

Septic Tank Owners Smell a Bad Law

By Fritz Bronner

The Los Angeles Department of Public Works' Bureau of Sanitation (B of S) is requesting that the Los Angeles City Council pass an ordinance this year which will include a series of Memorandums of Understands (MOU) and agreements between the Water Quality Control Board and B of S with little input opportunity for the public. Many community members feel that it is creating a collision course for potential financial ruin for many Los Angeles residents, while greatly impacting all residential properties with septic systems. The technical term for the proposed septic plan by B of S and Public Works, and drafted by the State of California, is called On-site Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS).

All OWTS will require mandatory inspections for continued Certificates of Operation and will require fees of \$350 for each permit, a \$900 inspection fee, plus other additional fees. Currently, there are no qualified city inspectors for this function; therefore, creation of new positions and training will be required. Some community members believe it will result in a new tax bill to create jobs.

If OWTS property is deemed a "high-risk", additional inspections and permit renewals will be required every three years at additional higher costs to residents.

If an OWTS fails inspection, (for which specified definitions and terms are not defined), owners within 200 feet of a sewer line will be forced to hook up to the city system. This will entail another range of fees and expenses for property owners, a situation the B of S staff was not aware of at the time of their recent presentation meeting in the La Tuna Canyon community. This was later admitted by them during the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council's Land Use Committee Meeting in May. B of S estimated that a new septic system would cost \$30,000 with only a \$758 hook up fee to a sewer line. But it was apparent they didn't check with Building and Safety, Public Works, or local contractors. Local residents quickly pointed out that costs by other L.A. City departments include \$13,000 per 50 to 100 feet additional sewer line extension hook up to the edge of the property line, plus building permit fees ranging from \$6,000-\$15,000, repairs to street, an additional



Dept. of Sanitation asked for a "show of hands" by Septic Tank Owners during a recent meeting.

\$5,000-\$10,000, plus digging and hookup fees within the property to the home, and another \$8,000-\$15,000, which could easily add up to \$50,000 or more.

What is a "high risk" OWTS? The city identifies high risks OWTS systems per the MOU with water Quality Control Board: within 900 ft. of active an water well, or 600 ft. from water bodies identified as impaired due to high levels of nitrates, and or bacteria under sec. 303(d) of the Clean Water Act.

This originally meant that water sources were proven to be impaired, with scientific methodology, showing that there are high levels of nitrates and bacteria and then specific sources (OWTS) being tested and confirmed as discharging into the water as the polluter.

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War Memorial Stolen from Sunrise Rock

By Katharine Russ

Just two weeks after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled to protect the Mojave Desert War Memorial, thieves wantonly stole the cross from its perch atop Sunrise Rock in the Mojave Desert Preserve. The cross has stood there for 75 years. On May 10th, a Park employee noticed the cross was missing and noted that it had been removed sometime through the night.



Cross was covered until Court Decision allowing it to stay

Wanda Sandoz, along with her husband, Henry, were long time caretakers of the cross and litigants in the recent Supreme Court actions. Sandoz was saddened by the theft, and said, "Whoever did this, either cut it off or put a chain around it and drug it off with their vehicle." Sandoz said they would replace the cross but could not do so until the Park Service gave permission to them to replace it.

U.S. Congressmen Buck McKeon who represents Barstow, CA, Ken Calvert and Congressman Jerry Lewis also condemned the action of those who stole the cross. "The Mojave War cross has long been a symbol of the many brave Americans who gave their life to our country in battle," said Calvert. "The illegal removal of the cross by vandals is an insult to anyone who has ever served in the U.S. Armed Forces; a repulsive act which violates every code of honor and decency. I will be working with my good friends Congressmen Lewis and McKeon, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Liberty Institute, and all other involved entities to replace the cross to its rightful spot atop Sunrise Rock in the Mojave National Preserve." Lewis added, "I am disgusted that someone would do such a shameful act of thoughtless vandalism to a memorial that has stood for 70 years honoring those who died for our country."

An anonymous caller to the Barstow Dispatch News claimed that while he did not tear down the monument, he knew who did. The caller gave the reporter a written explanation from the person allegedly responsible for the theft. Purportedly, the cross was not stolen, it was lovingly removed and the cross has been carefully preserved. The alleged thief professed to be a veteran and believed that not only was the

cross placed on the rock illegally, but also the words of the Justices of the Supreme Court were what provoked him to "remove" the cross. Allegedly, he would return the cross to Sandoz, if a more appropriate, non-sectarian memorial was placed on the site.

In a 5-4 ruling on April 28th, the Supreme Court reversed the Ninth Circuit Court ruling and District Court ruling that ordered the cross to be removed. The lower court must, now, readdress the issue of the land transfer to the VFW in 2002. (*Salazar v. Buono.*)

Justice Anthony M. Kennedy wrote, "Even though the Court may not reconsider whether Buono had standing to seek the 2002 injunction, it is still necessary to evaluate his standing to seek application of the injunction against the land transfer statute. That measure of relief is embodied in the judgment upon which we granted review. This was a measure of relief that Buono had standing to seek. A party that obtains a judgment in its favor acquires a 'judicially cognizable' interest in ensuring compliance with that judgment."

Kennedy reversed the Court of Appeals and remanded the case "for further proceedings." Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. agreed with Kennedy noting that he would not have remanded the case to the lower court. Peter Eliasberg, managing attorney and Mannheim Family Attorney for First Amendment Rights at the ACLU of Southern California clarified, "The Supreme Court held that the district court used the wrong legal standard in evaluating the validity of the transfer. On remand, the district court will have to reconsider the transfer under the standard set forth in Justice Kennedy's plurality opinion." The lower court must decide if the one acre piece of land given to the

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COMMUNITY NEWS

L.A. City Council Boycotts Arizona



'Illegal super - highway' from Mexico to the USA (Tucson) used by human smugglers.

By Katharine Russ

A recent Motion, approved by LA City Council on May 12, provides for a boycott of Arizona goods and services and suspends travel to the state. The Motion is fringed with language like: "Suspend travel to Arizona unless it would harm City interests; where there is no significant cost to the city, or in conflict with any law; to refrain from entering into any new contracts or amending them from a company headquartered in Arizona." But how likely is it that travel to Arizona will be suspended?

Councilmember Janice Hahn has asked for cancellation of contracts wherever "possible and feasible". Aside from a small handful of contracts that may be subject to cancellation, contracts such as Power, Water, the Harbor and Airports are beyond the City Council's reach.

The motion requests that the City Attorney prepare and present an ordinance "exercising its power to make economic decisions as a participant in the market shall restrict, to the extent permissible and consistent with the City's interests, its contracting relative to goods and services to persons or entities which are not based in the State of Arizona". Such an ordinance would impose an undue burden on interstate commerce in Arizona.

Hahn has called for 250 cities to enact similar laws to that of L.A. to force a repeal of the alleged racist law signed by Governor Brewer on April 23. It is difficult to see the logic in this boycott. Calling for the possible destruction of another states economy in protest of a law, not yet enacted, that MAY potentially have the ramifications of racial profiling is akin to "putting the cart before the horse."

As Justice Cardozo observed in Baldwin v. G.A.F. Seelig, Inc. (1935), "the Constitution was framed upon the theory that the peoples of the several states must sink or swim together, and that in the long run prosperity and salvation are in union and not division."

With that in mind, a 1951 Supreme Court decision (*Dean Milk v. City of Madison*, 340 U.S. 349 (1951)), ruled that no municipality (state) may pass ordinances that discriminate against interstate commerce unless doing so is the only possible way to fulfill a legitimate local purpose.

The Center For Immigration Studies reports that:

- **"The new Arizona** law mirrors federal law, which already requires aliens (non-citizens) to register and carry their documents with them (8 USC 1304(e) and 8 USC 1306(a)). The new Arizona law simply states that violating federal immigration law is now a state crime as well. Because illegal immigrants are by definition in violation of federal immigration laws, they can now be arrested by local law enforcement in Arizona.
- **The law is** designed to avoid the legal pitfall of 'pre-emption,' which means a state can't adopt laws that conflict with federal laws. By making what is a federal violation also a state violation, the Arizona law avoids this problem.
- **The law only** allows police to ask about immigration

status in the normal course of 'lawful contact' with a person, such as a traffic stop or if they have committed a crime.

- **Estimates from the federal government** indicate that more than 80 percent of illegal immigrants come from Latin America. Thus, there is concern that police may target only Hispanics for enforcement.
- Before asking a person about immigration status, law enforcement officials are required by the law to have "reasonable suspicion" that a person is an illegal immigrant. The concept of "reasonable suspicion" is well established by court rulings. Since Arizona does not issue driver's licenses to illegal immigrants, having a valid license creates a presumption of legal status
- **The law specifically states** that police, "may not solely consider race, color or national origin" when implementing SB 1070.
- **When Arizona's governor** signed the new law, she also issued an executive order requiring the Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board to provide local police with additional training on what does and what does not constitute 'reasonable suspicion'."

For Councilman Ed Reyes to say, "As an American, I cannot go to Arizona today without a passport. As an American, I am offended that I can't feel comfortable traveling in my country without fear of falling victim to racial profiling." Or Councilmembers Hahn and Koretz to compare Arizona's not yet enacted law to Nazi Germany in the 1930's is equally comparable to the boycott Hahn and Koretz have voted for against Arizona. Every federal, state and local law will have, and has had, abusers. Is it really fair to condemn the abuse of any law before any abuse has occurred?

Councilmember Greig Smith said, "This (motion) is not in the economic best interests of the City of Los Angeles. I have always opposed using the Los Angeles City Council to weigh in on non-related social issues that are not within the purview of Los Angeles. I voted no on the motion to boycott Arizona." Perhaps Smith understands the effects of unintended consequences.

In her press release, Hahn said, "Bad things happen when good people don't stand up and speak out, and that's exactly why 13 members of the Los

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"Bandito Couple" Weds in "Bandito Park"

By Nina Royal



Sunland-Tujunga - Richard Stewart, a Board Member of the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council and President of the Rotary Club, and his bride, Susan Boughton, invited the entire Sunland-Tujunga

Community to celebrate their marriage on Sunday, May 16, at what has become known as "Bandito Park" on Tujunga Canyon Blvd.

The land had previously been an unkempt strip of unsightly weed infested open space, along the wash close to the Verdugo Hills Golf Course. Shortly before Christmas 2009, a transition began. That approximately half-mile stretch of land was mowed, weeds pulled, and new rock tower formations were dispersed along the strip, and their tops decorated with large colorful Christmas bulbs. No one could guess who the Good Samaritan was or why. On Valentines Day the formations were adorned with hearts. And then the hearts were exchanged for Shamrocks to celebrate St. Patrick's day. A footbridge also appeared across the gully to an area being used for parking. It was discovered that a person who calls himself "Bandito", a.k.a. Richard Stewart, who built the bridge as well, volunteered all those good deeds. He, along with his accomplice, (new wife Susan), wanted to bring smiles to the community which must look at the forsaken trash and weed ridden land on a daily basis as they travel to and from the 210 freeway, or La Tuna Canyon Blvd. to Foothill Blvd.

It appears that an entire grateful community turned out to help them celebrate their marriage at the new, unofficial "Bandito Park" with a picnic lunch, dancing to live music provided by "The Way to Happiness Band", while also expressing their good wishes to the unique new "Bandito Couple" for a long and happy new life together.

Some community members will now be volunteering to help them keep up "Bandito Park." Interested persons can contact "Bandito" himself at Richard Stewart Painting, Call 818-951-1181 and leave a message.

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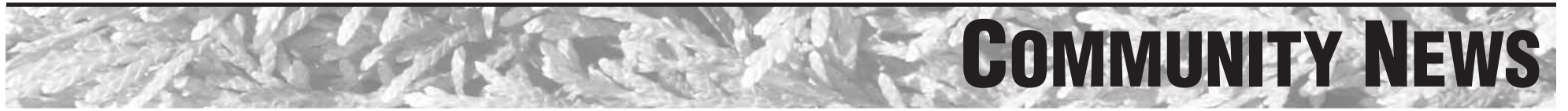
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COMMUNITY NEWS

You Should Know...

By Nina Royall

Memorial Ceremonies honoring our Military Heroes will be taking place on Monday May 31, at several locations in the North Valley:

Granada Hills – 5:00 pm - Veterans Park, Chatsworth at Zelzah St.. It will also include a ceremony-dedicating park recently re-furbished by the Granada Hills Rotary Club. A barbecue fundraiser will follow the ceremony at VFW Post 323. For more information contact: jwetamp@aol.com.

Sunland-Tujunga – 11:00 am – Sunland Park, Foothill Blvd. at Sunland Blvd, performed by American Legion Post 377, 10039 Pinewood Ave., Tujunga. It is usually followed up with a potluck lunch.

Sylmar – 11:00 am – Pioneer Cemetery, Foothill Blvd at Blesoe St., hosted by the San Fernando Valley Historical Society.

Sun Valley – 12:00 pm - American Legion #520, 9026 Sunland Blvd, is holding an Open House and Barbecue Lunch for the public

The Annual Sunland-Tujunga 4th of July Parade - is in jeopardy of being cancelled. The historical parade has been sponsored by the Sunland-Tujunga, Shadow Hills Rotary Club for many years. But according to organization members, they may need to pass this

year because the City of L.A. is charging \$7,000 for permits and fees in order to hold the event. If communities want this tradition to be carried on this year, the Rotary needs the public's help and is seeking donations to help pay the required fees. They weren't advised of this situation in time to do fund raisers. If you are interested in donating, contact Rotary member, Ellis Robertson, at OK Trophy & Awards, 8337 Foothill Blvd # D, in Sunland, or call 818-352-8671

Debris Flows of 1934 and 1978 - is being presented by Little Landers Historical Society at Bolton Hall Museum, 11010 Commerce Ave., Tujunga, and begins at 1:00 pm. Guest Speaker Art Cobery, a 67 year resident of Crescenta Valley and a retired Burbank High School History Teacher, will recount the devastating affects the floods had in the region.

The Annual Integrated Resource Planning - (IRP) Meeting is taking place on Thursday, June 10, 9:30 am to 11:30 am, 2714 Media Center Dr., in L.A. just south of the 2 Freeway. There will be a progress review of accomplishment regarding the Recycled Water Master Planning Process, the Stormwater Program, and other Sanitation Projects. To RSVP call Chris DeMonbrun, 323-342-1537, or email Chris.DeMonbrun@Lacity.org.

A tour of the Los Angeles River - is taking place on Sunday, June 13, 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. The Carpool

Tour will begin at LA State Historic Park in Chinatown and proceed through South LA River, Downtown LA to the river's mouth and Long Beach. There is a fee, and registration is required. Contact Shelly at Mail@folar.org Visit: www.lariver.org for more information regarding the river project.

Co-Existing with Wildlife knowledge - is a must for persons living in the foothill communities. S-T Alliance and Devil Dog ranch are sponsoring a free public presentation by Officer Greg Randall, Wildlife Specialist for Los Angeles Animal Services. Randall will be covering safety for people and pets, human deterrents Vs trapping, existing laws and policies at city, county and state levels, etc. Bring family and friends, Monday, June 14, 7:00 pm, to North Valley City Hall, 7747 Foothill Blvd, Tujunga. For more information email: contact@devildogranch.com, or call 213-422-0090.

Lopez Canyon Truck Driving School - An appeal was filed on May 5 by the Community Alliance for Open Space with the L.A. City Council. The assigned Council File No. 10-0842 has now been referred to the Planning and Land Use Management Committee (PLUM). The Alliance is anticipating a hearing date in the near very future. Visit Sunlandtujungaalliance.com for updates.

North Valley Update



Paul Krekorian
Councilmember, District 2
Los Angeles City Council

My staff and I have been working closely with the Bureau of Sanitation regarding their proposed ordinance concerning Onsite Water Treatment Systems (OWTS), also known as Septic Tanks. The ordinance was developed in response to a mandate that was passed by the State Legislature 10 years ago. Council District Two has far more OWTS

than any other district and would be significantly impacted by this ordinance.

We will continue to keep in close contact with the Bureau to ensure that the concerns of our residents in CD2 are heard and accommodated in the development of any OWTS policy. While I believe we need to make every reasonable effort to maintain the quality of our groundwater supply, the ordinance is not acceptable in its current form and I will oppose it. I am working aggressively to ensure that the regulation of OWTS does not have a significant impact on our residents

While I have also been busy in City Hall – opposing multiple DWP rate hike proposals, making the city of L.A. an easier place to do business and ensuring public safety is our number one priority, among other recent ventures – I want to share with you how we are also working hard to ensure the quality of life in Sunland-Tujunga remains excellent.

Two important issues in the community – the Commerce Avenue town clock and an inconveniently painted red curb, also on Commerce Avenue - are in the process of being resolved thanks to the dedicated work of our CD2 team.

My office has worked with Bureau of Street Services and the Commerce Owners Business Restoration Association to place an antique style street clock at the corner of Commerce Avenue and Tujunga Canyon Boulevard as part of the revitalization of Historic Old Towne Commerce Avenue in Tujunga. The clock has now been installed and is one of many street improvements, which include the recent installation of seventeen pedestrian

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Generous Seniors Cheer Needy Children



June Proud Fit of Arleta (left), and Karen China of Burbank, (right) run into each other several times a week, during dinner hours at the Hill Street Café on Glenoaks Blvd., across the street from Woodbury University. It was there that they discovered they share the same passion. The Café has a large stuffed animal vending machine they both like to play before or after their meal. They have semi-mastered the challenge of the claw that picks up the toy and drops it down the chute. They usually walk out with more than two or three stuffed animals each on a good day after playing with only two or three dollars. When they have each won a large bundle of the stuffed animals, they take them to their favorite children's centers in the Valley and give them to needy children. They both say it gives them a great deal of pleasure and makes their day.

Earth Day was a Work Day



North Hollywood East Neighborhood Council (NHENC) hosted a Earth Day community cleanup. Over 60 volunteers helped beautify their community. Sponsors included North Valley Caring Services, the Offices of Councilman Richard Alarcon, Assemblymember Felipe Fuentes, Penny Lane Centers, the Community Beautification Dept. and all those who gave their time and energy.

DWP to Review Bills of "Station Fire" Victims

by Tomi Lyn Bowling

In the wake of the worst open space fire in Los Angeles County history, residents of the foothill communities that border the burn areas are hoping to get some relief from the Department of Water and Power's (DWP) shockingly high utility bills. The victims' higher than usual bills were not only caused by the fire, but also due to the implementation of the DWP's new Tier System. Their system was set up earlier last year to increase rates and which purpose, according to the DWP, was to encourage water conservation in preparation for a possible water shortage.

The residents' homes that were in close proximity to the fire had to hose down with water frequently to keep their homes from becoming casualties. They also had to keep their windows closed and run their air conditioners non stop 24/7 for the same reason. Many of those residences were so close, the threat-

ening flames were only a few feet away from their homes. Still others lived many days and weeks suffering from the residual smoke as the ash continued to downpour. The travails of these residences were then compounded by their shocking excessively high DWP bills.

Councilmember Paul Krekorian, representing L.A.'s Council District Two, the region affected by the Station Fire, has asked the DWP to follow through with negotiating the rates for the victims in the fire region. At their request, Krekorian is asking anyone who was adversely affected by the Station Fire, resulting in their utility bill being unusually high due to that fire, to send their contact information to his Staff Member, Mary Benson at Mary.Benson@lacity.org, or call Ms. Benson at 818-352-3287.

Editors Note: Ms Bowling is STNC Vice President – Community Improvement, Chairman of the Land Use Committee, and writes for the NVR.

Sunland-Tujunga

By Cindy Cleghorn

Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council — Councilmember Paul Krekorian installed their new Board Members on Wednesday, May 14, during their General Meeting. New leaders included Verdugo Hills High School Students Cara DeCaro and Thomas Macaulay who together will represent our growing youth community. Other new members to the Board include Jodie Brittain, Education Representative and Nanci Caillouet, Historical Societies Representative. The festive meeting included home made famous Chili, Corn Bread and salad donated by David Cain, Nanci Caillouet and Barbara Johnson and double chocolate cake baked by Linda Casteel.

4th of July Family Fireworks Festival — sponsored by the Sunland-Tujunga, Shadow Hills Community Grant Fund has confirmed that the Festival will be held on Sunday, July 4th at Verdugo Hills High School. Gates will be open at 4 pm. Featured will be local bands, games, food and the renowned Fireworks show that begins at dusk. Proceeds from the \$5 admission fee will benefit student youth clubs in local schools. For further information, contact Sonia Tatulian at (818) 352-4433.

A Community Planning Class — is scheduled to begin at North Valley City Hall on Tuesday, June 1. The featured speakers are recently retired Senior City Planners Dick Platkin and Tom Rath who will address how to improve the foothill area's Community and Specific Plans. The five week class is free to participants. Contact Cindy Cleghorn at 818-429-6699 to register or for more information.

Former Coffee Stop — "Change of Use" determination letter has been issued to change use of the property from it's former designation to Propane Sales. It also includes a wrought iron fence around the site of the perimeter and a block wall to protect the 1,150 gallon propane tank to insure safety. The City Planning Department received several concerns from the community that were not addressed in the determination. As a result, community members attended the STNC Land Use Committee meetings with their concerns regarding the change of use from a vibrant neighborhood retail establishment to a closed industrial use business. The Sunland-Tujunga Alliance has announced that they will appeal the determination.

The Tujunga Wash — homeless issue near the Angeles National Golf Course (ANGC) had been monitored and addressed by the community and the ANGC. The ANGC's adherence to conditions will soon be completed and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy will receive the land dedication soon.

The Best of Sunland-Tujunga — Sponsored by the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council is underway. Look for the ballots in local businesses, stores and service centers and cast your ballot for your favorites.

Editors note: Ms. Cleghorn is Secretary of the STNC, a community activist who participates in many organizations and writes for the NVR.

Sun Valley

By Mike O'Gara

The Academic Decathlon Team - from John H. Francis Polytechnic High School in Sun Valley, a.k.a. the Poly Parrots Academic Decathlon champions, beat North Hollywood in the regional competition and won a berth in the State competition in Sacramento. This is the first time Poly has advanced to the State level. The team flew to Sacramento on March 12, and arrived back home with 22 medals and a plaque for finishing third in the Super Quiz for their division. The community congratulates Poly's Academic Decathlon coach, Brian Block, and these terrific students. Way to go Poly!

Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council – (SVANC) - Earth Day received a great response from their Outreach efforts during the Sun Valley Beautiful Earth Day Celebration at Sun Valley Park. The Sun Valley High School Leadership class provided outstanding help. Gabriela Muniz won the raffle for a dracaena houseplant. The public was encouraged to participate in surveys to identify the biggest stakeholder concerns that need to be addressed. Look for results to be furnished in this column next month.

The highlight of the event was the tug of war games between different Sun Valley Business entities organized by Lily Lee of Waste Management. It appears Athens Services was the big winner. "We know 'where's the beef' was because they had some pretty big fellows out there." Children were also entertained with a rock climbing wall and a children's petting zoo. Everyone had lots of hot dogs and a good time.

SVANC's new Board of Directors was elected on March 27, and sworn in on May 11. Angelica Dunas was selected by the Board to carry out the duties of President.

The Board's General Meeting will continue to meet every second Tuesday, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, at Villa Scalabrini Retirement Center, 10631 Vinedale Street, Sun Valley, in the Assembly Room, with the exception of the June meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, June 9. Rescheduling is necessary because June 8 is Election Day. The SVANC thanks all businesses in Sun Valley who allowed the SVANC to place election posters the North Valley Reporter newspaper, and Flyers that advertised the election on their premises. The Donut Den, Bobs Big Boy, Georgio's Pizza, Big Jim's, The Towne Café, Acapulco, The Mandarin Terrace, Quiznos, Papa Johns Pizza, Budd's Donuts, Lucchese's Italian Restaurant and Deli, Denny's, Subway, Baskin-Robbins 31 Flavors, Chase Bank, and CitiBank. It is always risky to name names for fear of forgetting someone. However, all of these businesses deserve recognition for supporting our civic process and contributing to the successful outreach to stakeholders which was verified by voter turnout.

Because of you, we have some new members on the board with fresh energy. The Board is looking forward to the next two years of service to the community and continuing to improve the Quality of Life in Sun Valley.

Election Reminder – Take time to vote in this upcoming Municipal Election. Municipal Elections are known for low voter turnout. However, they are important. There are County and Judicial positions, as well as some propositions on the ballot, that need your attention.

Editor's note: Mike O'Gara is the immediate Past President of the SVANC, and now serves as their 2nd Vice President. He also writes for the NVR.

COMMUNITY NEWS

New Bicycle Lanes Celebrated



Shadow Hills - Street Services has installed the much anticipated new bicycle lanes on Wentworth Ave between Foothill and Glenoaks Blvd. John Laue, (center), Region One Representative for the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council, organized an informal group of riders to initiate the new lanes. Their starting point was at Fire Station No. 24 through Hansen Dam and back. Mary Bensen, Field Deputy for Councilmember Paul Krekorian, was on hand to offer refreshments to riders. This public bike riding event could become a monthly event depending on bike rider participation. Contact John Laue at lauejp@gmail.com.

Continued from page 3 — North Valley

light fixtures, new sidewalks and improved street furniture. All improvements were initiated by the community, and designed to stimulate economic activity to encourage more pedestrian-friendly businesses while restoring the historical and eclectic nature of the neighborhood.

Installation of the town clock was promptly completed after I requested the Bureau of Street Lighting to immediately use the existing street lightning's electrical system for the clock. Tapping the current electrical system for the clock made the best fiscal sense and would assure that crews would not cut into the recently poured sidewalks that the community is proudly maintaining. Thanks to the dedication of the community and recent improvements, Olde Town Commerce Avenue serves as the center of this unique neighborhood, and provides a small town feel through its diverse local shops, restaurants, the Bolton Hall Historical Museum, and Little Landers Park.

With the rise in a pedestrian traffic along Commerce Avenue, residents took note when a freshly painted red curb seemed to eliminate needed parking spaces near Greeley Street.

Staff members in my Sunland-Tujunga office have been working with engineers from the city's Department of Transportation, urging them to remove a portion of the red curb to allow for additional parking spots. I know how much of an inconvenience it was for business owners on Commerce to suddenly learn one day that customers would have to park further away from their shops. While the angled parking has made it easier for more cars to park along Commerce, we want to maximize the amount of visitors to this wonderful area and hope to have a resolution on this issue very soon.

As always, please feel free to call us to discuss these and any other issues. Our number is (818) 352-3287 and our office is at 7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga, 91042.

Editors Note: Councilmember Krekorian represents the following communities: La Tuna Canyon, Lake View Terrace, Shadow Hills, Sunland-Tujunga and Sun Valley. Follow him at cd2.lacity.org, Facebook and Twitter (@PaulKrekorian).

Continued from Cover — Septic Tank

The rules changed in recent years according to conversations with officials with B of S, regarding their interpretations of the MOU. Now, any one of the above mentioned four provisions can make an OWTS deemed a high risk. Two more provisions were also added to the mix in the last four years. Did City Council members who support this really know the implications and how financially toxic this would impair OWTS owners?

These new rules added additional properties to the high-risk designation. Streams and rivers were added from recent motions by City Council: 1) 150 ft. near a stream; 2) Properties with only 5 ft. separation from seasonal ground water - adapted by the Septic Tank Task Force.

The B of S confirmed that, by changing these interpretations of the rules, the number of High Risk OWTS increased from 100 to over 2,000 homes within the city. Ironically, on this same MOU, both signed parties, Water Quality and B of S, acknowledge on page one of the document: "In many instances, the discharge from these (OWTS) systems does not adversely affect the beneficial uses of ground water or surface water quality."

There are more than one million septic systems, or OWTS, active in California, with over 100,000 in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. Both the Water Quality Board and the Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation have been quietly crafting more stringent rules and, until attending recent community meeting, neglected to interface or communicate with stakeholders for several years.

There are over 12,000 OWTS in the city of Los Angeles: 32.3% are in Council District 2, 10.2 % in Council District 7, 10.3% in Council District 5, and 13.6% in Council District 12.

The B of S's issue is supposed to be water quality, yet, none of the existing OWTS are reported to be dysfunctional, nor discharging into bodies of water or streams, and are well maintained. The City and the state have decided, regardless of public input, that many of the OWTS will need to be declared obsolete and their homes hooked up to the City sewer lines or, at the very least, inspected on a regular basis.

With these new ordinances, one million homes are now toxic real estate properties and are de-valued as a result these costly mandates. Many of these homes have perfectly functional OWTS that could continue to operate for several decades with no threat or impact to water quality.

Revenue - At a recent town-hall style meeting held in La Tuna Canyon, local residents requested that B of S make a presentation because probing questions quickly illuminated many flaws in their plan. Many citizens at the meeting questioned aloud if this is a ploy to create more revenues for the city. Reviewing all of the fees that would have to be paid in permits, road repairs, hook ups, installation costs, and new job creations, the audience quickly calculated it would amount to tens of millions of dollars. A community member quickly calculated that it would have been cheaper had all the funding for the B of S staff who had been working on this ordinance over the last five years, been diverted into actual funding to connect these homes to sewer lines.

Several B of S officials pointed out how inexpensive this proposed OWTS permit fee is for each property and the city services of creating new inspectors compared to the costs of having sewer fees. They went so far as to suggest that the public should be grateful. (This still might appear as revenue justification for many readers.)

Continued from page 2 — Arizona

Angeles City Council stood together today, We are sending a message, loud and clear, that we will not tolerate a law which breeds fear and discrimination." Yet, Title 8 Section 1325 of the U.S. Code makes it a federal crime to enter the U.S. illegally.

The loud and clear message was not a well-thought out boycott. By declaring that L.A. will no longer do business with companies headquartered in Arizona and encouraging others to follow suit will end up hurting the very people the City Council purports to protect. If businesses lose revenue, particularly in travel and service industries, because of this boycott, workers, legal and illegal, could end up losing jobs. How much protection will this boycott offer when jobless rates increase in Arizona?

The Tenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States reads as follows: "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people". Seventy percent of the people in Arizona favor this law.

Ron Kaye, interim chairman of CleansweepLa, summed it up most eloquently. He said, "Everyone should be concerned about the negative impacts on our communities of having millions of identity-less people operating outside the legal system in an underground economy. They take away jobs, are subject to exploitation and abuse and aren't connected to the fabric of society in a way that encourages a sense of responsibility. We need a rational immigration policy that identifies everyone living here without legal papers, deports all undesirables, sets a rigorous path to legal status for those who work and obey the laws, and allows for controlled immigration. What we have is the worst possible system with porous borders that undermine our national security and unregulated immigration."

On July 29, the "chips" will fall where they will fall. *Katharine.russ@charter.net*

Outreach - B of S announced their latest plan just within the last two weeks by attending local Neighborhood Councils (NC). These forums have small attendance. NC's have viable and dedicated citizens who are already under-resourced, under-funded, and are expected to alert the entire community. The flawed B of S Outreach Plan that expects NC's to fulfill their (B of S's) responsibility is unjust to communities. The great majorities of Septic OWTS owners, approximately 95%, have not been alerted and are not aware of the financial impact on their lives and the devaluation of their home/property resulting these proposals.

AB 885 - This State Bill has been in both state houses for eight years and is on the verge of passage. With a million OWTS within the state, only a fraction of the public has been notified. This law becomes a death sentence for nearly all OWTS who will eventually be forced to connect to sewer lines or buy very expensive upgrades.

According to professionals regarding this issue, there are more moderate and reasonable solutions that could be proposed that would not destroy homeowners financially nor devalue their property. Citizens must immediately contact elected state and city representatives by letter or e-mail and voice their opinion. Both the City Ordinance and State Bill are both close to passage. Citizens must give input to their elected officials in a timely manner by either e-mailing or by calling their City Council Representatives and State Assembly members. If you don't know who they are, call 311 for information.

Editors Note; Fritz Bronner is a Board Member of the Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council and the Los Angeles Horse Council. This article is not representative of those organizations

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Monday, May 24

GHNNC Gen. Meeting
Van Gogh Elementary School,
17160 Van Gogh, GH
6:30 pm

May 29 - 31

Annual Greek Festival
St. Nicolas Greek Church
Plumber & Balboa, Nr
1:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Tuesday, May 25
Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Water"
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm-4:00 pm 818-52-3420

Thursday, May 27

Northridge South NC
Northridge Middle School
17960 Chase St., Nr
7:00 pm

SFV Historical Society
Presents Bob Gilliland
SR-71 Test Pilot
Andres Pico Adobe
14451 Bledsoe, Syl
7:00 pm

Sunday, May 30

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Water"
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm-4:00 pm 818-52-3420

Sunday, May 30

Saving LA Project
Poetical Action Committee
Breakfast-Denny's Rest.
3060 San Fernando Rd
Glassell Park
10:00 am

Monday, May 31

Memorial Day

Memorial Day Ceremony
American Legion Post 377
Sunland Park
8651 Foothill Blvd, S-T
11:00 am

Memorial Day Ceremony
SFV Historical Society
Historical Pioneer Park
14451 Bledsoe St, Syl
11:00 am

Grand Opening Ceremony
Veterans Park
Zelzah & Chatsworth, GH
818-363-3144

Tuesday, June 1

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Water"
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm-4:00 pm 818-52-3420

FTDNC Land Use
9747 Wheatland, SH
7:00 pm

Wednesday, June 2

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

NHWNC Gen. Meeting
Holy Martyrs Armenian School
1667 Parthenia St., NH
7:00 pm

Bingo
S-T Elks Lodge
11037 Commerce Ave., S-T
6:30 pm 818-352-5504

Thursday, June 3

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

S. V. Rotary
Mandarin Terrace
8815 Sunland Blvd., SV
12:00 pm-1:30 pm 818-768-9888

PCNC-Commerce Com
Wells Fargo Bank
8548 Van Nuys Blvd., PC
2:00 pm

Sylmar Woman's Club
Odyssey Restaurant
15600 Odyssey, GH
11:30 am

Sunshine Canyon Advisory Comm
Knollwood Country Club, GH
12040 Balboa Blvd. GH
3:00 pm-5:00 pm

S-T League of Women Voters
North Valley City Hall
7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T
1:30 pm 818-782-4236

Kagel Cyn Civic Assoc.
Dexter Park, KC
11053 No. Trail Rd. KC
7:30 pm

June 4 thru June 6

Community Hawaiian Festival
18300 Lemarsh
Northridge Park
10058 Reseda, NR

Saturday June 5

Puppetry Festival
McGroarty Arts Center
7570 McGroarty Terr., S-T
Free 4:00 pm-9:00 pm 818-352-5285

Friends of GH Library
10640 Petit Ave., GH
10:30 am 818-368-568

Sunday, June 6

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Water"
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm-4:00 pm 818-52-3420

Monday, June 7

STNC/Land Use Comm.
North Valley City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
7:00 pm 818-951-7411
Info: stnc.org

Tuesday, June 8

Election Day

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Water"
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm-4:00 pm 818-52-3420

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

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

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

PNC - House/Econom. & Land Use Comm.
11243 Glenoaks Blvd., Pac
5:30 pm 818 890-1563

S.H.P.O.A. Gen. Meeting
Tierra del Sol
9919 Sunland Blvd., SH
7:00 pm

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

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

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

Wednesday, June 9

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

STNC Gen Meeting.
N.V. City Hall
7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T
7:00 pm 818-951-7411

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

Special Olympics
Torch Run
Start LAPD Foothill Div.
12760 Osborne, Pac
8:00 am 818-756-8866

Thursday, June 10

Annual IRP Meeting
Bureau of Sanitation
2714 Media Center, L.A.
RSVP Chris DeMonbrun
9:30 am 323-342-1567.

LAPD CPAB
Foothill Div.
Big Jim's Restaurant
8950 Laurel Canyon, SV
6:00 pm 818-756-8866

Valley Alliance of NC's
Sherman Oaks Hospital
4929 Van Nuys, S.O.
6:30 pm

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

GHSNC Gen. Meeting
Granada Hills Charter H.S.
Guest: Wendy Greuel
10535 Zelzah, GH
7:30 pm 818-668-5969

Saturday, June 12

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

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "To Mount Lowe
With Love"
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
1:00 pm 818-352-3420

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818-352-4481

Sunday, June 13

Citrus Sunday
CD 12 Fruit drop off
818-756-8601

Sunday, June 13

Saving LA Project
Poetical Action Committee
Breakfast-Denny's Rest.
3060 San Fernando Rd
Glassell Park
10:00 am

June 14 - June 26

Exhibition
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Monday, June 14

Flag Day

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

SNC Land Use Com
Sylmar Park
13109 Borden Ave., Syl
6:30 pm

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

Co-existing with Wildlife
Officer Greg Randall
North Valley City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
7:00 pm

Tuesday, June 15

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

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Water"
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm-4:00 pm 818-52-3420

Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB)
11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH
8:30 pm

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

Pacoima NC
4:00 pm -Senior Advocate
5:00 pm -Comm. Outreach
6:30 pm -Gen. Meeting
Pacoima Comm. Center
11243 Glenoaks Blvd., Pac

North Hills West NC
New Horizons,
15725 Parthenia St. NH.
7:00 pm 818 893-8613

MHNC Quarter Outreach
LAPD Mission Station
11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH
7:30 pm

Northridge East NC
Northridge Academ HS
9601 Zelzah Ave., Nr
7:00 pm

Bingo Night
S-T Elks Lodge
10137 Ave., S-T
6:30 pm 352-2098

S-T SERVS
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T
6:45 pm-7:30 pm

STNC Safety Comm
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T
7:30 pm

GHNNC Outreach & PR
11139 Woodley, HG
7:00 pm

Wednesday, June 16

STNC Safety Comm
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill B Blvd., S-T
6:00 pm -6:45 pm

S-T SERVS
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T
6:45 pm-7:30 pm

June 17 thru June 20

San Fernando Valley Fair
Birmingham Charter H.S.
17000 Haynes, Lake Balboa

Thursday, June 17

FTDNC Gen. Meeting
www.ftdnc.org for location
7:00 pm

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

Northridge East NC
Northridge Academy
9601 Zelzah Nr
7:00 pm

GHNNC Outreach & Pub.
11139 Woodley, GH
7:00 pm

Sunday, June 20

Fathers Day

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Water"
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm-4:00 pm 818-52-3420

Monday, June 21

Valley Vote
Galpin Ford
15555 Roscoe, NH
6:30 pm

SNC Land Use Comm
SNC Office, Sylmar Park
13109 Borden, Syl
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Tuesday, June 22

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Water"
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm-4:00 pm 818-52-3420

Thursday, June 24

Northridge South NC
Northridge Middle School
17960 Chase St., Nr
7:00 pm

SNC Board Mtng.
Sylmar Rec. Cntr,
13109 Borden, Syl
6:30 pm 8737

Sunday, June 27

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Water"
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm-4:00 pm 818-52-3420

Monday, June 28

GHNNC Gen. Meeting
Van Gogh Elem. School,
17160 Van Gogh, GH
6:30 pm

Tuesday, June 29

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Water"
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm-4:00 pm 818-52-3420

Thursday, July 1

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

S. V. Rotary
Mandarin Terrace
8815 Sunland Blvd., SV
12:00 pm-1:30 pm 818-768-9888

PCNC-Commerce Com
Wells Fargo Bank
8548 Van Nuys Blvd., PC
2:00 pm
Sunshine Canyon Advisory Comm
Knollwood Country Club, GH
12040 Balboa Blvd. GH
3:00 pm-5:00 pm

S-T League of Women Voters
North Valley City Hall
7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T
1:30 pm 818-782-4236

Kagel Cyn Civic Assoc.
Dexter Park, KC
11053 No. Trail Rd. KC
7:30 pm

Saturday July 3

Friends of GH Library
10640 Petit Ave., GH
10:30 am 818-368-568

Sunday, July 4

Independence Day

4th of July Parade
Mt. Gleason & Foothill S-T
10 am

Fireworks Show & Festival
Verdugo Hills High School
Gates open 4 pm

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Water"
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm-4:00 pm 818-52-3420

Monday, July 5

STNC/Land Use Comm.
North Valley City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
7:00 pm 818-951-7411
Info: stnc.org

Tuesday, July 6

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Water"
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm-4:00 pm 818-52-3420

FTDNC Land Use
9747 Wheatland, SH
7:00 pm

Wednesday, July 7

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

NHWNC Gen. Meeting
Holy Martyrs Armenian School
1667 Parthenia St., NH
7:00 pm

Bingo
S-T Elks Lodge
11037 Commerce Ave., S-T
6:30 pm 818-352-5504

Thursday, July 8

Valley Alliance of NC's
Sherman Oaks Hospital
4929 Van Nuys, S.O.
6:30 pm

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

GHNNC Gen. Meeting
Granada Hills Charter H.S.
Guest: Wendy Greuel
10535 Zelzah, GH
7:30 pm 818-668-5969

Saturday, July 10

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

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "To Mount Lowe With Love"
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
1:00 pm 818-352-3420

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Meet the Valley's New "Top Cop"



Chief Albanese, recent Guest of Honor at Mission Hills NC

By Nina Royal

LAPD's Deputy Chief Kirk Albanese, our San Fernando Valley "Top Cop", is no stranger to many of our local community members. He was the Captain and Commanding Officer at Foothill Station until assigned to develop, and then take charge of the Mission Station, the first new LAPD station in 28 years. Deputy Chief Albanese has steadily moved up through the ranks, including Police Officer, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, and Commander. In March 2009, former Police Chief Bratton promoted Albanese to the rank of Deputy Chief. He is now the Valley's "Top Cop" of Operations Valley Bureau, the largest in the LAPD, and responsible for the entire San Fernando Valley, which is larger than most incorporated cities in California.

Albanese always wanted to be a police officer and was influenced by t.v. shows such as Dragnet and Adam 12. At the age of 24, following completion of

community college in his hometown of Mt. Pleasant, N.Y., he applied to several police departments. In reflecting on those years he says, "I remember in middle school and high school it was something I wanted to do. I had applied to several agencies back in New York including the NYPD and interestingly, although I had applied and tested, their process was slower than the process in Los Angeles."

After Albanese was hired by the LAPD he arrived in L.A. and spent his first night in a motel in the Rampart area. Upon leaving for his first day at the Academy the following morning, he unfortunately discovered all his belongings with which to begin his new life-- pots, pans, clothing, TV, etc.--were stolen from his car. That was a rude initiation to our city. After he graduated from the police academy and began working the South West Area, he said, "NYPD called me and offered me the job." When asked if he was sorry that he turned down their offer, he replied, "I have no regrets. I've loved every minute of it. Happy to be here."

Throughout his distinguished career, Albanese had assignments in patrol, gang enforcement, narcotics, Internal Affairs, Juvenile and administrative positions. He will have been on the job 30 years in November and hasn't taken a single sick day. You'll get no attitude from Albanese. He's strictly an honest hard working man who believes in integrity, is fair, and he's approachable.

"My philosophy is to go out and serve with distinction. When people call, we come. Often times, because

of the sheer size of Los Angeles--especially the Valley, coupled with multiple radio calls--we get backed up sometimes. Folks don't understand those delays. But, when you finally get there, have a smile on your face and a willingness to assist in your heart. Bring you're A-game. Let the people know that there is no one more special, no one more important, no one that has greater need than that person has at that time. And leave them with a good taste in their mouth." Albanese always insists that his officers do their part to help the Department build trust in the Community and let people know they are getting quality service because they deserve it.

"So, the bottom line on my philosophy is...treat people with respect, provide quality service...do the job to the best of your ability...leave your mark. Provide the type of service and protection that the LAPD is known for and that the great community of Los Angeles deserves. Simply said, that's what I am going to insure happens within the San Fernando Valley."

Albanese married his wife of 25 years in Los Angeles, continued his education while on the job, and received his Bachelors Degree from the University of Phoenix. They have two children, a son soon to be 22 and a 17 year daughter who is a senior in high school.

The Chief is always accessible. If you need assistance regarding the Valley Bureau or the LAPD, you can email him at: albanese@lapd.lacity.org, visit www.lapdonline.com or you can contact the Community Relations Officer located in your local station.

How CERT assists the LAFD



Captain Stacy Gerlich
CERT Commander
Los Angeles City Fire Department

On Monday, April 19, 2010, the Los Angeles Fire Department put on yet another Earth Quake drill to exercise their readiness to handle the next big disaster. The drill was executed at Fire Station 88 in Sherman Oaks, Ca. It was quite an event that also provided multiple news crews an opportunity to see the LAFD in action

It was a morning that offered insight into the operations of Los Angeles Fire Department not just from a tactical standpoint but also from an operational one. The Fire Chief was on-hand to kickoff the morning drill by relaying a message to OCD. (Operations Control Dispatch). The drill was set up to showcase the abilities of the LAFD in response to Haz mat, structural collapse,

multi-casualty incidents and the utilization of special equipment and even our search dogs!!

CERT volunteers were moulaged (made up with wounds) for this event. We had 15 brave souls there to assist in the operations. Some were hidden in concrete tubes and others were just spread out over the exercise site to be triaged, treated and transported by LAFD personnel. This type of collaboration is invaluable to our CERT volunteers in that it provides them up close experience with first responders. They are able to witness and hear how the firefighters communicate and work hand in hand to accomplish the tasks they are faced with in the event of a large scale disaster.

Unfortunately, we are not able to control mother nature. This being said, taking advantage of drills where CERT and firefighters are interacting, is priceless. I would like to encourage everyone to find out more about the Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) and take advantage of this free education in preparing

ourselves for the next "Big One". CERT training is available all year and we are currently conducting classes that begin the first week of May. For more information and the schedule of classes, please visit www.cert-la.com. Click on the colored squared that reads, "Current Trainings".

If you have any questions or would like to schedule a speaker to address a group of individuals, please contact: lafdcert@sbcglobal.net. Provide a contact name, number and desired day and time for your 1-3 hour presentation. This is not the full CERT program. The full program is 7 weeks long. One day per week for 2 hours each meeting. You will receive a green helmet and green vest upon completion of the course.

Get off the couch and do something to prepare!! Things will not continue to happen around us without getting to us at some point!!! Give us a call and let us help to prepare you, your family, your co-workers and everyone you care about.

LAPD Reorganizes for Battle Against Crime



Commander James Cansler
Assistant Commanding Officer
Operations Valley Bureau

As the city of Los Angeles continues to face one of the largest financial emergencies in recent history, the Los Angeles Police Department must cope with a

shrinking police force and a loss of overtime hours which adds up to less officers on the street. To combat this problem during these tough financial times, the command staff of this remarkable Department has adapted by im-

plementing a reorganization plan, which has increased deployable resources to its geographical areas. As a result, the citizens of this community should experience little change in the effectiveness and ability of the men and women of the Los Angeles Police Department to reduce the incidence and fear of crime while enhancing public safety.

This reorganization has allowed the continued deployment of the Valley Crime Task Force, which was originally formed to combat the rising violent crime in the San Fernando Valley. After four years of continuous success in reducing violent crime, the Valley Crime Task Force has now taken on an additional assignment of also

targeting property crime throughout the San Fernando Valley. The Task Force has established a multi-faceted approach of combating property crime by deploying several specialized units where specially trained officers are deployed bureau wide to target these crimes.

A new tool that the Valley Crime Task Force will be utilizing to combat property crime will be a media campaign designed to deliver messages to our citizens and raise awareness about these crime problems and how to better protect their property. The goal of this campaign is to utilize a variety of media components that will serve to educate the community and reduce these crime occurrences throughout the San Fernando Valley.

Continued from Cover — War Memorial

VFW by Congress, in exchange for five acres of private land elsewhere in the Preserve, violated the land transfer statute.

The Mojave Cross, a WWI monument erected in 1934, has been the focus of a decade-long legal battle in the middle of 1.6 million acres of desert in the Mojave National Preserve. Controversy surrounding the cross began in 1999 when the National Park Service (NPS) denied a request to erect a Buddhist statue (a stupa) near

the cross. The NPS indicated its intention was to remove the Cross. The plywood box covering the cross must remain in place until a decision is handed down from the lower court. The Supreme Court's decision will not be the last word on the fate of the Mojave Cross and the outcome of this case has the potential to affect all of America's cherished monuments.

Liberty Institute, which represents the Sandoz', the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW), The American Legion, Military Order of the Purple

Heart, and the American Ex-Prisoners of War, is offering a \$25,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the removal of VFW property. For more information, please visit www.DontTearMeDown.com.

On May 11, the Justice Department announced its intention to open an investigation into the theft of the Cross.

Katharine.russ@charter.net

COMMENTARY

What is the Fate of Los Angeles?

By Ron Kaye



For better or worse, the fate of Los Angeles is in the hands of Austin Beutner, a Wall Street wizard who made his fortune taking over distressed companies and bringing them back to life. As interim DWP

General Manager and de facto mayor in charge of a dozen key departments, Beutner's hands have never been this full.

He is a man who says the past doesn't matter, it's what you're doing now to solve problems that count. Yet, the past corruption at the DWP, a renegade utility that has operated outside of public control, and the long-time overspending throughout city government haunt his every move.

Strip clubs, drinking on the job, theft at the DWP and our elected officials commitment to protecting city workers while cutting services and squeezing more money out of the public – Beutner seems powerless and not very interested in delving deeply into what's broken, or carrying out the dramatic changes needed to turn LA around.

This isn't like anything Beutner has ever faced before. He has no political experience nor shown any real sense of the understanding that government isn't just a business.

From everything he's done in his six months of building his power base at City Hall, Beutner seems to think the public is like customers and the interests he has to align are the politicians, managers and unions. The result is its pretty much business as usual at City Hall.

The mayor's budget just adopted by the City Council

is no different than the budget last year. It is based on optimistic revenue projections; cuts that are unlikely to achieve expected results in a timely manner, the possible sale of parking lots and meters and heavy borrowing. Brilliant as Beutner is, there are no indications that his plan to get the city out of the financial crisis is any different than it has been for several years: Survive the next month, the next quarter, the next year and hope for an economic miracle. Maybe it will happen but few believe the economy will rebound any time soon, especially LA with high unemployment and soaring poverty rates.

If real change is to come, it is going to take a massive grassroots rebellion. LA needs new leaders, a new vision and a new deal for the public and city workforce to provide stability for business to grow, security of workers and protection for public services.

The LA Clean Sweep Campaign 2011 (lacleansweep.com) is trying to do just that by lining up challengers for the seven even-numbered Council seats on the ballot next March. Success depends on ordinary citizens getting involved and contributing what they can. This is our city where we live and work. Our futures depend on it.

Editor's Note: Ron Kaye writes for the NVR, the RonkayLA.com blog, and is editor of the community news and networking site, OurLA.org, which brings together reports and commentaries from citizens and professional journalists. Tax deductible contributions to help OurLA.org hire a full-time investigative reporter to cover the Dept. of Water and Power and other vital City Hall issues can be made on behalf of OURLA to community partners.org (click donate) or by sending a check to Community Partners, 1000 N. Alameda St., L.A., 90012

Bettercise Your Health Is the Diet-Heart Hypothesis Dead?

By Ben Fury



Back in the early 1950's, heart disease was epidemic and researchers were desperate to find a cause, and a cure. Ancel Keys proposed that fat was that cause: the Diet-Heart Hypothesis. The research community

seized on this idea, and it has dominated both research and public policy ever since. But was it right?

A mountain of evidence from trillions of dollars of research says no. Most recently, The Women's Health Initiative Dietary Trial asked 19,541 women to reduce the fat they ate for 8 years. What is the net result on heart disease? Zip, nada, nothing. Reducing fat made no significant impact on heart disease. Skipping bacon and cheese for eight long years was a waste of time. It also wasted were 415 million of your tax dollars.

The Powers That Be ignored this very expensively gained evidence and continue to council a reduction in fat and to increase the consumption of "healthy" whole grains, fruits and vegetables. How well is that message working? It's a train wreck. Obesity is up. Type 2 diabetes is way up. Americans are fatter and sicker than ever. The low fat/high carb message that came out of the Diet-Heart Hypothesis doesn't work for most folks, just the opposite. Reducing fat while eating more carbs makes people eat more and more and get fatter and fatter since low fat food just isn't satisfying. Every farmer knows that. When they want to fatten up hogs and cows for market, what do they feed them? Corn. Corn is ultra low fat and ultra high carb. It's the perfect fattening food. It doesn't look like the people in the human nutrition department at the university talk to the people over at the animal husbandry department very often.

Aside from the university departments getting invited to different parties, how did this happen? Back in the '50s, anthropology was a fledgling science with a small portion of the tools it has now. Little was known about the natural diet of early humans. We knew that early man was omnivorous, a hunter-gatherer. But the popular belief back then was that gathering was more important than hunting. So when a new disease like heart disease came along, it was assumed that the "new" food, fatty meat must be the culprit. It made sense at the time, but it was flat wrong.

It turns out that the truly "new" foods are the ones we just started yesterday in anthropological terms. Grains, sugars, and vegetable oils. So what's wrong with eating these new foods? Stay tuned for Part Two next month.

Small Business Corner – Copper Theft

By Tina Cameron

There has been an alarming spike in copper theft across the country. It's no longer just abandoned construction sites and homes. It is now fully developed and occupied businesses. Thieves are mostly targeting copper pipe and wire from air-conditioning units but they will take anything copper including siding, couplings, down spouts, and gutters. One of the main drivers of this growing black market business is that copper prices are near an all-time high. Chile is the number one mining source in the world and the Chilean earthquake disrupted mining operations. At the same time, there is growing demand in India and China.

Even if you are only leasing your building, most landlords put the responsibility of air-conditioning units on the tenant. It's important to understand how this is happening and how to protect your business. Know that it is happening all over the country, even in small towns and out in the boonies. Currently, since it is wintertime, many thefts go unnoticed. Unfortunately, by the time it's found, air-conditioning units have been left open to the elements, damaging the exposed compressors. It can be extremely costly to replace or repair.

Thieves are very difficult to catch, they are increasingly emboldened, and little is being done to monitor and prosecute scrap yard owners. Police departments do not have the resources to patrol or investigate. Many businesses have been targeted repeatedly. Thieves bring cutting tools and a ladder and will cut through chain length fence to get to it.

Criminals often work as a team, with a truck and quick "in-and-out." They sometimes wear hardhats and can pass for ordinary construction, utility, or maintenance workers. But they can just as well be individuals supporting meth habits.

Preventative Measures: There are some security devices out there and you can consult with a security company such as ADP for options. One of the more popular is a pressure valve system that sets off an alarm that goes directly to the police station. Or you could consider air conditioner cages that encapsulate the unit and is bolted down. Another option is to use galvanized steel or tinned ground bars rather than copper in future upgrades. Consider motion sensors and cameras. If you do install cameras, consider camouflaging them or installing a very small, well-hidden one, because oftentimes determined thieves will just steal the camera while they're at it. Although the initial cost may seem high, a security system will typically cost far less than an actual theft. Ninety per cent of all thefts occur on the weekends and can happen at night or broad daylight. Consider outdoor lighting at night facing your roof as a deterrent. Also important is you should ask your insurance agent if your property policy covers this type of loss.

If it does occur, immediately take pictures, protect the crime scene, preserve any evidence, and file a police report. Then pay for a security device so they can't do it again.

Editor's Note: Ms. Cameron is a Corporate Risk Manager for a mayor company and a former small business owner.

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Carrick's Journey —Part Twenty-Seven By Tomi Lyn Bowling

Maddie ran as fast as her feet could take her but she was running blindly, as there was virtually no light. By now there was only a

faint shadow cast by the moon peering down through the trees. Maddie ran, ran, and ran until she nearly ran into a tree. She was out of breath and stopped cold. As she leaned forward trying to pace her breath, she felt the same tickle on her face. She backed up far enough to see a creature about the size of a small hummingbird, fluttering around her head. It would intermittently light up like a firefly but it was not an insect.

Maddie suddenly burst out laughing, realizing she had just run as fast as she could in an effort to get away from this little tiny creature. Even though she had run about a mile, this little creature had never lost track of her for even a second. Maddie's billowing laughter now brought her to the ground with tears streaming down her face.

The laughter soon died down when Maddie, now laying on the ground, realized she was more lost now than ever. She sat up on the ground, looked all around her and saw nothing but darkness and a few shadows cast by the moons lighting of the trees. She pulled some tiny twigs and leaves from her hair as she looked up at the moon.

Knowing the general direction she had been running in, she started to walk back. The little creature stayed right with her and never strayed more than a few feet from her head. At one point Maddie stood still and cried out every name she could remember from the little village. No one called back. She could hear only the flutters from her new found friend, and a whipping sound made by the tall trees swaying in the breeze up in the sky. She felt quite alone but somewhat comforted by the little creature. The little creature made soft sounds, much like whistles but softer. She called her new friend a trill.

Maddie continued to walk. The minutes evolved in to hours. She had no idea where she was and was tired from all of her traveling. She sat down to rest and leaned against a great big tree trunk and fell fast asleep. The last thing she remembered was the little trill parking in front of her face making those sweet little sounds

Maddie was abruptly woken up bouncing around in a tin vehicle of some sort. She slid from side to side smacking the sides each time it swayed. She was quite disoriented and yelled out not knowing what to expect. Suddenly the motion stopped and she was able to sit up without holding onto everything she could find. A door on the side opened very slowly and a pair of eyes peeked in... *(to be continued)*

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An Appeal to the Public and Equestrian Community



Reagan Ranch in bloom in the spring.

By Ted Fulton

Local politicians and State and National Park Service officials recently gathered for a fundraiser to build an RV park along famously scenic Mulholland Highway in the Santa Monica Mountains.

The scenic spot chosen for the development was a historic ranch once owned by Ronald and Nancy Reagan and became part of Malibu Creek State Park in 1974. The focus of the seven-acre RV Park will be equestrian camping and will, therefore, have horse corrals and manure dumpsters. It has been suggested that this is an appropriate use of the president's former ranch, and the project has been named the Ronald Reagan Equestrian Campground.

I respectfully suggest that this plan is flawed. The addition of RV parking, numerous paved camping sites, and other infrastructure buildings will forever alter the scenic views and the integrity of this historic ranch.

The state's plan calls for massing vegetation along Mulholland Highway to "protect the view." Massing vegetation at this site will block the view and be a significant fire hazard.

Day use facilities already exist at the park for equestrians. If there is public demand to build a new larger facility on public land, nearby Gillette Ranch is a far superior location and provides identical access to equestrian trails in the area. Gillette Ranch is physically larger making it easier to disguise the project preserving the scenic view from Mulholland (a state designated scenic highway). A large stable screened by vegetation already exists on Gillette Ranch. Gillette Ranch is accessed via a major traffic artery (Malibu Canyon/Las Virgenes Road) as opposed to the Reagan Ranch, which is not. The larger size of Gillette Ranch also offers a greater buffer between the campground and nearby homes in the event of wildfire

Editor's Note: Mr. Fulton, a resident of Malibu lake, whose wife is an avid horseman, spearheaded the "Save the Meadow Campaign." He invites the public to comment at www.savethemeadow.com.



Preservationists believe choosing the historic Reagan Meadow for the site of the new Ronald Reagan Equestrian Campground and RV Park threatens open space and wildlife and the new facility will mar the view for miles.

The Cross Stays

What can one person do in America? A lot! One person started the controversy in San Diego over the Mt. Soledad Cross. One person initiated a similar dispute over the Mojave Memorial Cross on Sunrise Rock, which has been present for seventy years. A few people fueled a case over the use of 'crosses' in the town symbol of Las Cruces, N.M. (Las Cruces means "the crosses"). Supported by the ACLU, individuals claiming nothing more than 'offense' can begin proceedings to remove generations of icons of respect and memorials even in the face of near unanimous support for those representations to remain.

A Democracy, which America is not, allows for a 'total' majority rule. This is not a good idea if, perhaps, you are the sole person or group facing many more in number and you happen to be right. Great harm can come from such a foundation. Our Founding Fathers decided, recognizing the years of oppression from a 'church state' in England, that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." There are "belief systems" within the United


States that would say that passage means, more or less, that nothing of Christian Faith should be allowed anywhere members of society can see it without having to enter, join or pay for the right. We have seen the removal of Christmas Manger scenes from almost all 'official' buildings or sites. Even some Churches have been challenged to remove the scenes as they are "offensive" to some. Some groups even want churches to remove their crosses! Some want "In God We Trust" removed from our currency, "under God" removed from the Pledge of Allegiance and some want all the crosses in cemeteries removed. And as always, just... some.

The addition of Republic to our Democracy was done so that "one" would not be "harmed" by all. Today, as in the Mojave case, one person can simply "claim" they are offended to the point of harm where something 'sacred' or a 'memorial' to far greater number of persons can be destroyed. Is that just? What about the 'majority' who want these significant representations to remain?

On April 28, 2010, the U.S. Supreme Court's 5-4 decision stated that the long standing "Mojave Cross evokes far more than religion and a Latin cross is not merely a reaffirmation of Christian beliefs. It is a symbol often used to honor and respect those whose heroic acts, notable contributions and patient striving help secure an honored place in history for this nation and its people." Opponents will say that this is "promoting a national religion" or excluding others, but in a land where we've accepted every faith with open arms, even to the point of putting foot baths in some public buildings for certain believers, acquiesced to extreme demands that God be placed anyplace but in our faces, certainly the allowance of a seventy year old Cross honoring our World War 1 dead cannot be seen as anything other than a memorial to their sacrifices.

As the Supreme Court summarizes, "the Constitution does not require the eradication of all religious symbols in the public realm." Some people will continue to be offended. Those people "offend" me. Fortunately they are fewer in number than we more tolerant citizens of this Democratic Republic, "one Nation under God."

PC-Doc — Tujunga



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The Armenian Genocide: Incomplete Mourning

By Nayri Vartanian

Part 2 of 2 Parts

In Part 1 of *Incomplete Mourning* we ended with the question of what happened to the Armenian people from the years 1915-1923. In Part 2 will answer that question as well as offer proof that the Ottoman Turks were responsible for a Genocide they have denied for the last 95 years and continue to do so.

As previously mentioned, when Abdul Hamid the II came into power the Armenian people in the Ottoman Empire lost their reforms, and as a result, the Armenians organized protests to fight back. Unfortunately, the Sultan interpreted their actions as a form of rebellion and as a result, around 300,000 Armenians were killed in retaliation to discourage the remainder of the Armenian citizenry from repeating any behavior of this sort. This historical event is known as the Hamidian Massacres and is not to be confused with the Genocide. It is different from the Genocide because the Sultan's intent was not the same as that of an infamous trio of leaders who came to be historically known as the Young Turks.

In 1908 the Young Turks—Enver Pasha, Jamal Pasha, and Talaat Pasha—rose to power and changed Armenian history forever. They were able to overthrow the Sultan because of his backwardness of not adopting modern ideas. This impacted the Armenian's greatly because, when the dictatorial wing of the Young Turks seized control of the government, their goal was to make Turkey only for the Turks, and they did not respect other religious groups.

On April 24, 1915, the Ottoman Empire was crumbling, and the Young Turks began implementing the



Photo Courtesy Armenian National Committee

mass deportation of all Armenians with the intent to eventually, as is now historically documented, murder them. Turkish officials deliberately forced Armenians out of their homes and work places, and initiated a death march into the Syrian Desert.

The Armenian Genocide is commemorated today on April 24 every year because a majority of the Armenian intellectuals were murdered on this day.

There are an abundant number of eyewitness testimonials that exist today documenting the Genocide. All combined evidence not only proves that the Genocide took place, it also describes the torture the Armenian people experienced. One example is what Leslie Davis, an American diplomat serving in the central part of the Ottoman Empire who documented everything he saw, detailed in a diary. Davis describes

seeing thousands of Armenians, including woman and children, butchered on the shore, and mutilated at a nearby lake.

The loss that the Turks had endured over the years was also a motivating factor for the Genocide. For example, in Taner Akcam's book *A Shameful Act*, Akcam, a Turkish historian who openly recognizes the Armenian Genocide, discusses that the Balkan loss for the Turks affected them tremendously. And by eliminating the Armenians they would try to regain their territorial losses.

By the time the war was over on November 11, 1918, most of the Genocidal acts also had come to an end. The three Young Turks, who were the masterminds behind the massacres, fled the country and a new government was put in to place. Turkey became modernized and from this point forward, most historians agree that the Turkish government began miss-educating children by burying the "Armenian Question", and have continued to do so for years. They also believe that, today, the Turkish government spends millions of dollars on propaganda to continue their lies in their attempt to rewrite history. So, for generations of Armenians around the globe, the mourning continues.

For more information regarding the Armenian Genocide visit www.armenian-genocide.org. For more information on "What the Armenian Question is Today," visit www.anca.org, or look for a special column featuring the "Armenian Question Today" in an upcoming NVR issue.

Editors Note: I would like to commend Ms Vartanian, a college student and Journalism Intern with the NVR, for her outstanding efforts regarding this project.

The Other Gold



By Marlene Hitt

The Daily News printed an article written by Gina Shaffer about the 1880's boom of wealth. In her report, dated Sunday, May 4, 1986, Shaffer points out that California discovered another source of wealth twenty years after the Gold Rush in the state.

"From the 1870s to the 1930s the orange symbolized wealth, prosperity and elegance..." The transcontinental railroad was responsible for making the orange boom possible by carrying fruit from Santa Barbara, San Diego, San Bernardino, and Riverside to the East Coast, and gentlemen farmers to the West Coast. Thousands came to establish themselves as or-

ange farmers. Cultivating crops could be easy, very profitable and even dignified.

"By 1894, citrus farming was a \$2 billion industry...By 1903, oranges were bringing more wealth to California than gold." Pasadena was the site of an Indiana colony devoted to raising oranges. It is not by chance that millionaire row is called Orange Grove.

In the mid eighteenth century, orange cultivation began at the missions. Four hundred seedling trees were planted at the San Gabriel Mission in 1804 from cutting brought from Spain by Franciscans. The first commercial plot was a small one in Los Angeles.

Southern California "gold" was shipped as far away as London to Queen Victoria. What was once a luxury item had become a staple of the American diet. Of course, there were many groves in the local area.

"The orange empire of Southern California began declining during the Depression. After the post-World War II population boom, the groves began disappearing as land became more valuable for housing and industrial development."

My mother was one of the people who found oranges exciting. She was born and lived in Saskatchewan in the early 1900's where the prairie climate couldn't support citrus. An orange was such a valuable item for her family that it would be found only in the toe of a Christmas stocking.

As a young wife new to Sunland, she found herself living right across the street from a beautiful grove. (Day Street bordered by McGroarty, Scoville, and Eldora). It was a wonder to her that so much wealth could be found in her own neighborhood.

When the relatives visited they all wanted a photo of themselves actually touching an orange on a tree. The greatest attraction was a drive along what is now highway 126 through the orange groves.

The Canadian folks in our family never got a taste for avocados. And we all learned to stay away from olives right off the tree.

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

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