

“Medal of Valor” Earned by LAPD Foothill Area Officers



L-R Assistant Chief Michel Moore, Fernando Sanchez and Alejandro Valencia, Chief Charlie Beck
 Photos courtesy of LAPD

Congratulations Fernando Sanchez and Alejandro Valencia

The Medal of Valor is the Los Angeles Police Department’s highest honor and is awarded to officers who distinguish themselves by conspicuous bravery or heroism above and beyond the normal duty of police service.

This year’s annual “Above and Beyond” awards ceremony was held on May 10 at the Kodak Theater in Hollywood. 14 honorees received awards consisting of medals, ribbons, and citations during this annual awards ceremony, which is sponsored by the Los Angeles Police Foundation. Approximately 500 people were in attendance as Chief of Police, Charlie Beck, presented awards by the Board of Police Commissioners in the name of the Department.

This year, two of the Medals of Valor awardees, Fernando Sanchez and Alejandro Valencia serve in the North Valley’s Foothill Division as Patrol Officers. The following is a report



written by Night Watch Commander, Officer Scott Kennedy:

“While working the evening shift on July 10, 2010, Officers Alejandro Valencia and Fernando Sanchez was proving extra patrol in Foothill Division.

The officers pulled up to an intersection where they saw a driver throw what appeared to be a beer can out the car’s window. Believing the driver was under the influence of alcohol or narcotics and posed a threat to himself and the community, Officers Valencia and Sanchez initiated a traffic stop. However, the driver failed to stop and sped away from the officers who immediately requested back-up and air support. Officers’ Valencia and Sanchez continued their pursuit until the suspect suddenly stopped on the turf of the Vineland Boys street gang

Without warning and before the officers could even come to a stop, the suspect exited the car and fired his semi-automatic handgun at them. The bullets ripped through the police car, pierced the front windshield and struck Officer Valencia in the right forearm. Relying on his training instincts and will to survive, Officer Valencia flung open his door took what little cover was available to him and returned fire.

With a barrage of bullets flying everywhere and shards of broken glass exploding from the passenger side window, officer Sanchez exited the black and white and took a few steps back to return fire. He lost his footing on the shards of broken glass and fell to the ground, breaking his wrist in the process.

Officer Valencia saw his partner fall to the ground and thought he had been shot by the suspect. Putting his partner’s well-being before his own, Officer Valencia, with bullets still flying all around him, engaged the suspect with his wounded arm and began to broadcast “officer down” call on the radio with his left hand.

Officer Sanchez rose to his feet and began firing his weapon once again providing cover for Officer Valencia. Officer Valencia continued engaging the suspect until he felt he was no longer a threat and made his way to the rear of the police car in an attempt to aid his partner.

As Officer Valencia took cover behind their car to broadcast their location and request help once again, Office Sanchez repositioned himself behind the driver’s side door and saw the suspect making movements. Believing there was still a threat, Officer Sanchez re engaged the suspect until he was rendered immobile. Other Officers arrived and took the suspect into custody.”

This incident represents the dangers that police officers everywhere face everyday, on and as well as off duty, in order to provide safety and improve the quality of life in the communities they serve.

Passage of Care Facility Ordinance Moving on to City Council

By Katharine Russ

The following is a summary garnered from the city’s audiotape of the last hearing regarding the Community Care Facilities Ordinance currently in process. Deputy City Attorney Amy Brothers reiterated the purpose of the CCFO, which hopefully will:

- Improve enforcement.
- Prohibit businesses/boarding houses from R-1, R-2 zones (boarding houses will also be prohibited in other low density residential zones in addition to the R-1, R2, RD Zones). These will be allowed by right in R3 and denser zones-other cities require a CUP.
- Alters definition of family and boarding house.
- Adds definition of Single Housekeeping Unit.
- Boarding homes will be defined as 2 or more people under separate leases, and this is supported by the by the Attorney General’s 2003 opinion.
- Aims to increase residential opportunities for the disabled by allowing licensed Community Care Facilities serving seven plus people (24 hours) in any zone. Currently variances and other discretionary approvals are required. No other cities have such broad and welcoming provisions regulating CCFs.

Restricts Rental Housing for 3 or more parolees/probationer to multi-family residential zones requiring a Conditional Use Permit.

The city will be processing requests for “Reasonable Accommodations” that are received currently as a result of this ordinance passing. There are questions about legal defenses that were brought up in closed session.

It appears that there is still a lot of misunderstanding regarding the implementation of this ordinance and more outreach to communities must be done. Other major California cities (Santa Monica, Oakland, Pasadena, San Diego, Riverside, etc) have enacted much tighter ordinances that regulate Licensed Care Community Care Facilities serving 7 or more and Parolee/Probationer/Boarding Houses.

Councilmember Mitch Englander, during the PLUM meeting made several comments. He worked on the ordinance for approximately seven years and it is a much better ordinance now. He said he received many complaints regarding unlicensed facilities and from the occupants of facilities as well. He said he has worked with community, licensed and unlicensed, homes and sits on the board of licensed homes. He says there is a tremendous push to instill fear, uncertainty and doubt from the disabled community who

would most benefit from the ordinance and be protected. The CCFO will open the door for more housing, not less, and a balance that protects character and nature of R1, R2 zones. He has not seen an ordinance that has had so much controversy because of misrepresentation and bad apples that are out there that do not want to comply.

There was a discussion whether the parolee/probationer item should be bifurcated should the element be acted upon as a separate ordinance. PLUM decided to move the ordinance to Council without recommendation. The ordinance stands as is and is not bifurcated at this time and will move on to full Council in the near future. Council can then make decisions regarding the parolee/probationer item. Therefore, it will require a simple majority (8) of the City Council to pass (this has been clarified, verified and vetted by Council District 12 officials). The City Attorney’s Office advises that under rule 69, that that item goes to Full Council without recommendations.

Its time for your voice to be heard – Send a letter to the LA City Council with your support, non-support and/or comments on this ordinance. Reference Council File #11-0262 -- You can also participate in an online poll at Citywatchla.com

COMMUNITY NEWS

N.E. Valley Bus and Rail Service Issues Investigated



By Christopher Hicks

The CSUN Transportation Tiger Team presented their findings of Bus / Rail Connectivity and related transportation issues found in Sylmar and San Fernando to the Sylmar Neighborhood Council. The team produced these findings by conducting a survey of bus and rail users at the Metrolink Station and aboard local buses.

Utilizing community surveys, data collection integration, geographical information systems technological skills, and extensive survey hours, the team is currently undertaking an ambitious study of Sylmar Metrolink service and Metro Bus Lines 230 and 236 to address connectivity problems to surrounding regional centers for that face transit commuters in Sylmar.

Field study interviews were conducted at the Syl-

mar Metrolink Station and aboard Metro Bus Line 230 to Mission College and Metro Bus Line 236 to the intersection of Balboa and Foothill Blvds. The team recorded observations of the bus stop environment and conducted interviews of bus patrons to test out questionnaires. Respondents were receptive in answering the survey as they believed the survey would help improve their bus experience.

The survey revealed observations that Metro and the City of Los Angeles must address. The common theme was that riders sought improvements such as increased frequency and on time performance. The team noticed that buses were off schedule and sidewalks were either of poor quality or nonexistent. Those that existed did not meet Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. Also, the bus stop signage was small and hard to see from a distance. Most of the stops did not have benches or shade.

The final report will be published this month detailing results and recommendations which will serve all future students, community leaders, advocacy groups, and the online community. This report is intended to spark an active, ongoing discussion, ultimately leading to meaningful action. The findings will include a questionnaire directed at a larger sample of

riders to adequately reflect population. The questionnaires will be adjusted to collect public opinion on the condition of sidewalks at their bus stops, ADA concerns, and bus stop comfort and safety.

The Tiger Team is composed of graduating seniors from California State University Northridge, Urban Planning Department, who investigate mass transit and mobility issues in the San Fernando Valley. The group partners with The Transit Coalition of Sylmar on a project to study bus service in the Northeast Valley.

There are 10 Tiger Team members: Project Manager, Sonja Tristan; Assistant Project Manager, Christopher Hicks; GIS Team Leader, Jose Galdamez, Jr.; GIS Team and Grant Writer Isacc Flores, GIS Team and Information Technology Director Larry Shoemaker, Photographer and Graphics Designer Fipe Leilua, Research Team Leader Colin Linebaugh, Professional and Public Outreach Directors Wesley Vasquez and Gail Pitters, Data Collection Director Joshua Schroder and Transit Coalition Executive Director Bart Reed.

Editor's note: Christopher Hicks is a student member of the CSUN Transportation Tiger Team, a group of volunteer student interns dedicated to finding solutions to public transportation problems in the San Fernando Valley. www.csuntigerteam.org.

Ribbon Cutting for New Parkland in the Tujunga Wash



Photos by Tony Bowling

By Tomi Lyn Bowling

On January 21, the official sign appeared! This is the date that a large parcel in the area, known as the Tujunga Wash in Sunland-Tujunga was officially designated open space. It is now considered as parkland under the care and maintenance of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and their Mountains Recreation Conservation Authority, aka Park Rangers.

The 277 acres of chaparral with several endangered species, decorated once each year by the blossoming Yucca, and dotted with stones, large and small, is quite a rare treat for Angelenos. It is home to many of nature's favorite creatures, including California Quail, Coyotes, Cotton Tail Bunnies, Heron, Egret, Hawks, and even the occasional visit by larger mammals such as Bear, Mountain Lion, Deer, and a long list of reptiles. It is now forever protected and preserved as parkland for all future generations to enjoy.

While the dedication ceremony, hosted by Councilman Paul Krekorian, took place on the greens of Angeles National Golf Club on December 19, 2011, a "hiccup" in the actual title transfer delayed the activation of the "changing of the guard" until a short time later.

The dedication heralded the efforts of a long list of community activists spanning fifteen years of hard work, and covering the terms of three different city councilpersons. The dedication was the result of agreements made during the permit process and required that many conditions be met. The meeting of those conditions, along with the necessary land dedication enabled the opening of the golf course. City Controller Wendy Greuel, a former council representative of the area, was also in attendance at the ceremony, having spent a great deal of her time on the project while in office as well.

The Parkland hours are now from sunrise to sunset. Littering and dumping is not permitted; dog leash and "waste" laws will be enforced; and no motorized vehicles are allowed. All laws will be strictly enforced and violators will be cited by the Park Rangers in the same manner as other parks.

Decades ago this park became a dumping site, a wasteland, and had filled up with many years of trash, dumped construction materials, old car chassis, abandoned furniture, broken appliances, shattered glass and much more. Over a decade of community clean ups sponsored and organized by the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council yielded tons of trash removed and all of the above are now, happily, a mere memory.

To the north is the levy and a running stream nine months of the year. The south side is marked by the Haines Channel Outlet where stormwater runs off from all of Sunland-Tujunga and houses a wide variety of frogs and birds. A great place for a walk in nature while absorbing the breathtaking view of surrounding hillsides! You can enter from Big Tujunga and Oro Vista, or Grove Street, or Tujunga Valley Street in Sunland.

Editor's note: Tomi Lyn Bowling is Vice President of the Sunland-Tujunga NC and Chair of their Land Use Committee.

You Should Know...

By Nina Royal

The LA Congress of Neighborhood Councils will take place on **Saturday, September 22** at Los Angeles City Hall, 200 N. Spring St., LA, & 7:45 am to 4:00 pm. The Congress is asking for volunteers and participation of Neighborhood Councils throughout the city. Contact City Cleghorn, Chair, Congress Planning Group at 818-429-6699 or email: cindycleghorn@me.com. **San Fernando Valley Veterans Employment Committee** 17330 Victory Boulevard Van Nuys, CA 91406-5498 FREE - Open to all Veterans and General Public.

A Live Music Concert and Car Show is being presented by Heroes of Life on **Sunday, June 23**, 12 pm - 8:30 pm at the San Fernando Valley Event Center, 8271 Tujunga Ave., Sun Valley. The venue consists of an Auto Show competition, Car Hop Competition, Motorcycle Display, Gourmet Food Trucks and Exhibitors. For more information contact Paula Coleman, 818-890-5082 or herosolife@yahoo.com.

A "Big Country and Blues Jamboree" benefit is being held for the San Fernando Valley Boys and Girls Club. The event includes a mechanical Bull, face painting, fancy boot and hat contest, food and beverages. The date is **Saturday, June 30** at 11251 Glenoaks Blvd., Pacoima, 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm. For ticket information, contact Nicole Chase at 818-621-1444 or email: Nicole.Chase@bgsfv.org

Names of Nominees for the 2012 Fernando Award recipient, the highest award for volunteerism in the San Fernando Valley, for Volunteerism & Civic Accomplishment is being requested by The Fernando Award Foundation. Their annual recognition of the 2012 nominees will be presented during dinner at the Warner Center Marriott on September 21, 2012. At this time, the Foundation's Selection Committee is asking community and civic organizations, businesses, including Chambers of Commerce, non-profits, Valley Industry & Commerce Association (VICA) members, and past recipients, to select their nominees by July 30, 2012. Contact Dennis Watsabaugh at (818) 231-2288 for a Nomination Packet. Organizations can also visit the Fernando Award Foundation website and download a Nomination Packet: www.fernandoaward.org

Great California Shakeout Earthquake Drill will be held on **October 18** at 10:18 am. Now is the time for communities to begin preparing to participate. Other states and other countries worldwide are now joining California and holding their drills on the same date. Visit Shakeout.org/California for more information and to register.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Improved Equestrian Opportunities Coming to Foothill Communities



By Richard Alarcón,
Councilmember, District 7

I held a Special Meeting with approximately 80 people in attendance in Lake View Terrace on May 30. Once the new Council Districts in Los Angeles take effect this summer, the Foothill

communities of the Northeast San Fernando Valley will be united into a single Council District for the first time since 1986. Since I will soon be representing Sunland-Tujunga, Shadow Hills, La Tuna Canyon, part of rural Sun Valley and the entire Lake View Terrace community, I have already begun to expand my work on an important issue in the Northeast Valley – improving the services the City of Los Angeles provides equestrians.

Equestrian issues are nothing new for me and since my first term on the City Council in the early 1990's, I have worked to improve the availability and quality of equestrian services in Los Angeles. In 1994, for example I made sure that equine license fees were being used to maintain horse trails. In 1996, I introduced a motion that helped make it safer for people to ride horses on streets by adding specially-designed signs to City streets where horseback riding was common. I have also worked with the equestrian community to make it easier to dispose of horse manure and to protect horses during



natural disasters by finding temporary housing for animals displaced by wildfires and other emergencies.

Now, with new Council Districts consolidating many of Los Angeles' equestrian communities into a single Northeast Valley District, I am looking forward to expanding this work. In addition to committing \$100,000 to the City's Equine Advisory Committee for improvements to horse trails, I have introduced a series of motions that will help the equestrian community, including:

- **Offering Discounts for Horse Licensing Fees:** Though we have more than 90,000 horses in the Los Angeles area, only a small percentage of them are registered with the City. My motion that instructs Animal Services to improve its registration website and to increase the number of registered horses in Los Angeles by offering discounts for multi-year registrations.
- **Expediting Permits for Barns:** Establishes a faster review process for the installation and use of barns that house horses, to make it easier to build barns without unnecessary red tape.
- **Promoting the City's Horse Trails:** Directs the Department of Recreation and Parks to work with other City agencies to create a map of equestrian areas in Los Angeles, and to promote the use of City-owned parks and City-owned trails.
- **Improving Safety at Intersections and Crossings:** Reviews dangerous intersections for horses and directs the City to create a plan to install at-grade road crossings at trail locations in order to enhance safety and avoid collisions between horses and vehicles.

I am excited that I will soon have an opportunity to serve the entire Foothill region on the City Council and I am committed to representing your community effectively. Contact me at Councilmember.Alarcón@lacity.org.

Introducing Sylmar



By Don Neal

When you think Sylmar, what do you think of? Earthquakes and fires? I bet you didn't know that the famous Doobie Brothers album the, "Captain & Me" cover was taken after the 1971 earthquake freeway collapse in Sylmar, did you? Sylmar has much to offer besides earthquakes and fires. The Sylmar Olive Festival is coming to showcase some of what Sylmar has to offer. The Sylmar Neighborhood Council, Los Angeles Mission College, the Mission College Foundation, the Sylmar Chamber of Commerce, the Corral 12 Equestrians, and the Heroes of Life Foundation are partnering to revive an event that was once hosted in Sylmar at El Cariso Park in the early 1970's.

El Cariso Park, the site of this year's Labor Day weekend event, is named after the El Cariso Hotshots, the elite firefighting team based out of the Cleveland National Forest in San Bernardino. 13 members of their team were killed in the hills above Sylmar in 1966 when a flash fire raced up a ravine and trapped them on a ridge. The park is built next to the El Cariso Golf Course, and is full of Eucalyptus trees and exemplifies Sylmar's "Sea of Trees" name. Mission College is also adjacent to these two wonderful recreational areas, and together, this area in a hub of community activity. Sylmar has many beau-

tiful foothill and majestic mountain vistas, and has much to showcase to the greater Los Angeles area.

Sylmar was once the 2nd largest producer of Olives in the United States. Sylmar was once home to the largest olive groves in America. A ranch, owned by Japanese owners, as far back as the early 1890's, was named the Sea of Trees Ranch. The olive industry in Sylmar really started in earnest, when Cristo Fusano started his company, later named the Sylmar Packing Company, in the early 1900's. The "San Fernando" brand of olives were one of the largest selling brands in the US. Many communities in the Northeast SFV valley share this olive history, also. The Fusano and Modugno family names still resonate in the Sylmar community, as is evidenced by the street named after Frank Modugno, who was once the president of the Mission College Foundation, located by the Amtrak train station in Sylmar at Hubbard Street.

Sylmar is home to the Sylmar Hang Gliding Association, and is the hang gliding capital of the US, and on any given weekend in Sylmar one can enjoy watching them float on the updrafts high above the Pacoima Dam and Reservoir. Sylmar is also home the Merle Norman Cosmetics and the renowned Nethercutt Car Collection and Museum, admission is free and visitors can view cars dating back as far as the turn of the century. Many of the cars have won awards at prestigious car shows throughout the country. Sylmar is also an equestrian community, and is home to the famed Stetson Ranch Equestrian Park. In 1913, the first water to ever flow into the Los Angeles Basin from the Owens River Valley came through the Owensmouth Cascades Aqueduct, located in Sylmar, when William Mulholland opened the gates, with his famous 5 word speech, "There it is, take it!"

We invite everyone to come be part of this fun family Olive Festival beginning in late August through Labor Day Weekend. It will include a Parade, Live Music, Olive & Wine tasting, Gourmet Food Trucks, Great Food Tents, Beer Garden, Community & Youth Performances, Kid's Area, "Hotshots" Police-Fire Softball Tournament, Golf Tournament, Olive Gala Dinner at Mission College, and a Chamber of Commerce Mixer. The annual go cart racing, "Race for Youth" LAPD Police Explorer's fundraiser event may be incorporated in to the event soon. Please visit our facebook site, "Sylmar Olive Festival" for updates.

Volunteers are needed, as well as participants. Please contact Don Neal, Sylmar Neighborhood Council at Donald.Neal@sylmarnc.org

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Cindy Cleghorn, Peter DiNova, Le Roy Getner,
Terry Kaiser, Nick Krall, Mike O'Gara, Al Piantanida,
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Mark Seigel, Kim Thompson

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Change is on the Horizon



*Paul Krekorian
Council District Two*

The 21-member Redistricting Commission, charged with drawing new voting boundaries for the city's council districts, submitted its proposed maps for public consideration recently. The maps follow the commission's receipt of testimony and input from Los Angeles residents during months of public hearings held across the city and in every council district. Hundreds of public commenters – myself included - provided feedback at the meetings, as well as by phone, email, and letters to the commission. Based on the current drafts, Council District 2 would swing south and east, based mostly on the 14 other council districts and a shifting population of millions of Angelenos.

The proposed map of CD2 (see the draft map at: www.redistricting2011.lacity.org) includes the entire communities of Studio City, Valley Glen, North Hollywood, Toluca Lake, and most of Valley Village. The draft map would leave the district without the North Valley communities of Lake View Terrace, La Tuna Canyon, Shadow Hills, Sunland-Tujunga and Sun Valley.

I have great affection and concern for every block of my district, but population increases require that Council District 2 shrink. Under any scenario, I will be required to give up some neighborhoods that I care about very much.

CD2 now includes portions of 11 different communities and only two are entirely within the district - all of the other communities are arbitrarily divided by the current political boundaries of the district. One of the clearest sentiments expressed during public comment was the strong desire by stakeholders to unite communities that had been arbitrarily divided. The proposed map for CD2 would unite four significant communities.

Regardless of how the political lines are ultimately drawn, I will always stand with the residents from throughout the Foothills and the rest of the San Fernando Valley to fight for issues important to us, including protecting open space, preserving community character and quality of life, creating jobs and opportunity, and making our community stronger.

Since I started representing Californian's in 2006 as a state Assemblymember, I've supported the Foothill communities. I worked hard in Sacramento to save the Verdugo Hills Golf Course from development and will continue to do so in Los Angeles, regardless of how the lines are drawn.

Last year, I urged the Proposition O Citizens Oversight Advisory Committee to use Proposition O money to pay for the Verdugo Hills Stormwater Project to preserve the community institutions as cherished open space. I will continue to advocate for that as a member of the City Council.

The City Council is required to adopt the redistricting ordinance by July 1 and the new council districts become effective upon adoption of the ordinance describing those districts.

Deputy Chief (Ret.) Ron Bergmann Honored

Former LAPD Deputy Chief, Ron Bergman, who retired as head of Operations Valley Bureau, was honored by the San Fernando Valley Coalition on Gangs, on Thursday, March 1st at Church on the Way in Van Nuys. Chief Bergmann was the founder and supporter of the Coalition while serving the LAPD, and he also served as the Captain and Commanding Officer of the Foothill Division, located in the San Fernando Valley, before several of his promotions. He received many praises from members of the organization and their guests. The coalition continues to meet monthly and their mission is to assist in reducing gang violence, through prevention or intervention. For more information, visit: <http://sfvcoalitionongangs.org/about-us>, or contact Sandy Kievman, Community Resource Specialist with the City Attorney's Neighborhood Prosecutor Program at 818-374-6894.



Memorial Day Observed in the North Valley



Sunland-Tujunga - The American Legion Lodge 377 held their annual observance in Sunland Park. Commander Pat O'Brien led the ceremony, which lead off with the positing of the Colors by Boy Scout Troup 315, follow by the raising of the flag and the Star Spangled Banner sung by Kelly O'Brien, The Commander led the Pledge of Allegiance. The service, which included about 200 community members, continued with a memorial address and songs and was completed with the reading of names of local heroes and the placing of the wreaths at the base of the memorial. Community members were treated to hamburgers and hot dogs following the ceremony



Sylmar - The San Fernando Valley Historical Society sponsored their annual remembrance at the historical Pioneer Cemetery in Sylmar. Stefni Valencia leads the ceremony with the Star Spangled Banner. Over 300 community members witnessed the highlights, which included "Historical Perspectives," along with reenactments narrated by Nick Krall with the Sylmar Neighborhood Council. They included The Civil War, Spanish-American War, World War I/Early Valley, World War II, The Korean War, Vietnam and the War on Terror. Songs representing all branches of military were sung as members of each branch stood up to be honored. Bobby Arias introduced the All Veteran's Burial Squad who completed the raising of the Colors, Rifle Salute and Taps.

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6:30 pm

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Bring your family and friends to this fun event and help support Nina for Honorary Sheriff of Sunland-Tujunga.. There is plenty of parking in the back. A \$10 donation will be accepted at the door. The winner of the Sheriff's contest will be announced during the 4th of July Fire Works Festival at Verdugo Hills High School.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Granada Hills

Granada Hills Charter High School Wins Second Consecutive National Academic Decathlon



Congratulations to Granada Hills Charter High School's Academic Decathlon Team, which captured its second consecutive national title.

The team's record breaking accomplishment took place on April 28 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, with the highest point total for a school ever in the history of the National Academic Decathlon competition. They

are the only charter school to claim the national champion title in over 30 years of the National competition and the third school ever to win back-to-back national titles against 30 teams.

Academic Decathlon is a two-day competition that tests in topics from math, science, art, and literature in a multitude of formats. The teams are made up of three "A" students, three "B" students, and three "C" students.

Team Members: Christian Koguchi, Stella Lee, Priscilla Liu, Kimberly Ly, Hamidah Mahmud, Lev Tauz, Julia Wall, Sean Wejebe, Jimmy Wu, and their coaches, Mathew Arnold, Spencer Wolf, and Nick Weber.

A Feast Beyond Compare



Los Angeles Mission College held its 10th Annual Springfest Saturday, May 12 in their award winning Culinary School in the Mission College Campus Center.

Educator Myron Mann Retires

A school bids to an educational icon. Myron Mann retired from Hillcrest Christian School in Granada Hills after 50 years of teaching Physics in the San Fernando Valley. Over the course of his career Mr. Mann touched thousands of lives, some in the classroom and some in the mission field. Myron started his career in the late 1950's teaching Physics in Canada at Niagara Christian Collegiate where he had a two year contract teaching high school students.

After his contract expired Mr. Mann returned to California to do graduate work. He completed a Master's Degree in Physics and obtained a Junior College teaching credential. In 1964 he began teaching Physics at Los Angeles City College and then taught as a long term sub at Pierce College before landing a tenured staff position at Valley College in 1965. He taught Physics there for 30 years, and then he took a part time position for 15 years.

It was through a men's group at Shepherd of the Hills in Porter Ranch that Mr. Lance Haliday (Hillcrest Christian School Principal) asked Mr. Mann to join the staff as the high school Physics teacher for the first ever 12th grade class in 1999. Mr. Mann was on campus to see the first graduating class from Hillcrest Christian School in 2000 and he will be here to witness the commencement of the last graduating class of Hillcrest Christian School in 2012.

He has taught a variety of subjects including: physics, biology, chemistry, some math, and even some specialty classes such as musical acoustics and a class on renewable or alternative energy. Even with all of these classes, he learned the most from his students. He says that most of what he learned about teaching he took from the kids in his classrooms. He says he learned how to express ideas in an understandable way so that his students could understand the subject.

When asked whether he was sad or excited to retire, he said that he wasn't really sad because he has had a long and rewarding career. He is looking forward to spending more time with his grandkids that live in Colorado and Oregon

Pacoima

Churches in the North East San Fernando Valley Receive Award



A gift from Councilmember Richard Alarcon, who represents the 7th Council District, during The Northeast Valley Gospel Festival he sponsored at New Christ Church held in Pacoima in February. The Choirs of all fourteen Churches were presented with a check for \$2,500 by the Councilmember.

"Unity in the Community"

By Cile Borman



photo credit Cile Borman

In 2010 Bruce E. Holloway hosted his first "Unity in the Community" event to honor outstanding people in his community. Bruce E. Holloway the CEO of Total Patrol Security Service, located in Pacoima, California, has for over two decades been dedicated to supplying training and jobs in the field of security to the unemployed men and women of all nationalities located in our communities. He knows that by helping them to achieve a stable and consistent job history, it will enable them to improve their economic conditions. This year Bruce reached out again with his

Unity in the Community celebration and awarded the people who don't receive much recognition "regular everyday people" that he considers as outstanding individuals who have remained loyal to the community and their goal to financially uplift themselves and their families.

The new Pacoima Municipal Center community room was filled to capacity with Tropical Punch supplying the live music. After lunch and the drawings for the free raffle prizes Bruce gave out his awards. Later, he was genuinely surprised to be recognized by Angelica Ayala from Mayor Antonio Villaragosa's office and Quincy Reid from Assemblyman Felipe Fuentes office. The certificates referred to his ongoing support of and providing opportunities for minorities and others to find employment, especially in this economy. Bruce was born and raised in Detroit Michigan. He relocated to Los Angeles in 1982 and founded his security business in 1986 to meet the demands of California's booming construction industry. His company has maintained an excellent record of service. He is looking forward to his security company growing and being a vital part of the Los Angeles business community for a very long time

Editor's Note: Ms Borman is former president of the Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council and Lake View Terrace Improvement Assn.

LAPD Foothill Division Lobby Remodeled



A beautiful Memorial Plaque designed and manufactured by local artist, Tim Lampros, was unveiled during a reception in the station's lobby in March. The LAPD badge is Blue when lit and serves as a memorial to Fallen Officers who have been called to duty by a high power while serving in the division, Officers included on the plaque are: Tim Falco, James Tagliotti, Jack Evans and Paul Vernon.

The renovation of the lobby and the plaque were the joint effort of the business community and the Foothill Area Boosters Association along with Senior Lead Officer Michele Rodriguez and Community Relations Officer, Sergeant Herrold Egger.

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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, Jun 17
Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "The Boomer Years"
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
818-352-3420

Open Poetry Reading
The Village Poets
Bolton Hall Museum
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
818-352-3420
4:30 pm

Monday, Jun 18
Valley Vote
Galpin Ford
15555 Roscoe Blvd., NH
6:30 pm

GHNNC Land Use Comm
11139 Woodley Ave., GH
7:00 pm

STNC Land Use Comm
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T
7:00 pm

Tuesday, Jun 19
Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "The Boomer Years"
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm - 4:110pm
818-352-3420

Arleta NC Gen. Meeting
Beachy Ave. Elem. School
9757 Beachy Ave., Arl.
6:30 pm

S-T Neighborhood Watch
7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T
6:30 pm

Wednesday, Jun 20
LAPD-CPAB
Mission Division
11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH
6:30 pm

Rotary Club
Coco's Restaurant
10521 Sunland Blvd., S-T
7:00 pm
818-951-5299

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

Northridge East NC
Northridge Academy HS
9601 Zelzah Ave., Nrdge
7:00 pm

North Hills West NC
New Horizons
15725 Parthenia St., NH
7:00 pm

Strathern Nh'brh'd. Watch
Church of the Nazarene
12120 Strathern St., NoHo
6:30 pm

Sylmar NC Green Comm.
Sylmar Park & Rec. Cent.
Susan B. Anthony Bldg.
Polk & Bordon Ave., Syl
7:00 pm

Hansen Dam Park
Advisory Board
Lake View Terr. Rec. Ctr.
11075 Foothill Blvd., LVT
7:00 pm

Thursday, Jun 21
FTDNC Gen. Meeting
www.ftdnc.org for location
7:00 pm

Neighborhood Watch
Block Captain's Mtng.
Sylmar High School
13050 Borden Ave., Syl
6:30 pm

Northridge East NC
Northridge Academy
9601 Zelzah Ave., Nrdge

NHNE NC Board Meet
Arminta Elem. School
11530 Arminta St., No Ho
7:00 pm

Sunday, Jun 24
Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "The Boomer Years"
10110 commerce Ave., S-T
Sdocent Tours
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
818-352-3420

Arleta NC Gen. Meeting
Beachy Ave. Elem. School
9757 Beachy Ave., Arl.

Monday, Jun 25
GHNNC Gen. Meeting
Rinaldi Adult Center,
17450 Rinadli St., GH
6:30 pm

By-Law Reform Group.
Bario Family Center
4927 Huntington Dr, LA
10:00 am - 12:00 pm.

Tuesday, Jun 26
Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "The Boomer Years"
10110 commerce Ave., S-T
Docent tours
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
818-352-3420

Arleta NC Gen. Meeting
Beachy Ave. Elem. School
9757 Beachy Ave., Arl
6:30 pm

Sunday, Jul 1
Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "The Boomer Years"
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours

Monday, Jul 2
STNC Land Use
7727 Foothill Blvd., S-T
7:00 pm

FTDNC Outreach Com
9747 Wheatland Ave., SH
7:00 pm

MHNC Board & Gen Meet.
Mission Police Station
11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH
6:30 pm 818-902-2361
for info

NENC Gen. Meet
Penny Lane Rainbow Rm
15314 Rayen, North Hills
6:30 pm.

Tuesday Jul 3
Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "The Boomer Years"
Docent Tours
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
818-352-3420

City Redistricting Meeting
Van Nuys City Hall
14410 Sylvan St., V.N
6:30 pm

FTDNC Land Use
9747 Wheatland Ave., SH
7:00 pm

MHNC Zoning & Land Use
LAPD Mission Station
11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH
LAPD Community Cof-fee
818-902-2361 for time & info

Wednesday, Jul 4
4TH of JULY

Thursday, Jul 5
PCNC Land Use
Mission Comm. Hospital
14860 Roscoe Blvd., PC
6:30 pm
818-894-7841

Kagel Cyn Civic Assoc.
Dexter Park, KC
11053 No. Trail Rd., KC
7:00 pm

Saturday, Jul 7
LADWP MOU Comm
8:45 am
LANCC Meeting 10 am
Hollywood Com. Center
6501 Fountain Ave., Hllywd

Monday, Jul 9
FTDNC Budget Comm
9797 Wheatland Ave., SH
7:00 pm

SNC Land Use Comm
Sylmar Park
13109 Bordon Ave., Syl
6:30 pm

PCNC Commerce
Wells Fargo Bank
8548 Van Nuys Blvd., PC
2:30 pm
818-714-2133

SVANC Gen Meet
10631 Vinedale Ave., SV
6:30 pm

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

Northridge West NC
Beckford Elem. School
19130 Tulsa St., Nrdge
7:00 pm

MHNC Budget & Finance
LAPD Mission Station
16161 Sepulveda Blvd., MH
7:00 pm
818-892-2414

PCNC Outreach
PCNC Office (4th Floor)
14500 Roscoe Blvd., PC
6:30 pm
818-714-2133

GHNNC Safety Comm
11139 Woodley Ave., GH
2:00 pm

Sun Valley Chamber Meet
Villa Scalabrini
10631 Vindale Ave., SV
12:00 pm

Tuesday, Jul 10
Bolton Hall Museum
Presents The Boomer Years"
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm-4:00 pm
818-352-3420

Wednesday, Jul 11
STNC Gen Meet.
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T
Refresh. 6:30 pm
7:00 pm
818-951-7411

FTDNC Exec. Board
9747 Wheatland Ave., SH
7:00 pm

Sun Valley Beautiful
9081 Tujunga Ave., SV
11:30 am

No Hollywd. Nh'brh'd Watch
Pentecostal Church
6800 Radford St., No Ho
6:30 pm
818-331-1390

FTDNC Equestrian Meet.
9747 Wheatland Ave., SH
7:00 pm

Pan. City Neighborhood Watch
9261 Wakefield, PC
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Thursday, Jul 12
LAPD Foothill Div. CPAB
Japanese Amer. Comm. Ctr
12953 Branford, Pac
6:00 pm
818-756-8866

Kagel Cyn Civic Assoc.
Dexter park
11053 No. Trail Rd., KC
7:00 pm

Valley Alliance of NC's
Sherman Oaks Hosp.
4929 Van Nuys, Sherm.
Oaks
6:30 pm

Friday, Jul 13
GHNNC Policy & Rules Comm
11139 Woodley Ave., GH
4:00 pm

Saturday, Jul 14
Plan Check NC
Hist. Downtown O.R. Center
114 W. Fifth St., L.A.
10:00 am - 1:00 pm

GHNNC, Rules & Policy Comm.
11139 Woodley Ave, GH
4:00 pm

Sunday, Jul 15
Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "The Boomer Years"
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
818-352-3420

Open Poetry Reading
The Village Poets
Bolton Hall Museum
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
818-352-3420
4:30 pm

Monday, Jul 16
Valley Vote
Galpin Ford
15555 Roscoe Blvd., NH
6:30 pm

GHNNC Land Use Comm
11139 Woodley Ave., GH
7:00 pm

STNC Land Use Comm
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T
7:00 pm

Tuesday, Jul 17
Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "The Boomer Years"
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm - 4:110pm
818-352-3420

Arleta NC Gen. Meeting
Beachy Ave. Elem. School
9757 Beachy Ave., Arl.
6:30 pm

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S-T Neighborhood Watch
7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T
6:30 pm

Sylmar NC Green Comm.
Sylmar Park & Rec. Cent.
Susan B. Anthony Bldg.
Polk & Bordon Ave., Syl
7:00 pm

Sunday, Jul 22
Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "The Boomer
Years"
10110 commerce Ave., S-T
Sdocent Tours
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
818-352-3420

Monday, Jul 23
GHNNC Gen. Meeting
Rinaldi Adult Center,
17450 Rinadli St., GH
6:30 pm

Tuesday, Jul 24
Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "The Boomer
Years"
10110 commerce Ave., S-T
Docent tours
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
818-352-3420

Arleta NC Gen. Meeting
Beachy Ave. Elem. School
9757 Beachy Ave., Arl
6:30 pm

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Mission Division
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7:00 pm

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NHNE NC Board Meet
Arminta Elem. School
11530 Arminta St., No Ho
7:00 pm

Strathern Nh'brh'd. Watch
Church of the Nazarene
12120 Strathern St., NoHo
6:30 pm

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COMMENTARY

City of Los Angeles Needs Realignment



By David Barron

Los Angeles Mayor Villaraigosa proved he supports big government; he hired 5,000 City employees soon after being elected! Why, because as a former union organizer, he knows L.A.'s union leaders will receive more union dues for their political action committees, which purchase campaign ads as "Independent Expenditures." Independent expenditures means there is no limit on how much they can spend for TV, radio, mailers and other outreach methods for their candidate, paid directly to vendors who will then be submissive to their demands. Otherwise, according to campaign rules, there is a maximum contribution of \$500 dollars that an individual or organization can give directly to the candidate. As a civil servant, I oppose

my union dues being used by our union leaders to support candidates that place special interest organizations in front of our hard working taxpayers, and small businesses. I prefer to donate personally to the candidate of my choice. Today, a raise does not improve the quality of our life, when the city council continually votes for skyrocketing taxes, fees, and utility rate increases, which will soon be approaching the cost of our rent or mortgage payments.

An alternative for an increase in salary for both public union employees, and the general public would be to vote out, or strike against, these elected officials who are over-spending and handing over our hard earned tax dollars to special interest. We should only support candidates who will spend our money prudently and who will also advocate repealing the City's business tax, which is partially responsible for L.A. losing businesses to other

cities that do not charge a this tax.

Can the city afford to do this? Absolutely! I just mentioned how the city is over-spending and giving away millions of our tax dollars to special interest. Keep in mind, the City's budget figures show that our city's revenue has been at an all-time high since 2006. And, if we elect candidates who will ensure that the Community Redevelopment Agency remains dead, we can eliminate City employee furloughs, and our taxes will go where they were intended, such as; schools, police, improving infrastructure and other city services. We would also be viewed as a business friendly city. Employers would return. Our local economy would improve. And, we would all have more expendable cash, the same as if we all received an increase in salary.

Editors Note: David Barron is a Civil Servant with the City of Los Angeles

Communication



By Robert Barbera

It seems like just yesterday our outside communication was limited to telephone/telegraph, radio and newspapers. Then television opened our eyes, literally and figuratively, to a medium that challenged the movies and our traditional source of communication. In the last twenty-five years, we have taken a leap into technology beyond our wildest imagination. Consider the following technologies:

Twitter- whatever comes to a person's mind can be communicated in 140 letters or less, to an unlimited number of people from all over the world.

Facebook- Displays a person's personal life on the web for anyone to see, through photographs, comments, and gps tracking. Can keep their social circle fully up-to-date with their life without having to directly speak to them.

Yelp- Gives anyone the ability to review and comment on businesses. Giving their thoughts and opinions validity which is often misinterpreted as fact.

iPod- Has completely changed the way people listen to music. Download music tracks directly from the internet to a small handheld digital device. Making the record, cassette, and audio cd obsolete. Small enough to be worn as a wrist watch.

IPad- 8.5" x 11", almost as thin and light as a piece of paper. Accesses the internet, sends messages, types reports, plays high quality movies, takes pictures, makes calls, and plays games from anywhere.

Smartphone- Makes phone calls, accesses the internet and emails, records video, takes pictures.

Laptop Computers- makes desktop computers portable. Any work that use to have be done at home from a set location can now be done from anywhere, on the go, with a wireless internet connection that is Light enough and small enough to be carried in a briefcase or purse.

Skype Video Calling- allows video calling to anyone, anywhere in the world, for free. With a web camera (now standard on most all computers and devices with internet access) a person is able to connect to another person from anywhere, anytime and talk over the device's built in speakers and see each other from the built in camera. Almost making traditional phones obsolete and making it harder for traditional phone companies to compete against the "free" rates.

Netflix- a movie or TV show buying/renting company available directly from the TV, accessible straight from the TV's remote. Gives a person the capability of buying or renting a DVD movie or TV show directly from their couch if their TV is newer with a connection

to the internet or phone line. Thus, making the need to go out and rent or buy a DVD obsolete. Also subscribing to HBO or SHOWTIME for specialty movies or TV shows has become outdated, as well as the need to sit through commercials.

TIVO- A digital box that records TV shows off standard cable at certain times and channels automatically, set in advance from the owner, to be viewed at anytime later. Again, on a digital drive that can easily be deleted or rerecorded over.

Our new tools of communication are challenging for the older generation to stay current. Coincidentally, Americanism Educational Leaders finds the nature of our programs dovetails with current concerns. Our debating program, essay program, slogan program, and the radio communication scholarship program are all about communication; and to a lesser connection, our Newsletter and our Outstanding Teacher Award are also a communication connection.

Traditional values are communicated to the new generation by using the recent technology. The students participate by responding favorably on our web site and in our programs.

Editor's Note: Mr. Barbera is Chairman of the Americanism Educational League. To contact him visit: www.americanism.org.

I Was Just Thinking...

By P. Vincent DiNova

About Our Vets—Am I home? Who am I?
"It is good that war is so horrible, or we might grow to like it." Robert E. Lee

In last issue's Part1 of "I Was Just thinking...About Our Vets", I offered a written depiction of the impact that PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress disorder) has on our soldiers who return from combat duty as they try to assimilate back into their families in particular, and society as a whole. In this second, and final installment, I will advance my personal theory as to why I think many war returnees have such difficulties making the adjustment back to "normal living."

I believe that those of us who successfully transition from traumatic experiences such as may result from any military involvement, operation, active battlefield participation, etc., evolve from a single, original, inclusive "Spirit", "Self", "Personality", "Identity", through a second, and into a third. And each is independent of the others. (I prefer to use the "Spirit" reference.)

I have a theory. Perhaps it is contained within the PTSD definition. But I choose to isolate it as its own consideration.

Spirit #1... A soldier on leave. Driving down the 5 freeway in the calm, quiet serenity of the San Fernando Valley at 2:00 am. On his/her way home just prior to being deployed to a war zone. Then, quite possibly, a couple of weeks later, give or take, in a foreign field, scrambling for cover while being shot at from all directions, seeking safety while trying to avoid the death, dismemberment, and/or other ghastly maiming wounds that thousands of hidden I.E.D.s most assuredly can bring at any time. All the while thinking, "Can this really be happening to me? It was like, just yesterday that

I was driving my car on the friggin' freeway!" It is going to be a long year, if survived. Your soldier has just met Spirit # 2, because Spirit # 1 is about to meld itself with Spirit # 2 and become a single, distant memory of another self.

Upon tour completion, whether shortened due to wounds of war, or safe termination, it is time to go home. Most returnees will successfully assimilate back into their families and society. They will have been able to successfully mesh Spirit # 1—who they were before they went to war, with Spirit # 2—who they were as a war participant, into a new, single identity: a functional, emotionally stable Spirit # 3.

I was lucky. Many were not, and still today, are not. That you are, at this moment, reading my words, should indicate to you that I am comfortably extant within the periphery of my Spirit # 3 identity. I believe that, for those less fortunate, it is because of their inability to reconcile their "before" and "during" war "Selves" into their new, 3rd "after" war "personas" that they so desperately needed to find when they returned home.

Many never come home. Not really. They end up in the streets. And many of them die there because that's all they came to know and that's what they're use to.

According to the National Coalition for the Homeless, each year, 3.5 million Americans experience homelessness. That's approximately 1% of the U.S. population. Yet, according to Dannion Brinkley, co-founder of The Twilight Brigade, a veterans assistance group, whose motto is "Compassion in Action", a disproportionate 44% of that 1% are former military personnel. In hard numbers? That means that at any given time, for every 100 homeless persons, 44 are veterans.

Brinkley created "The Brigade", a 501(c)3 organization, in 1997 for the express purpose of becoming

"...a leader in providing a highly differentiated service strategy based on its understanding of the unique needs of dying vets and their families." His goal, and that of all of his group's volunteers, is to never, knowingly, allow any American veteran die alone. EVER! He began his hospice volunteer work over 33 years ago and has spent more than 26,000 hours comforting the dying at bedside.

Brinkley himself might be considered to be an expert in "end-of-life" issues considering the number of brushes with death he personally has experienced: 1) Struck by lightning twice; 2) Heart failure; 3) Open heart surgery; 4) A number of ruptured subdermal hematomas; 5) Brain surgery; 6) Massive Grand Maul Seizure.

The Twilight Brigade offers a number of other services to vets and their families in areas such as finance, education, real estate, etc. It truly is as great organization and one of my personal favorites because their volunteers are there to assist vets and their families in need 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. If called upon, they are there to help vets close out the final chapter of their lives, up to each soldier's final breath. while asking nothing in return.

Please visit them at: thetwilightbrigade.com. And, if you are able, donations are needed and appreciated by this all-volunteer group of amazing people.

We should, of course, show compassion for all homeless persons. But please remember, the next time you see a homeless person, he or, in this new era of gender-equal service to our country, she as well, could be a vet. And that vet may not be the new self, new person, Spirit # 3, which, in the deepest recesses of that former warrior's humanness, that lonely soldier would really want to be...if only he or she knew how. Your forgotten veterans...should not be forgotten.

PUBLIC SAFETY

The Birth of Community Emergency Response Teams



*Captain Stacy Gerlich
CERT Commander
Los Angeles City Fire Department*

Part One A Historical Perspective

In February 1985, a group of City of Los Angeles officials traveled to Japan to study its extensive earthquake preparedness plans. The group encountered an extremely homogenous society that had taken extensive steps to train entire neighborhoods in one off our aspects of alleviating the potential devastation that would follow a major earthquake. These single-function neighborhood teams were trained in fire suppression, light search and rescue operations, first aid, and/or evacuation. It was then that the idea came to mind to train the community as volunteers to assist our emergency services personnel during large natural disasters.

The Mexico City earthquake further reinforces need for safe help: A City of Los Angeles investigation team was sent to Mexico City following an earthquake that

occurred on September 19, 1985. This deadly earthquake registered a magnitude 8.1 on the Richter scale. It also killed more than 10,000 people and injured more than 30,000!

Mexico City had no training program for citizens prior to this disaster; fortunately however, large groups of volunteers organized themselves and performed light search and rescue operations. Although these volunteers were credited with more than 800 successful rescues, more than 100 of these untrained volunteers died during the 15-day rescue operation that followed the earthquake. Historically, the presence of spontaneous rescuers is expected during large disasters. However, the 8:1 ratio of sacrificing one uninjured citizen rescuer for every eight trapped victims freed in Mexico was a disturbing statistic to the City investigators. Lessons learned in Mexico City strongly indicated that a plan was needed to train and organize spontaneous rescuers to help themselves and others become an adjunct to government response, and to prevent them from becoming victims themselves. Citizen training was needed as an essential component of an overall preparedness, survival, and recovery plan for Los Angeles.

While creating this plan, members of the development team compared Japan's community response program and demographics to Los Angeles. It was quickly decided that creating teams of "specialists" would not work with LA's highly mobile population. Instead, the goal was to create "generalists" who would safely handle the variety of simple emergencies that are associated with earthquakes and other natural disasters in the City.

In 1986, the LAFD developed a pilot program to train a group of community leaders in a Los Angeles Police Department Neighborhood Watch Organization. The goal was to prove the concept of developing multi-functional volunteer response teams with the ability to perform basic fire suppression, light search and rescue, and first aid. The LAFD's Fire and Safety Education Unit trained the first team of 30 people in early 1986. This "generalist" training concept has since proven viable through the various practical drills, demonstrations, and exercises that have involved CERT graduates. However, further expansion of the program at that time was not feasible due to limited City resources. As a result, the program remained undeveloped until October 1987.

(To be continued in next issue).

Fingerprint Readers Take Guesswork Out of Identification



*Commander James Cancler
Assistant Commanding Officer
Operations Valley Bureau
Los Angeles Police Department*

The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) has a long and distinguished history of seeking new ways to develop new technologies to enhance public safety and providing maximum police service to the communities of Los Angeles. One of the newer technologies recently fielded by the patrol officers and specialized units within the San Fernando Valley has been the introduction of the fingerprint readers inside of the police cars. In the past, suspects who sought to conceal their true identity could delay the police officers' investigation by making up a name and date of birth. Depending upon the seriousness of the crime, in some instances these suspects ended up walking away with a ticket or other minor document pertaining to their detention with no consequence since they had provided a fictitious name.

However, armed with a mobile fingerprint reader inside of their police cars, all police officers in the San

Fernando Valley now have the capacity to verify names and dates of birth when the detained suspect is unable to provide adequate identification. In several cases, suspects who have tried to avoid being identified by the police have been positively identified and arrested with this new technology. Such was the case on the evening of May 5, 2012, with officers assigned to the Operations-Valley Bureau, Valley Crime Task Force.

On this night, uniformed officers were assigned to work high crime locations along the boundary of Van Nuys and Mission Areas. As a vehicle approached, the officers noted that the vehicle had no front plate as required by the California Vehicle Code. The officers conducted a traffic stop and made contact with the driver and the passenger.

The passenger proved to be very cooperative and volunteered to the officers that she was in possession of methamphetamine and other drug paraphernalia. This passenger was arrested for felony drug possession among other charges.

With respect to the driver, the officers attempted to confirm his identity via the personal information he provided. However, the computer checks were unable to confirm his identity. Ultimately, the officers relied

upon the portable fingerprint reader. Within seconds of scanning the prints inside the police car, the driver was positively identified as an active local gang member who was currently on probation for a variety of narcotics related arrests. This fingerprint scan also identified that the driver had several pending arrest warrants. As a result, the driver was arrested for his part in assisting his passenger in her illicit narcotics business, his warrants, and for providing false identification information to the police. In addition to confirming the driver's identity and the numerous arrest warrants in his name, the fingerprint scanner also revealed the nature of the driver's criminal past which included grand theft auto, firearms violations, domestic violence, and other grievous court actions related to his prior arrests.

Your Los Angeles Police Department is proud to serve the San Fernando Valley and appreciates community support. As part of the Department's efforts to raise its service standards, new technologies are consistently evaluated and introduced which improve police productivity and efficiency while also enhancing public safety.

Message From Mission Division



*Captain Todd Chambers
Commanding Officer
Los Angeles Police Department
Mission Division*

Hello everyone. First, I would like to congratulate my colleague, Captain William Scott, who was promoted to Commander and is now the Assistant Commanding Officer assigned to Operations, West Bureau. Commander Scott shared with me many wonderful, positive things about Mission Area and the community. I want to thank you all for the warm welcoming you have all displayed towards me thus far.

I am familiar with the Mission Area as I started my career working as a young patrol officer in Foothill Area years ago. I worked a variety of assignments including CRASH, SWAT, Use of Force Division, Emergency Services Division, VICE, and as a Watch Commander in patrol. Prior to coming to Mission Area, I was the Area Commanding Officer of Central Area. I am eager to continue the positive partnership that has been built with our communities in the Mis-

sion area through the years.

I want to publicly acknowledge our Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB) who sponsored a "Vegas Style Buffet" Officer Appreciation Day in October to show its admiration and support for Mission Area's sworn and civilian personnel. CPAB members and a host of community volunteers spent that day cooking and serving up food for all of us. On behalf of Captain Romero and myself, and all the men and women of Mission Area, thank you all so very much.

I would also like to extend a thank you to all the companies who donated to this wonderful event. They include Outback Steakhouse-Northridge, The Bear Pit BBQ, Buon Gusto's, Marie Calendar's, Coco's, Denny's - Panorama City and Sylmar, Mission College Culinary School, Von's-Sylmar, Ralph's-Sylmar, Coca Cola, Facey Medical Group, Providence Holy Cross, Western Bagels-Panorama City, Souplantation-Porter Ranch, Trader Joe's, Odyssey Restaurant, Starbucks-Granada Hills and Mission Hills, Walgreens, ETI Corral 12, Jukeboxes for Rent, Chatsworth Florists, Mimi's Café-Northridge, Pollo Campenero, China Grill Express-North Hills, Costco, Olive Garden, Brent's Deli, TGI Friday-Porter Ranch, students

from Sylmar High School, our Mission Area CADETS, Eggology, Smart and Final, Sam's Club-San Fernando, Home Depot-San Fernando, All Valley Rental, Frito-Lay, 7-11, McDonald's, and CVS. I would also like to acknowledge Sylmar, Mission Hills, Panorama City, and North Hills East Neighborhood Councils, Mission Hills Neighborhood Watch, Sylmar Block Captains, Carey Ranch HOA, Hamer Toyota, Mission Community Police Council, Mayor Villaraigosa and LA Public Works, the offices of Council Members Tony Cardenas and Richard Alarcon, Assembly member Felipe Fuentes and Senator Alex Padilla's office.

I want to hear your concerns and encourage your participation in our policing efforts. Your questions concerning Mission Area may be directed to me at 818-838-9980, or to Sergeant Adrian Torres, Officer in Charge, Mission Area Community Relations Office, at 818-838-9860, email, 31467@lapd.lacity.org, or contact: Patrol Captain John Romero, 25756@lapd.lacity.orgm Area Captain Todd Chamberlain, 24642@lapd.lacity.org

THIS N THAT

Water Retention

By Marlene Hitt

In 1938, these words were written: "Six months ago flood waters boiling down the Big Tujunga wash pushed across San Fernando Valley with such force that some homes were carried away boldly and others crushed like eggshells."

The editor of the Record Ledger continues, "What is being done to prevent a recurrence of such a disaster? The start in construction last week of Hansen dam in Big Tujunga wash at a point between Sunland and San Fernando city is the answer to the query." He added that the project would be a vast undertaking of a dam nearly two miles long with a water storage capacity of 35,000 acres at a cost close to 6 million dollars.

That dam was completed August 17, 1940, and billed as the largest earth filled reservoir in the world, an engineering miracle. By the time of its completion the cost was \$13,000,000. A smaller issue was stated and that was the sad realization that the valley had

been robbed of Hansen Knoll, the home of Dr. Homer Hansen, a land island bulging out of the flat, brush-covered area which formed the bed of the basin.

In the Bolton Hall museum is a photograph of Harry Zachau taken many years before the great flood of '38 sitting at the base of a ravine in which numerous check dams were built. In the days before the giant water projects, the settlers corralled the water in several ways. In a steep ravine would be piles of rock placed in such a way as to coerce the water to go where it would do the least damage. Small dams and holding basins were placed along the river, made by hand and continually refined.

Nature had its own holding tank which was, according to John Whelan, a vast underground lake beneath the wash which was called Pasko Lake. It would be of interest to know how much water there is now in that underground reservoir.

As well as several storage tanks and reservoirs in the hills, two dams are in use in this area in addition

to Hansen dam. The Big Tujunga Dam, completed in 1931 and Pacoima Dam, finished in 1929, both act as storage basins and for floodwater control. The Big Tujunga dam is 200 feet above the original streambed and is 505 feet in length.

Pacoima dam, in a canyon as rugged as can be imagined, was once considered one of the tallest built with a measurement of 640 feet at the top, side to side, and 100 feet in thickness and 397 feet tall. Over 12.7 million of initial dollars, and untold amounts since the completion of those structures have been spent on these named facilities alone.

We do hope all that storage has made it possible to put aside enough water so that we will get through this time of drought comfortably and will weather the next El Nino.

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

Obituary



Dennis O'Sullivan - January 17, 2012

Dennis was the past Executive Director of People In Progress, Dennis dedicated his life to helping others, not only at the agency, but also in the community at large, having served on numerous boards and committies. Born in North Hollywood, California, Dennis attended Charles Borromeo Grammar School No. Hollywood and went on to attend High School at St Nicholas of Tolentine, Bronx, N.Y. He also studied Business Law and Business Management at the University of Hawaii and is a graduate of L.A. Mission College Chemical Dependency studies program. He was a Vietnam Era veteran. 1965-1967 and attended Non-Commissioned Officers Leadership Academy Ft. McClellan, AL 1967 before being employed for 15 years as a motion picture camera technician freelancing for major motion picture and television producers. He also worked in various management positions in the retail and food and beverage industries. While volunteering for People in Progress, Inc.

Small Businesses Honored



More than 200 people were in attendance as the United Chambers of Commerce of the San Fernando Valley and Region honored small business award recipients during a breakfast held at the Beverly Garland Holiday Inn in North Hollywood on Friday morning, June 1. Business honorees, who were selected by their local Chambers of Commerce to be honored, were **Launa Stone Med-Spa-Calabasas**, **Mike's Roofing and Building**-Canoga Park/West Hills, **Beds Unlimited**-Chatsworth/Porter Ranch, **BWS Financial**, Inc-Encino, **Law Office of Roman P. Mosaqueda**, Philipino-American, Los -Angeles, **Boston Private Bank & Trust Co**-Granada Hills, **John Hernandez**, **State Farm Insurance**-Pacoima, **Team Empower & Partners**-Philipino Chamber of So. California. **Loves Software & Computer Services**-Sherman Oaks. **U-Frame Gallery**-Studio City, **Richard Stewart Painting**-Sunland-Tujunga, **Sun Valley Equipment Rentals**-Sun Valley, **Volvo of Calabasas**-Agoura/Oak Park/ConejoValley/Calabasas, **Victor N. Viereck, CPA/Realtor**-Universal City, No. Hollywood, **Valley Economic Development Center**-National Merchants Assoc., and **RGEB Employee Benefits** WoodlandHills/Tarzana. The biographies of each honoree was presented by the Chair of their sponsoring Chamber.

Former State Assembly member Richard Katz was Master of Ceremonies. Roberto Barragon with VEDC was the Guest Speaker and the John Parker, Chairman of the Board for the United Chambers, presented the awards. Councilmembers Richard Alarcon, Mitch Englander and Dennis Zine were also on hand to congratulate the honorees.



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Viet Nam Veterans Celebrated their own Day of Honor

Both the City of Los Angeles and County of Los Angeles adopted Resolutions proclaiming March 30 as the "Official Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Los Angeles."

As a result, the first time ever the new Annual Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Los Angeles festival was held on Saturday, March 31, at Veterans Park, Sylmar. The free public event was held from 12:00, noon, to 5:00 pm. The intermittent rain didn't stop the Festival, which included a car show, booths sponsored by many service-affiliated organizations, and five Bands performing music from the years 1963 through 1975.

Men and women who served in Vietnam, along with their families, were honored on their special day.

The USO, which also participated in the event, was also honored for their many contributions. They are world famous for taking entertainers on tour to Vietnam and other theaters of war, to support our Troops. Some well-known entertainers, who also went with Bob Hope and Johnny Grant on his tours to Vietnam, were also on hand.

The event, funded 100% by private donations, was produced by Heroes of Life, a 501c3 nonprofit organization which provides training and education to young people, teaching them the various aspects of production of music and film and is located in Pacoima.

HERE'S MY CARD



Carrick's Journey —Part Thirty Two Tall Tales

By Tomi Lyn Bowling

Fanella watched very closely as every word was spoken by Justine. Fanella examined her facial expressions, her motions, and movements, but the thing that stood out more than anything was what she was saying. Justine described a scene that was not making any sense to Fanella. Not wanting to challenge her words publicly, fearing that Justine would simply call her jealous over the brief words she had with Drake, Fanella kept this to herself.

Drake listened intently to the story Justine told as well. Occasionally, he would look at Fanella and ask her to explain more of what was being said. "What did she mean there were two figures holding her down...Were they just holding her for the purpose of stopping her from killing them, or why would they just hold her down and not kill her?" Fanella didn't answer. She just looked ahead and gave a little glance to Drake so he'd know she had no answer just yet.

After a few minutes of what appeared to be a very long recollection of a horrible attack on her village, Fanella began to see more and more flaws in the story. She started watching how others were receiving this story including, Sebastian. Sebastian didn't appear to be alarmed by anything in the story from Justine, but then Fanella knew that he would never let on if he had any suspicion.

"Justine, you've been through quite an ordeal. I know you've prepared a list of the casualties for me. I can't thank you enough for taking the time to come and brief us all. You're truly an asset to our village and always have been. I think you should rest now", spoken as he turned to two of his personal guards and instructed them to take her to the Care Facility.

Fanella knew instantly that Sebastian was very suspicious. He'd never sent his personal guards with anyone from the village. As they headed for the exit, the room full of soldiers began to talk among themselves. The voices grew louder while Fanella waited for the escorts to leave the room so she could go speak to Sebastian. As soon as they were out of view Fanella started stepping towards him, but before she approached Sebastian stopped her. He held out his hand to halt her footsteps and looked her squarely in the eyes and, without uttering a word, told her not to speak to him about this just yet. Fanella stopped and listened as Sebastian rose up and spoke out to gain the attention of those in the room.

"My friends we have a great deal of work to do. We have much to consider and plan. Please meet me back here in two hours, after you've all had a chance to eat and arrive here. I know most of you have been traveling a long time so arrive, orient yourselves, eat, and we'll meet in two hours."

As the room emptied Sebastian walked over to Fanella and Drake. Fanella, with a furrowed brow on her face, opened her mouth to speak and Drake interrupted... "Sebastian, I'm new to this but that woman was clearly telling a tall tale. There were so many holes in her story!" Sebastian gave a little smirk and put his arm on Drake's shoulder, "Son, you do catch on quickly don't you?" as the three started to walk together.

To be continued...

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