

Our State's Water Crisis Continues



Oroville Dam, a So. Calif. water resource, is located on the Feather River in the north. Its lake elevation has dropped below the sensor level (704.09').

Heated Debates Stall Solutions

By Katharine Russ

For over 30 years California's state and local agencies have been struggling to address the water problem that, year after year, grows more critical. During the past three years, however, there has been so much heated debate surrounding the water crisis that it appears no plan will be implemented any time soon. Much of California depends on fresh water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin (Delta), a natural estuary on more than 738,000 acres.

The Delta supplies water to over 22 million Californians, its farms, industry and the economy.

The most extensive aqueduct system in the world is the one that supplies water to southern California. The implementation of this system of canals, pipelines, and tunnels had its beginning in the 1960s. But the 1,100 miles of levees, most of them constructed in the 19th and early 20th centuries, were built using archaic designs and construction techniques and have not been adequately maintained. In their deteriorating state, a major earthquake or flood could grind the State to a halt. If the levees fail there would be no water for two-thirds of the State. Without water there is no economy and thus, no jobs.

On July 17, 2008, the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) released a report concluding that the building of a peripheral canal to carry water around the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is the most promising strategy to balance two critical policy goals: "reviving a threatened ecosystem and ensuring a high-quality water supply for California's residents." Among its recommendations:

- * Plan to allow some Delta islands to flood permanently. The state should invest in the levees that protect high-value land, ecosystem goals, and critical infrastructure – and allow lower-value islands to return to aquatic habitat.

- * Begin the transition from the current Delta management system. The current system is harming the na-

tive fish now, as federal court rulings have found. Over time, it will hurt the state's economy. Natural forces will impose change on the current system, and planning for change now will make Californians less susceptible to the potentially much larger cost of earthquake, floods, or levee failures.

- * Develop a new framework for governing and regulating the Delta. With the proper safeguards, a peripheral canal can be economically and environmentally beneficial. It is a more cost-effective strategy than dual conveyance, which, because it relies on continued pumping through the Delta, is an interim solution."

In October 2008, The Delta Vision Committee gave its report to the Governor and Legislature that said, in part:

- *A new system of dual water conveyance through and around the Delta to protect municipal, agricultural, environmental, and the other beneficial uses of water;

- *Additional storage to allow greater system operational flexibility that will benefit water supplies for both humans and the environment and adapt to a changing climate;

- *An investment plan to protect and enhance unique and important characteristics of the Delta region.

- *A plan to significantly improve and provide incentives for water conservation – through both wise use and ease – in both urban and agricultural sectors throughout the state.

Continued on page 5

Justice Favored California's Mobile Home Owners

By Katharine Russ

On the heels of an eight-day trial in April, Judge Gregory C. O'Brien, the arbiter employed by the County of Los Angeles, ruled in favor of homeowners from Mountain View Mobile Estates in Chatsworth, who sued the owners of the Park alleging dangerous conditions where they lived.

Gary Gibson, et al, alleged in their lawsuit of March, 2007, concerns with the electrical utility system, water outages, improper maintenance of the clubhouse, pool and spa, maintenance of swales, prevention of mud and water run-off, non lit street lamps, rodent control, bullying, passive-aggressive behavior directed towards resident "troublemakers", and a widespread disregard for written and oral complaints.

The owner, G.J. Park Associates, and the Park's management, M.A. Cirillo & Associates (dba Star Mobile Home Park Management) maintained that the Park was well kept and the company had spent millions of dollars to make repairs in the Park. However, homeowner after homeowner testified to the atrocious conditions that existed in the Park, the loss of appliances from power surges, trenches throughout the Park with no lighting to see the holes, and extended power outages that meant no heat or air conditioning. One resident testified that tree roots had raised a 12 inch mound in his driveway causing water to run under his home and stagnate. It created a stench that lasted four years.

O'Brien cited, "Disgorgement of rent is an attractive remedy. The Landlord collected the tenant's money for which the tenants received in return endless insults to their sensibilities: years of noise, mud, dangerous conditions, a studied neglect of simple services, a clubhouse with no furniture, a badly maintained pool and spa, and inexcusably rude, petty and bullying behavior." O'Brien described expectations by the witnesses as "hardly extravagant."

Gary and Deborah Gibson and three other tenants were awarded \$350,000.00, collectively, for four years back rent and 10% interest with punitive damages and attorneys fees to be decided upon at a later date. Attorney



Dale B. Goldfarb, who represents the Park owner and management company, could not be reached for comment. A second lawsuit filed by twenty four other mobile home owners in the same Park, alleges the almost identical conditions and prays for \$1.9 million in addition to punitive damages and emotional distress.

In San Diego, a settlement between Rancho Mesa Residents, Inc. and Equity Lifestyle Properties (ELS), formerly Manufactured Home Communities, Inc (MHC), a Sam Zell owned company, was reached between the parties on July 24, 2009. The settlement is to include a \$205,000.00 initial payment to Rancho Mesa Residents, Inc., and will include a rent roll-back for seven years along with structured rent increase caps for nine years. In addition, The San Diego Department of Environmental Health must conduct an inspection of the gas meters on the property. Owners of the Park will abide by the inspection and repair or replace all that is needed to bring the Park up to code.

Continued on page 2

Tuesday, August 4, 2009 National Night Out Events	Arleta Liberty Temple 13821 Osborne St., Arleta 6:00 pm	Lake View Terrace All Nations Church 10000 Foothill, LVT 6 pm	Northridge Park Movies in the Park 10058 Reseda Blvd., Northridge 6:30 pm • 818 756-8501	Pacoima Montague Street Elementary 13000 Montague, Pacoima 5 pm • 818-771-0236	Sunland-Tujunga Little Landers Park 10110 Commerce, Tujunga 5 pm • 818-951-7411	Sun Valley Stonehurst Park 9901 Dronfield, SV 6 pm	Sylmar Sylmar Park 13109 Bordon, Sylmar 6 pm
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COMMUNITY NEWS

You Should Know...

National Night Out against Crime is Tuesday, August 4. The event is held for communities to show support for their Police, become educated regarding public safety in order to help take the bite out of crime, and to help strengthen communities. It is generally held the first Tuesday in August across the United States. The following is a list of communities across the North Valley detailing some of their National Night Out events.

Arleta – Liberty Temple, 13821 Osborne St., starting at 6:00 pm, will feature a free pot luck and safety information on crime prevention. Councilmember Tony Cardenas, LAPD's Mission Station, LAFD's Fire Station No. 7, Arleta's Neighborhood Watch Coalition and Community Watch Dogs, LAPD's Senior Lead Office, and LAPD helicopter fly-over.

Lake View Terrace, Shadow Hills and La Tuna Canyon – All Nations Church, 1000 Foothills Blvd, will starting at 6:00 pm, will feature a BBQ and have Safety Information available. Their LAPD Senior Lead Officer will also be in attendance.

Northridge – Northridge Park, 10058 Reseda Blvd., Northridge will have public safety information, LAPD mounted police, underwater diving units, games and activities. Free hot dogs will be provided by CPAB and LAPD Community Supporters beginning at 6:30 pm. Councilmember Greig Smith is sponsoring his "Movie Under the Stars," featuring "Kung Fu Panda," which will begin at nightfall. There will also be free popcorn until 9:00 pm, free drawings for prizes and face painting for kids.

Pacoima – Montague Street Elementary School, 13000 Montague St., Pacoima starting at 5:00 pm, and is being sponsored by Councilmember Tony Cardena and Target. Their motto is "Strengthening Neighbor-

hoods and Community Partnerships." LAPD's Senior Lead Officers will be on hand to answer questions and discuss safety information. LAFD Fire Station No. 98 and Northeast Graffiti Busters will join them. Free foot is being provided for as long as it lasts.

Sunland-Tujunga – Little Landers Park, 10110 Commerce Ave., Tujunga will have safety information and a program that includes interaction with police representatives between sets of the live music provided by a local band. Bring your favorite dish because they are having a potluck to go along with free BBQ, hot dogs and chips. Everyone is invited to bring along his or her own favorite dish. This event is being sponsored by the LAPD CPAB, Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council, Little Landers Historical Society, and The Wired Café and starts at 5:00 pm.

Sun Valley – Stonehurst Park, 9901 Dronefield, Sun Valley will include their annual BBQ Ribs and Chicken, along with a Potluck starting at 6:00 pm under the direction of volunteer CPAB member, Phil Tabbi. LAPD Sun Valley Senior Lead Officers will be in attendance.

The Watermelon Festival, sponsored by the Sunland-Tujunga Lions, has been honored by receiving the designation, "Valley of the Stars Official Event," which is bestowed on a select group of public festivals, events and entertainment series sponsored by qualified organizations, companies and institutions that reflect the highest level of community commitment and excellence in the San Fernando Valley. The goal of the organization is to promote the San Fernando Valley as a business and event destination.

As usual, the Watermelon Festival is being held at Sunland Park in Sunland beginning Friday, August 14, through Sunday, August 16. The Festival will include:

crowning of the Watermelon Queen, International Food Court, free ice cold watermelon, Watermelon Art, Seed Spitting and eating contest, carnival rides, arts and craft, Beer Garden, marketplace, and free live music throughout the weekend. For more information call 818-353-9556 or visit: www.lionswatermelonfestival.com.

A Multi-Faith Unity Celebration is being planned by LA County Sheriff, Lee Baca, and his Multi-Faith Clergy Council, to reach out to all the Clergy, Community Leaders and Community at large, to become involved in preparation and coordination of the 1st Annual Multi-Faith Unity Celebration, to be held Sat. Aug. 15th, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, El Dorado Park in Long Beach. Approximately 26 organizations including churches of all denominations, as well as public safety organizations, will be working together to help improve the quality of life countywide.

Help is needed from local organizations and vendors to assist with the purchase and/or supply of much needed items to ensure the event's success. All donations are tax deductible. They are requesting that clergy and community leaders volunteer and also invite their neighbors, member, and families to attend.

For more information, contact Hope for Life Foundation, 323-753-4673 or e-mail hope4life_90047@yahoo.com or visit www.multi-faithunity.com.

Solution in sight for Parked, unhitched Ad Trailers. These vehicles that are sometimes parked in residential neighborhoods are considered a blight to communities Councilmember Greig Smith announced that the City won a court case on Friday, July 12, upholding the city's ability to tow and impound unhitched trailer "billboards" that have not moved in 72 hours.

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

Continued from Cover - WATER CRISIS

*Strong incentives for local and regional efforts to make better use of new sources of water such as brackish water cleanup and seawater desalination."

The PPIC-UC Davis team called the dual conveyance option "temporary and ultimately unsustainable." The governor and legislature must be involved in positioning a new framework to meet the challenge and implement a plan. Included in the debate would be the California Department of Water Resources, the California State Water Resources Control Board, the California Department of Health Services, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Geological Survey.

The only concrete plan, thus far, is a short-term solution and does not address the aging levees. On June 16, 2009, Governor Schwarzenegger issued the following statement regarding the "Two Gates Fish Protection Demonstration Project", designed to protect Delta smelt and increase the reliability of water exports. In part he said, "Under the plan, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation would install and operate removable gate structures in two key locations in the central Delta. The Two Gates Project is designed to provide the same or better protection for delta smelt and other sensitive aquatic species at the State Water Project and federal Central Valley Project, while allowing additional water for use by municipal and agricultural water users south of the Delta. The gates would be temporary facilities to be removed after five years."

In August 2007, U.S. District Court Judge Oliver Wanger of Fresno used the Federal Endangered Species Act to issue a ruling that ordered a massive reduction in water supplies from the State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project (CVP) to protect the Delta smelt. There was no consideration given for the human element in that decision. For the last two Spring water seasons that ruling has had disastrous effects on permanent crops including orchards and vineyards. This year about 500,000 acres, or 800 square miles, of the world's most fertile farmland was not planted because of the reduction in water supplies. The negative consequences have created job losses, more toxic pollution of farmland, air pollution and increased electricity consumption. In 2008, the Fish and Wildlife Service completely reversed its 2005 opinion prompting Wanger's decision in 2007. Just recently, Wanger upheld a 2008 opinion based on limitations of pumping water from the Delta.

What long-term consequences will the "Two Gates Fish Protection Demonstration Project" have on Californians? How much longer will Californians wait for a cost effective plan to address the water shortage, repair and replace frail infrastructure and balance the Delta's ecosystem? Or will a major catastrophe be the catalyst to implementing a plan?

For those interested in finding answers, visit: <http://www.deltavision.ca.gov/> <http://www.ppic.org/main/home.asp> and <http://www.fws.gov/sacramento/> Katharine.russ@charter.net

COMMUNITY NEWS

Arleta

By Al Piantanida

Arleta Neighborhood Watch Coalition toured the LAPD Valley Communications Dispatch Center in West Hills on July 14. Arleta's Senior Lead Officer, Lee Perry, and ten Neighborhood Watch members, were given a tour of the center by Jacqui Dreben regarding their operations, which consisted of Dispatch and intake of calls. Guests were provided with earphones to listen in on 911 and 912 calls. One of the purposes of the Coalition is to educate the community regarding public safety. They took this information back with them to share with their community.

A Luau Luncheon was held for seniors at Nikkei Village and attended by over 200 seniors on Thursday, July 9. The event included an ethnic buffet, Hawaiian music provided by a DJ, Tonganese Dancers from Trinity Methodist Church, Bingo with cash prizes, Best Dressed Contest with prizes, and a Limbo and Hoola Hoop contest as well.



Al Piantanida Gene Paleno Maria Daldipia

Government sponsors of this first annual event and whose officers were in attendance were: Yolanda Fuentes; Mayor Villaraigosa; Ruben Zaragoza;

Councilmember Tony Cardenas; Yolanda Anguiano; Assemblymember Felipe Fuentes; and Angel Barnevo for State Senator Alex Padilla.

Local sponsors included: ICON-CDC; Valley Interfaith Council; and the Arleta Community Watchdogs.

The event was co-chaired by Martha Milam and Al Piantanida.

National Night Out will be held on Tuesday, August 4, at Liberty Temple, 13821 Osborne St., starting at 6:00 pm. This Police support event will feature a pot luck and safety information on crime prevention.

Councilmember Tony Cardenas, LAPD's Mission Station, LAFD's Fire Station No. 7, Arleta's Neighborhood Watch Coalition and Community Watch Dogs, and Liberty Temple are sponsors of this annual event, which educates and encourages community participation in the prevention and reduction of crime.

Arleta Neighborhood Council is up and running.

Shadow Hills

Shadow Hills neighborhood receives a Historic District Designation. On Tuesday, June 30, the unveiling of the Stonehurst HPOZ signs took place at the intersection of Wicks and Dronefield in Shadow Hills. The significance of the event is that this is the first Historic Zone in Los Angeles that qualified under the new state and federal historic standards, and protects 92 lots in the Stonehurst neighborhood with the Stonehurst Historic District designation. It's the only Historic District in L.A. whose study was totally funded through private donations. Lloyd Hitt, of the Little Landers Historic Society, agreed to manage the donations and oversee the preparation of the study performed by Consultants Jones and Stokes.



Left to right: Venita McClennan, Stonehurst Resident; Al Knight, Archiologist; and Mary Benson, Community Organizer

Photo by Lloyd Hitt

Northridge

Singer Larry Mesa, owner of Simone's Drapery in Canoga Park, entertained a packed house during the North Valley Area Chamber of Commerce Mixer hosted by Shakey's Pizza on Reseda Blvd. in Northridge on Wednesday, July 15.



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Nina Royal

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Paccio Ad & Design

Contributing Writers
Robert Barbera, Mary Benson, Tomi Lyn Bowling, Cindy Cleghorn, Michael Cohen, Doug Epperhart, Marlene Hitt, Ron Kaye, Captain Ivan Minsal, Al Piantanida, Morris Pichon, Commander Jorge Villegas

Investigative Reporter
Katharine Russ

Proofreaders
Mark Seigel, Paula Warner

Photographers
Cindy Cleghorn, Lloyd Hitt

North Valley Sales Representatives
Bill Manning, Gordon Lee

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Sunland - Tujunga

By Cindy Cleghorn

Angeles National Golf Course (ANGC) has a long list of conditions that must be met by ANGC before a final Certificate of Occupancy can be issued for their clubhouse/restaurant/banquet facilities. The community is looking forward to their full compliance of conditions imposed on their development, which they promised to fulfill, before receiving their Conditional Use Permit.

Some of the major conditions include equestrian and hiking trails, environmental compliance with sensitive habitat and water monitoring, wildlife access/corridor, dedication of land to the MRCA and others. The City's Planning and Land Use Committee and ANGC have mutually agreed to extend the hearing for late September to give Councilman Reyes, Huizar and Koretz an opportunity for more review. However, Koretz will be leaving the Planning and Land Use Committee (PLUM) and Councilmember Zine will be joining PLUM after the summer vacation break. The agreement ends October 9, 2009, and another hearing will probably be scheduled by PLUM mid-September. The issue will then proceed to the full City Council. Neighbors are anxiously waiting to patronize the new facilities and can do so during this time as ANGC has a temporary CofO in place.

Verdugo Hills Golf Course - Neighbors are surveying, studying and getting together to draft comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Verdugo Hills Golf Course. They be-

lieve the 229 proposed major development will have an immediate negative impact in the area of Tujunga Cyn Blvd. and La Tuna Cyn Rd. They have posted signs in and around the area, as well as throughout the community, with savethegolfcourse.org signs to generate public interest and encourage neighbors to weigh in on the DEIR and also get the latest updates.

The development is opposed by the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council, Save the Golf Course Committee which includes members from La Crescenta, La Canada, Montrose, Glendale and Sunland-Tujunga who are working together to retain the property as recreational open space. The deadline for comments regarding the DEIR is August 19 and can be submitted to david.somers@lacity.org The STNC's Land Use Committee will be reviewing their comments on the DEIR at their next meeting on August 10 at North Valley City Hall, 7747 Foothill Blvd in Tujunga.

City Council District Two Representative - The seat vacated by former Councilwoman Wendy Greuel now City Controller is up for grabs. A special election will be held on Tuesday, September 22, 2009. 15 candidates registered to run and 10 have been confirmed as eligible for the ballot. The public is invited to a CD2 Candidates Forum sponsored by the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council and the Sunland-Tujunga Alliance on Saturday, August 8, at the North Valley City Hall, 7747 Foothill Blvd. in Tujunga. They are encouraging the community to participate. A Candidate Meet and Greet with the public will be

held from 1 to 2 pm. It will be an opportunity for the public to meet with candidates one on one. Ron Kaye, former editor of the *Daily News* and Jill Stewart with the *L.A. Weekly*, will moderate the Forum, which begins at 2 pm. A large turn out is expected and there will be attendants to direct parking.

The former Coffee Stop property on Foothill Blvd. in Sunland has been sold. The new owners immediately pulled city permits to place a used car lot there which were not in compliance with the Foothill Boulevard Corridor Specific Plan. The community caught the violations and all permits have been suspended pending their application for a project with the City as required. Anyone interested in this site may want to attend future Land Use Committee meetings to be held at North Valley City Hall. Visit stnc.org for more information.

The annual Watermelon Festival sponsored by the Sunland-Tujunga Lions Club is being held Aug. 14-15-16. Congratulations to the Lions, whose festival has been named a City Tourist destination. There are many activities planned for the entire weekend including the crowning of the Watermelon Queen and Jr. Princess. Ballots for voting are available at local businesses throughout the community. Many organizations will also be participating and doing community outreach at their booths. For more information, visit www.lionswatermelonfestival.com or call 818-353-4554.

Editor's note: Ms. Cleghorn is a Community Activist, member of many organizations and writes for the NVR.

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Pacoima

By Morris Pichon

A Free Public Forum - "Money Matters: Help for Broke Folk" is being sponsored by the San Fernando Valley Branch NAACP. In the current financial crisis the nation is facing, the losses of jobs and income demand new methods to survive these difficult times.

Attendees will be presented with options on dealing with banks, loans and credit during this money crunch. The presentation will be Saturday, August 8, 2009, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, at the San Fernando Valley Boys and Girls Club, 11251 Glenoaks Blvd., Pacoima. Sign up early to ensure seating, and register to attend by calling (877) 45-9381.

"The Legacy of Civil Right Leaders" NAACP Awards Dinner is also being hosted by the San Fernando Valley Branch NAACP on Thursday, August 20, 2009 at the Alicia Broadous-Duncan Multi-Purpose Senior Center, 11300 Glenoaks Blvd., Pacoima. The photo and social hour will begin at 6:00 pm.

The evening promises to be an award winning setting with Seville and The Ohio Trio Plus Band performing music of the past, and a unique meal prepared by Chef Kenny, of Kreative Services, and Chef Keith, of Los Angeles. Tickets may be obtained from NAACP members, or by calling (877) 245-9381.



MISSION HILLS
Neighborhood Council

Board of Governors & Stakeholders General Meeting
July 7, 2009
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
San Jose Street School Auditorium
14928 Clymer Street, Mission Hills

The Board will take up the issue of the proposed Titan Development mixed-use project at the site of The Guest House Inn (formally Mission Inn) at Sepulveda Blvd. and Chatsworth Street

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Bond Freeze Impacts Conservation Projects

By Mary Benson

The first casualties in California infrastructure projects are clean water and transportation. Oro Vista in the Tujunga Wash and others are likely targets. On December 17, 2008, the state shut down important conservation and restoration projects funded by California Park Bonds. Two months later the Legislature passed a revised budget, yet the bond-freeze continues. Across the state, environmental groups have been forced to let go of Staff, or close the doors completely.

The City of Los Angeles is the state's "biggest loser." It's ironic, in a time when stimulating the economy through "shovel ready" green jobs is all the buzz, not a single "green" project was listed on LA's "Shovel Ready List. Then our California legislators ripped the green shovels out of "in-progress" projects.

Non-profit organizations have been forced to make cuts or close their doors altogether

The bond freeze has impacted environmental projects across the state. These bonds were supported by voter approved bond measures, Propositions 12, 13, 40, 50, and 84. Data for Los Angeles County provided by the California Department of Finance suggests that 546 "Green Infrastructure and Restoration Projects" and a total of \$280,000,000 will be put on indefinite hold. None of these projects went into LA's federal stimulus request.

The impact goes far beyond the short term, as these projects and funding collectively improve air and water quality, land use decisions, wildlife survival, scenic regions, and an overall quality of life for all of us. On April 6, 2009, state finance officials announced

that thousands of infrastructure projects across California, that have been on hold since December, will not be funded in the coming months.

The decision not to fund many transportation and conservation projects was based largely on predictions that California's cash flow will be extremely tight in the next year, officials said.

California's cash flow could run short by as much as \$13 billion in the next fiscal year, according to the Department of Finance. State leaders will seek short-term loans for that money and are seeking the federal government's help to assure investors the state will pay them back.

Editor's Note: Ms Benson is Vice President of the Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council, Land Use Chair and writes for the NVR.

Leaders Set Demands for Candidates in L.A.'s CD2

By Stephen Box

Community leaders from throughout City Council District 2 gathered on Saturday morning, July 25 to position issues such as Community Plans with teeth, Building & Safety enforcement, and Parking Policy as the foundation for a platform they will use to frame upcoming City Council Candidate forums and debates.

Neighborhoods throughout CD2 were represented as local voters who gathered and hammered out a list of quality-of-life issues that they want established and developed during the campaign for the open City Council seat.

The list of topics hit three dozen and then continued to grow during the breakout sessions before the group refined, combined and established a platform of positions they hope will be the beginning of a basic framework for a issues-based campaign. They include, Community Plans, Code Enforcement, Parking, Open Space & Recreation, the Budget, Transportation, Mass Transit, Solar Energy, the DWP, City Charter, and Neighborhood Council's relationship with the City and City Council. The specific actions are listed on the CD2 Vision Platform document that community members indicate will be the starting point for robust campaign conversation.

During the brainstorm session, neighborhood representatives agreed on the broad strokes, but many specific nuances were unique to individual communities. However, it is apparent that there is a shared commitment to work together to develop an issues-based campaign and real dialogue with the candidates based on commitments to the communities and to their platform.

Candidates confirmed for CD 2 ballot as of July 30, (in alpha order only), are as follows: Augusto Bisani, Mary Benson, Christine Essel, Jozef "Joe" Thomas Essavi, Tamar Galtzan, Paul Krekorian, Michael McCue, Pete Sanchez, David "Zuma Dogg" Saltsburg, and Frank Sheftel.

See the NVR Calendar section for upcoming CD2 Forums and Debates or visit the CD2 Election Blog for more information at www.cd2election.blogspot.com or: www.phinvv.wordpress.com

Editors Note: Stephen Box is a Community Activist and Social & Media Communications expert. Contact stephen@thirdeycreative.com

"Broadway" is coming to North Valley!

The Foothill Performing Arts Council (The FPAC), in association with the New Hope Tapestry Theatre Ensemble, announces their Main Stage Summer Dinner Theatre production of *The Silver Spittoon Saloon: A Bold & Bawdy Musical Comedy*. According to Producer and Director Tim Boquez, "This will be the first foray into 'dinner theatre' for the FPAC and we couldn't have picked a better show to start with." He says his outstanding, talented cast is going to transform the New Hope Community Church Activity Center into a lively 1880's saloon, complete with hurdy gurdy saloon gals, dusty silver miners, a mysterious gunsling, a bluegrass pickin' band--and don't forget the fancy Silver Spittoon!

Profits from the FPAC Mainstage summer productions go toward financial aid and scholarships for local young singers, dancers and actors, ages 10-20, to participate in the FPAC Young Performers' Workshops that are offered twice a year.

New Hope Community Church is located at 10438 Oro Vista Ave., Sunland. Dinner Shows are Fri-Sat, 6:45 pm, and Sundays 4:45 pm. Non-Dinner Matinee Shows are Saturdays, 3:00 pm. Ticket prices for Evening Dinner Shows are \$25 for Adults, \$20 for Seniors and Students 16 and over, and \$15 for kids 16 and under. Limited non-dinner seating is available at Evening Shows and Matinees for \$20, \$15 & \$10. This show is not recommended for children under the age of 10.

For more information, call: 818-262-7766, or visit: www.FoothillPerformingArts.org. See ad this issue of NVR.

Continued from Cover - MOBILE HOME

While 5.10 of the Settlement Transcript says, "In reaching this settlement, Defendant does not admit fault," Judge Jay M. Bloom will maintain jurisdiction to enforce the settlement. Dianne Jacob, District 2, San Diego County Supervisors Office, sued by Zell, had much to say about his business tactics in her Op-ed titled, "I Won't Be Sued Into Silence" and published in the San Diego Business Journal. "In my district, Zell's customers are my constituents. In 2002, when MHC raised their rents some 25 percent, my constituents came to me in fear. Many were fixed-income seniors petrified of losing their homes in an already tight housing market.

I did my homework and learned a great deal about the landlord behind the increase, a billionaire real estate titan with a deep disdain for bureaucracy, well known to the financial world as a 'vulture investor'." Jacob further stated, "I am convinced that Zell is using our judicial system to bully me and intimidate those who dare question how MHC treats its customers. MHC's doctrine of death-by-a-thousand-legal-appeals especially exploits the limited financial resources of cities and counties." Jacobs prevailed over Zell in March 2009.

Glenn Bell, President - Neighborhood Friends, who resides in a Mobile Home Park in the North San Fernando Valley and has been an advocate for Mobile Park Homeowners throughout California, commended the Loftin Law Firm - Carlsbad for their dedication to their clients. "Sue Loftin, at great personal expense, has carried this lawsuit for nine years against one of the richest men in the country, according to Forbes Magazine, to bring justice for this brave group of senior citizens. For years the elderly and the poor have been manhandled by Park owners all over the country. It's a huge win for the 'little guys' all over the state." Zell owns an estimated 300 parks, nationwide, including one in Sylmar.

Katharine.russ@charter.net

Elks' 25th Annual Veterans' Family Picnic



U.S. Congressman Brad Sherman (right), 27th District, presented Larry Wong, Voluntary Service Site manager for the Sepulveda VA, (middle), and Earl Bouchard (left), of the Sunland-Tujunga Elks Lodge 2098, a flag that flew over the Capital to commemorate the 25th Annual Veterans Family BBQ Picnic, held on the grounds of the VA GLA Sepulveda Campus on July 4th.

Members of Sunland-Tujunga Elks Lodge #2098, who sponsor this event annually, were assisted by members of Van-Nuys-Reseda Elks #2790, Canoga Park Elks #2190, and Burbank Elks #1497, in serving food and drinks to 400 veterans and their families. Captain Cha Cha and the Keyboard Kowboy, J.R. Wright, provided music and dancing.



Bouchard said, "This is just one small way of giving back to our veterans for all the sacrifices they made for us. We can celebrate the Fourth of July because of people like them."

Left, Veteran Thomas Heverly, Van Nuys American Legion Post 193; Left-Middle, Congressman Sherman; Right, Earl Bouchard, Sunland-Tujunga Elks Lodge 2098; Background, left to right, Summer Youth Volunteers Xavier Murchinson, Penuel Chow, Ephrath Chow.

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Arl - Arleta, **G.H.** - Granada Hills, **K.C.** - Kagel Canyon, **LA** - Los Angeles, **LVT** - Lake View Terrace, **LTC** - La Tuna Canyon, **M.H.** - Mission Hills, **NR** - Northridge, **NVCH** - North Valley City Hall, **Pac** - Pacoima, **S-T** - Sunland-Tujunga, **S.V.** - Sun Valley, **Syl** - Sylmar, **V.N.** - Van Nuys, **PC** - Panorama City

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- Saturday Aug 1**
- Bolton Hall Museum**
Presents "Rainy Day Games"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 818-352-3420
- Friends of GH Library**
10640 Petit, GH
10:30 am 368-5689
- LA Neighborhood Council Coalition (LANCC)**
Braude Center, Van Nuys
Info: <http://www.lanccongress.org/>
- MHNC Youth Outreach**
10161 Sepulveda Blvd.
4 pm 818-892-2412
- Sunday, Aug 2**
- Bolton Hall Museum**
Presents "Rainy Day Games"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 818-52-3420
- Monday, Aug 3**
- SNC Public Serv. Commit.**
Sylmar Park
13109 Borden, Syl
6:30 pm
- NAACP Exec. Comm.**
11243 Glenoaks, Pac.
7 pm.
- STNC Budget Comm**
NVCH, S-T
6:30 pm
info: 818-951-7411
- Tuesday, Aug 4**
- National Night Out**
Liberty Temple
13821 Osborne St., Arl.
6:00 pm
- National Night Out**
All Nations Church
1000 Foothill, LVT
6 pm
- National Night Out**
Movies in the Park
Northridge Park
10058 Reseda Blvd., Nthrg
6:30 pm 818 756-8501
- National Night Out**
Montague Street Elemtary
13000 Montague, Pac
5 pm 818-771-0236
- National Night Out**
Little Landers Park
10110 Commerce, S-T
5 pm 818-951-7411
- National Night Out**
Stonehurst Park
9901 Dronfield, SV
6 pm
- National Night Out**
Sylmar Park
13109 Borden, Syl
6 pm
- Bolton Hall Museum**
Presents "Rainy Day Games"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 818-52-3420
- MHNC Safety Comm**
16161 Sepulveda, MH
7 pm 818-892-2414
- LA Horse Council CD2**
Candidates Forum
All Nations Church
1000 Foothill, LVT
6:30 pm

- Wednesday, Aug 5**
- Rotary Club**
Coco's Restaurant
10521 Sunland, S-T
7 pm 818-951-5299
- NHWNC Gen Meet.**
Holy Martyrs Armenian Sch.
1667 Parthenia, NH
7 pm
- Bingo**
S-T Elks Lodge
11037 Commerce S-T
6:30 pm 818-352-5504
- Thursday, Aug 6**
- PCNC Land Use**
Mission Community Hospital
14860 Roscoe Blvd., PC
6:30 pm
818-894-7841
- S. V. Rotary**
Mandarin Terrace
8815 Sunland, SV
12-1:30 pm
818-768-9888
- Saturday, Aug 8**
- CD2 Candidates Forum**
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
Meet & Greet - 1 pm
Forum - 2 pm
Info: cd2election.blogspot.com
- Sunday, Aug 9**
- Bolton Hall Museum**
Presents "Rainy Day Games"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 818-52-3420
- Monday, Aug 10**
- PCNC Outreach, PCNC Office**
(4th Floor)_14500 Roscoe Blvd.,
PC_6:30 pm 818-714-2133_
- STNC/Land Use Comm**
North Valley City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
7 pm 951-7411
Info: stnc.org
- SNC Land Use Com**
Sylmar Park
13109 Borden, Syl
6:30 pm

- MHNC Zoning & Land Use**
10161 Sepulveda, MH.
6:30 pm
- Tuesday, Aug 11**
- Bolton Hall Museum**
Presents "Rainy Day Games"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 818-52-3420
- PCNC Commerce Wells Fargo Bank**
8548 Van Nuys Blvd., PC
2:30 pm 818-714-2133
- SVANC Gen Meet**
10631 Vinedale, SV
6:30
- SNC Outreach Com.**
Sylmar Park
13109 Borden, Syl
6:30 pm
- MHNC Board/Land Use**
LAPD Mission Station
1121 Sepulveda, MH
6 pm
- LAPD Devonshire Station Community Meeting**
Shepard of the Hills Church
19700 Rinaldi, Port Rch
7 pm
- Wednesday, Aug. 12**
- PCNC-Commerce Com**
Wells Fargo Bank
8548 Van Nuys, PC
2 pm
- Sylmar Woman's Club**
Odyssey Restaurant
15600 Odyssey, GH
11:30 am
- Bingo Night**
S-T Elks
10137 Commerce, ST
6:30 pm 352-2098
- STNC Monthly Board Mtg**
NVCH, 7747 Foothill, S-T
7 pm
Info: stnc.org
- Rotary Club**
Coco's Restaurant
10521 Sunland, S-T
7 pm 818-951-5299
- NHWNC Gen Meet.**
Holy Martyrs Armenian Sch.
1667 Parthenia, NH
7 pm
- FTDNC Exec./Gen Meet.**
9747 Wheatland, SH
7:30 pm
- Thursday, Aug 13**
- N. Hills West NC Gen. Meet.**
Sepulveda VA
16111 Plummer Bg22 N.H.ills
7 pm 818-893-8613
- Foothill Comm. Police**
Advisory Board (CPAB)
Villar Scalabrini Retir. Home
10631 Vinedale, SV
6 pm 756-8866
- Granada Hills North NC**
1st Baptist Church of GH
11011 Hayvenhurst, GH
- S. V. Rotary**
Mandarin Terrace
8815 Sunland, SV
12-1:30 pm 818-768-9888
- MOMS Club of the Foothills**
St Lukes Church 2563 Foothill Blvd.
La Crescenta 10 am

- Aug 14-15**
- Summer Festival**
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As You Are Church
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- Aug 14-15-16**
- S-T Lions Watermelon Festival**
Sunland Park
8651 Foothill, S-T
For times and events
www.lionswatermelonfestival.com
also see ad this issue of NVR
- Sunday, Aug 16**
- Bolton Hall Museum**
Presents "Rainy Day Games"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 818-52-3420
- Little Landers Historical Society**
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- Elks Famous Omelete Bar**
S-T Elks Lodge #2098
10137 Commerce, S-T
7\$ 9 am-12 pm 818-352-2098
- Monday, Aug 17**
- GHNNC Board Meet.**
Van Gogh Elem. School:_17160 Van
Gogh St. GH
6:30 pm
- PCNC Public Safety**
PCNC Office (4th Floor)
14500 Roscoe Blvd., PC
6:30 pm 818-984-2133
- SNC Gen. Meet.**
Hubbard St. Elementary
13325 Hubbard, Syl
6:30 - 9:30pm
GHNNC Board Meet.
- Valley Vote Meeting**
Galpin Ford
15555 Roscoe, N. Hills
6:30
- Wednesday, Aug 19**
- Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB)**
11121 Sepulveda, MH
8:30 pm
- Rotary Club**
Coco's Restaurant
10521 Sunland, S-T
7 pm 818-951-5299
- Pacoima NC Gen. Meet.**
Pacoima Comm. Center
11243 Glenoaks, Pac
6:30 pm
- North Hills West NC**
New Horizons,
15725 Parthenia. NH.
7 pm 818 893-8613
- Bingo Night**
S-T Elks
10137 Commerce, ST
6:30 pm 352-2098
- Thursday, Aug 20**
- PCNC Safety Com,**
Plaza del Valle_8614 Van Nuys #BPC
5:30 pm
- STNC Safety Comm.**
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill S-T
6 pm 818951-7411
- S-T SERVS**
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill S-T
6:45 pm 563-1962



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Mark YOUR Calendar

STNC Outreach Comm.
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
7:30 pm 818-951-7411

S. V. Rotary
J. Wells Golf Center
11501 Strathern, SV
5:30-7:30 pm 818-767-1954

Block Captains Meeting
Sylmar Library
6:30 818-838-9848

Neighborhood Watch
St. Euphrasia Church
11766 Shoshone, GH
7 pm

SVA Chamber Mixer
Mission Valley Bank
9116 Sunland, SV
5:30-7:30 pm

Fri – Sun Aug 21-23

FPAC Young Performers'
Dinner Theater Production
The Silver Spittoon Saloon
New Hope Comm. Church
10438 Oro Vista, S-T
818-262-7766 or visit:
www.FoothillPerformingArts.org
SEE AD IN THIS ISSUE OF NVR

Sunday, Aug 23

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Rainy Day Games"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 818-352-3420

Monday, Aug. 24

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

Tuesday, Aug 25

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Rainy Day Games"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 818-352-3420

PCNC Rules & Finance
PCNC Office (4th Floor)_14500
Roscoe Blvd., PC
5:30 & 6:45 pm 818-714-2133

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

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

Wednesday, Aug 26

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

Bingo Night
S-T Elks Lodge
10137 Commerce, S-T
6:30 pm 818-352-2098

Thursday, Aug 27

Panorama City NC
Mission Community Hospital
14860 Roscoe Blvd., PC
6:30 pm 818-785-9355

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

STNC Budget Comm
NVCH, 7747 Foothill, S-T
6:30 pm
info: stnc.org

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

Fri – Sun Aug 28-30

FPAC Young Performers'
Dinner Theater Production
The Silver Spittoon Saloon
New Hope Comm. Church
10438 Oro Vista, S-T
818-262-7766 or visit:
www.FoothillPerformingArts.org

Sunday, Aug 30

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Rainy Day Games"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 818-352-3420

VOTE

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City Council District 2
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Info:**

cd2election.blogspot.com

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COMMENTARY

It's the Government



By Ron Kaye

It's the official policy of the City Council that the financial troubles facing LA are entirely the fault of the state legislature and the governor. To a man and woman, they cry: "We are not to blame. Fire stations are closing, streets are filled with potholes, promises are being broken. It's all their fault.

Yet, the facts put the lie to what they are saying. Dare I call them liars or will I be banned from writing the truth like speakers at Public Comment for dare to violate the Council's vague and arbitrary rules for proper decorum? The facts are clear enough. Year after year, in good times and bad, the mayor and Council have carried a structural deficit in the budget for \$200 million dollars or so -- money they are committed to spend for salaries and benefits but cover up with a variety of creative bookkeeping techniques.

So when the bottom fell out of the economy in 18 months, the structural deficit became a monetary crater that reached what was officially admitted to be \$530 million. After months of looting special funds, milking the DWP cash cow, putting dozens of city workers on the payroll of the proprietary agencies and barring key departments like planning and parks from hiring,

They still faced a deficit of 320 million. So what did they do? Furloughs like the state or layoffs like many cities? No, they offered sweetened retirement to 2,400 senior city workers allowing them to walk away with \$15,000 in cash and pensions of up to 75 percent of their salaries. Some could retire at age 50, many more at 55 and never have to think again health care or paying their bills.

They are city pension millionaires. It would take that much or more in personal assets to bring home what the lowest paid city workers with a full pension gets in retirement. I don't begrudge city workers the sweetheart deals their unions have gotten them or how they have used their organizations to elect city officials who give them everything they want and more. My grudge is against the city officials who take an oath of office to serve all the people of this city and then go around unanimously giving unaffordable contracts to city workers, subsidies to developers and the right to destroy the visual landscape to billboard companies.

It's not they've pulled back on any of this loose spending even when they've been warned about the danger of bankrupting the city. How in the world can they even consider loaning \$30 million to a well-connected developer to remodel the Kodak Theater so it can provide a home for Cirque Du Soleil?

It seems they think a miracle economic recovery is just around the corner and that they can endlessly deflect responsibility onto others and keep on fooling all of the people all the time. Maybe, they are right. But I doubt it. The bills for their wretched excesses will come due soon enough. The question is will the public hold them accountable for what they have done and are still doing to our LA

Editor's note: Ron Kaye is the former editor of the Daily News and Chairman of Saving L.A. Project (SLAP). You can reach him at www.ronkayela.com

Health Care for Everyone



By Robert Barbera

Relieving all people of pain and suffering and eventually eliminating all sickness is an admirable goal. As a society, we expect better health care and we are getting it with improved detection, wonder drugs, and advanced treatments. But heightened expectations come at a price.

The costs of health care professionals, pharmaceuticals, and hospitalizations continue to escalate. The government has wrestled with the increasing costs, quality control, educational grants, and subsidies for decades. However, the efficacy of the government's increased role comes into question because of the inherent inefficiencies of a bureaucracy.

America grew strong as a market society, which is the opposite of a bureaucratic system. Freedom of choice is not only what consumers expect but also what has made us the richest country in history. These choices include by whom and where we wish to be treated. We reserve the right to acquire a second opinion and to decide the level of care with our provider.

The health providers' points of view and concerns are also important. The physician's job is to recommend the best treatment. That recommendation should not be guided by an intractable set of government regulations or a series of permission slips, but only by what is best for the patient. Safety and sanitary regulations on hospitals certainly serve their purpose; however, excessive requirements due to rare

incidents lead to over-regulation and the strangulation of new ideas. New medications should be made available without unreasonable delays. For all health care providers, the standard of care is expected to be high and the level of liability equitable.

Health care is complex. Providing compassionate health care to everyone is ideal, but its limitations cannot be ignored. If history has one lesson though, it is that any problem, including providing adequate health care while containing excessive costs, is best solved by the private sector, not a government bureau.

The solution is not to transfer the cost of health care from the hospital and physicians to big brother who will in return have everyone else subsidize the process through higher taxes. Such a solution will bring higher costs, delayed treatment, and minimal choices. It is no accident that citizens of countries with socialized medicine like Britain and Canada flock to the United States when they need specialized, high quality health care.

There is no denying that as much as ten percent of the population is not insured or unable to pay for medical services. Some of these folks are indifferent to saving for a rainy day or lead an unhealthy and self-destructive life style. Some are unfortunate through no fault of their own. Whatever the case, the system most capable of delivering the best health care for the most people is one based on the choices of consumers in a free market -- not the choices of government bureaucrats.

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

L.A. Needs "Half Off"



By Doug Epperhardt

Organizers of the campaign to cut L.A. city's elected officials' salaries by 50 percent continue to pick up speed. Seeking to place the "half-off" initiative on the November 2010 ballot, the group is filing paperwork with the state to establish an official committee that will determine the message, raise funds, and organize volunteers.

Starting in 1990, the pay of the mayor, city attorney, city controller, and city council members was tied to that of judges. Currently, the 15 members of the council get \$178,879 per year—100 percent of a judge's salary. The controller gets 10 percent more, the city attorney 20 percent more, and Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa 30 percent more.

City council members get substantially more than the approximately \$116,000 annual pay of a state legislator. In fact, L.A.'s elected politicians are the highest paid in the nation.

A consequence of these high wages is that politicians from other cities are now moving into Los Angeles to run for office. Recently, Paul Koretz, who lived in West Hollywood and was just elected to the State Assembly, left that position after a few months and ran for, and won, election to the fifth Council District.

Paul Kerkorian, who represents Glendale and Burbank in the Assembly, is now running for the seat formerly held by Wendy Greuel. Another candidate for the second district—Christine Essel—also moved into the district to run.

At least four candidates for this council seat, Mary Benson, Michael McCue, Louis Pugliese and Frank Sheftel, and have pledged to support the half-off idea.

The folks behind the 50-percent pay cut are Neighborhood Councils and Community Activists. Their plan is to kickoff a publicity tour seeking endorsements from neighborhood councils and regional alliances, as well as other organizations seeking to influence the way city hall runs.

It's expected that actual signature gathering will commence in January. The committee will have 180 days to garner enough signatures (239,442) of valid, registered voters in the city of L.A. to qualify the measure to amend the city charter. The actual amendment would merely insert the word "half" into the section that spells out how elected officials are compensated.

For more information about the proposed charter amendment, call the "half-off" campaign committee at 310-953-7790. A website will be online in August.

Editor's Note: Doug Epperhardt serves on the board of the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council as well as various other community organizations.

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I M A G I N E



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PUBLIC SAFETY

LAPD Captured Armed Persons Involved in Road Rage



Commander Jorge Villegas,
Los Angeles Police Department
Valley Operation Bureau

Combating violent crime remains a continued focus and top priority for the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). The LAPD recognizes that combating gang crime and crimes involving handguns are a top concern for all community members within the San Fernando Valley. In response to information received from the community and crime occurrence data, the Department is able to proactively distribute its resources in response to current crime trends.

On the night of Tuesday, July 14, the Department had received such information and assigned available resources into the adjacent neighborhoods of Mission and Devonshire Police Divisions.

On that night, at approximately 10:00 pm, LAPD Sergeant Matthew Plugge, an eleven year veteran assigned as a field supervisor with the Violent Crime Task Force (VCTF), was stopped in traffic in the area of the Roscoe Boulevard and Haskell Avenue intersection. While awaiting the traffic ahead of him, his attention was drawn to a possible road rage incident in which one driver and his passengers were exchanging heated words with another vehicle. The Sergeant monitored the vehicle and attempted to conduct a traffic stop to further investigate the activity. The driver and one passenger immediately fled from the

vehicle and ran into a nearby hotel. One passenger remained in the vehicle and was found to be in possession of a handgun. Multiple units from the VCTF, as well as Devonshire, and Mission Stations responded and closed the area around the hotel. Ultimately, the driver and other passenger were apprehended without incident and two additional handguns were recovered. All three suspects, who are documented members and associates of local violent street gangs, were arrested and face several felony firearms charges

This incident reflects the continued effort and commitment demonstrated by LAPD officers, who are working to keep our neighborhoods and work locations safe from predatory street criminals in the San Fernando Valley.

News From Foothill



Captain Ivan Minsal, LAPD
Commanding Officer
Foothill Patrol Division

It is July and our City is facing a hot dry summer for 2009. Crime in the Foothill Area is down about 10% with the exception of aggravated assaults. We have seen no set patterns, other than it is spread out among the entire area. As for property crime, auto related crime is down, but remains at the top of the list for our enforcement activities. Please, always lock your car and keep all valuables out of sight.

During the next few months, supervisory personnel from LAPD and LAFD from the San Fernando Valley will be training on evacuation policy, procedures, and tactics for brush fires and other disasters that may occur in the Valley.

With the lack of rain, the surrounding vegetation has become very dry, posing a fire threat during the summer and fall months of the year. Some simple steps to follow, if you are evacuated, are to ensure that you have your valuables, important papers, and medicines ready to go in a sealed bag or

case. Remember to plan for clothing, food, and water--and don't forget your pets and their food.

In the event of an evacuation, Police Officers and Firefighters will give you as much notice as possible, but you may only have a matter of minutes to leave if the winds shift or road access is blocked. As always, have a plan and a survival kit ready that is made for you, your family and pets.

On a side note, I ask all of you to please cut back and clear away the dry vegetation on your property as requested by LAFD. If you have questions or concerns, you can always call the City's 311 information hot line for answers. Please be safe and have an enjoyable summer.

Finally, my partner for the past two years is leaving. Captain Joseph Curreri will be retiring after 35 years of dedicated service to people of the City of Los Angeles. He has been Foothill's Area Commanding Officer for the past three years. His leadership, experience, and friendship will be missed by all of us who live and work in the Foothill Area. Please join me in wishing Captain Curreri a long and wonderful retirement.

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Help Save VHGC

I just reread Peggy Rice's article concerning the Verdugo Hills Golf Course in the Glendale News-Press Community Forum (June 23) and can't believe I missed the glaring mistake in the caption under the picture. It refers to keeping the open space, or selling to developers. The course WAS sold to developers almost 5 years ago! I can't help but wonder how many people are under this misconception.

The issue now is to keep development from happening. The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) was issued in May and now it is up to the community to respond. We are only given until Aug 20 to offer our comments.

What would be very helpful, if possible, would be for The North Valley Reporter to conduct a survey of its readers as to whether the golf course should remain as it is, or the developer be allowed to build 229 single family homes on the acreage.

Detailed information about the entire effort can be found at Savethegolfcourse.org, and I urge interested readers to visit the site.

Judy Seelig
La Crescenta

Don't Destroy Verdugo Hills GC

The proposed destruction of the Verdugo Hills Golf Course is due to Greed. If Environmental Sanity prevails, the destruction of the VHGC would never be allowed. We now have a beautiful Green Zone, an irreplaceable recreation area, and enough vehicle traffic in the area to be dangerous to commuters and residents living around Lowell Avenue and Tujunga Canyon Blvd.

MWH, the developer, is planning to build 229 homes on cramped lots and plans to have two car garages for each unit, plus an additional 1/2 car parking space per unit in their project. This means he expects to have 572.5 more cars in our existing Green Zone on roads already jammed. The additional traffic will simply choke the whole area. Residents will find it dangerous driving on the streets, and choke on exhaust fumes from idling traffic while waiting for traffic lights to change. This will destroy the beautiful Green Zone and the scenic beauty of the entire area.

If each home sells for \$300,000, the developer will receive a very sizable profit on total sales value of \$68,700,000. If the properties sell for \$400,000, total sales value will be \$91,600,000. Developers do not overlook these dollar amounts. La Crescenta and Sunland-Tujunga residents must unite and force local politicians to help us defeat this outrageous, destructive plan.

Other developments are already in the works in this area. Acceptance of the destruction of VHGC is environmental insanity. We need all of the Green Zones we can get, along with less vehicle traffic in the area.

Len Hoffman
Tujunga

Dear Neighbors,

My name is Jeremiah Weaver. I am a member of Boy Scouts of America, Troop 307. I am currently working towards the coveted rank of Eagle Scout and am in need of your support. I plan to construct a Batting Cage Complex for Tujunga Little League for my Eagle Scout project.

This Complex will encompass a full size-batting cage along with several batting drill stations which are essential to help fully develop the skills and habits of all who practice. There's no doubt this project embraces large ambitions and requires extensive fundraising and volunteer efforts. This is why I ask for your assistance. The cost of this project has been projected to be around \$10,000. This estimate includes gravel, metal re-bar, fence poles, concrete, chain link fence, mesh netting, and any other materials which may be needed to complete this enormous project. I am asking if you might be kind enough to please make a contribution of money, needed materials, or volunteer services. Please do not feel obligated to make a donation of any sort. But please know that, if you are able to do so, all contributions, no matter what the size, will help make this project possible. All who make a donation will receive a personal letter of gratitude and be included on a published list of contributors. Any surplus funds after the project is finished will be donated back into the league itself. I believe that with your support we can allow for this project to be a high point in Tujunga Little League History. Contact me at: (818) 397-8240

Jeremiah Weaver
Tujunga

Career Politicians Have Unfair Advantage

Does the "front runner" in any election equate to the fattest campaign chest? How long a candidate has lived in the district, or how good they are at representing their constituents, seems to come in second to how long that Candidate has been a Politician.

From a laymen's standpoint, a candidate elected into a California political office spends more than half their time, staff, and money as a candidate and campaigner. Does this constant election cycle focus more attention to their political career, than representing a huge gerrymandered district?

If standard wisdom says an incumbent is impossible to unseat, and career politicians who jump from job to job carry the same impact as incumbents- why would grass roots local candidates want to run against them?

Novice candidates running a campaign learn that issues don't matter, depth of knowledge doesn't matter, community involvement doesn't matter, commu-

nity projects don't matter, desire to represent their community doesn't matter and common sense doesn't matter. Simple, the only thing that matters is name recognition and "Money" seems to be the only way to get name recognition.

Take a look at campaign chests. Despite Kerkorian and Gatlzan's waffling in public about their intent to run as a candidate, as career politicians know they can open a new campaign chest and start accepting contributions well in advance of declaring their intention to run. March, 2009, was the day to open a campaign chest for this September 22 election and "insider" Candidates are aware of this. The winner of this special CD#2 election will probably open another account in October of this year for the regular election in 2011. But by October, they will have raised far more money than a "grassroots" candidate just by virtue of a seven month lead. More time usually means more money.

The private sector assumes volunteers working on a campaign donate their time for free. Campaign volunteers are actually paid interns grooming themselves for a life of public service beginning with those campaign contributions.

All of their volunteers are experts at campaigning, event planning and publicity. Many may feel intimidated with the issues of land use, code enforcement, transportation and partnering with others or abiding by state and federal laws and regulations.

But no matter- the more intimidating those issues are, the easier it is to buy a speech and sell it to the people. To a layman, it looks as if staff from the candidate's former political office move with them, from office, to campaign, and back to staff- hardly a fair advantage for any political newcomer.

By Brian Roberts
Sun Valley

Banners Need to Go

I write to my councilperson a lot but I never get any responses like the ones Greig Smith does to his constituents. I have been asking for those Caesar Chavez banners to be removed from my

community, but I get no response, I think that we are all entitled to a reply, are we not?

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Carrick's Journey —Part Twenty By Tomi Lyn Bowling

Drake and Fanella were struck by the sheer number of people at this gathering. They had believed they were in a largely empty forest

when they first arrived. Suddenly, the mass of chattering people went silent. A man stood tall in a raised portion of cliff that had been dug out to form a makeshift stage. A voice spoke as his hands both raised simultaneously.

Maddie gasped aloud when she realized that was Sebastian. She didn't mean to be rude but instinctively pointed and proclaimed, "That's our guide!" Fanella ushered the pair further into the crowd and closer to the platform as Sebastian spoke. Fanella seemed to be known by most and they seemed to willingly clear a path for her. She stopped only a short distance from the platform and Sebastian gave a slight nod to her acknowledging their close position.

There was so much going through Drake's head that his silence worried Fanella. She stared at him for a moment and then asked him "are you alright Drake?". He looked at her briefly and the lock of their gaze answered her question without a single word spoken. She knew in an instant he was simply taking it all in, every detail. Drake was making mental notes. He had already assessed the fifteen armed guards in front of the platform, the twenty eight armed guards at the top level monitoring the crowd, the existence of some kind of guns in cases at the back of the area and a room behind double doors to the side that gave off a bluish glow.

Fanella noticed him looking at the room and interrupted his stare. "It's the control room. We don't have much left in electronics but we still have some bits and pieces. Not everyone knows about it Drake. I will show you when Sebastian finishes speaking."

Having missed very little of the speech they both now turned and attentively listened to Sebastian. The crowd seemed to want to be waiting anxiously for him to speak. His words began to flow and seemed to be soothing to the crowd. "My friends we are facing some of the darkest times we've ever known. We've seen it coming for a long time. This day was bound to come. We remained hidden from them for great many decades. With our food resources halted by the killing and capture of many stewards, we are now faced with a great dilemma. Do we try to continue to remain hidden in the hope that the enemy will leave this place for lack of food and unaware of the large population we hold? Or is it time to take a stand for our colonies and take the offensive to protect our people?" Heads were nodding, a calm but audible humming permeated the room as groups of people looked to each other and discussed his words. ...to be continued.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA!

By Richard Stewart and Nina Royal

America's Birthday Party celebration on the 4th of July was kicked off with a Parade, sponsored by the Sunland-Tujunga, Shadow Hills Rotary Club, down Foothill Blvd starting at 10 am. The Mt. Gleason Runners kicked off the parade this year with what is now going to be the annual "Marathon Mile" foot race down Foothill from Mt Gleason to Sunland Park! It was a perfect opener as excitement and cheers were heard all along the boulevard as they raced to the finish. The Grand Marshals consisting of representatives of the Service Clubs of Sunland-Tujunga were escorted in a vintage Gypsy Wagon that had actually been used in this area and restored by Jim Moore and the S-T Chamber of Commerce. The parade

attracted a broad range of community members who continually volunteer and participate in the small town spirit of America's original settlers.

Three thousand people enjoyed the annual fireworks display at Verdugo Hills High School headed by Sonia Tatulian, in coordination with community organizations and sponsors, who according to attendees deserve accolades for their well-organized event and best ever display of fireworks. Any money realized after expenses go to local school programs through the Verdugo Hills High School Community Grant Fund. Sunland-Tujunga's Chamber of Commerce announced Catherine Vaananen as the new Honorary Mayor of Sunland-Tujunga between sets of the "Battle of the Bands".

Hansen Dam, in Lake View Terrace, accommodated approximately 25,000 thousand celebrators with the help of the still popular 1980's era band, "Tierra", who starred in the Richie Valens Story, as one of the main daylight attractions. The "Battle of the Bands" took place in the morning followed by "Tierra" in the afternoon. There were also food vendors and carnival rides for children. This year the spectacular Fireworks show was the "real McCoy" instead of the disappointing Laser Show last year. Bobby Arias along with Community in Schools planned and hosted this successful event. According to LAPD's Sergeant Herrold Egger, the event was so well organized that even with that amount of people, it took place without any major incidents.



The Village Where There Was "Nothing to Do"

By Marlene Hitt

Once upon a time a small village sprung up beside a river. It began to grow, bit by bit. Another village started to the east, to the west, to the north and to the south. The downhill settlers were farmers; the uphill people were town folk. As the years went by the villages grew until the boundaries were invisible and all the villages became one town. Not only that, the villages shouldered up to a great metropolis and became a part of the city.

The settlements in the west were filled with stables and corrals housing horses, mules, donkeys, alpacas, llamas and all kinds of animals. The hills invited hikers and riders; streams cooled the feet of the people. In the canyons were hidden streams and waterfalls, pools and ferny ravines.

However, though the houses and stores, churches and schools multiplied, not much really changed. The Rotary put on the Fourth of July parade every year and on that day the whole town lined the boulevard as neighbors watched and waved to neighbors.

Later that evening a fireworks show lit up the sky over the high school and everyone in town watched as they ate the great food sold there. People helped each other. The Chamber of Commerce put on the fireworks with help from the Coordinating Council, the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council, and the high school leadership class.

In the fall, the Lions hosted the Watermelon festival, now famous everywhere, even to a half page in Westways Magazine. They showcased not only the Lions and the great festival, but also the other organizations as well at the festival.

The Coordinating Council and the local museum put together the overly well attended Historic Home and Garden Tour earning funds that supplied scholarships to Verdugo Hills High School students and upkeep of the Little Landers Historical Society.

At Easter time the Kiwanis shuttled people up a rutted road to the Cross of San Ysidro, a marker of pride in the days of the settlers, for the Easter Sunrise Service. The Lions hosted an Easter Egg Hunt. The historical society gathered audiences in the clubhouse to hear lectures, music and parties in the old, old club-

house. The museum was visited by children from schools and adults who traveled to interesting places. The Elks Lodge was filled with town folks for a comedy show, for breakfasts, and for community groups, for Elks-sponsored dinner dances and meals. The American Legion held Memorial Day and Veterans Day services with locals gathering around the memorial in the park and they put out flags on holidays. Churches had weekly services, open to everyone, concerts and plays. Schools were busy with their own galas and events.

At the parks, baseball games continued all season, carnivals sprung up over week-ends, the people strolled in great numbers. Kiwanis members started and kept a Little League program going with local businesses helping out. Playground equipment was shiny new, a skateboard park well attended, basketball and handball and tennis courts available. Three parks were available and all were lovely.

Cafes had Internet access, music, sometimes poetry. Village poets met once a month at the library. The Friends of the Library held summer reading programs for children and craft classes, programs, and lots of computers. Newspapers were provided for folks who loved to sit quietly in a temperature controlled book-lined room. The local art center held classes in painting, ceramics, music lessons...art of all kinds over the years, and art shows.

A neighborhood council drew the civic minded, a land use committee shouted out for conformity, disaster preparedness appealed to many, the police were honored and the fire department too. At the Senior Center, lunch was nutritious and inexpensive and the classes and parties were superb. The YMCA, with the pool and equipment, kept all ages busy all day except when they had a meeting of Scouts, California Rangers, and other youth groups.

So much was going on in town that it was a real chore to find time to attend out of town activities. Yet, the villagers said, as all villagers do, everywhere, THERE'S NOTHING TO DO!

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



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