitting and spooky day at Lake Piru, with everyone snuggled around a blazing campfire, some spine tingling and scary stories were told by their authors. Purveyors of chilling tales were from Kelly Reno, Ava Wrightsman, Ray Peck and Frank Clark of Tujunga, Dick Sullivan of Sunland, Susan Stroh of La Crescenta, and several others. The sponsors along with a huge crazy chicken running through the campsite to accent the highlight of the evening provided scary sound effects. Hot dogs and roasted marshmallows on a stick was the delicious cuisine of the evening.

The stories were rated in the table of contents as being for "All ages", or "Scary" or, for "Kids" event. The Cover illustration is a work of art by Nico Photos of La Crescenta. The book, available at Amazon and other sporting goods stores and retail outlets nationwide, is an Outdoors Club publication (a division of The Way to Happiness Outdoors Club) and all proceeds go to charity. Congratulations to the authors, many of whom had never had published fiction works, and to the publisher of the book for a truly wonderful compilation of great campfire stories.

Juniors Can Learn Golf in Our Own Backyard

The May issue of Southland Golf magazine had an article about 25 places in Southern California that provided golf instruction for junior (ages 5-15) golfers. But it left out the one in our own backyard! Verdugo Hills Golf Course, that is. The summer junior program began June 24 and continues through August 28. Each class is three days long, and are offered Tuesday through Thursday, from 9:00 am until 11:00 am. The cost is only \$60 per week, taught by a PGA professional and his assistant. Class size is limited so that each junior gets the attention he/she needs.

Additionally, every Saturday morning, year round, there is a one-hour golf clinic for juniors, starting at 9:00 am. The cost is \$10 per session and is taught by the same instructors as the summer program.

How can we afford to lose this wonderfully close facility? Let's do all we can to support our local golf course and junior programs. Please visit www.savethegolfcourse.org to learn what you can do to help.

Leader to Leader Symposium Held at Valley Crossroads

By Morris Pichon

The African American Leader-to-Leader Community Empowerment Symposium held a meeting on May 1, 2008 at the Valley Crossroads, SDA Church in Pacoima. The meeting focused on the basic African American needs of Health, Economic, Educational and Political Developments. The meeting was a call to 'brain storm' on issues that are central to the improvement of the African American Community in the San Fernando Valley. The bi-monthly meetings present professionals the opportunity to address various issues and invite community participation.

Mrs. Yvonne Hammond, a Registered Nurse, addressed health issues. She warned that the cultural and traditional diet is not suitable for the current life style. Fifty years ago the community performed more manual labor, walked more and was more physical in their everyday lives. People can no longer consume fried foods, meals heavy in butter, or cheese covered sweets, carbohydrates. Fatty foods are major contributors to obesity and failed health in the Black community. Obesity is a major contributor to high blood pressure, diabetes and cancer diseases, which plague Black society. Hammond advised that everyone must be conscious of their diet, and program exercise into their day while visiting the doctor regularly.

Mr. Edward L. Johnson, Program Director with SEE-HOW INC, Work Force Development, spoke on the relationship of personal economics, education and the American prison system. Johnson said that in the 1970's, more Blacks were going to college and climbing up the economic ladder. Forty years ago, a Black man could support a family by working in the manufacturing industry (auto, aircraft, household items), construction industry (carpenters, roofers, cement finishers, bricklayers), without a formal education. The America of the '90's and the 21st century presents a new set of dynamics. It is nearly impossible to earn a decent wage without a college degree or a highly skilled trade. He cautioned that those who are locked out of the economic system would become the prime candi-

dates for the Judicial/Prison System. The bulk of these prisoners are between the ages of 18 and 40. The years when they should be working supporting families, they may be sitting in jail cells. This presents a grave impact on the financial health of the Black family. When the young Black man is released, the community must embrace him and render assistance finding a job and a place to live. In spite of what they have done, they are of the community, and we need to help them to return as productive citizens.

Richard Packard, Chairman San Fernando Valley Chapter of the Black American Political Association of California, spoke on the community need to improve the Black citizens' involvement in the political landscape. He said that as members of the two dominant political parties, we are simply appendages on someone else's agenda. He challenges the Black community to come together politically and participate in the governance of their own affairs. But first they must alien themselves under one umbrella. He also warned that it is not enough for us to be concerned citizens. We need to be interested and involved, simply caring is not enough. He asks that we make a commitment and answer the call to action.

Leroy Geter, Educational Administrator, California State University, Northridge, spoke of the responsibility of the community to it's youth. He said that every effort should be made to improve the image of the Black youth. Start in your own home, with your own children and expand your interest to our neighbors and beyond. If the youth in our community feel that college is no for them, encourage the individuals to acquire a skill or a trade. We need to assist the Black youth to be self-supporting. There are organizations dedicated to the uplifting of the young people throughout the San Fernando Valley. It is not necessary to invent a new one, join a group that is already established.

Leader-to-Leader meets bi-monthly. Flyers announcing the meetings are posted through out the San Fernando Valley. The next meeting is scheduled for July. We hope to see some new faces, bring a neighbor.

SOUND OFF

Last Stand for Democracy

The fight against Home Depot in Sunland-Tujunga is the last stand for democracy in LA County. Los Angeles has been mismanaged into a dreary, declining over-paved sprawl. There is enough gray space to be seen from outer space, still, unimaginative speculators and redundant big box corporations are spoon-fed our last green places and town centers to gobble up.

The Neighborhood Councils were formed so the creative, imaginative idealists that were too career or family bound to get out of town, could have an influence over their environment and salvage the ruin that has been running us blithely into Blade Runner. Many talented people who could have doubled their income selling crap on the internet in their spare time choose, instead, to be "part of the solution". They volunteered hours, days, and months, of research, invention and communication and came up with FAR Regulations, an ICO, and a Specific Corridor Plan that, if applied, would have put us on an "up-and-coming" as opposed to a "down-and-out" trajectory. All of this was cynically erased by non-enforcement and absurd "don't you guys ever go outside?" variances. And now a nice backroom deal for Home Depot.

This new democracy is the old feudalism. It is paper crowns and plastic scepters for concerned citizens and stone castles for unconcerned corporations. Pretended representation is a puppet show to distract those who have been so bold as to wander away from their TVs.

For this Town in the City to have a livable, even lively, future Home Depot cannot succeed; we cannot be bypassed. Sunland-Tujunga needs what we have stated in conversation and policy; we must have a vibrant, pedestrian-friendly neighborhood retail center in our last possible retail space. We need a Target, a Trader Joe's, a Whole Foods, some restaurants or a bookstore. We don't need a speculator friendly big box McMansion Warehouse. We must fulfill our everyday needs within our own community. Otherwise the sentient citizens will have been successfully redlined to Idaho. LA will be left with the leftover "sitizens" who couldn't save themselves from a bad reality TV show with the remote in their hands. Sunland-Tujunga will be another slum in an unmanageable system of slums. Ten years down the road when the tisk-tisk task force comes out to ask, "How did this happen?" The answer will be Home Depot happened and democracy did not.

Alexandra Squiers
Sunland-Tujunga

Save Our Treasure

I noticed the Verdugo Hills Golf Course (VHGC) the other day when I drove on Tujunga Canyon Road and I wondered about the status. Then I saw a newspaper article saying that State Assembly Member Felipe Fuentes tried to pull a fast and dirty maneuver at the state level to get approval for the construction of homes by the developer. It's not even in his area. I wonder how Assemblymember Cameron Smythe feels about that. I am both shocked and appalled by this situation. I'm glad that bill was stopped in its tracks.

I urge everyone living in the Foothills to contact local government officials to let them know about the desire of this community to have an appropriate use of this wonderful open space. We do not need more homes. We DO NEED open and recreational space. We do not have enough water for existing residences so why build more homes?? We don't need more traffic in this already clogged area. We don't need the added noise and pollution caused by increased traffic.

The VHGC is an amazing property that needs to be saved. We could continue to use the golf course, but there are also wonderful ideas about adding other kinds of recreation, so that even more of us can benefit.

Let's preserve our open space with the ancient oak trees. Isn't this a great way to save our environment from the wrath of global warming? We can and should all do our part to save this wonderful open space. Things won't change if each and every one of us doesn't do our part.

Margaret Rice
A La Crescenta 30+ years

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The 4th of July

By Lloyd Hitt

It was mid-June, 1939 in Pacoima and the mailman stood at the front door holding the box I had been waiting for many weeks. The shipping label on the box listed "Pacific States Fireworks Co." as the sender to "Master Lloyd Hitt"(Remember that title for boys?). Grandpa Hitt had not forgotten. The box was always long enough to hold the long rockets and deep enough for the Roman Candles, sparklers, Hitt's Flashcrackas* under the Navy Brand label or Hitt's Stars and Stripes of all sizes, M-80's, and an assortment of set pieces that sat on the ground. There was always a pack of slow burning punk that looked like an incense stick to light the fireworks.

I guess I was the luckiest kid in the neighborhood. My grandfather, a pharmacist from England, manufactured fireworks in Los Gatos as his brother did in Seattle. My dad, Bill Hitt and his two brothers grew up working in the fireworks factory in Los Gatos and spent weeks putting firework spectaculars up for many of the fairs in the bay city area and even once staged an eruption of Mt Lassen for the Parks Dept. Bill's brother, George, owned a Lincoln Page biplane which they incorporated into the shows with magnesium flares tied to the rigging of the biplane.

What made the 4th extra special was Dad's stories about his teenage years working in the factory building fireworks followed by the spectacular shows on the 4th. One of my favorites was the first time Dad and his older brother George flew out off the coast of Santa Cruz in the dark with flares tied to the wing struts of the Lincoln Page. When the time came to open the show, they lit the fuses setting off the brilliant red, white blue flares for the crowds below. What they hadn't planned on was the total blindness that ensued. Between the limited instruments of the Page and brilliant glare of the flares, they had no idea of direction or elevation until the flares burned out. That was the last time they lit all of the flares at the same time.

Did you ever wonder where the colors come from at the rockets burst high overhead? Yellow comes from burning sodium salts; white from magnesium and aluminum; red from strontium nitrate; green from barium nitrate or chlorate; blue from copper salts with chlorine; orange or amber from charcoal or iron. It turns out that blue is the most difficult due to its affect on those who work with it and at the same time, one of the most volatile substances to work with in production.

Have a safe and sane 4th of July and join us on the Verdugo Hills High football field for an exciting evening celebrating our nation's birthday just as President John Adams, who died on the 4th of July, had envisioned it over 180 years ago

*Flashcracka: The patent office refused to recognize the Flashcrackers, the name the Hitt's were using for the mix of aluminum powder, potassium perchlorate and sulfur so the spelling was changed in order to patent the formula.

Editors Note: Mr. Hitt is President of the Little Handers Historical Society





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