

## Who's Gonna Scoop the Poop? *What happens after the poop is scooped?*

By Katharine Russ

Foothills Area - What goes in, must come out and residents are finding that out in the Lopez Canyon and the Foothills of rural San Fernando's equestrian area. What's coming out has been stacking up for weeks.

The crisis has been building for years. Urbanization and development, closure of public landfills and mass migration of wholesale nurseries that accepted manure from commercial horse boarding facilities as a free source of mulch are now gone. The last nursery closure was literally "the last straw" for commercial stables.

On November 2, 2007 Councilmember Richard Alarcón introduced an emergency motion to expedite the review process for the Lopez Canyon facility to accept horse manure.



The City of Los Angeles currently composts and sells animal waste from the Los Angeles Zoo, at Toyon Landfill in Griffith Park, but has been reluctant to extend their program to Lopez Canyon where the closed City owned landfill recycles greenwaste. Residential "back yard" horse

owners dispose of horse manure at the curb in brown bins not available to those operating commercial facilities that board horses for owners who can't keep horses themselves. It is estimated that the average commercial boarding stable keeps 30 horses. If one horse can produce 6 cu. ft. of manure each day, multiply that by 30 and by the end of the day, someone will be wearing hip boots.

Alarcon's Special Motion 07-3569 provides "That the Local Enforcement Agency be requested to expedite the current permit review process for the Bureau of Sanitation's request to allow for horse manure drop off at the LOPEZ CANYON facility for future mulching practices. Horse manure from ranches in the Lopez Canyon area of the foothills, can be dropped off at Lopez until the equestrian ranches can reestablish services with alternative service providers." He directed the Bureau of Sanitation "to report back in seven days, on the appropriate timelines and ranch operator procedures during this emergency situation." Simple storage of manure indefinitely, poses serious health risks for the community. Alternative service providers would be cost prohibitive for many ranches.

Otis Wallace, owner of Wallace Ranch, has 68 horses at his facility. His manure has been piling up for over five weeks. He says that other ranches, such as the Osborne Ranch, have as many as 200 horses. He is told that Foothill Soils, a disposal area, could open next week. Others say it could be delayed longer.

Mary Benson, Treasurer and Watershed Committee Chairperson of the Foothills Trails District Neighbor-

hood Council (FTDNC), helped launch a "poop" ad hoc committee, and its first meeting drew owners from more than a dozen commercial boarding stables just around the Hansen Dam region. It was estimated that those owners accounted for roughly 800 horses among them and their manure needs alone would account for an estimated 250 cubic yards of manure (feces, urine, bedding and feed) per week."

Benson further maintained, "There are an estimated 3500 horses just in the northeast San Fernando Valley, (CDs 7, 6 & 2), with about 1000 horses kept by residential home owners using curb side pickup. That leaves a gap of about 1700 horses at commercial boarding stables that need to be covered by this motion. It does not even touch on horses in other areas like Chatsworth in CD 12, or along the Los Angeles River or out by Pierce College."

Will the City develop a program so manure can permanently be taken to the Lopez Canyon facility? Councilman Alarcon's motion is an emergency measure good only for the short term.

The permanent answer is to compost the manure as part of citywide greenwaste recycling.

About one-fifth of the nutrients that a horse ingests are passed out in the manure and urine. Horse manure is considered one of the most valuable of farm manures, because it is high in nitrogen and capable of fermentation. Mixing manure with the green waste makes sense. The City could be receiving funds for recycling credits for manure by creating and adopting a program for recycling such waste. The manure could be used as organic topsoil to fertilize fields or could be sold to landscapers.

## Home Depot Sues City of Los Angeles

By Katharine Russ

"Home Depot is suing the City of Los Angeles because for nearly two years city officials have illegally interfered with the company's right to remodel its vacant, former K-Mart store in the Sunland-Tujunga area", according to accounts provided by Kathryn Gallagher, spokesperson for the company.

Home Depot's complaint, filed in California Superior Court (County of Los Angeles, Central District), alleges the following causes of action:

- 1) Violation of Municipal Code.
- 2) Violation of Home Depot's Vested Right.
- 3) Violation of Home Depot's Rights of Due Process and Equal Protection under the California and United States Constitutions.

4) Claim for damages under the Tort Claims Act. The complaint asks for a writ of mandate ordering the City to 1) rescind the revocation of the Permit, 2) rescind the Stop Work Order, and 3) reinstate the Permit. The complaint also asks for declaratory relief and seeks \$10 million in damages and compensation for the temporary taking of its property. Finally, Home Depot seeks reimbursement for reasonable attorneys' fees.

Along with facts of the lawsuit, Gallagher provided statements relative to Home Depot's relationship with residents and business owners in the community. In part, they said, "The Home Depot has a positive relationship with many community members and groups. In response to meetings with Home Depot, the company received more than 500 comment cards and the public support of more than 60 Sunland area businesses. Community members are excited about the economic potential of the new store, including the cre-



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ation of roughly 200 jobs."

Over four thousand members of the No2Home-Depot Alliance don't see it quite the same way as Home Depot. The heated debates over the potential hazards to school children, the negative impacts on many businesses and increased traffic in the area have had residents showing up to Community meetings, in large numbers, in opposition to Home Depot. "Home Depot has continued to avoid environmental review to the extent that they would rather sue the City of Los Angeles than take corporate responsibility to examine and mitigate the significant environmental impacts their store would have on our neighborhood.

As the world's largest home improvement warehouse they can certainly afford any mitigation that would be required, yet they choose to spend thousands of dollars on lawyers, lobbyists, and a smear campaign against the community and our Council Member instead. They are not proving themselves to be desirable neighbors," said Abby Diamond, Secretary of Sunland-Tujunga Alliance, the umbrella organization of the "No to Home Depot in Sunland-Tujunga Campaign".

Councilwoman Greuel was steadfast in her comments. "This is a worthless and frivolous lawsuit, designed to waste the taxpayers' time and money. I have simply been fighting for Home Depot to follow the same rules as every other business in the City of Los Angeles. It is my obligation to ensure that these laws are fairly enforced. If it is a question of fighting for my constituents against a multi-national corporation trying to buy their way out of following the law, I will defend constituents every time. It is absurd to suggest that my efforts to serve as an advocate for the people I was elected to represent constitute personal bias."

In untimely fashion, Peter Guterrez, Los Angeles City Senior Attorney who handled the Home Depot case, recently announced that he has left his City position to join the law firm of Latham & Watkins, who represent Home Depot.

Joe Barrett, President of Sunland-Tujunga Alliance, said, "We had discussions with Assistant City Attorney Peter Guterrez about that process; the issues raised by Home Depot and their law firm Latham & Watkins, and our own legal analysis of such claims. Mr. Guterrez has accepted employment adverse to his former client, the City of Los Angeles. There will be shared access to possible privileged and confidential information. Regardless of the promises of Latham & Watkins, no law firm's confidential firewalls or fictional isolation efforts ever work for such close congenial office arrangements. The critical question is: does Mr. Guterrez's conflict of interest contaminate that law firm, requiring its disqualification? At least for appearance sake, we feel that it does."

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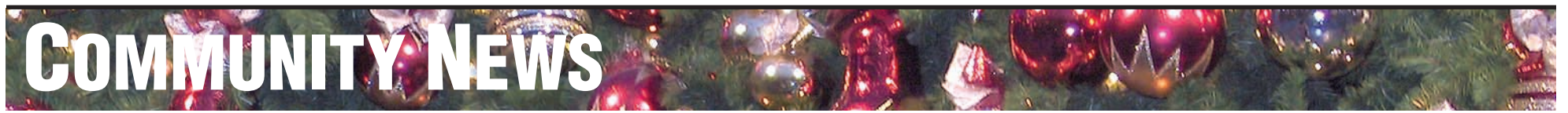
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# Thousands Attend Parade to Honor Veterans

## San Fernando Valley Holds 4th Annual Veterans Day Parade

By Nina Royal

The biggest San Fernando Valley Parade to date was held on Sunday, November 11 and began at exactly 11:11 am. Participants included Veterans from all eras, with American Legions, VFW's, and School bands participating. It appears to be getting bigger every year. The parade ended at Richie Valens Park, where booths were set up and staffed with volunteers to offer all types of information and help for veterans.

There was also food and a big carnival with great rides for kids and their families.

Mayor Villaraigosa, U.S. Congressperson Berman, Councilmembers Alarcon and Zine, LAPD Deputy Chief Michael Moore, San Fernando Chief Bob Oder-

hide, as well as the Navy Band Southwest and 1st Marine Division Bands were among many participants this year. Cile Bormann, President of the Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council, started off the parade by singing the Star Spangled Banner. Navy Veteran, Domingo Samudio, of "Sam the Sham and the Pharaohs" fame, whose recorded hits include "Wooly Bully" and "Little Red Ridding Hood", gave the invocation. There were also several fly-overs by the famous World War II Condor Squadron as well as the Army's Blackhawk Helicopters.

Marine Corp. Veteran and actor and Star of "Sex in the City, David Eigenberg, was the Grand Marshal for 2007, Marine Corp. Veteran Richard A. Reyes was World War II Era Honorary Grand Marshal; Army Corp. Veteran Gilbert M. Briones was Korean War Era Honorary Grand Marshal; Marine Corp. Veteran L.A. Sheriff Leroy Baca was Vietnam Era Honorary

Marshal; Army Corp. Veteran Joseph G. Martinez was Desert Storm War Era Honorary Grand Marshal; and Marine Corp. Corporal Daisy C. Fuentes was Operation Iraqi Freedom Honorary Grand Marshal. Many of the Veterans enjoyed their parade participation while riding in classic cars donated for the event.

The Parade was originally a vision of Marine Corp. Veteran, and present Veteran Advisory Board Commissioner, Fred Flores. Flores received the backing of U.S. Congressman Howard Berman along with former City Councilmember and present State Senator Alex Padilla and his former Council Field Deputy, Dan Rosales. They have formed a permanent committee that includes the San Fernando Valley Detachment #1277 of the Marine Corps League. If you are interested in volunteering or would like to participate in next year's parade, please email: [informNVR@aol.com](mailto:informNVR@aol.com) to be informed of committee meeting information.



San Fernando Veterans' Day Parade 11-11-07 - All Photos by Morris Pichon, USN (ret)

1- The U.S. Naval Base Ventura County, Point Mugu, California presents a display of the Navy defense missile at the San Fernando Veteran's Day Parade.

2- The Bryce Canyon Sea Cadet Division, Honor Guard presents the flag.

3- The U.S. Marine Corp recruiters from the Los Angeles Recruiting District. L-R SGT MAJOR Lawrence Archambault, STAFF SGT Jeffery Jackson and SGT Christopher Francis.

4- Seaman Rangel Ernesto served as a flag carrier with the Bryce Canyon Sea Cadets Honor Guard.

5- Sal Calderon, a Marine Corp veteran served in Viet Nam (68-70) with his wife Yolanda and their three grandsons, Anthony, Sal III and Jonathan.

6- The United States Marine Corps Marching Band performs in the San Fernando Veterans Day Parade

7- Gilbert Villa, a Marine Corp veteran (1949-1953), served in Korea and is survivor of the Battle at Chosin Reservoir in 1950. The Pacoima resident accompanied by his wife, Virginia, took time out to remember America's veterans. He spoke of his own experience of being surrounded by a half million Chinese and North Korean soldiers, in 40 degrees below on the Korean peninsula.

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Tujunga is Unique *Cookie Cutter Development will result in loss of Precious Resources*



By Mary Benson

Mary Benson

Maybe you have to be a life long resident to appreciate the potential of this area for eco-tourism and full service spas for retreat from the hustle and bustle. The Sunland -Tujunga area once boasted a genuine amusement park, a lake for recreation, as well as a movie theater and drive in. In the '50's, Hansen Dam was home to one of the nation's top ten recreational destinations. These amenities in Sunland - Tujunga have been bulldozed in favor of banquet halls, apartments, and the newest threats- big box retail.

### Public Resource to Urban Sprawl.

To add insult to injury, the areas' Community Plan has begun revision starting July 2007. The most egregious of all is a redevelopment- hungry planning department whose brain is focused solely on urbanization, and that will eventually close LA's only gateway to the Los Angeles National Forest. Today, the City of Los Angeles works only to protect environmentally sensitive areas they're forced to do by the California Coastal Commission. That zeal takes a

back seat to developer demands as development moves inland. The City Council forgets about the North East San Fernando Valley's endangered species and may request an EIR if residents protest loud enough.

### There is a bigger reason to keep open space open.

Tujunga is an area that supplies nearly 15% of the City's water supply. It seems practical that a city would understand that land needed to capture and infiltrate water coming from the National Forest would be cleanest if it didn't, first, travel over an urban landscape.

North Valley Area Planning Commissioners fail to verify developers' half-baked assertions that no scenic enjoyment, no water resource, no endangered wildlife will be affected, or harmed by their projects. The City will pass a resolution to support federal "Rim of the Valley" legislation in Congress, but has failed spectacularly to protect any resources or wildlife areas when it comes to making local decisions.

### Vision to protect and save.

Los Angeles blew its chance to protect the Los Angeles River. "If we knew then what we know now" is the mantra intoned by the AD HOC River Committee. One thing is clear-- when given a chance to protect Tujunga from a similar wave of development or the slightest

Water Resource protection or open space needs, committees will close their eyes and continue to grant developer projects with contempt for resource protection. Wendy Greuel no longer participates as a member of that AD HOC River committee and has remained uninvolved in State and Federal activity. Even the Tongva Indians had the sense to know that Tujunga could be as easily translated as the celebrated "mother of all waters" than the accepted "old woman at the water" \*

### Water for the next generation.

We need the City Council to look at long term, sustainable water resources. Apparently, the City has never been further away from "learning its lesson" about keeping at least one corner of the watershed clean enough to be an unpolluted water source for our future generations. Instead, they are contemplating spending billions for desalination and toilet tapping, with little consideration for just keeping some areas clean for new, fresh water. Water resource potential must be taken into account. It's time for our legislators and city departments to recognize the areas' value before it's developed into hillside urban lots.

Mary Benson is a Steering Committee Member on the County/DWP Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) and Executive Director of Los Angeles Trails Project. To learn more visit: [www.lawaterplan.org](http://www.lawaterplan.org)

\*also meaning "place of the old woman" and "place of the people".

## CD 7 Descends Into Decay As Our Neighborhoods Silently Watch

By Morris Pichon

Pacoima - Too many of the residential properties, located in this community within the 7th Council District, are in violation of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC). A large percentage of residential properties in the district are single family residences, which have been converted to multi-family units. Others are utilizing their front lawns as parking lots to accommodate inoperative, unlicensed vehicles, storage of cars, as well as various equipment, plus commercial and industrial vehicles.

The rear yards throughout the community are loaded with various size trailers serving as rentals for the less fortunate. Electrical, plumbing and sanitation issues are grossly out of compliance with the city codes as defined by the LAMC. Electrical wires are strung across backyards, and human waste can be detected as you walk through alleys. It is only a matter of time before these Third World practices lead this community into a state of Third World diseases.

Garages throughout this community have been converted to living areas. When will the city take action against violations of the LAMC? Several years ago, a family of five was killed in a garage fire in Sun Valley. Are we waiting for another family to burn up in a garage before these types of situations are reported to the city?

Garage conversions without accommodations for off street parking is another LAMC violation. Consequently, with three and four families per single family house, our streets are over-loaded with automotive vehicles. As many as eight to ten cars per household litter some streets of CD7. There have been several shootings in CD7 over parking spaces. If something is not done to reverse this situation you can expect more deaths in the future.

The LAMC is a set of laws, policies, and guidelines compiled by the City of Los Angeles to set standards by which we, as citizens, should adhere to insure that we each will share some degree of quality in our life.

No civilized society can function without the laws, policies and guidelines as written in the LAMC. If there are no laws, there will be chaos. If there is no enforcement of existing laws there will be chaos. Chaos exists today in CD7.

Some think that it is the duty of our elected officials to insure that the existing laws are enforced to the maximum. Our first lines of elected officials are the city councilpersons. It is the responsibility of our residents to maintain contact with the Councilpersons' offices on issues that tarnish our quality of life and deterioration of property value. Elected officials and their staff have an important job to do. A better job could be accomplished if our residents would simply make a phone call. Our citizens must make an effort to assist our councilperson's staff in determining where city services are needed.

Until and unless our citizens level a demand for LAMC code enforcement, CD7 will continue on its rapid decline into a state of decadence and decay. There is no pro-active enforcement from city agencies. The only way for us to get the nuisances removed from our community is to report code violators by dialing 311 on our landline.



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# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

## Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council

by Royan Herman  
Vice President, Outreach

The December 11 General Meeting will be at the Lake View Terrace Recreation Center on Foothill Blvd., the second Thursday, at 7:00 pm, in deference to Christmas. If you have issues you need addressed by the FTDNC, or want to help, please attend.

Dr. Ron Sipus made a long and serious presentation to La Tuna Canyon neighbors introducing Village Christian School plans for expansion. The list of neighbor concerns, present and future, is a long one, many of which should be addressed by the school. It's too early to approve or criticize, other than to say that the plan is ambitious and the process will be a long negotiation.

FTDNC is dealing with an emergency in the horse community. In October, Foothill Soils, a company that creates mulch from horse manure and green waste, left the City and moved to Newhall. Local barn owners, responsible for facilities that board approximately 2,000 horses in our tri-community area, are faced with an increase from \$40.00 to dump four to six ton loads of manure to \$48.00 per ton at the City dump. FTDNC immediately formed the affectionately named, "Poop" Committee to protect the core businesses that surely do "Keep the neigh in neighborhood."

Barn owners contacted Council offices and Otis Wallace of Wallace Ranch on Foothill Blvd. in Lake View Terrace received a promise from Councilman Alarcon. He offered to put a motion before the Council if barn owners could assure support for the measure. Councilwoman Greuel's office was contacted and she co-sponsored the motion that was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Alarcon's motion is intended to open Lopez Canyon to receive horse manure from local barns for what is being called a Pilot Program. The purpose of the program is to determine how to most effectively mix green waste and horse manure to create mulch for the greening of Los Angeles. Barn owners are still waiting, swimming in "poop", going into the red and/or violating Health Department codes while they wait for an affordable place to dump.

Large cities throughout the country are actively seeking federal recycling credits. Horse manure as a resource is 100% recyclable, a plus. Horse manure in the City dump is a liability in that it generates methane as it breaks down trash that it touches. These and other similar considerations are likely to become the basis for a public/private partnership that will benefit the City as well as the FTDNC horse communities.

Imagine living quietly in your home. Then imagine that a housing development starts next door. Imagine further that the developer grades his property and his land now looks down into your backyard. It's higher than your six foot wall. Add to this discomfort a retaining wall that is six feet high, but only on the developers side. On the side of the neighbor the wall is 14 feet high and the City claims it's legal. The homeowner has come to FTDNC for help. We will support this family until the City either buys their property for a high security prison or assures them some relief.

How well this final example serves to remind all of us in the foothills just how little regard developers have for the flavor, mentality and footprint of our communities. Oh! How about the developer who just bought an 18,000 square foot lot legal for horse keeping in Shadow Hills and can't figure out why FTDNC is 100% behind his permit application to build a 10,000 square foot house.

FTDNC has returned to its original vote by mail election procedure. The next election is being planned now for April of 2008, hopefully in cooperation with STNC and SVNC.

A very Happy Thanksgiving from Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council.

## Preserving Our Neighborhoods



Councilmember  
Wendy Greuel

We've recently made some great progress in preserving our rural, horse-friendly environment. The Foothills neighborhoods have a uniquely rugged quality that we have worked together to protect as the population and business community grows.

I have successfully secured two Duratherm cross-walks that will allow equestrians to ride safely in the community. The crossings, located along Foothill Boulevard at Wheatland and Orcas streets, are constructed from a special material that will not aggravate horse hooves. The cross-walks were installed a few weeks ago and we will surely be seeing our neighbors riding by as we drive down Foothill Boulevard.

Further, we recently secured funding to clear a horse trail stretching along Stonehurst between Allegheny and Fenway. The permits are finalized and I will continue working with the Friends of Stonehurst to complete this project.

Preserving an equestrian environment is one piece of my larger effort to support the Foothills community. I will continue to work with community members to protect open-space, revive Commerce Avenue and fight for local needs.

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# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

## Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council



Cindy Cleghorn,  
STNC President

**STNC Board Members Go Back to School:** Lydia Grant, Education Rep and I recently gave a presentation to students at Verdugo Hills High School. We met with over 40 high school students and talked about the history and structure of STNC as well as the history and values of our community. The future of our community, our youth, have great interest in community issues. Big thank you to Verdugo Hills High School teacher, Robert Tejada for the opportunity. We hope to return very soon and we look forward to planning a "Youth Town Hall" event too.

**Report from Region 1 rep, Olina Lowe:** Thank you Ed Rock for bringing the 100-cup Coffee Urn to my Region 1, Sunland Senior Center. They had particularly requested this item, and were happy to get it. The engraving on the urn's surface was so very nice too, indicating it was presented by STNC. Maria Cervantes, C1 Coordinator says "this coffee pot has arrived just in time for the Sr. Center's holiday events". You may recall that we also arranged recently for a donation of a lot of armless, good quality, stack-able chairs which the Sr. Center needed for their Knitting Class. These chairs were supplied by Dr. David DeMulle, Director of OSS-Spectrum, from his supply of re-recyclable "goodies". Dr. DeMulle also donated a very large bulletin board, which was another needed item by the Sr. Center.

The Sunland-Tujunga community, this past August, watched the City Council vote to uphold the Zoning Administrator's determination that a proposed Home Depot in Sunland-Tujunga is indeed a project. The laws of the city were finally going to be adhered to for a project of this magnitude. All permits were officially revoked. The community's voice was heard and Councilmember Greuel, who was elected to advocate for the people of our community, did an outstanding job representing us before the City Council. Neighborhood Councils far and wide stepped forward to give and voice their support. Our neighbors with their passion for the betterment of our community's economic future and quality of life stand with us and our City. Home Depot has now chosen a path to sue the City of Los Angeles and blatantly disregards the importance of our community's Foothill Blvd. Corridor Specific Plan ordinance. Outside special interest groups and persons with personal agendas who do not have businesses, nor live in Sun-

land-Tujunga, have blatantly shown their disregard for our community. The Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council and community at large remain steadfast that "special treatment" for the Home Depot "is not an option". To view the lawsuit documents, visit the STNC web site at [www.stnc.org](http://www.stnc.org).

### Upcoming STNC Meetings - Join Us!

- Design Advisory Committee - Dec. 3 at 7 pm at NVCH
- STNC Monthly Meeting - Dec. 12 at 7 pm at NVCH \*Note location change
- Safety Committee - Dec. 20 at 6 pm at NVCH
- Design Advisory Committee - Dec. 17 at 7pm at NVCH



Cindy Cleghorn and Lydia Grant with Robert Tejada of Verdugo Hills High School



Olina Lowe, STNC Region 1 rep with Maria Cervantes, C1 Coordinator at Sunland Sr. Center

## Arleta Neighborhood Council

Circle Saturday, December 8, 2007 on your Calendar because it's election time and time to vote for your favorite candidate to serve on the Arleta Neighborhood Council (ANC). The Polls will be open from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at Canterbury Elementary School, 13670 Montague St., in Arleta.

Any Arleta stakeholder, who wants to become a write-in candidate at this late date, can do so on or before December 7. Stakeholders will be asked to fill out a Voter Registration Form.

To be considered a Stakeholder, you must live, work, own a business or property within the ANC boundaries, or be involved in community or faith based organizations, schools, parks, or senior citizen or youth groups.

All Candidates must confirm that they are eligible within ANC boundaries. They will be asked to fill out a Registration Form and show proof of eligibility. Stakeholder status can be verified by presenting one of the following items for verification: valid CA Drivers License, CA. I.D. Card, valid U.S. Passport, Counselor I.D., Employee I.D. Card, Property Tax Bill, Utility Bill, Rental or Lease Agreement, or business license.

As a member of the ANC you have the opportunity to be an official advisor to the city on behalf of our community regarding land use, development, city-wide budget, community improvements, or special projects of interest to you. Meetings are on the third Thursday of each month at Beachy Elementary School, 9757 Beachy St., Arleta. Contact Joy Bizar, Secretary at 818-899-6715, or Margaret Shoemaker, President, at 818-89-1373 for more information.

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**Sunday, Nov. 25**

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

**Tuesday, Nov. 27**

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

**Granada Hills C of C.**  
Network Mixer  
Rage Entertain. Complex  
16911 Devonshire GH  
5:30-7:30 pm

**Wednesday, Nov. 28**

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

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

**Panorama City NC**  
Knob Hill Bank. Center  
8229 Van Nuys, VN  
5:30 pm 785-9355

**San Fernando Pioneer**  
Memorial Cemetery  
Foothill & Bledsoe, Syl  
9 am - 12 pm 365-5860

**STNC-Exec. Comm**  
**NV City Hall**  
7747 Foothill, S-T  
7 pm 951-7411

**Sylmar Chamber Mixer**  
St. Didacus Catholic School  
Sylmar  
6 pm 6-367-7177

**Sunday, Dec. 2**

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

**23rd Annual Holiday Parade**  
Granada Hills C of C  
Starts Chatsworth & Pettit

**Monday, Dec. 3**

**STNC Land Use**  
DAC Meeting  
N. Valley City Hall  
7747 Foothill - Tujunga  
7 pm

**Tuesday, Dec. 4**

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

**Wednesday, Dec. 5**

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

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

**Town Hall/Candidate Forum**  
Sylmar NC  
Dyer St. Elementary  
14500 Dyer St, Syl  
6:30-9 pm

**Thursday, Dec. 6**

**Senior Day Trip**  
Getty Villa, Malibu  
Verdugo Hills "Y"  
6840 Foothill, S-T  
9 am-5 pm 790-0123x225

**Kagel Canyon Civic Assoc**  
Dexter Park  
7 pm

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

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

**Community Police**  
Advisory Board (CPAB)  
Pot Luck  
Villa Scallabrini, SV  
6 pm 756-8866

**Saturday, Dec 8**

**COBRA's Christmas**  
on Commerce w/ Santa,  
Music, Food & More at  
Crumpet's 10031 Commerce,  
5-8 pm - Tujunga

**Sunday, Dec. 9**

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

**Tuesday, Dec. 11**

**FABA**  
LAPD Officer's Awards  
Odyssey Restaurant

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

**Mission Hills NC**  
General Meet.  
14928 Clymer St. MH  
7 pm

**Northridge West N/C**  
Beckford Elementary  
7 pm

**Sun Valley Area NC**  
Villa Scallabrini Center  
10631 Vinedale, SV  
6:30 pm 767-6766

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HorsePropertyUSA.com

**Community Websites:**  
OGHRG.org, GHSNC.org,  
GranadaHillsHistory.com

# Mark YOUR Calendar

## Wednesday, Dec. 12

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

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

**STNC Gen.Meeting**  
North Valley City Hall  
7747 Foothill, Tujunga  
7 pm 951-7411

**Granada Hills South N/C**  
Granada Hills Rec Center  
16730 Chatsworth St.  
7- 8:30 pm

**D. Palmer and Las Lomas**  
Sylmar Cof C Luncheon  
China Buffet Restaurant  
Foothill Blvd., Syl  
\$25 11:30 am 367-1177

**Partner's Mixer**  
Sun Valley Chamber  
Fairway's Restaurant  
10400 Glenoaks, Pac  
768-2014

## Thursday, Dec. 13

**Astronomy Night**  
Sylmar Library  
14561 Polk, Syl  
after sunset

**Granada Hills South N/C**  
Granada Hills Rec Center  
16730 Chatsworth St. GH  
7-8:30 pm

## Saturday, Dec. 15

**Sylmar NC Elections**  
Sylmar Library  
14561 Polk St., Syl  
10 am - 6 pm

## Sunday, Dec. 16

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

## Monday, Dec. 17

**4H Meeting**  
Shadow Hills Pres. Church  
Sunland, SH  
7 pm 352-0864

**San Fernando Pioneer**  
Memorial Cemetery  
Foothill & Bledsoe, Syl  
9 am - 12 pm 365-5860

**STNC Land Use**  
**DAC Meeting**  
N. Valley City Hall  
7747 Foothill - Tujunga  
7 pm

**Arleta NC**  
Beachy Elementary School  
9757 Beachy, Arl  
6:30 pm 897-9122

## Tuesday, Dec. 18

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

**Mission Hills NC**  
Beautification &  
Cultural Affairs Comm.  
10161 Sepulveda, MH  
6:30

**Arleta N/C Gen Meeting.**  
Beachy Ave. Elementary  
9757 Beach Ave.  
6:30 pm

## Wednesday, Dec. 19

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

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

## Saturday, Dec. 22

**Mission Hills NC**  
Outreach/Youth Outreach  
10161 Sepulveda, MH  
2 pm

**SNC Land Use**  
Sylmar NC Office  
13515 \_ Hubbard, Syl  
3:30 pm

## Sunday, Dec. 23

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

## Monday, Dec. 24

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

## Tuesday, Dec. 25

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

## Wednesday, Dec. 26

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

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

## Sunday, Dec. 30

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

## Monday, Dec. 31

**NEW YEAR'S EVE**  
"Designate a Driver"

## Tuesday, Jan. 1

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



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- Music and Spanish, JK-12
- Art, K-12
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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## How We Honored our Veterans

### Local Veteran Honored

Viet Nam Veteran and Arleta resident, Al Piantanida, was honored during an L.A. City Council Meeting on Friday, November 9, by District Six Councilmember Tony Cardenas.

Cardenas presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation for his service in the U.S. Army in the early years of the Viet Nam War, his continued dedicated service to his community of Arleta and Council District Six. Piantanida continues to work with Veterans, Senior Citizens and Youth while being a caregiver to his mother and mother-in-law.

Cardenas also presented him with Council District Six's first annual Military Commemorative Coin, awarded for outstanding service.

### Ceremony Held to Seal Viet Nam Wall Vault

A ceremony was held at Pierce Brothers-Valhalla Memorial Park in North Hollywood, November 12, to seal off the Viet Nam Wall Experience Vault. It now holds a collection of personal letters, pictures of loved ones, unit flags, ribbons and other items belonging to



Local Veteran Honored.

those persons who gave their lives and are now honored on the wall. The items were gathered during the Dignity Viet Nam Wall Replica's visit to the park in June.

Mayor Maria Ramos, Burbank, Ralph Walker, American Legion, Jim Etter, Boy Scouts of America, Military Personnel, many Veterans and family members attended the ceremony.

Following the closing ceremony and after the Vault was sealed and lowered into the ground, a Monument Stone was placed on top, which reads: "We Honor Those Who Made the Ultimate Sacrifice for Our Country."

### Veterans Treated to Dinner and Candlelight Vigil

San Fernando Valley Councilmember Tony Cardenas, from CD 6, honored Veterans during his Fifth Annual Veterans' Day celebration at the San Fernando Valley Municipal Building Court Yard in Van Nuys, on Sunday, November 11. After introductions and a welcome speech by Cardenas, "Generations of Heroes" kicked off with a "Mess Tent" style dinner for Veterans and their families, during which they received tributes from State Senator Alex Padilla and State Assemblymember Felipe Fuentes. Guests were also treated to Patriotic Song by the Harmonies Choir and 1940's USO style music performed by the "9 Carat Gold Swing Band"

Staff Sergeant. Cristina Aguilera, Chaplain Assistant, 63rd Regional Readiness Command, gave the Keynote Address. The Keynote Speaker was Burbank



Veterans treated to dinner.



native, Major General Paul E. Mock, Commanding General, 63 RRC. The Invocation and Benediction was given by Colonel William Brunold, Chaplain, U.S. Army.

Cardenas gave special recognition to Viet Nam Veteran Al Piantanida for dedication to his community. Piantanida in turn gave special recognition to U.S. Marine Corporal Luis DeLu Luz of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Div., who served two tours during Iraqi Freedom. Piantanida also presented a Plaque of Appreciation to Councilmember Cardenas, for being a "Man of Honor, Dignity, Caring and Devotion to Veterans" on behalf of all Veterans. Cardenas presented each Veteran with a lapel pin and commemorative coin before commencing with the Candle Light Vigil Ceremony.

## SB 1818 No Answer to Affordable Housing says Yaroslavsky

By Katharine Russ

Los Angeles - County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky is adamant that Ca. State Senate Bill 1818 is flawed and its incentives and zoning breaks will have a negative impact on any affordable housing in any local jurisdiction. Yaroslavsky said, "The density bonus ordinance that is now being considered will likely reduce rather than increase the supply of affordable housing in the City of Los Angeles, exactly the opposite of the stated intent of the law. It will also insure that expensive market rate units will be built at the expense of units that serve the City's most economically vulnerable renters. Many of the units that are likely candidates for demolition are in older, quieter neighborhoods of Los Angeles." However, there are no communities excluded from this bill. They can expect a demolition derby of sorts, to ensue the current draft of the City's ordinance is adopted. Under the state's law, SB 1818, local cities can grant density bonuses that allow developers to build more than is currently allowed under existing zoning laws if they agree to build more affordable housing.

Some of the changes Yaroslavsky propose include:

- Prohibit height increases for development projects next to property zoned for single family homes and duplexes.
- Prohibit development incentives for projects in flood zones, historic preservation areas, hillside zones, or streets with buildings that do not meet current parking requirements.
- Deny incentives to any project that eliminates more affordable housing than it will build. Los Angeles City Council President, Eric Garcetti,

proposed amendments that would reduce the number of locations where a residential project would be granted additional height or density. He proposes the following:

- No multi-story project within 50 feet of a neighborhood zoned for single-family homes will be allowed additional height.
- No project to replace a building that is part of a historic zone.
- Only one additional story be granted to buildings on a street with height limits of 30, 45 or 50 feet.

If a developer demolishes a building that has 100% very low to low occupancy and is given incentives to build units containing 10%- 25% affordable units, where do the rest of the low income families go? Elaine Brown, former Chamber of Commerce Director and Sunland-Tujunga activist, commented on this question. "There is absolutely nothing good about this legislation. It tears down rentals to build saleable housing, which expands and rapes our current zoning and building rules and regulations. It allows the builder to raise the height, size, and ignore setbacks, parking and landscaping requirements. This is the worst piece of legislation relating to land use ever passed. San Francisco is fighting it. Other cities are joining them. Where is Los Angeles? It does absolutely nothing to increase low cost housing for the myriads of tenants displaced, offering home ownership to one family out of many and no one knows how that can be arranged. There are places throughout Los Angeles where high-density bonus makes sense. Where it does not make sense is in single-family neighborhoods regardless of proposed 50-ft. setbacks. We need to fight this."

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# PUBLIC SAFETY

## News Updates from Mission Station



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

I am taking this opportunity to update you on all past and upcoming events that have occurred or will occur in Mission Area.

On October 11, our Mission Area Community Police Advisory Board members sponsored a "magical" Officer Appreciation Day to show their admiration and support of Mission Area's sworn and civilian personnel. Led by Co-Chair Melanie Mc Shane, they were at the station all day, cooking and serving food for all, while a magician was performing magic tricks throughout the day. On behalf of Captain Scott, myself, and all the men and woman at Mission Area, we thank you all so very much. I would also like to extend a thank you to all the elementary schools in the area for their letters of appreciation which brought smiles to all of our faces.

On November 10, Mission Area sponsored an area wide clean up event spear headed by Officer Ken Crawford. Officer Crawford, along with the entire Mission Area Senior Lead Office staff, coordinated this clean-up effort in conjunction with the San Fernando Valley Faith Coalition and hundreds of volunteers. Their efforts began at 0800 hours, (8:00 am), led by a very motivational speech delivered by Councilman Richard Alarcon, representing the 7th District. After the speech, it was off to

the races, beautifying the Sylmar, North Hills, Panorama City, Mission Hills and Granada Hills communities. A big thank you goes out to all who participated!

The day culminated in a beautiful community event in the Sylmar Area known as the LAN (Lets Act Now) project, a concept developed to mobilize the community.

The Let's Act Now Project was introduced by LAPD officers, working in collaboration with the Gang Coalition. The goal was to organize an event where community agencies would come together to speak with citizens in an area where gangs are a major problem. The coalition wanted to hear from them and try to get these agencies to help: For example, after school programs, parks and recreation programs, family counseling, etc. It was a huge success! Over 400 people gathered for the day's events, which included free food, entertainment and a host of other activities.

Special thanks goes out to Officer's Charles Chacon and Gonzalo Lara, working in conjunction with the Sylmar Youth Task Force, led by Moises Carrillo and all other entities who donated food and gave of their time to make this such a wonderful, special day. It was an incredible event that many members of the community had a role in.

On Saturday, December 15, the LAPD Mission Area will host the Second Annual San Fernando Valley Toy Giveaway Event, which will take place at Sepulveda Recreational Center, located at Parthenia Sreet and Kester Avenue in the community of North Hills. LAPD Mission Area will be working in conjunction with Living Hope

Community Church, Genesis Entertainment, Communities in Schools, and a host of motorcycle clubs from the San Fernando Valley. Activities include a rock climbing wall, face painting, free snow cones, bouncers, LAPD displays, and everything else needed to bring a warm smile to a child's face. Wayne Brady from "Whose Line Is It Anyway" is expected to attend once again, along with a host of other celebrities. This is a great event and an opportunity for all in the community to gather and partake in such a wonderful experience. Remember, the theme of the event says it all, "If you have, come and give-- if you need, come and receive." For further information or, if you would like to partake in the event as a volunteer, or to donate, please contact Mission Area Officer Mike Scott, at 818-838-9856, or Janel Meza and Alice Medellin of Living Hope Community Church, at 818-365-5550. Hope to see you all there!

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 818-838-9856. Hope you all have a very wonderful Holiday Season and a prosperous New Year!

You may e-mail us at the following addresses: \* Area Captain Jorge Villages, 26714@lapd.lacity.org \* Patrol Captain William Scott, 27078@lapd.lacity.org \* Sergeant Adrian Torres, 31467@lapd.lacity.org

## Beware of Distraction Burglary

By Pamela Goldfinger

Mission Hills - Two Senior Citizens were the victims of a "distraction burglary" on Wednesday, October 3, 2007, in the middle of the afternoon when "Mr. Senior Citizen" was home.

Three women appeared at the door of Mr. Senior Citizen and said they represented the vacant neighbor's house across the street. They said they were having an open house on the weekend with free food, door prizes, et cetera.

They gained entry into the house uninvited, as Mr. Senior Citizen fetched a pencil for one of the women, leaving the front door open. Two women went into the

home office, while the third woman went into the master bedroom, and succeeded stealing a gold necklace before Mr. Senior Citizen interrupted her, then ordered all three women out of the house. The women fled.

**What is a 'distraction burglary'?** A distraction burglary is a crime when someone gains access to your home under false pretense, then removes your property without your knowledge. People working in teams and posing as someone looking for a lost pet, or pose as workers in any capacity commit distraction burglaries. Their goal is to gain entry into your home. These are usually very skilled and well organized groups who prey on vulnerable, trusting individuals, particularly senior citizens.

### How to avoid becoming a victim of distraction burglary

- Treat uninvited strangers who come to your home with healthy suspicion. Distraction burglars come in many guises and sometimes are even accompanied by children.
- Do not open your door to strangers when it is a "cold call", i.e. someone whom you have not invited or with whom you do not have an appointment. Legitimate companies do not solicit business door to door.
- Avoid keeping large sums of money in your home. Keep valuables out of sight (e.g. jewelry, purse, briefcase ET cetera).
- Always ask for credentials or some form of picture identification. Verify that it is legitimate. Keep a list of official phone numbers by your telephone. A genuine caller, rightfully and lawfully at your front door will understand your caution.
- Don't allow strangers to "engage" you in a long conversation at your door. A distraction burglar knows the longer they keep you talking, the more trusting you will become.
- Always keep your front and back doors locked.
- Consider having door chains installed.
- Beware of the word "free" or the offer of "big discounts". If it sounds too good to be true, it generally is!
- Never leave your door open or unattended. Never leave someone standing on your porch while you re-enter your home. When you re-enter your home, close and immediately lock the door. If you must step back out onto the porch, do not lock the door as you close it behind you.

**The Roll of the Community:** Raise the profile and awareness of distraction burglary within the local community at large. Provide senior citizen forums through neighborhood watch, neighborhood councils and other organizations to provide information about the various forms of distraction burglary Offer prevention techniques, assertiveness training and demonstrate front door etiquette routines. Be vigilant toward senior citizens and provide greater social support victims of distraction burglary and other crimes. Develop a method to facilitate information exchange between neighborhood watch, neighborhood councils, faith based and community organizations for outreach to vulnerable senior citizens and to help reduce social isolation within the senior citizen community.

*Editors Note: Ms. Goldberg is Past President of Mission Hills Neighborhood Watch.*

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# THIS & THAT

## October L.A. Area Real Estate Sales

By Tomi Lyn Bowling

These are the sales figures for October 2007 from the 1st to the 31st without evaluation, prediction, or embellishment of any kind. These are the total number of real estate sales for single family homes only (condos or land not included), that have actually closed and completed the sale process. These are random areas chosen for no particular reason other than to show the differences from area to area. Note that the table includes the total for the same time last year for comparison:

Area	Sales	Sales
	Oct 1-31 2007	Oct 1-31 2006
Malibu	12	17
Mt Washington	12	34
Burbank	5	2
Santa Monica	31	105
Castaic	14	16
Eagle Rock	1	4
Manhattan Beach	19	21

Glendale	35	64
Granada Hills	10	48
Palmdale	30	105
La Canada	12	18
North Hollywood	22	64
Sunland Tujunga	12	37
Redondo Beach	21	33
Studio City	25	44
La Crescenta	7	16

Note that many areas also have a large inventory. For example, Malibu. The first city on this list, has over 240 listings on the market at this time. In order to do a full Analysis for any given area it is necessary to include the following: How many listings are on the market. How long they have been on the market. How many listings have expired, cancelled or otherwise not sold. Also, how many did go into escrow but fell out again, etc. The above statistics are by no means the complete picture, but helps depict what is truly happening in Southern California in general. *Editors note: Ms Bowling is a local licensed real estate broker.*

### Carrick's Journey -Part Three

By Tomi Lyn Bowling



The people in this little village stared in awe. They had not seen so many children belonging to one mother before. In the place they were from, there was only one child, if any, to a couple (and most had no children) so seeing this woman greeted by seven children was an oddity. They looked at the mother as if she must have something wrong with her, like a freak of nature or something.

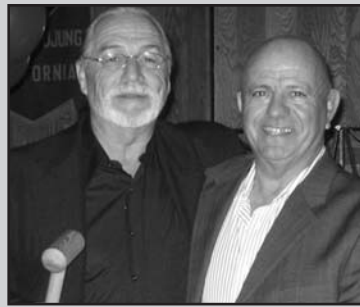
Maddie ignored the peeling eyes and embraced each child as she silently did her routine head count. It was at this point that she belted out "where's Drake?"

Drake was the oldest son and a tall, thin but muscular, good-looking teen with an insatiable appetite for adventure and opportunity to show off. He loved to demonstrate that he took his responsibility quite seriously when dad asked him to watch out for the family as he passed.

Knowing how seriously he took this assignment Maddie knew that her son was likely to have gone back to the well to seek her out. She looked at the guide, tears streaming down her face, "Drake, where is my Drake?" Her guide assured her that the boy is fine and they would get him back here safely as she signaled to two men to go and find the boy.

Maddie continued her embrace with the remaining children, as the youngest, dirty face and all, looked up at her, tugging on her pant leg, and said, "Mommy, where are we? I'm hungry." *.....to be continued.*

The Sunland-Tujunga Chamber of Commerce recently held their annual installation of officers. Congratulations to Jim Moore, newly installed president and Phil Tabbi, outgoing president. The S-T Chamber represents the business community of Sunland-Tujunga, Lakeview Terrace and Shadow Hills. Membership info: [stchamber.com](http://stchamber.com)



## SOUND OFF

### Time Warner (ing) Takeover

There is a reason why the Time Warner customer service center on Commerce in Tujunga has banker type glass with a three inch hole you speak through, a minimum of three security cameras, and a security guard sitting between the employees only door and the line of customers. It is called terrible service!

During the time I was there one guy had lost his business phone numbers during the "Upgrade" - they gave him new numbers he very definitely did not want. Another person was being charged for service of someone who had died and I was there because the 30 minute "Upgrade" I received the day before resulted in about 10 hours of my trying to get the mess corrected. I say trying, because it is still not fixed. Despite it being TOTALLY a Time Warner mistake, they cannot send anyone out to fix the problem for another nine days. Note: there was nothing wrong in the first place. We were just switching to their service because, apparently, we have to switch to someone according to their scare tactics promo which I assume we all received.

### Thankfully Speaking

In trying times when tragedy or economic news sends a chill up your spine it is always good to note what the other fellow is enduring while taking stock of what you do have to be thankful for. Sometimes the enduring one is you. It is incredibly hard to take stock of what one does have when one is suffering from tragedy, loss of one they love, financial loss, poor health for themselves or others, while indeed some are missing the basics of food, water, clothing, or even a blanket. For some the very fabric of emotion is all that they have!

No matter where you fall in this world of categories you do have something. You're here breathing the air, smelling the scents, distinguishing the colors and hues, touching the soft surface or rough. Employing the senses where you are right now. See something and notice the color, shape changes, or something striking about what you see.

Close your eyes and listen to the sounds, identify them, without opening your eyes. Breathe in, while your eyes are closed, what are the scents that are coming your way. Open your eyes and touch the surface of what you are looking at right now. Touch the surface of what is next to you...the clothing you wear. Taste the air! Hug someone, don't be shy, just do it! Who cares if you know them or not! A hug can be something wonderful to have any time either given or received! It's OK, just do it.

In this time of giving thanks, you do have something, no matter where you are. You have suffered, and do endure, no matter how difficult or trying it all may seem. You are to be thanked for what you have survived so far and in turn can be thankful for what you do have. Thank you! Happy Thanksgiving!

Tomi Lyn Bowling  
Sunland-Tujunga

Their phone "wait time" is so bad that after waiting for nearly half an hour at home, I decided to drive to their offices but I stayed "on hold" on my cell phone. I was standing in line with my cell phone on speaker so everyone there could here "You are very important to us....". I got to the person at the window before anyone answered on the phone. The day before, my cell phone call to them was one hour and 40 minutes. Then to top off what was already demonstrably the worst service ever, a guy in the line who had his numbers inadvertently changed on him, was told to wait while the clerk went to talk to a technician on "the" phone. I say "the" phone because there was only one. One phone for all of this service, all these people, all these clerks, all of these new cus-

tomers, all of these huge mistakes. This is the Phone Company! One phone, at the Phone Company! So this is a TIME WARNING message. There is something quite ironic about being on hold for hours while the message continues to state "your call is very important to us". Prove it!

Frustrated, Mr. Tony Bowling  
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# ANIMAL SERVICES

## Catching up with Animal Services



By Marsha Perloff

Local residents should be pleased to learn that a thoroughly modern animal shelter recently opened its doors to serve them, with another nearing completion by year's end. The new facility replaces the converted dairy farm on Sherman Way that for years served as the East Valley shelter, and the new East Valley Animal Care Center at 14409 Vanowen Street in Van Nuys is a sight for sore eyes.

Los Angeles "pounds" has seen relatively few improvements since their establishment at the end of the 19th century. Causing barely a blip on the city's budget, these temporary safe-havens for our lost and cast-off pets left a lot to be desired. Funky old buildings were routinely adapted for re-use, save for the occasional drab, cheaply built structures modeled after correctional facilities.

Thanks to overwhelming voter support in 2000 for the Animal Facilities Bond Measure (Prop F), the cramped, antiquated shelters of old are being replaced or renovated with state-of-the-art models. Award-winning facilities were toured to gather design ideas - notably, the SPCA's in Long Beach and San Francisco. It appears that the research paid off-- the new centers have a family-friendly, park-like ambiance, 180 degrees from past incarnations.

The Department of Animal Services is determined to meet a goal set by Mayor Hahn for L.A. to become a "No Kill" city by 2008. And it is to that end the agency has been working feverishly to improve its image and lure potential candidates as pet adopters. It is hoped that, by positioning shelters as community centers, residents will choose to adopt an animal in lieu of purchasing one from a pet store or breeder. Increased shelter adoptions mean decreased euthanasia of adoptable animals, a win-win equation for all.

After fine-tuning the fine "water misting" system and adding shade canopies to cope with September's extreme heat, the new East Valley center appears to be running smoothly. The sleek facility utilizes green building concepts that meet or exceed current standards, including solar power, radiant heating of kennels, and xeroscopic landscaping.

Visitors enter a spacious lobby filled with art and color. Across from the nearly completed on-site spay and neuter clinic is a community room available for gatherings. Cats bask in sunlit catteries and centrally located public greeting rooms. The number of dog kennels is almost triple that of the old shelter, alleviating the ongoing space crunch. Grouped in small clusters, the aisles are punctuated with fountains and landscaped "get acquainted" areas resembling pocket parks. The design of the kennel area has all but eliminated the stress-related barking that was constant and deafening in the old facility. On a recent visit, it was remarkable to witness how calm and quiet the dogs behaved in this new environment, making them all the more appealing to potential adopters.

The East Valley facility will provide service for foothill residents of Sunland-Tujunga, Shadow Hills, Sun Valley and Lake View Terrace until the newly constructed Northeast Valley Animal Care Center at 11030 Stranwood in Mission Hills opens its doors near the end of the year. Modern in every other aspect, the handsome center's classic architecture compliments that of the well-known landmark across the way, Mission San Fernando. For more information about LAAS service, visit: [laanimalservices.com](http://laanimalservices.com)

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# I've Got Plenty

By Marlene Hitt

An old song tells us that "I got plenty o' nothin'... but that's all right cause the things that I prize like the stars in the skies are all free. I got plenty o' nothin' and nothin's plenty for me." We all know that the stars alone won't keep us warm at night, but consider an attitude of thankfulness this season.

**What Am I Thankful For?**

Why, for this little seed caught between my teeth! This seed from berries cooked into jam mounded in the cut glass dish my mother gave me, sweet jam boiled from my own berries piled on bread bought from Ralph's just two blocks away; bread made from flour ground from grain grown on great fields of soil, grain that drank rain dropped from clouds that were coaxed from the sea, grain, fed by the sun that hangs in the great galaxy spinning the universe which hangs above this sweet earth while it turns over and over, where, under gathered clouds heavy with rain coaxed from the sea, (which wakens the soil rich with grain), ripened kernels of wheat are milled into flour to be baked into bread which I can buy at Ralph's just two blocks from here, on which I can spread this mound of jam resting in the cut glass dish my mother gave me, sweet jam made from my own berries whose little seed is caught between my teeth.

*Editor's Note: Marlene Hitt is Past Poet Laureate of Sunland-Tujunga*



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