

## PHC Breaks Ground Despite Opposition

By Katharine Russ

Nearly 450 people attended a formal ground breaking ceremony at Providence Holy Cross Medical Center (PHC) in Mission Hills on Monday, May 12. Among the Dignitaries in attendance were Bishop Gerald E. Wilkerson of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Councilmember Tony Cardenas, Councilmember Greig Smith's Chief of Staff, Mitch Englander, and former Assemblymember, Dr. Keith Richman. They each gave a testimonial in support of PHC's mantra, "Care Can't Wait." They reiterated that the PHC expansion is necessary to meet the growing critical needs of the City of L.A. as well as Santa Clarita..

The 136-bed addition is one of only three hospitals in the nation, and the first in California, to be recognized by the Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Grand Building Rating System, which is the nationally recognized benchmark for environmentally friendly-conscious design, construction and operation... PHC Chief Executive Kerry Carmody said. "This expansion will set new standards for hospital design, both for quality health care and for environmentally efficient features, We have worked with the community to come up with the best possible plan to meet a growing need for hospital beds, while being sensitive to environmental concerns."

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*Holy Cross Groundbreaking*

## Sober Living Facilities Need Regulation

By Katharine Russ

Adult Recovery Maintenance Facilities (RMF), more commonly called Sober Living facilities (SLF), are defined in Senate Bill 992, (SB 992), as "alcohol- and drug-free housing facilities, which are staffed and where there are rules, peer-led groups, and other structured operations and programs directed toward adults in early stages of recovery from substance abuse or who recently completed an intensive alcohol or drug abuse recovery or treatment program. An adult recovery maintenance facility is not an unstructured living arrangement that requires residents to abstain from using alcohol or drugs." SB 992 would require these facilities to be licensed by the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP).

Unlicensed, unregulated Sober Living facilities are "popping up" in many single-family neighborhoods all over Los Angeles and are, often, purchased by convicted felons and converted to house an inordinate amount of clientele.

In her March 31, 2008 letter to the Honorable Sheila Kuehl, Senate Health Committee Chair, Peggy Burgess, North Hills resident, maintains, "These facilities house as many as 20 or 30 parolees, probationers, (including convicted sex offenders) alcoholics, addicts and paranoid schizophrenics. Most are located within walking distance of businesses that sell alcoholic beverages and many are within walking distance of known drug dealers. In some facilities, bunk beds are installed on every wall, in every bedroom, in order to accommodate as many as six to eight persons per room. There is no mandatory drug or alcohol testing and no eviction policy for repeat offenders. There is no medical supervision to assure that the mentally ill stay on their medication." Burgess urged passage of AB 724 currently in the Senate Health Committee.

Families in these neighborhoods never receive notification of these conversions and police officers are often unaware of the existence of these facilities. Be-



cause these facilities are rarely licensed they pose a serious threat to the community.

Jerry Small, a resident of Venice, said, "Large commercial trucks make bulk deliveries, in the manner done at restaurants and supermarkets. Street parking is being taken away from residents by the cars of the daily-shift employees of the facilities and by the cars of the visitors to the patients/clients living in the facilities."

Tamir Dayan lives next door to an SLF. He says, "I just finished building my house in a quiet residential area so my daughters can safely play in the backyard. About 3 months ago, an SLF opened a rehab facility next door to me and they are operating under the definition of a sober living facility so they can have as many people as they want. Right now, they have between 13 - 20 people, plus a guardian. Since they moved in, we cannot enjoy our backyard. We are sharing 300 linear feet of fence which in some places is only four feet high. We do not allow our two little girls (three yrs old and one year old) to be in the backyard due to very heavy cigarette smoke and foul language.

Some parents have even cancelled play dates with my little girl because of this. All the time there is loud music, people talking loudly and using foul language. Traffic has increased and there are parking issues in the area. At night, people at the facility sit outside in the backyard playing music and talking loudly until late hours. My wife and I are extremely stressed and she is terrified to be alone in the house especially at night."

SB 992 would mandate that SLF's maintain documentation of services, progress made by clients referred by public agencies and must provide recovery maintenance services while Assembly Bill 724 (AB 724) would allow cities and counties to "exercise its police power to regulate, without restriction, the use and occupancy of a single-family residence location in a single-family residential zone if the residence does not meet the definition of: (1) Licensed community care facility; (2) A licensed alcoholism or drug recovery or treatment facility; (3) A facility operating under a valid license issued by another state or by a federal agency for residential programs; (4) A sober living home."

L.A. City Councilmember Greig Smith said, "The burgeoning number of all kinds of group homes, including sober living homes, in residential neighborhoods, poses some serious problems that we want to address. There is no real regulation of group homes, and they often don't adhere to the requirement of having six or fewer residents." Smith recommended building and safety code enforcement as well as annual fire inspections as a first step in oversight of SLF's.

During the May 13 PLUM hearing, the L.A. City Attorney, along with the Planning Dept., disclosed that files that needed to be reviewed for the hearing were misplaced and not found until three weeks ago. Burgess, who attended that meeting, said, "It is unthinkable that not only did these two agencies not do their jobs, but, that neither had the common courtesy to so notify Councilman Smith's office in advance (regarding this hearing). What really set off bells for us

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## LA City Passes Baseline Mansionization



By Wendy Greuel  
L.A. City Councilwoman, District 2

We recently secured the first Citywide anti-mansionization ordinance in Los Angeles history. Following the example set by our community in Sunland-Tujunga, the Los Angeles City Council unanimously adopted an ordinance that will establish baseline standards to protect single family neighborhoods.

I introduced the City's first anti-mansionization ordinance in Sunland-Tujunga in 2004. Together, in a series of community meetings, we crafted regulations that would preserve the character of our neighborhoods. The new baseline ordinance will allow us to take this success Citywide.

We are all familiar with the phenomenon of building large, box shaped homes on small lots. These buildings often have little architectural design and at

times alter character of the community. The Citywide regulations will tie the amount of allowable square footage for new and remodeled single family homes to the size of the lot on which the house sits. For example, on a 5,000 square foot lot, a new building will be capped at approximately 3,000 square feet.

However, we know that no two neighborhoods are the same. Sunland-Tujunga residents may seek a different formula for calculating allowable area than will the residents of Sherman Oaks. For this reason, I worked to secure a process that will allow communities to create overlay zones with different requirements tailored specifically to the unique needs of their neighborhood. I am already working with the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council Design Advisory Committee to secure an overlay zone appropriate for the community. I look forward to finishing this process with you.

## 3rd Weekend in May was Festival Time



St. John Baptist de la Salle in Granada Hills struggled to recover after the tragic shooting which injured several volunteers on the morning on what was to be the kickoff for their 21st Annual International Festival.




Our Lady of Lourdes in Sunland-Tujunga held their "Family Fun Day, 2008 in the parking lot of their schools. They had the usual games, rides, food and live bands for entertainment. But, the highlight of the weekend for children was the appearance of Disney Radio's Booboo Stewart, center, with band members Adam, Davin, Henry and Nico. who call themselves Echoes of Angeles.

Continued from cover - SOBER

was the notable absence of members of the Sober Living Coalition/Network. It is unlikely they would miss an opportunity like that to press their case unless they had advance knowledge that there was nothing to put on the table. It was the responsibility of the City Attorney's Office, with the assistance of City Planning, to review existing Ordinances and provide a Report, including Land Use Control Recommendations that can be enacted Citywide to regulate Sober Living Homes." The report should have been completed by early December 2007, yet in May 2008, the report was still incomplete.

California Health and Safety Code Section 11834.23 does not prohibit requiring a Use Permit for facilities housing seven or more persons according to Alene M. Taber, Esq. and Michael J. Alti, Esq., attorneys in Irvine, CA, who examined Sober Living Homes and their adverse impacts on neighborhoods, in a report written March, 2007 citing, "increased density, over-crowding, limited parking, neighborhood incompatibility, transience, property marketability and values. SLF's are operating in the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego Counties. California State Assembly Bill AB 724 will be voted on by the Senate Health Committee on June 11. In conjunction with SB 992, AB 724 will provide local Code and Law Enforcement Agencies with the tools they need to regulate sober living homes housing seven or more individuals. [katharine.russ@charter.net](mailto:katharine.russ@charter.net)



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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Home Depot Evades Questions from Community

By Katharine Russ

Approximately 250 community leaders and residents attended the Design Advisory Committee (DAC) of the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council's (STNC) land use meeting on Monday, May 12 where Home Depot representatives were to unveil their plan for the conversion of the former K-Mart site to their proposed warehouse store. The meeting was, according to attendees, a complete waste of taxpayers money and their time.

Representatives of Home Depot refused to sign a "Presenter's Agreement" that has been a customary requirement for the past seven years in order to participate in DAC meetings. According to Tomi Lynn Bowling, DAC Recording Secretary and Representative for Businesses on the STNC Board of Directors, "It is not a difficult paragraph as it simply commits the presenter to sticking with their agreements, being honest and truthful and continuing a working relationship with the community throughout their project." Joe Barrett, President of the "No Home Depot Campaign" said, "Home Depot's presentation to the community turned out to be a complete farce, void of straight answers, full of spin, and with a cornucopia of 'misstatements'."

Home Depot representatives seemingly evaded many of the concerns voiced by residents. At one time a Penske Auto Center had occupied the K-Mart building. Yet there were no answers forthcoming regarding the removal of the oil waste clarifier, an act that the EPA would supervise and would constitute mitigation by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because of "toxic" soil. Francis Park, attorney for Home Depot, said, "The auto repair was not a part of the permit application so that didn't go into the equation of what a project was during that time. When we went and looked at it, those items were still there." He said that previous statements made were "misstatements." When asked if eight of the members on the DAC could see the building, he did not respond.

Bowling said, "We did not get any answers. They have no idea what the Foothill Boulevard Corridor Specific Plan says or what it means. They twist the truth to try to suit their purpose and have made no effort to address the concerns of the schools or the parents, and they made no excuse for lying to us previously regarding the existence of the auto repair shop equipment. They simply refuse to listen and that has been the case for four years. The warehouse storage and that brand of heavy vehicular traffic brought by a Home Depot are simply unacceptable. Home Depot needs to play by the rules, all of them. They are not above the law. They cannot claim to be working with the community and then refuse to actually work with the community."

Bowling also voiced concern over the children who attended schools in very close proximity to the Home Depot project. "This is an area that is traversed by all of the children at Mt. Gleason Middle School, Verdugo Hills High School and Apperson Elementary School and there is no way you can mitigate the fact that 337



school children play on the roads and cross them on Woodward and Apperson. That is 337 reasons why you need an EIR [Environmental Impact Report]. You could volunteer to do a full EIR."

Home Depot's Government Relations Representative, Francisco Uribe's answer was, "We have reached out to the principle. The EIR is something the City is determining for us. This store is much smaller than other stores. Traffic, and all you described, is speculative and we don't think that's going to be the case for that store. The City is studying the application we have submitted. We will consider that [the EIR] if that's the determination the City is going to make. But, right now, we don't think it's necessary." But, the L.A. City Council, along with Gail Goldberg, L.A.'s Director of Planning, had already determined Home Depot to be a "project" and subject to full environmental review in 2007. The question is: Will this vote be upheld or will the project be exempt from environmental review to avoid the "stay" in the lawsuit filed by Home Depot against the City of Los Angeles?

DAC Board Member, Dr. Lloyd Hitt, a retired pharmacist/historian/activist in Sunland-Tujunga for 40 years, spoke of the geographical location of the proposed store. He told the Home Depot representatives, "We are in a valley four miles long and 1.5 miles wide. Your trucks carrying heavy loads and idling while trucks are unloading will cause excessive pollution and noise 24 hours a day." Hitt was confident there would be a considerable health risk.

One of the issues of concern that begs mitigation is that traffic will increase on Foothill Blvd. and Home Depot delivery trucks might use the side streets to avoid traffic. Jeff Nichols, Real Estate Director for Home Depot's Western Region, responded that the notion that Home Depot would create more traffic up and down that Boulevard than a Target or any other store is clearly not really looking at the project.

Kathryn Gallagher, spokesperson for Home Depot, did not attend the meeting but said, "During that meeting, the company briefed community members on its new permit application in detail and answered all questions directly related to the new application. Home Depot is reaching out to local residents and stakeholders proactively to offer additional briefings to those interested. In addition, the company is currently preparing assessments of traffic, noise, air quality and other issues, and expects to submit that document to the City of Los

Angeles within a few weeks. Home Depot will then immediately make that information available to the community. Those documents should address the environmental questions raised by the DAC. The City will use this information to make its final determination about the appropriate level of environmental review required for the site."

The representatives for Home Depot declined an invitation from the STNC's land use committee to return on their scheduled June 2 meeting, in order to furnish answers and provide information they were not prepared for on May 12. The DAC wanted to know the following:

- A decision by Mr. Nichols as to when the DAC can tour the 8040 Foothill Blvd. site.
- The address of a Home Depot location that does not store or display merchandise for sale on grounds outside their building
- Present copies of their technical study report regarding: Traffic, Noise, Air Quality, Urban Decay and the Phase 1 Environmental Impact Area & Public Records findings for review by the DAC. If not completed, the DAC wants a proposed date of completion.
- Information with regards to Home Depot site(s) that share similar characteristics with the proposed Home Depot in Sunland-Tujunga such as: adjoining residential areas and cross streets on three sides of Home Depot property; a school within 500 feet of the warehouse; sits in the middle of a very narrow valley between two mountain ranges.

Home Depot has scheduled a meeting with the Foothills Trails District Neighborhood Council's Land Use Committee, on Tuesday, June 3, and the Shadow Hills Property Owners Association (SHPOA) on Monday, June 9, although they are outside the Sunland-Tujunga community. Both groups are encouraging all interested parties to attend. *katharine.russ@charter.net*

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Granada Hills Groups Seek to Stop "Big Box" Kohls

Residents and businesses of Granada Hills were not able to convince L.A. City Hall to scale back a proposed over-expansion of the Granada Village Shopping Center (GVSC) and honor the Granada Hills' Specific Plan. Therefore, opponents, backed by Old Granada Hills Residents' Group and newly formed Granada Hills Alliance for Smart Growth, filed a writ of mandate with the Superior Court on Friday, May 16, 2008 against the City of Los Angeles, and the Florida-based property-owners Regency Centers. The opponents intend to stop what they say is an overly-ambitious project that is not in accordance with their Granada Hills Specific Plan.

The GVSC is located on the northwest intersection of Chatsworth St. and Zelzah Ave., in a low-density area of Granada Hills. Their neighborhood shopping center was originally built in 1960 and limited in size after renovation and expansion following the 1994 earthquake.

Opponents of the project are concerned about the negative effects the regional discount retail "Big Box" Kohls store will have in the quiet, peaceful, semi-rural neighborhood that is a considerable distance from the nearest freeway. Their concerns include higher crime, increased traffic, air pollution, reduced parking, diminished business, negative impact on residential and commercial property values, and unfair competition with established mom and pop stores who will be unable to compete fairly and could be forced to close. Members of both Groups said that because Kohls will

be over 95,000 sq. ft., more than twice the size of other stores in the area, it is not compatible with the character of the small unique neighborhood of Old Granada Hills.

The proposed project is not in accordance with the Granada Hills Specific Plan nor many city ordinances, which designate that building are to be "small in scale", keeping the unique character of the area. Both Groups believe the project is a blatant violation of their established local planning and zoning laws that were made to protect their neighborhood. "If this overbuilding, what I call 'Commercial McMansionization,' can ignore our Granada Hills Specific Plan regarding zoning and land use laws so blatantly, then practically any developer's project can go through regardless of size or it's harmful neighborhood impacts. This will have a negative affect to all neighborhoods in the city of Los Angeles" says Jim Summers, one of the petitioners against the proposed project.

Initially, Frank Quan, with L.A. City Planning Department, recommended denial of the project on numerous grounds, with the proposed size being clearly rejected. However, Councilmember Greig Smith, Representative for Council District 12, supports the developer's project, despite the Granada Hills Specific Plan. Also, despite the opposition by four Neighborhood Councils in the area who are on record with the City of L.A., voicing their opposition to the project as presently proposed by Regency Cen-

ters. However, the politically appointed North Valley Area Planning Commission approved the project, as did later the L.A. City Council, and is perceived by the opposition's legal counsel, Mark Sellers, in "an incredibly hurried hearing without doing due diligence".

The legal firm of Jackson, Demarco, Tidus, & Peckenpaugh is representing the opponents to the proposed project. Their Attorney, Mark Sellers, said, "We feel Regency Centers chose the inappropriate, but quicker "variance" process, rather than seeking a "zone change". Q conditions are adopted by the City Council as special zoning limitations on development. If a Q condition can simply be removed by an administratively approved variance, which significantly undermines those zoning standards and what residents assume is a fixed limitation."

The Granada Hills Alliance for Smart Growth is sponsoring two meetings on Wednesday, June 4, at the Granada Pavilion, 11128 Balboa Blvd. 7:00 p.m. "Overbuilding in the North Valley": Cases requiring variances and proving hardship. Who really are the decision-makers? 8:00 p.m. "Opponents to Regency Centers' Proposed Kohls Overbuilding": updating the opponents to the "Kohls" overbuilding project in the community, and explaining what options may now be available to attain a reasonable solution. Visit [www.GranadaHillsAlliance.org](http://www.GranadaHillsAlliance.org) for further information regarding required reservations.

## North Hills Holds Neighborhood Clean Up Day



By Sgt. Adrian Torres

On Saturday April 26, approximately 60 residents of North Hills came together to clean up the neighborhood. This is an annual event that keeps growing each year with community support. This event is spearheaded by Gloria Prado from the City Attorney's Office and Senior Lead Officer Edwin Dominguez, LAPD, Mission Area.

The cleanup began at Langdon Elementary School and spread through the neighborhood, which covers Langdon Ave, Orion Ave, Parthenia St, Rayen St, Nordhoff St, and Sepulveda Blvd. City resources were utilized for graffiti cleanup, street sweeping, bulky item pick-ups, and conservation corps for brush cleanup. These resources were used to support the real cleanup efforts, which begins with brooms, shovels, trash bags, and rakes. Residents who live in the neighborhood did the work. They take great pride and are very enthusiastic, cleaning up the neighborhood with their bare hands.

The area of the clean up at times gets negative attention due to the gang that claims this territory, but there are a lot of positive improvements in the area and the clean up is one such example. The clean up is a wonderful event that brings out families, neighbors, and friends working side by side to bring a sense of pride back to this neighborhood. The youngest participant picking up trash was a five year old little girl. The biggest impact created from this event is pride throughout the neighborhood. The next time someone decides to throw that piece of paper on the street, remember that little five year old girl picking up after them on clean up day.

After the clean up, participants were treated to lunch at Langdon Elementary School and a tour of LAPD Mission Station.

For further information regarding clean-up efforts in your Neighborhood within Mission Area, please contact the Mission Area Senior Lead Office, at 818-838-9840.



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# NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL NEWS

## Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council



By Dan McManus  
President

With a newly-elected board of 22 eager volunteers, the 2008/2010 Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council is getting right to the business of improving the quality of life in the community. The new STNC board will fulfill its charter by helping improve the quality of life and offering opportunities for everyone in the community to become involved in shaping the direction of Sunland Tujunga.

The STNC is presenting our community's annual 4th of July celebration – "2008 Family Fireworks Festival" in coordination with the S-T Chamber of Commerce, S-T - Shadow Hills Rotary Club, S-T Lions Club, S-T American Legion Post 377, Verdugo Hills High School Dons Football, S-T Alliance, and the S-T Coordinating Council. This year's event celebrates America with the participation and cooperation of our many dedicated community groups

We invite you to save the high cost of gas this holiday by staying in town and attending our Rotary Club's hometown 4th of July Parade in the morning, family activities scheduled in Sunland Park after the parade, then the 2008 Family Fireworks Festival held on the Verdugo Hills High School Athletic Field. Gates open at 4 PM. Ticket and food prices, like last year, are being kept at family-friendly levels (\$5 admission) and kids less than 36 inches tall will get in free. All proceeds for this event will be used to create the Verdugo Hills High School Community Grant Fund, which will offer matching grants to qualifying VHHS organization fundraisers. We are currently seeking sponsors to help support this exciting event. Sponsorships range from the \$100 Colonists Donor level to the \$2,500 Patriot Sponsor level, with many options in between. If you, your family, or your business is interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact any of the organizations referenced above.

Would you like to become involved in our community? We invite you to participate in our monthly meetings held the second Wednesday of each month. Visit our website ([www.stnc.org](http://www.stnc.org)) for more information as well as regular updates on important issues. If you have an active group in our community with an upcoming event, let us know. We will help get the word out. Most of all, tell your friends, neighbors, and families that we are here to assist you.



I am introducing our STNC Board Members, their position and their email address. You can contact any of them if you have issues, suggestions, wish to volunteer to work on specific community issues, or participate in one of our many active committees such as, Bylaws, Budget, Education, Election, Land Use, Outreach, Safety, Transportation, etc.

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## Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council

May Benson  
Vice President

Sun Valley Renaissance helped turn Byrd Middle School into Small Campus High School Complex. What began as a nightmare scenario of dueling High Schools is turning into a dream, thanks to the inspiration of two members of the Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council, Mike O'Gara and Karl Kunak and the support of LAUSD Board Member Julie Korenstein. LAUSD had proposed a new high school campus directly across Arleta Avenue from aging John H. Francis Polytechnic High School.

O'Gara and Kunak, worried about possible violent rivalries, took the initiative and convinced the LAUSD Board to upgrade Richard Byrd Middle School to a Small Campus High School complex and turn the new campus into a state-of-the-art middle school. "High School Students driving cars to the former middle school will impact me personally" mused O'Gara, "but it's all about the kids and giving them a shot at a better future and a good life."

"We needed to send a message to kids in middle school that they're important" said Karl Kunak, "Over 50% of kids entering High School drop out. Mike and I took our concerns direct to LAUSD and they listened to us. Now we have a Middle School and three small learning centers positioned next to housing and industry that can create career based curriculums."

Sun Valley is the epicenter for one of the country's first city-designated Environmental Justice Zones. Sun Valley is home to a cascade of environmental impacts, including over 40 closed landfills, recyclers, junk yards, auto repair, plating companies, reclaimed water storage, gravel mining, major trucking yards and haulers, a railroad, two freeways and the Valley's only Power Plant. The Power Plant and County Flood Control Facilities all show up as Open Space on our community plan. but none of them are currently open to public access. The amount of space available for people to live, work and play is severely restricted and fragmented. The City Departments need to consider public-private partnerships to implement solutions, not continue to fund another decade of meetings and another dozen studies to identify problems. We must move forward

to implement proposed solutions and prepare for the future, not just continue to be the poster child representing the tragic example."

"Sacramento predicts the next economic boom for California will come from conversion energy technologies. These technologies could turn Sun Valley's garbage into a goldmine. We're going to need a skilled technical workforce to staff those new companies. We're going to need the technical innovations that are being developed in foreign countries. It's technical career paths we're missing.

Not every job should require a college degree to start. The ratio of students entering high school that graduate college hasn't changed that much in forty years. What's deplorable is half the student body entering as 9th graders have no incentive to graduate from High School. We need to encourage kids to stay in high school by teaching them skills that employers want and careers they can be proud of. I'd rather encourage employers to link internships and entry level jobs to career advancement through reimbursement incentives for employees who are motivated to pursue college."

Last year, Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council, (SVANC) Chamber of Commerce and Rotary worked with the Economic Alliance of the San Fernando Valley to produce "Sun Valley Renaissance" – a concept plan. The plan reinforces efforts to attract investment and affect change using the plan. Small Learning High Schools was one of the plan's recommendations.

Reconfiguration of the former Byrd Middle school will begin in May 2008. LAUSD expects the conversion to be complete by September 2010.

The following new Members were installed on the SVANC Board on May 13 as Representatives of the following categories:

Residents: Jerry Piro Mike O'Gara, Karina Garcia, Luis O. Medina, Business/Property Owner, Rafael Cardenas, Raul Gonzalez, Eldia Vasquez., Danielle Harmon, At-Large, Dionsio Alcalá Jr., Jon Eschbach, Art Sweet, Vinita McClennon. These Members will serve till April 2010

*Editors Note: Ms Benson is also Chairman of the SVANC Land Use Committee*

## News from Arleta

By Al Piantanida

A year ago, on July 9, 2007, our neighbors, elementary and high school students, parents and community groups participated in multiple community clean-up projects. District Six Councilmember Tony Cardenas, the Dept. of Public Works and the Arleta Watchdogs sponsored "Environmental Awareness Day". Over 1,000 volunteers throughout Arleta worked together in teams along side city workers. They cleaned sidewalks, gutters, alleys, vacant lots, remove graffiti, pickup bulky items and planted 75 trees along Branford St. The Dept. of Public Works installed new street light fixtures, filled over 300 potholes, trimmed overgrown trees on residential streets and replaced sidewalks that had tree root damage.

As of today, one year later, the Arleta community is cleaner and greener. Residents are taking pride in keeping their streets clear of illegal dumping, calling for bulky items pickup and graffiti removal when required. Councilmember Tony Cardena and his staff have put forth every effort to have streets repaved, sidewalks repaired, potholes filled, residential stop signs installed where needed, bright street lights and more.

Over 300 trees have been planted in Arleta and other projects are planned for the future. We continue to work very hard to keep vacant lots, DWP properties and unused city land weed and trash free. If you see areas with overgrown weeds in Arleta call the District Six Sun Valley Office 818-771-0236 to have it cleaned up. Or, you can call 311 for any service you require in the city of L.A.

The Arleta Community Watchdogs thank Councilmember Cardena and his staff for their service to the community and also the many residents for helping to make Arleta a wonderful place to live.

# Mark YOUR Calendar

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**  
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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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**Sunday, June 1**

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

**Monday, June 2**

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

**Tuesday, June 3**

**Primary Election Day**  
Don't forget to VOTE

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

**FTDNC Land Use re: Home Depot**  
Vinedale Elem. School  
Vindale, LTC  
7 pm

**Wednesday, June 4**

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

**Celebrate Puppetry Play**  
"Alice in the Shadows"  
McGroarty Arts Center  
7570 McGroarty Terr, S-T  
4-10 pm 837-9485

**Ribbon Cutting**  
Media Academy at  
Verdugo Hills High School  
10625 Plainview, S-T  
10 am

**Dept's Public Works & Water & Power**  
Joint Commission Meeting  
John Ferraro Building  
111 North Hope, LA  
1-3:30 pm 213-342-6233

**Thursday, June 5**

**Community Plan Meeting**  
McGroarty Art Center  
7570 McGroarty Terr, S-T  
7-9 pm 374-5049 or  
Katherine.Peterson@lac-ity.org

**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

**Saturday, June 7**

**Casino Night**  
American Leion #377  
10039 Pinewood, S-T  
6 pm 353-9856  
-see ad pg. 2

**Annual Picnic for Veterans**  
By S-T ElksLodge #2098  
at Sepulveda Vet. Admin.  
Volunteers Welcome  
Call 352-2098

**Rummage Sale**  
Shadow Hills Church  
10158 Johanna, SH  
8 am - 4pm

**Sunday, June 8**

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

**STA Pancake Breakfast & Blue Grass Bash!**  
**For Honorary Sheriff**  
ST Elks Lodge  
10137 Commerce, S-t  
8:30 - 11 am

**Shadow Hills-ST Rotary**  
Golf Tournament  
Verdugo Hills GC  
\$50 - 9 am 352-6171

**Monday, June 9**

**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, June 10**

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

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

**Community Plan Meet**  
FTDNC Office  
9747 Wheatland, SH  
7-9 pm 374-5049 or  
Katherine.Peterson@lacity.org

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

**MHNC General Meeting:**  
San Jose Elem. School  
14928 Clymer St. MH  
7 pm

**Wednesday, June 11**

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

**STNC Gen, Meeting.**  
North Valley City Hall  
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 pm

**Friday, June 14-Sat. July 3**

**Ceramics Exhibit & Benefit**  
Opening Reception  
McGroarty Arts Center  
7570 McGroarty, S-T  
5-9 pm 352-5285

**Friday, June 14**

**Flag disposal & Pot Luck**  
Bud Fales, American  
Legion  
10659 Mary Bell, SH  
353-3777

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Shrek 3 at Holleigh Bemson  
Park in Porter Ranch  
8 pm

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# Mark YOUR Calendar

**Sylmar Community Plan Meet.**

Palacio Torres  
12341 San Fernando Rd.  
11 am - 2 pm

**Father's Day Peace Walk**

Against Violence.- Osborne  
at Laurel Cyn to LAPD  
Station @  
Fernando Rd.  
11 am

**Sunday, June 15**

**Fathers Day**

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

**Monday, June 16**

**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, June 17**

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

**Teens & Money**  
Sylmar Library  
14561 Polk, Syl  
6 pm

**PCNC Finance Committee**  
PC Public Library  
14345 Roscoe Boulevard  
6:30 pm

**MHNC Beauti. & Cultural Com**  
10161 Sepulveda Blvd. MH.  
6:30 pm

**Wednesday, June 18**

**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

**Thursday, June 19**

**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

**Sunday, June 22**

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

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

**Tuesday, June 24**

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

**Wednesday, June 25**

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

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

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

**Thursday, June 26**

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

**Saturday, June 28**

**Elections-Pacoima NC**  
Pacoima Community Center  
Community Room  
11243 Glenoaks, Pac  
12 - 6 p.m.

**Sunday, June 29**

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

**Tuesday, July 1 -29**

**Jewels of the Foothills"**  
Art Show/Exhibit  
Bolton Hall Museum  
10110 Commerce, S-T  
5-9 pm 249-7270

**Friday, July 4**

**Happy Independence Day**

**Rotary's 4th of July Parade**  
Foothill & Mt. Gleason to  
Sunland Park - S-T  
10 am

**Family Holiday Festival & Fire Works**  
Verdugo Hills  
High Athletic Field  
Irma & Summitrose S-T  
Gates open 4 pm  
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# PUBLIC SAFETY

## Injunction Sought Against San Fer Gang

*Captain Jorge A. Villegas,  
Commanding Officer  
Mission Area Station  
Los Angeles Police  
Department*

The City Attorney's Office, the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office, the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and San Fernando Police Department are working together to bring forth a gang injunction against the San Fer gang, and to implement a safety zone in Sylmar. One of the reasons the injunction was proposed is that many members of the community have expressed that gangs - and the havoc they wreck - are one of Sylmar's most significant crime problems. This has been particularly true in the area of the proposed safety zone that is encompassed by the proposed injunction. Community members, during many Neighborhood Watch, Community Police Advisory Board, and other meetings, consistently express their desire for the eradication of gang-related crime. Intimidation, fear and a reduced quality of life is often cited as the primary outcomes of the prevalence of gangs in the community. Another reason that the injunction should move forward is that the concerns of the community are supported by crime data. The data shows that San Fer gang members not only bring intimidation and fear into the community, but also



illegal weapons, narcotics, graffiti, and an overall nuisance to the community. In the Sylmar area, the San Fer gang is linked to the vast majority of the gang crimes, including robbery, assaults, and burglary. The San Fer gang has made claims that the Sylmar Recreation Center - and other parts of the proposed safety zone - is their area; therefore, they create an intimidating atmosphere for students and families who would like use the park.

With this injunction, San Fer gang members will be precluded from associating with one another in the safety zone in any manner that promotes gang-related criminal activity. The gang injunction would assist the LAPD and San Fernando Police officers in arresting San Fer gang members

while in the safety zone. Gang injunctions have proved successful in the past. Last year, Mission Area experienced nearly a 34 percent decrease in gang crime, due in part to the enforcement of the gang injunctions in effect in Panorama City. Although a reduction, levels of gang violence and intimidation are still far too high throughout Mission Area and in Sylmar.

It is important to note is that gang injunctions are not our only strategy. It is one strategy of many. We will not abandon our prevention or intervention efforts. We will continue to work with community-based organizations, school, parole, probation and Recreation and Parks to name a few. Specifically, in the safety zone we have been, and will continue to be, intimately involved with the Sylmar Juvenile Task Force and the Lets Act Now community programs. Both efforts are collaborative, community programs that have sponsored resource fairs, job placement, and other efforts that are working toward the implementation of leadership development programs for the youth.

The LAPD will continue the endeavor to reduce crime, the fear of crime, and to improve the quality of life in the community. The use of the gang injunction as a suppression strategy that works hand-in-hand (as a balanced approach) with prevention and intervention strategies will prove a positive impact and help to make the community safer.

## "Fathers' Day Walk for Peace" Planned

*By Nina Royal*

Roger Avila, Principal of Saticoy Elementary School, lost his nephew, who was a victim of gang violence. His nephew is his inspiration and is driving him to coordinate the upcoming "Fathers' Day Peace Walk" to focus on unsolved crimes and children who lost their fathers. He hopes, by being proactive, he will be able to prevent more crimes during the summer, when crime typically increases. He is counting on the coordination of the council offices, the LAPD, the LAUSD, the media and participation by community members to help make this first annual Walk a success.

Mark your Calendar for June 14, at 11:00 am. The starting point is Osborne St. at Laurel Cyn. Blvd., and will end at the LAPD Foothill Division, at Osborne St., just below San Fernando Rd. They are asking participants to wear white shirts in remembrance of "our Angels in Heaven". They will receive Memory Cards to perpetuate the names of the persons they are walking in memory of.



*Docent Christine at "Sister Elsie's Well" located at what is now Foothill Retirement on St. Estaban, Tujunga*

*The 13th Annual Sunland-Tujunga Historic Home Tour took place on Sunday, May 4.*

Bolton Hall Museum and the Verdugo Hills High School Scholarship Fund shared Benefits from the event. The sponsors, Little Landers Historical Society and the Sunland-Tujunga Coordinating Council joined together "To Honor the Past and Support the Future" This prestigious volunteer's event is one of the highlights of the year for the community.

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# SOUND OFF

## Welcome on Board



Nayri Vartanian, Correspondent

By Peter DiNova

The North Valley Reporter proudly welcomes our new correspondent Nayri Vartanian to our family. Nayri, was born in Tehran, Iran, and moved to the United States with her family when she was three. She is currently a sophomore at Pasadena City College and plans to transfer to UCLA in the fall of 2009, in order to earn her Bachelors Degree in English.

You may have met her at the "Y" where she works as a Lifeguard and Swim Instructor. She will soon become a Lifeguard Instructor for the Crescenta-Canada, Verdugo Hills YMCA. In her spare time, when she is not attending functions and writing for the Reporter, she will continue attending Hayastan Dance and Music School as a way of remaining connected with her Armenian culture and community and for whom she will continue to dance for on special occasions.

## Poker Ride Held



Photo by Barry Wiggins

The San Fernando Rangers and their Side Kicks all Volunteer Organization held their successful Annual Poker Ride in Lake View Terrace on Sunday, May 3 to support their favorite charities. The Rangers provide search and rescue, security and mounted patrols in the Hanson Dam and are available to assist the LAPD and LAFD when needed.

## I'm Voicing My Frustration!

First and foremost, I want to thank Mike Braun, my Senior Lead, for cleaning up Brand Park of the illegal vendors. We still have a homeless guy who thinks he owns the place, but, that's coming to an end soon because the Safety Police are going to give me a badge so I can make some arrests. I have always wanted to be a Cop.

I doubt that anyone in Mission Hills reports more problems than I do. However, for some unknown reason, I get no cooperation from my Council District Seven Offices. When my Councilmember, Richard Alarcon, ran for office, he called my home as my friend and said he needed my support. I did just that, supported him. But once he got in office he changed. When I asked for something, he sent me to one of his guys whom I had never seen before. I told him my

problem and I never saw him again. When I would call Manny, who was also his Deputy when Alarcon was in the Senate office, he would jump on things in a heartbeat. Things have changed and not many people want to do the walk anymore, just do the talk. I don't deal in personalities; I only deal in realities. I work very hard to keep my community clean and that is all I want. No one has to like me, it's not about that, it's about doing what is right. I would like some sort of response, but that is also wishful thinking. Thanks for reading this.

Joe Pinoy Lozano  
Semper Fidelis  
USMC 1954-1957

## COMMENTARY

### Who does it really protect?

#### Prop 98 – CA Property Owners & Farmland Protection Act

By Glenn Bell

There is a new movement afoot, brought to us by "supposedly" The Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association. This new initiative is named the "California Property Owners and Farmland Protection Act". This referendum initiative has already been submitted to our elected State Attorney General, Jerry Brown's office. This item, which will be on the June 3, 2008 ballot, is at its best very deceptive, if not outright fraud. This bill, according to the state of California's Legislative Analyst office, there was not one mention of "Farmland". This is written in their analysis report to Jerry Brown. This initiative is, solely, about removal of anything that will hinder either a Mobile/Manufactured Park owner or an apartment owner's ability to make as much profit as possible. They don't just want to make it illegal to protect renters in apartments/ manufactured homeowners; they want to make it unconstitutional to do so. If you deem anything important in either the "CA. Landlord/Tenants Act", Mobile Home Residency Law", "CA. Health and Safety Codes", "CA. Mobile-Home Parks Act", "CA. Business and Professions Code", Local or State Zoning Ordinances, or any other ordinances put in place to protect Seniors, the disabled, the poor, the disenfranchised, and even small business owners, then you will absolutely be dismayed by what is in this bill.

#### Prop 98 will make it unconstitutional to:

- Make a landlord abide by any rules to evict a tenant. He would be allowed to evict "At Will".
- Make a landlord give either a 60 or 90 day notice of a rent increase
- Make a landlord uphold his agreements.
- Stop a landlord from using aggressive and abusive tactics to achieve what he or she wants.
- Stop a M/H Park owner from coming and towing an older home – which he does not own- out of a park so he can make more money.
- Stop a landlord from removing any amenity he deems as costly
- Stop a Landlord from wholesale evictions.
- Stop a landlord from Quadrupling the rent overnight.
- Put any restrictions on the landlord at all.
- For the city/county/state to pass any ordinance that may restrict his ability to make as much money as he thinks he possibly can.

Any ordinance in place that restricts a landlord's perceived ability to make profits will be deemed unconstitutional. These are just a few examples, but believe me, this is just the tip of the iceberg.

This, if allowed to happen, will be the undoing of CA. As it stands, to date, in Los Angeles County there are a reported 90,000 homeless. If Prop 98 passes, expect another million homeless, immediately, and many more to follow. Now would be a great time to get active.

For more information:  
[www.neighborhoodfriends.us](http://www.neighborhoodfriends.us)

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# THIS & THAT

## Building Healthy and Responsible Youth

By Nayri Vartanian

Today, youth in the United States face many more different challenges than generations past. The YMCA, with the help of 40 Developmental Assets, has partnered with the Search Institute, a nonprofit organization, whose goal is to promote young people, as well as children and communities, with positive experiences in their lives. The 40 Developmental Assets are grouped into eight areas that all young people need in order to grow up as healthy and responsible adults. Some examples of these groups are commitment to learning, positive values, and constructive use of time. Despite what one's gender, economic background, ethnicity, or geographic location might be, these 40 Developmental Assets support young people who exhibit positive behavior and attitudes and helps to steer them away from many different behavioral problems. Research done by the Search Institute has shown that most young people are not experiencing enough of these assets to grow up healthy and responsibly.

The YMCA offers several programs that promote a healthy body, mind, and spirit, and also offers an environment in which children and youth can grow healthy and learn to be responsible for themselves as well as their community. Some of these programs include full day preschool, after school child care for school aged children, Y winner's youth sports program, swimming lessons, summer day camp, Youth and Government (Y&G), and Model United Nations (Model UN).

Parents feel comfortable that their children are surrounded in the environment that Y programs have to

offer. Swim instructors teach children and youth stroke technique, water sports and games, rescue skills, and personal safety.

The Y Winner's Youth Sports Program teaches youth teamwork, sportsmanship, fair play and skills in sports. Personal growth using the Y's four core values of honesty, respect, caring, & responsibility, is also applied to the Y Winner's Youth Sports Program. Another program offered at the Y is summer day camp and a summer resident camp at which the Y sets up daily activities for the kids to participate in. The Counselors work with the youth and provide them with activities and communication with their peers.

Other popular programs at the Y include Youth and Government that targets high school youth. Their Model United Nations program works with youth in middle school. The young participants act in whatever government positions they choose. An example might be that of a California State legislator. They also choose their own country and use the United Nations as a model organization. Here, the young participants build leadership, public speaking, and teamwork skills in a positive environment in which assets begin to be realized.

The YMCA is a positive, educational, and safe environment for all children and youth that are growing more healthy and responsible. Being a part of the YMCA is just one-way our young people of today will benefit. Visit <http://www.search-institute.org> for further information.

*Continued from cover - PHC*

However, Wade Hunter, a member of "Community Advocates for Responsible Expansion" (CARE), disagrees, "I have worked with many developer groups over the years on many different projects and PHC was the most obdurate, unresponsive and uncooperative bunch of the lot. They have totally disrespected the surrounding communities input. They didn't work with the community. They came with a plan that has remained unchanged since day one. The very first community meeting that they had, I was there and they were told at that time that they would need an Environment Impact Review. They had other community meetings trying to garner support for the project. They also went to about six Neighborhood Councils trying to have them change their mind about opposing the expansion if it did not have an EIR, which they failed to do."

Before the proposed development could begin, CARE filed a lawsuit against the City of Los Angeles and PHC to ensure that they addressed the project's full environmental impact on the surrounding communities. Nick Krall, a plaintiff in the lawsuit, said, "Until the suit is heard, the city's decision to let them build stands. So, while it might be considered prudent for PHC to wait until the suit is heard before starting to move dirt, they will instead display their hubris and arrogance and dig-in. It's a low estimate that PHC has spent over \$2 million just on public relations to help avoid any normal EIR." Krall, further stated, "We believe we will prevail, at which point a 'Cease and Desist Order' will be issued, and PHC will either have an actual EIR done, or spend more years and money wrangling to avoid it."

Dan Boyle, Director of Media Relations for Providence Health & Services, said, "If CARE eventually wins this lawsuit, the judge still could allow construction to continue. CARE never filed an injunction to stop the construction. In any case, we felt it was necessary to begin construction now, despite the uncertainty of the litigation, because there is such a great need for additional hospital beds in the San Fernando Valley."

CARE's first petition to the court for such an injunction was dismissed on May 6 because attorneys for CARE filed their briefs one day late, not realizing that February had 29 days this year; however, Judge Thomas McKnew's decision stated, "Discretionary relief may be available from mandatory dismissal caused by an excusable mistake." Acting on Judge McKnew's decision, Krall and CARE filed a "Relief for Dismissal" brief—CARE and Nicholas K. Krall, vs. City of Los Angeles—that they hope will result in the court's issuance of the injunction to stop construction that they are seeking. They believe that substantial evidence in the administrative record exists showing that the Project may have a significant effect on the environment and those opposing the project made PHC aware of the many potential significant adverse environmental effects such as Air Quality, Traffic, Parking, etc, in comments.

*katharine.russ@charter.net*

## Youth Agency Launches Fundraising Campaign

By Leroy Geter

The Pacoima Community Youth Culture Center (PCYCC) has been serving the youth and their families in the Northeast San Fernando communities for more than 30 years. The center was founded in 1977 through the establishment of the Pacoima Community Youth Choir, an organization designed to divert the youth and young adults away from street crimes and pre-delinquent behaviors. During the ensuing years, the Center has assisted hundreds of youth and their families each year by providing avenues through which they might develop socially, educationally, mentally, and spiritually. It has encouraged them to seek more productive lifestyles and build strong character.

However at this time, the Center is facing serious financial setbacks due to loss of key funding sources. It has not had permanent or sustainable funding for its programs and services since the beginning of 2006. Currently, its most pressing need is to raise enough money

to keep its leased space at its present facility and to provide the same level of service as previously offered to meet the needs of participating youth and their families.

The theme of the fundraising campaign is "We are the one, and we are coming back and we will be better." Notwithstanding the efforts of the Board of Directors of PCYCC to work with the elected officials and the Los Angeles Community Development Department to get city funding (so far unsuccessful), the board is seeking to involve concerned residents and citizens of the San Fernando Valley communities in this campaign to help sustain its current programs and services at their maximum capacity.

The Center is diligently seeking public support and donations. Donations may be sent c/o the PCYCC Funding Campaign, Pacoima Community Youth Culture Center, 11243 Glenoaks Boulevard, #4, Pacoima, CA 91331.

*Editors Note: Mr. Geter is President and CEO of PCYCC.*

## Watch Your Wallet

### What Were They Thinking!

By Tina Cameron

Charles and Emma are a typical American couple living in a typical middle-class neighborhood in the San Fernando Valley. They have an annual family income of \$54,000. Emma comes from poor a home but has married "up" and sees herself as deserving more.

Charles and Emma purchased their home by obtaining something called a "subprime" mortgage. They believed that they could qualify without having to save for a down payment or show proof of income, considering that Emma is a stay-at-home mom and Charles has a spotty work history. And apparently, Emma's previous bankruptcy had not affected their chances for home-ownership.

To Emma, it seems that her neighbors up and down the block have more than she has. She compares her possessions to others and comes up short in her estimation. Many of the neighbors drive mammoth-size SUV's: Navigator, Land Rover, Suburban, and Emma

declared she must have one as well. Though the average new car price is \$28,700, and there are plenty of attractive and affordable vehicles to choose from, it simply must be an SUV. The price for a new SUV ranges from \$35,000 to \$85,000. Emma selects a Cadillac Escalade, equipped with a television, climate-control, full entertainment system, Onstar, XM radio, all-wheel drive, V8 (in case she has the need to "off-road" it while taking junior to soccer practice), for about \$75,000. Payments at the extended finance period – six years – will run between \$1200-\$1400 a month. Emma rationalizes, "It's commonplace to spend two year's income on a family vehicle." The dealership qualifies and finances them. Success!

As time goes on, needs arise, but Charles simply doesn't make enough to keep up. Since Charles changes jobs often he hasn't been contributing to a 401k. The one he did have, he cashed out for Emma's breast augmentation surgery.

One day, a notice arrived in the mail: "Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bovary, you have been pre-approved for a \$100,000 home equity line of credit." Thank good-

ness, now they can payoff their high credit card debt, buy a second car and take that much-needed vacation to Australia – to the same resort their friends, the Joneses, visited last year. Just tap the home equity like an ATM machine.

Everything seems ideal. Unfortunately for the Bovarys, this house of cards is destined to fall. The "teaser" rate on their mortgage will unexpectedly become a realistic number, and, when the housing market turns down and they owe more than it's worth, they'll likely walk away and start over again somewhere else, because they just don't see the logic in honoring their commitments if such commitments do not benefit them materialistically. The SUV, after factoring in fuel at \$4.00 per gallon, at 12-18 mpg, will probably be repossessed. They are also likely headed for bankruptcy (again).

What did it cost the Bovarys to achieve their American dream? It would seem to have cost them their souls.

*Tina Cameron holds a Bachelors of Science in Finance and a Certified Treasury Professional Credential; Is a Corporate Risk Manager and a Small Business Owner.*

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## Fire Station 87



The Grand Opening the of new "state of the art" Fire Station 87 in Granada Hills was attended by over 500 people on Saturday, May 3. Special Presentations were made by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Councilmember Greig Smith, City Engineer Gary L. Morre and Fire Chief Douglas L. Barry. A fly over was performed by the the LAFD helicopters and guest were taken on tour on the new station.

## Citywide Alliance



Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa was a special guest speaker during the Citywide Alliance of Neighborhood Councils meeting at L.A. City College on Saturday, May 17. He briefed NC members on his budget and why he feels it is so important to put more Cops on the Street. Villaraigosa said that crime is down by 45% under his watch, however, that as the second largest city in the U.S., the Los Angeles Police Dept. is still understaffed. He also spoke of the need for a bond issue to fix traffic gridlock. The city has received 150 million dollars from the state to synchronize lights but he said it is not enough to eliminate traffic problems.

Jane Usher, President of the Los Angeles City Planning Commission was also a guest speaker. She explained the process the city goes through to update community plans. Usher was emphatic that as soon as anyone in the community hears of a possible project in their area to jump in and get involved immediately and not to wait until it has gone through the permit process to mitigate potential problems.

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Please join in the effort to help the burned area in Griffith Park to recover from its recent fire. Volunteers are needed for habitat restoration. Volunteers are needed on Tuesdays and Thursdays this spring to help remove invasive plants that are quickly overgrowing the burn area. These invasive plants are competing with the native plants for light, water, and nutrients. The wildlife of Griffith Park need you to help the native plants that provide their food, water, and shelter.

We will begin with a training class about native and non-native plants in Griffith Park, so please be on time! Also, please bring your own gloves and/or pruners, if you have them, because only a limited supply of gloves and tools will be available (most work can be easily done by hand). You will want to wear a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, and sturdy, closed-toed shoes. You should also bring sunglasses, sunblock, and a hat. For more information, or to arrange specific times, dates, parking, etc., please contact Andrea Epstein, Volunteer Coordinator, Department of Recreation and Parks: andrea.epstein@lacity.org Tel: 213.928.9290

## Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society Show and Sale

By Katharine Russ

LA Cactus & Succulent Society in Encino presents the "Second Annual Educational Show and Rare Plant Sale" on June 14-15, 9 am – 5 pm, at the Sepulveda Garden Center. Jeff Karsner, President of LA Cactus and Succulent Society, says, "Tujungans should garden with more succulents. The show will feature thematic collections of plants with descriptive signage and perhaps a few endangered Madagascan succulents, or maybe freaky monstrose and crested cacti. Or, as my own license "LO H2O" proclaims, low-water landscaping with succulents. The public will vote on the best display."

There will be several vendors with rare succulents and cacti for sale. The event will be held in the community garden abutting the south side of the 101, just west of the 405 on Magnolia at Havenhurst. 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino. For Show information, call 818-363-3432 or visit their website at www.lacss.com

## Historic Events



Open Space Dedication

A dedication ceremony was held for the nearly 500 acres of open space on Sunland Blvd along side the 210 freeway. Bill Eick, who oversees the Fond Land Preservation Foundation, Councilmember Wendy Greuel and members of the Fond Family, were on hand for the celebration. The Foundation's plan is to make the land available for hiking, nature walks, environmental study groups, etc.



Rim of the Valley Study Approved

A victory Press Conference attended by many dignitaries was held by Congressman Adam Schiff on Friday, May 16, in Burbank's Stough Park to announce that President Bush signed his Rim of the Valley Corridor Study Legislation into law after his seven year effort. The Secretary of State is directed to study the feasibility of expanding the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to include the mountains and canyons in Southern California that are part of the Rim of the Valley Corridor.

## To Our Servicemen Who Gave Their Lives

Approximately 100 people attended the Sunland-Tujunga American Legion Post 377's annual Memorial Day Ceremony at the Sunland Park Veterans Memorial to honor those community members who made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our country. Rev. Jim Moore rendered the invocation. Commander Pat O'Brien was the host and his daughter, Kelly, sang acapella and played taps on the trumpet.



The San Fernando Historical Society hosted a Memorial Day service at Pioneer Cemetery in Sylmar on Memorial Day. Councilmember Richard Alarcón participated along with over 100 attendees. He dedicated a fountain he sponsored in memory of his son Richie, whom he lost in a car accident 21 years ago. The beautifully restored cemetery is home to several verified Civil War Veterans.

## Decoration Day

By Marlene and Lloyd Hitt

Memorial Day, as the last Monday in May is now called, was first named Decoration Day, a day of memorial that originated after the Civil War, to honor Union soldiers who died in that war. After WW I the commemoration was expanded to include those who died in any war or military action.

According to one source, the first Memorial Day was celebrated in 1865 by liberated slaves at a site in Charleston which was a former prison camp as well as a mass grave for Union soldiers who had died while captive. Officially, however, the birthplace of the day was Waterloo, New York when the celebration was on May 5, 1866 and the yearly observance began. At Columbus, Mississippi, on April 25, 1866, its Decoration Day celebration commemorated both the Union and Confederate casualties buried in its cemetery.

The name "Memorial Day" was first used in 1882. When the United States Congress passed the Uniform Holidays Bill they moved Memorial Day to the last Monday in May. Due to the three-day weekends now, which are part of the Mondays of Remembrance, the day itself has lost much of its meaning. But as anyone who has served in battle knows, it is a day to remember some life altering times. One soldier writes:

*"Corporal Richard White was in charge of the machine gun squad when I joined his squad in King Company of the 32nd Regiment on April of 1953 in Korea. We were in reserves and spent our days working on the main line of resistance along the 38th parallel digging trenches. We became good friends and I was made an assistant gunner in the squad. In July, our platoon relieved the Ethiopians on outpost Yoke just south of Chinese-held T-Bone. White and I were assigned to a 50-caliber machine gun on Yoke.*

*The photo of White was taken in our bunker about 36 hours before we were rushed to Pork Chop Hill, an outpost just to our west, under a heavy attack by a division of Chinese Regulars. An armored personnel carrier made two trips to carry our squad to the top of Pork Chop. Separated by a few minutes, we found White dead and several ammo bearers wounded by a direct hit by a mortar in a forward trench. We had lost a friend".*

In a situation like a battle, your fellow men are more than casual friends and you are alone in a hostile world without them at your side.

Then what should be done on this day? Usually families get together for picnics, to go to cemeteries to place flags or flowers on the graves, visit memorials and memorial day programs, By flying the flag at half mast until noon we show that we have not forgotten the sacrifice of battle. We can celebrate also by merely pausing to think upon the true meaning of the day.

At most celebrations TAPS is played. Taps, the beautiful and poignant song of farewell who's accepted words are, in part: "Day is done, gone the sun, from the hills, from the lake, from the skies. All is well, safely rest, God is nigh

Editors Note: Marlene is Historian, and Lloyd Hitt is President of the Little Landers Historical Society

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