

Sex Offenders Ousted From Bailey Canyon

State Agency Ignores Its Own Regulations

By Katharine Russ

Kagel Canyon—Five sex offenders who were removed from the former Super Eight Motel in Sylmar late last year were moved to Bailey Canyon. However, neither the LAPD nor neighbors in the new area they were being housed in were ever notified. In addition to sex offenses, drug convictions, robbery, attempted murder, and battery charges also followed these men. As a condition of parole, all five men were ordered to wear GPS monitoring ankle devices even though all of them had failed to register as sex offenders. Equally dangerous, the ankle devices do not work in Bailey Canyon. A resident, who requested to remain anonymous discovered the name of one of the sex offenders on the registry at www.meganslaw.ca.gov and called County Supervisor Michael Antonovich's office. All said offenders have since been relocated.

Large protest demonstrations were held last year when it was discovered that the motel in Sylmar was housing convicted sex offenders as a part of a contract with the State of California. Concern grew because visitors with small children who often stayed at that hotel were never aware of the potential danger to their families. The government and the community reached an agreement and the offenders were moved out of the facility.

Andrew Bales, Director of "Hope Garden Family Center" said, "law enforcement and residents worked together to make sure that the paroled sex offenders were

moved out of 16000 Bailey Road just off of Lopez Canyon Road in Sylmar. The "Union Rescue Mission" has worked very hard for the last two years to move our women and children to the safety of Hope Gardens Family Center and out of harm's way from the nearly 400 registered sex offenders on Skid Row. We were shocked to learn that the Dept. of Corrections and Rehabilitation had moved these potentially dangerous and violent men within 600 feet of our property."

Megan's Law requires persons convicted of specified sex crimes to a register as sex offenders with the law enforcement agency in the city where they will live. Prior to release from prison, jail, a mental hospital, or probation, sex offenders are notified in writing of their duty to register. Five days before each birthday, registered sex offenders must update all information. Others may be required to update information more often, depending on their individual situations.

But these offenders can apply for exclusion from the internet database if their offenses qualify for such exclu-



Offenders were housed 4/10 mile from this facility for women & children

sion. Sexual battery by restraint, misdemeanor child molestation, and lewd and lascivious acts with a child are three offenses that, remarkably, would qualify for exclusion according to the Megan's Law website.

Approximately 25% of registered sex offenders are presently excluded from public disclosure based on the types of sex crimes required to be disclosed by law; however, the California Dept. of Justice has not done any research on recidivism rates of these offenders. While there

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Break-Ins on the Rise in North Valley

Squatters Heist Sunland-Tujunga Home

By Katharine Russ



Officers enter home to evict squatters

Sunland-Tujunga - July 30, During a routine check of her property, Ellie Wagoner learned that several women squatters and their dog had taken up residence in her home. Neighbors told her the squatters had gained entrance through a window they had

broken. They also believe one of the squatter's parents lives on the block which is how they learned the home was vacant. Wagoner immediately called 911. Upon arriving, the responding officer told her there was nothing he could do. He advised her that it was a civil matter and that she needed to go to court to evict them.

She was forced to hire an attorney who then proved the illegal squatters came to court with a fraudulent lease identical to one that resulted in their eviction from another address five months earlier. There were no signatures on the lease. Presiding Commissioner Martin E. Green gave the illegal tenants 14 days to vacate Wagoner's property after which the squatters immediately filed an appeal. In most cases a decision that could take months.

Ellie Wagoner bought the house on Helendale Ave. in 1980 as an investment property. According to Wagoner, as the years progressed, the hundred mile drive to care for the property became a burden for her. She sold the home, which opened escrow on July 10, 2007.

The closing on Wagoner's home was on August 17 of this year. However, because the illegal tenants disobeyed the court's order, she was unable to close the sale, which resulted in a breach of contract with the buyer. She fears that she will now be sued for this breach.

While Wagoner pursued legal means to evict the unwanted tenants, her property was being decimated and she feared legal cost could spiral in the thousands of dollars. One neighborhood resident reported that there is junk all over the yard. There had been parties at all hours and neighbors were in fear of drive-by shootings, as well as retaliation if they talk to anyone. Another resident said he saw DWP turn the power off, then later saw a man on the roof connecting wires from the roof to the utility pole. Still another concerned area resident reports having seen three women with wrenches trying to turn the gas on. He said he was terrified that they would blow up the house. Wagoner's attorney advised her

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Retailer Attempts "Good Neighbor" Approach

Pursues Community Organizations to support Oversized store

By Jim Summers

Kohl's continues in its attempt at putting another of its "Big Box" stores in historic Old Granada Hills, as detailed by NVR reporter, Katharine Russ, in this paper's previous issue even against intensive community resistance based on the company's proposed plans.

The proposal comes from the property owner, Regency Centers, the nation's largest developers of neighborhood shopping centers. It is actually a joint venture investment project with Australian MacQuarie Bank, Ltd. who, with Regency, purchased the property on July 14, 2005

Including the numbers from two community meetings, as well as the first public hearing, which was held on April 30, 2007, where total attendance exceeded 300, 38 verbal testimonies, 109 letters, and 191 petition signatures against the overbuilding as proposed were presented. No public testimony or single letter in favor of the project was received. However, as reported by Ms. Russ in NVR's last issue, the totals had been adjusted upward to over 340 letters and 600 signatures against the project and only three letters favorable to the project. The next hearing was postponed until August 2, 2007 by the applicant, then postponed again to September 20, 2007, by the applicant.

Regency Centers has been doing much to get public support. They have sent at least four different glossy mailings to most of the households in Granada Hills, sponsoring the Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament (GHCC recently came out in favor of the project after the sponsorship), and, according to some area residents close to the matter, the company seems to be spreading misleading information about the project throughout the community.

Despite the overwhelming opposition to the project, and despite the number and scope of exceptions from current laws being requested, Greg Smith, Councilman of District 12, appears not to be siding with the opposition on this matter. Rather, he has been working with the Regency Centers and the L.A. City Planning Department to get the project approved since last year. In a meeting with OGHRG, some area residents expressed feelings that the Councilman has stated what might appear to be false and slanted information to the residents and business owners of the area, echoing the misinformation that Regency had been supplying. Many long-time Old Granada Hills residents and previous staunch supporters of the Councilman are now even seriously considering a recall petition.

With time running out, residents and small business owners are devising a strategy which will include door-to-door flyers and phone calls in their campaign against the mega-corporate Regency, so that the laws of this historic Granada Hills area can be preserved. New yard signs will soon be in place, since over 150



Proposed site for new Kohls in Granada Hills

lawn signs opposing the project were stolen the night before a protest rally near the end of July.

The Hearing Officer's recommendation came out around the week of the 18th, stating that the applicant had incorrectly filed for the zoning variance. Addi-

tional items on the request list were rejected. However, there was approval for the extended hours of operation, provided the company includes an environmental report on the potential affects of additional traffic in the area.

Regency Centers is headquartered in Jacksonville, FL, and has a grocery store as an anchor in more than 90% of their more than 400 shopping centers across the nation.

The North Valley Area Planning Commission public hearing date was September 20, 2007 at 4:30 p.m. at the Marvin Braude Center at 6262 Van Nuys Blvd. in Van Nuys. Results of that meeting were not yet available at press time, but we will have that information for you in our next issue. For more information, see www.GHSNC.org, www.OGHRG.org or www.RegencyCenters.org.

(Editor's Note: Jim Summers is a resident of Old Granada Hills for over 45 years, President of Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council, co-founder of OGHRG, and Board Member of the GH Chamber of Commerce and Residential and Commercial Realtor by profession).



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-Results in next issue

COMMUNITY NEWS

Coalition Appeals Hospital Expansion Decision

Developers of Similar Projects are Required to Complete Environmental Impact Reports

By James Summers

Mission Hills - A coalition representing civil rights organizations, residents, neighborhood council members, environmental advocates and labor groups has formally appealed a decision by the Los Angeles City Planning and Zoning Commission to approve a major expansion of Providence Holy Cross Medical Center.

Community Advocates for Responsible Expansion at Providence Holy Cross (CARE) reaffirmed its support for the expansion of the hospital located in Mission Hills but question why the Planning Commission did not require an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the large expansion project.

Providence Holy Cross Medical Center is owned by Providence Health & Services (PH&S), a 26-hospital company based in Seattle. The company is planning a

\$143 million, 136-bed expansion on its current site that includes a 97-foot-high patient tower that would be built on a site zoned for a maximum of 45 feet. The hospital also wants to build the new tower only 7 feet from the street, while the zoning regulation requires a 25-foot setback.

CARE says major hospital expansions have taken place in other communities over the past several years, and the developers of those projects submitted an EIR. CARE also says Providence refuses to commission an EIR because they feel less accountable for how they conduct business in the underserved communities of the Northeast Valley.

Communities typically rely on an EIR to safeguard against irresponsible development. According to the coalition, the Commission failed in its duty to protect the community from potentially significant environmental impacts by allowing the project to move forward.

"We are extremely disappointed with the commission's decision, which could allow this project to go forward without the measures needed to protect the community," said Nick Krall, a member of the Sylmar

Neighborhood Council who testified before the commission. "All developers have a responsibility to safeguard the health and well-being of the public, especially a hospital"

CARE says community and elected leaders have been asking Providence for nearly two years to conduct an EIR to ensure that the project is built responsibly. Providence has adamantly rejected those requests.

"Providence should be willing to put in place the same protections for the Northeast Valley community as other developers have done in more affluent communities," said Linda Wiggins, a Northeast Valley resident and member of CARE.

"It's a shame that Providence is trying to ram through this project without concern for the community," said Wayde Hunter, President of the North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens, Inc., in testimony at the planning commission hearing. "Everyone in the area supports the expansion of Holy Cross - we just want it to be done in a responsible way."

They hope the City Council will ultimately overturn the approval and require Providence to submit an EIR.

"Squatters"—continued from page 1

that "filing of the appeal usually does not stop the eviction process", which is supposed to start with a lockout on Sept. 11.

Wagoner's debacle is not an isolated one. According to Los Angeles Neighborhood Prosecutor, AP Diaz, "there appears to be an increase in vacant properties throughout LA City. Recently the Neighborhood Prosecutor Program partnered with LAPD to help persons like homeowner Wagoner, who returned to find her vacant property occupied by illegal squatters. The squatters were finally evicted after weeks of the owner enduring hostile confrontations, civil eviction proceedings and many uncertain days. Owners should keep properties locked, fenced and secured. When neighbors notice a vacant home in their neighborhood they should report it to the police or the Neighborhood Prosecutor Program immediately."

Prosecutor Diaz was asked he was concerned about the safety of the pre-school aged child living with the squatters. He responded that the women were hijack-

ing electricity from outside the house with a sole industrial extension cord without a surge protector. The cord was woven throughout the house with extensions plugged into extensions for lights and appliances, an extremely dangerous fire hazard. Diaz said, "I gave information to the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and requested that they inspect the premises." Upon completion of their inspection, Diaz said DCFS told him, "the place was neat and there is food in the refrigerator. There is no problem. You can't punish people for being poor." Diaz continued, that is a typical response from DCFS to his department and DCFS is always reluctant to get involved.

Squatters are becoming commonplace all over California putting law enforcement officers in the difficult position of having to make "judgment calls" that never seem to benefit the victims of these crimes. California has the most generous adverse possession law, allowing "open, notorious, continuous and hostile occupancy". As long as "squatters" can show that they have lived on the property for seven continuous days,

it is assumed, according to the state, that a landlord/tenant relationship exists and will continue to proceed as such. This necessitates the property owner having to spend thousands of dollars in legal fees trying to regain property he/she already owns. While this may have been a well-intentioned law when initially passed, primarily, to prohibit landlords from evicting tenants in favor of those who would pay higher rents, in recent times, it has certainly come back to haunt its law makers.

California Penal Code Section 602 provides that every person who willfully commits a trespass by any of the following acts is guilty of a misdemeanor: (1) Refusing or failing to leave the lands immediately upon being requested by the owner of the lands, the owner's agent or by the person in lawful possession to leave the lands, or (m) Entering and occupying real property or structures of any kind without the consent of the owner, the owner's agent, or the person in lawful possession. Wagoner said she did not know and was not told she had the right to make a "private person's arrest" for trespassing.

Welfare Costs for Illegal Aliens Tops \$35 Million

Los Angeles County - Total Annual Cost of Illegals on Taxpayers Exceeds \$1 Billion A new report shows illegal aliens and their families in Los Angeles County collected over \$35 million in welfare and food stamp allocations in July, announced Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich.

Illegals collected nearly \$20 million in welfare assistance for July, 2007 and an additional \$15 million in monthly food stamp allocations for an estimated annual cost of \$440 million.

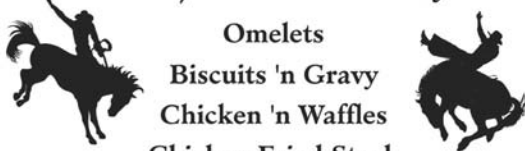
"Illegal immigration continues to have a devastating impact on Los Angeles County taxpayers," said Antonovich. "In addition to \$220 million for public safety and \$400 million for healthcare, the \$440 million in welfare allocations bring the total cost to County taxpayers that exceeds \$1 billion a year -- this does not include the skyrocketing cost of education."

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Panorama City Neighborhood Council

Tony Wilkinson
Board Member

West Nile Virus struck the Valley in August. More exactly, it struck Panorama City. Of the 19 pools of mosquitoes that tested positive for the virus on August 2, 17 were in Panorama City. Alerted by reporter Susan Abram of the Daily News, we talked with Minoo Maden, chief technologist of the Greater Los Angeles Vector Control District. He confirmed that the majority of positive tests were in the vicinity of the Pacoima Wash.

We immediately suspected "Lake Panorama." We suggested Ms. Abram where her photographer could stand to get a good picture. The Pacoima Wash just north-south of Roscoe Boulevard has a soft bottom. It had been allowed to accumulate huge pools of stagnant water, along with reeds that blocked the effectiveness of vector control treatments. The Daily News ran a giant picture of the wash in a front-page story on August 15. Elected representatives including county supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky moved quickly, and the wash was cleared of vegetation within two days.

The vector control district's Maden spoke at the Panorama City Neighborhood Council's August 23 meeting. He explained the mosquito-to-bird disease cycle, the importance of eliminating standing water where mosquitoes breed and the peak threat they pose from August through October, especially at night.

As a follow-up to the big PCNC-sponsored PCNC Center-East District cleanup on August 11, Richard Alarcon of Council District Seven and Tony Cardenas of Council District Six jointly sponsored another September 15 cleanup event. Over 100 volunteers participated. They met at the Panorama Recreation Center and enjoyed a donated breakfast and lunch for their efforts. The San Fernando Valley Filipino-American Chamber of Commerce and the Heal The Bay organization joined with CD6 and CD7 in this event. Its theme reminded us that trash in our gutters can end up on our beaches.

Participating in a huge city-sponsored cleanup in the neighborhood council's was a great way to celebrate. After four years of effort, Panorama City finally were able to vote for official Neighborhood Council Representatives at their elections on September 8. The Panorama City Neighborhood Council was certified on March 15. This election scheduled six months later was right on time. Twenty of the 21 seats on the Board of Directors were filled. The new board will fill one seat by appointment. It will also appoint a Youth Representative.

The newly elected Board includes Hal Alvord, Paul Carrion, Walter J. Clarke, Ron Collins, Mariam Danielyn, Orlando Ray Garcia, Pamela Gibberman, Barbara Hawkins, Roni Holloway, Heidi Glenda Lennartz, Esteban Martinez, Viviano Montes, Salvador Ortega, Andres Samson, Jose Sandoval, David Schleidt, Faarax Dahir Sheikh-Noor, Fred M. Whitebook, Tony Wilkinson, and Narine Zardarian



West Nile Virus Alert - Stagnant water at the Pacoima Wash

Arleta Community News

By Al Piantanida

The San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center held a Groundbreaking Ceremony in August for the new Nikkei Senior Garden, a 79-unit assisted living facility located on Arleta Avenue just north of Branford Street. District Seven Councilmember, Richard Alarcon, members of the Japanese American Community Center, local Arleta community representatives and the contractor took part in the event. Hoping to improve public safety, the community of Arleta now has the first new traffic photo cameras. The cameras are installed at Van Nuys Blvd and Arleta Avenue. The community is thankful to District Six Councilmember Tony Cardenas for spearheading the bridge widening project for the overpass above the flood control channel at Van Nuys Blvd. just west of Arleta Avenue. It is now completed and we have safer walking conditions and much improved traffic flow.

Arleta, a safe and clean family oriented community, works closely with LAPD Foothill Division and LAFD Station #7 and Council District Six.

"Sex Offenders Ousted"

—continued from page 1

have been many past studies that suggest repeat offenses are committed only 13-20% of the time, there are always variables in any offense that lend these studies to speculation and scrutiny. Because of these omissions and exclusions, California residents will have a difficult, if not impossible time finding out when a convicted sex offender becomes a neighbor.

Tony Bell from County Supervisor Antonovich's office said that officials had now cleared parolees from 16000 Bailey Canyon on August 31 but had no information on their current whereabouts. Not knowing that information could have disastrous consequences. Are California residents who are raising small children willing to live with these blunders on the part of State and County Officials?

Lake View Terrace Community News

Community Family Concert A Smash

Lake View Terrace -What is fast becoming a mid summer tradition in the foothills, the 3rd Annual Community Family Concert with Co Masters of Ceremonies John Severino and Pastor Sandy Du, provided a great evening of music, food and community involvement. It was sponsored by "The New Heaven on Earth Ranch," Foundation and hosted by All Nations Church July 20th. Proceeds from that annual event benefits the construction and continuing operation of The "Johnny Carpenter" Arena, Riding Program and Facilities. Original Heaven on Earth Ranch Foundation Poster Boy Randy Horton was present to introduce the old ranch video.

A pre concert reception was catered by On the Border, Coco's, Subway, Victorio's, Catering by Berc, Trader Joe's. There was a silent auction with items donated by individuals and business such as Angeles Golf Club, Joselitos, Sizzler, Prism Bistro, East Valley Stable Snob, Ranch Side Cafe, Golden Garden, Pizza Hut, Classy Jewelers, Mi Casita and more.

ANC Band Team, provided music followed by local favorite singer Danyelle Sanders, church youth acts Marshall Bang & Christine Yi, Tristan Green, LVT resident Marquita Waters and Sheri Pedigo. *Editors note: For more in more information regarding this foundation, visit www.nohoer.org*

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council



Cindy Cleghorn,
STNC Chairwoman

The September STNC meeting had another great turnout with over 100 in attendance. **Captain Stacey Gerlich** of the Los Angeles City Fire Department spoke about her experience at Ground Zero the 9-11 site in New York City. She shared her recollections and stressed the importance of being ready for any future catastrophes in our own area, i.e., the possibility of a major earthquake anticipated in the next thirty years. Captain Gerlich encouraged all stakeholders to take the free, 7-week Certified Emergency Response Training (CERT). Captain Gerlich was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation and a special commendation for improving safety in the STNC area. **LAPD CECATS unit** requested funding for two, portable LOJAC instruments at \$1,000 each. The STNC Safety Committee recommended a \$500.00 contribution for 2007-08 and \$250 per year thereafter. Other NCs will also be contributing to this fund. Education representative Lydia Grant awarded Silver Star Awards to six Girl Scouts from Troop 1246

who assembled backpacks with school supplies for needy students. The backpacks were presented to a L.A. Unified School District representative. The Troop received a Certificate of Recognition and a Certificate of Appreciation from STNC. Lydia reported over 60 homeless



photo credit John Blue

Members of Girl Scout Troop 1246 who presented school backpacks for homeless students received Silver Star Awards.

students in the STNC area schools. She would like to see this as an ongoing annual event. **Native Plant Rescue**, Environmental Representative Ricky Grubb presented a slide show on the Community Native Plant Rescue Nursery, which currently has a test site transplant location to preserve native plants at McGroarty Arts Center. Ricky noted that he was inspired by finding the rare, native endangered plant *Berberis Nevinn* found on his own property. Look for more progress with this effort in the coming months. News from the **Design Advisory Committee** - Transportation Study for Tujunga Canyon between Foothill and the 210 Freeway is on hold pending completion of updates to our Community Plan which is now in progress. City Council voted to approve a new Interim Control Ordinance limiting the size of homes built on lots in Sunland-Tujunga to 40%. This ordinance will be in place for 6 months with a 6 month extension. The Verdugo Hills Golf Course (VHGC) developers have submitted plans for developing up to 229 homes.



photo credit John Blue

Cindy Cleghorn presents Captain Stacy Gerlich with certificates of recognition.

The STNC has advised Wendy Greuel to direct the City to conduct a full Environmental Impact Report. There is strong support to preserve the golf course. The Angeles National Golf Course will be subject to public hearings and full review by the city for compliance with their conditions established several years ago. The process is very complex with state, federal, county and city agencies involved. A clean-up in the Tujunga Wash area of the ANGC property is planned for Oct. 27. For more details contact the STNC office or visit www.stnc.org.

Upcoming Meetings

- Oct. 1 - Design Advisory Committee - projects in the 10000 block of Samoa to be reviewed - NVCH - 7 p.m.
 - Oct. 10 - STNC General Meeting - Mt. Gleason - 7 p.m.
 - Oct. 13 - STNC Outreach Meeting at Joselitos - 1 p.m.
- Design Advisory Committee

Neighborhood Elated over New Area Restaurant

Olde Towne Café just celebrated their Grand Opening in the historic section of Tujunga on Saturday, September 15th. This is a victory for the Commerce Owners Business Restoration Association (COBRA) says President Elaine Brown. COBRA has been working feverishly to renovate the historic small business area on Commerce Ave. into a walking and shopping friendly area with cafes that include outdoor seating.

Cindy Cleghorn, Chairman of the Sunland-Tujunga NC, who has a business two doors away says, I'm excited for the community because this is the type of business the community wants and has been waiting a long time for. Because it brings more people to the area, it makes our community more vibrant. Owner Kris Khachatryan, along with his family, have done wonders to what was a former thrift store. It's nice to have someone invest in our community, sees its great potential and who wants to meet the needs of our community."

It appears that Olde Towne Café is doing just that. They not only have small tables and chairs lining the sidewalk, they have also installed a beautiful outdoor covered patio decorated with paintings and plants including outdoor heaters for the winter. They serve only homemade international and continental food to dine-in or take-out and have added a smoothies bar as well. Their food is scrumptious according to the customers who were present at the Grand Opening.

They are located at 10024 Commerce Ave in Tujunga and are open from 10 am to 8 pm Seven days a week. For more information call 818-951-2700.



Angela Motta, Field Deputy CD2 congratulates owner Kris Khachatryan at Grand Opening of Olde Towne Cafe at 10024 Commerce Ave., Tujunga.



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LA E&E Ecology & Environment

Smog Chokes LA

By Tomi Lyn Bowling

Amidst a flurry of tears and complaints from California residents afflicted with various ailments attributed to living in smog, the news of returning high levels of smog to the L.A Basin were discussed at a recent meeting of the Environmental Protection Agency in Los Angeles on Thursday, August 30.

You only have to look out your window to see that the level of smog in Los Angeles has crept up to previously dangerous high levels. Industries that conduct business in LA claim it is all fine and not to worry. It is those same industries that are largely responsible for much of the smog's return. While the purpose of the meeting was to discuss strengthening the Ozone Public Health Standards, LA Smog quickly usurped the focus of attention. The reason being, simply, that ozone and smog are closely related. Ozone forms when the chemicals that come from smokestacks and tailpipes whirl around in the hot LA air. The ozone smog in Los Angeles is among the nation's worst. The heated debate, no pun intended, over whether or not to change the ozone standards will continue with a series of such meetings across the country, the next being in Philadelphia.

Wildlife Way Station Needs Help

The Federal and the County governments are requiring new upgrades for the station valued at 5 million dollars. Without money and volunteers, 400 animals may have to be euthanized. They need donations and volunteers. For information call 818-951-3656

The Wildlife WayStation needs your help



We are in a financial crisis which is impacting our animals' food supply. We are hoping that you might be able to assist us with immediate help to get us through the end of August and September.

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Under the Radon Radar

What the heck is Radon?

By Tomi Lyn Bowling

"Radon isn't in LA!" So states one of many residents here. Radon has been a topic of concern on the East Coast for decades. In rare instances you might have heard of radon levels in properties on the Westside, or in Ventura County. All of that has changed with the introduction of a 59 page report, complete with charts and maps, by the California Department of Health and Safety. Placing radon on the radar screen for residents in the southern California area was not the result of some official taking notice but by that of a little girl doing a science experiment in Palos Verdes. Officials were so shocked by the results of her tests that they did further testing and soon discovered, to their horror, what is considered to be unacceptable levels of radon in some Palos Verdes schools. This sent shockwaves through to the governor's office which quickly responded by demanding that new maps be drawn up.

Radon is a colorless, odorless, tasteless radioactive gas that filters up from the ground as certain types of rock (uranium and radium specifically) decay, producing radon. Unacceptably high levels may be a reason for concern. How much concern one should have about radon and its effects on health is still under debate. Radon is classified by our federal government as a known carcinogen. A carcinogen is a substance that may cause cancer.

These maps are only intended to show potentially affected areas. They show areas that have the geologic composition which makes it more likely to produce radon gas. Everywhere that is not shown as having a "high" or "moderate" potential is shown as a "low" potential zone. That means every inch of California is, minimally, in the "low" potential area. The maps do NOT show where radon levels have been found to be high, only where it is geologically possible to produce radon. Ironically, according to their own data it is possible anywhere, regardless of the maps, which could render these maps almost pointless.

The overriding fact, in this report, is that one house can have radon while the home next door might not. The presence of radon is affected by weather, air pressure and wind, as well as other variables. If radon is a concern to you, have your prospective new home tested for radon levels. You can do the testing yourself by purchasing a "Do-It-Yourself" kit at a nominal cost of approximately \$16.00, depending upon where you shop. The price for hiring someone else for such testing ranges from \$250- \$500 and takes approximately 48 hours to complete.

If unacceptable levels of radon are detected in your building there are remedies. The extent of a complete remedy depends on the level of radon and, more importantly, your personal level of concern. Remedial costs can approximate a range of anywhere between \$1800 and \$3500. More information, including the full report on Radon including, maps and charts, is available at: www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem/environmental/radon/default.htm

To All Neighborhood Councils,

YOU are cordially invited to showcase your Neighborhood Council's accomplishments at this year's Congress, schedule for October 27, 2007 at the Los Angeles Convention Center from 7:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

A Display Gallery will be showcased in the session on outreach at the Los Angeles Convention Center. The objective for this Gallery is to share specific accomplishments/successes attributed to your Neighborhood Council's governing that contributed to effective community work through participatory democracy.

This is an opportunity for ALL Neighborhood Councils to come together to foster synergies, and to share their successes with the hope of forming best practices on outreach.

Please use the files attached, which includes a digital picture as an example, along with detailed instructions to help guide your Neighborhood Council's Display. Please note the specific deadline, and contact information should you have any questions.

We look forward to your participation to help make this Congress a success. We want 100% participation from Neighborhood Councils. Please contact Carlos Porras at (porrasjc2@msn.com) no later than Friday, September 28, 2007.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

City Defends Actions by Developer

Residents up in arms in Shadow Hills

By Katharine Russ

Shadow Hills – Community members are alarmed. There are numerous notable areas, where bulldozers have destroyed trees and developers have razed foliage and shrubbery. Many area residents believe developers are trying to avoid CEQA mitigation under the guise of “brush clearance” and those areas were cited by Mary Benson, Executive Director of Los Angeles Trails Project, in a compelling letter to Councilmember Greuel. Citing several key areas which include: the gravel pit on Wealtha, where the developer excavated a 50-60 ft. deep hole; Roca Roll Off, on Wentworth, formerly covered with native vegetation and trees; 15 Sycamores (legally protected) up-rooted on Glenoaks Blvd. at the former Sheridan Gardens, now for sale absent of trees; and the removal of the Sycamore Grove near Big Tujunga Canyon and Mt Gleason, Benson called this activity “epidemic”.

Actions like these across Los Angeles (Council District 2) raise questions in the battle that rages between California Home Development LLC (CHD) owner, Patrick Wizman, and several residents in Shadow Hills.

Bob Renna, a Shadow Hills resident, said “Wizman has cut down a designated nesting tree, prepared a second nesting tree for complete destruction and has completely taken out approximately eight large specimen trees.” He also believes

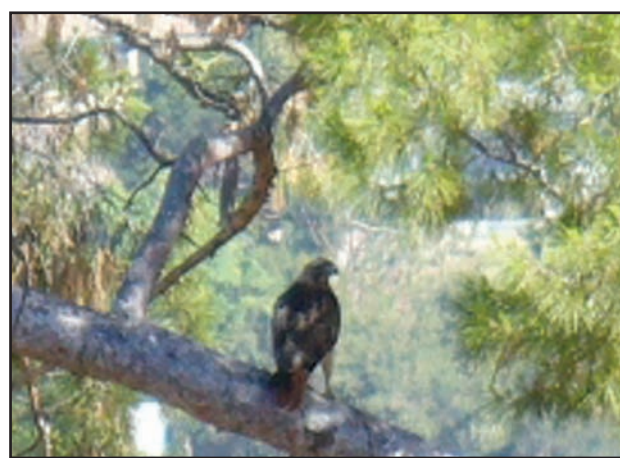
Wizman cut down trees on city property without a permit. Dozens of other angry residents in Shadow Hills sent emails agreeing with Renna’s accounts.

The biotic assessment of the property prepared in December 1989, described the land as “relatively rich in animal life”. It included a list of animal species observed on the property or expected to be present. The list included two bird species currently identified by the Department of Fish and Game as species of special concern: Cooper’s hawk and loggerhead shrike. [vi] (Mejia v Los Angeles)

The trees used for nesting by those birds on Wizman’s property have recently been removed by Wizman, who was clearing the brush, according to residents.

When questioned, Wizman said, “The judgment in that case stated that an Environmental Impact Report was required in connection with the twenty one homes project that was previously approved by the city. Our property is not a ‘project site’. There has been no new application to the city for the same project. As a result, there is no requirement for an Environmental Impact Report to be prepared and no wrongdoing has been committed.”

Dale Thrush, Director of Planning, defended CHD, “There were several nesting trees on Mr. Wizman’s property that were protected by conditions in the approved subdivision. The Court of Appeal invalidated that approval when it granted Ms. Mejia’s appeal. Thus, the nesting trees were no longer protected and Mr. Wizman was free to cut the trees. If the property owner proposes a new project for the site, Councilwoman Greuel will insist on a thorough environmental review, and she will continue to watch activities on the site very closely.”



In May 2005, the Second Appellate Court mandated that “substantial evidence supports a fair argument that the project will have significant, unmitigated environmental impacts on animal wildlife and traffic, so a mitigated negative declaration was improper.” The Court reversed a subsequent order by Judge David P. Yaffe granting a judgment “with directions to the Superior Court to grant the petition and issue a writ of mandate ordering the city to vacate its project approval and Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and to cause an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to be prepared.” (Mejia v. City of Los Angeles 2nd District Court of Appeal; May 27, 2005; 05 C.D.O.S. 5264)

Maria Mejia, (attorney and resident) who filed the suit, addressed the matter relative to her case with City Attorney, Susan Pfann, in a letter dated September 11. “If CHD and Patrick Wizman have abandoned all



intentions to subdivide or develop the Project site, you must let us know. Your silence regarding the more recent wildlife habitat destruction and your continued authorization to permit CHD and Patrick Wizman to proceed with piecemeal tactics are a violation of the orders requiring an environmental impact report (EIR) in Mejia. The trees that are located on the Project site must be considered and analyzed in an EIR, irrespective of the p Benson’s email to Councilwoman Greuel and others, suggests that City Council missed the boat on the environmental review process several



times in Council District Two, and it’s clear in Shadow Hills along Wheatland Ave that something else is being missed. Lack of oversight has given developers a free reign to continue these tactics while fines, if any, seem to be minimal.

“Allowing projects in Shadow Hills, the Verdugo Mountains and properties abutting the Angeles National Forest to be characterized in the entitlement process as “URBAN INFILL” is one problem. No enforcement of mitigation for environmental destruction is another,” Said Benson.

Benson asked Councilmember Greuel to “start the process to propose a change to the inspection structure that would update the amount of fines and penalties in environmentally sensitive areas.” Should Greuel agree, it could potentially make developments, such as Wizman’s, more costly, force compliance with heftier fines, and potentially stop developers from skirting the laws.



Photos by Bob Renna

Mark YOUR Calendar

MARK YOUIR CALENDAR
Share your events with your neighbors through:
calendar@northvalleyreporter.com FREE!

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

Monday, Sept. 24

Bolton Hall Museum
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420

STNC By-Laws Comm.
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
3 pm 951-7411

Wednesday, Sept. 26

Community Plan Review
Granada Hills Library
10640 Petit, GH
6 - 7:30 pm

Luncheon Sylmar Chamber
Guest: Keith Richmond
China Town Buffet
13760 Foothill, Syl
11:30 am 367-1177

Panarama City NC
Knoo 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

Foothill Optomist
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

Thursday, Sept. 27

"The Wild Blue Yonder"
Weather & Aviation Discussion
Granada Hills Library
10640 Petit, GH
6:45-7:45 pm 368-5687

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

Sylmar N/C
Gen. Meeting
Dyer St. Elementary
14500 Dyer, Syl
6:30 pm

Astronomy Night
Sylmar Library
14561 Polk, Syl
after sunset

Sept 28 - 30

Italian Feast of San Gennaro
1651 N. Hollywood Blvd,
Hyw - \$5 11 am - 10 pm

Friday, Sept 28

Alvin Kelly Dinner
Dimion's Restaurant
Sunland, SV
\$20 Reser. 768-0534

Saturday, Sept. 29

Harvest Moon Dinner Dance
Corral 20
818-352-3634

SNC Outreach Comm
Sylmar NC Office
13515 _ Hubbard, Syl
9 am

Monday, Oct 1

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

Tuesday, Oct 2

Bolton Hall Museum
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420

STNC By-Laws Comm
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
3 pm 951-7411

CSUN Wind Ensemble Concert
Plaza del Sol Performance
Hall, CSUN campus
L.A. composer Frank Ticheli
\$10 gen./\$7 seniors/\$5 students
8:00 pm (818) 677-3160

Wednesday, Oct 3

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

Thursday, Oct 4

Kagel Canyon Civic Assoc
Dexter Park

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

Granada Hills Street Faire
Chatsworth & Zelzah, GH
11 am-5 pm 368-3235

Sunday, Oct 7

Bolton Hall Museum
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420

Monday, Oct 8

COLUMBUS DAY

Tuesday, Oct 9

Bolton Hall Museum
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 Scalabrini Center
10631 Vinedale,SV
6:30 pm 767-6766

Readiness Expo
CSUN
18111 Nordhoff, Nrthrg
818-677-2276

Wednesday, Oct 10

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
Mt. Gleason Middle School;
10965 Mt Gleason, S-T
7 pm 951-7411

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

Ethnobotany Workshop
For Kids 12-1 pm
Free Pruning Workshop
1-2 pm

Theodore Payne Foundation
10459 Tuxford, SV
12-1 pm 768-1802

Officer Appreciation Day
LAPD Mission Station
11121 N. Sepulveda, MH
838-9856

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

Thursday, Oct 10

LAPD Senior Lead Summit
Arleta High School
4200 Van Nuys Blvd. Arl
756-8861

Sunday, Oct 14

Bolton Hall Museum
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420

Monday, Oct 15

STNC DAC Land Use
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T

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

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

Tuesday, Oct 16

Bolton Hall Museum
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420

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

Wednesday, Oct 17

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



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

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Mark YOUR Calendar

Pacoima N/C
Pacoima Youth & Family Center
11243 Glenoaks, Pac

Thursday, Oct 18

STNC Safety Meeting
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
6 pm 951-7411

S-T SERVS
NV City Hall
77477 Foothill S-T
7 pm 352-5504

Sylmar NC
Bible Baptist Church
13724 Fenton, Syl
6:30 pm 8737

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

Astronomy Night
Sylmar Library
14561 Polk, Syl
after sunset

Friday, Oct 19

Havana Nights II
Sun Valley Chamber Fairways Restaurant
10400 Glenoaks, Pac
5:30-9:30 pm 768-2014

Saturday, Oct 20

San Fernando Pioneer
Memorial Cemetery
Foothill & Bledsoe, Syl
9 – noon 365-5860

Open House
LAPD Foothill Station
12760 Osborne St. Pac
756-8866

Sunday, Oct. 21

Omllette Bar
S-T Elks Lodge
10137 Commerce, S-T
\$6. 9 am
352-2098

CERT Refresher
Fire Station 88
Sepulveda, S.O
8 am

Oct 24-26

Bolton Hall Museum
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420

Monday, Oct 22

Mission Hills NC
BBQ & Pot luck
10161 Sepulveda, MH
6:30 pm

Granada Hills North N/C
Van Gogh Elementary
17160 Van Gogh, GH
7 pm 360-4346

Tuesday, Oct 23

Bolton Hall Museum
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420

STNC By-Laws
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill S-T
3 pm 951-7411

Wednesday, Oct 24

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

Panarama 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
Dimion's Restaurant

Sunland, SV
\$20 Reser. 768-0534

Oct 24-26

H2O Conference
Westin Long Beach
333 E. Ocean Blvd
www.csbpa.org

Thursday, Oct. 25

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

Sylmar NC
Bible Baptist Church
13724 Fenton, Syl
6:30 pm 8737

STNC Budget Comm
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
7 pm 951-7411

Saturday, Oct 27

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

Night at the Races
S-T Elks Lodge
10137 Commerce, S-T
6 pm 352-2098

Neighborhood Council Congress
L.A. Convention Center
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Sunday, Oct 28

Bolton Hall Museum
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420

Tuesday, Oct 30

Bolton Hall Museum
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420

Wednesday, Oct 31

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

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

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Councilmember Smith Opposes Las Lomas

Urges Neighborhood Councils to just say "NO."

By Katharine Russ

In a stunning seven page letter Los Angeles City Councilmember Greg Smith, representing District 12, described the "profoundly negative impacts" the Las Lomas project would have on the entire San Fernando Valley and urged Neighborhood Councils to continue to reject Las Lomas declaring the project as the "tsunami of sprawl."

Dan Palmer, owner of the project, claimed "their mitigations will improve traffic conditions, but LADOT uncovered numerous deficiencies". Traffic studies submitted contained erroneous, oftentimes exaggerated, claims of traffic stabilization along freeways and at impacted intersections.

Las Lomas' new on-site sewage treatment facility was rejected by the Sanitation Department because of the anticipated intricacy in acquiring necessary approvals and "capacity constraints in the sewer system downstream from the development and in treatment systems at Tillman Water Reclamation Plant."

Palmer's project dedicated over 200 acres to open space leaving 355 acres of buildable land. "Fifteen thousand residents spread across 355 acres would be 42 people per acre versus the San Fernando Valley's current average of 10 people per acre," says Smith. "That doesn't include all the components of the 2.3 million square foot of commercial and recreation areas in the proposed plan."

In 2004, the Sierra Club opposed the project stating, "The Las Lomas' proposal significantly alters the landscape that wildlife relies upon. This mountainous property with slopes of 50% or greater means that the developer would have to grade off mountaintops."

Palmer predicts the grading of more than 20 million cubic yards of dirt in order to build."

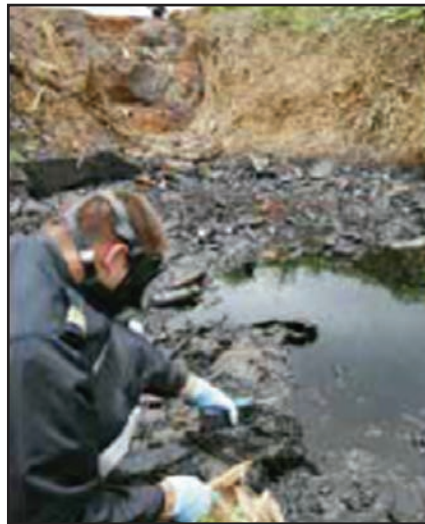
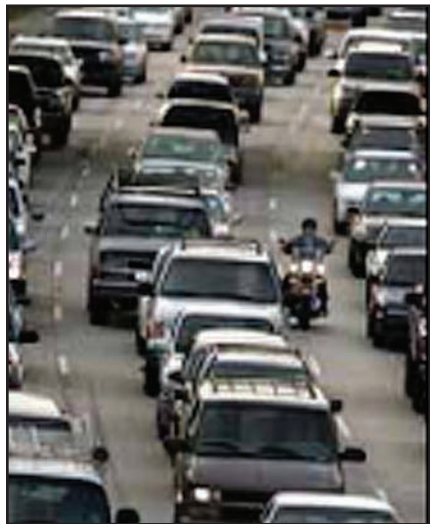
According to Bart Reed, Exec. Director, California Transit Coalition, the cost of up to a half-billion dollars to build the metro link still would not relieve the traffic crisis that plagues the area. Jan de Leeuw, Distinguished Professor and Chair, UCLA Department of Statistics said that traffic in the area was gridlocked now, and simply adding more lanes was a short term fix that would only induce more traffic.

Santa Clarita's Mayor, Marsha McLean had much to say about the consequences of Las Lomas. Her concerns mirror those of Councilman Smith and it is expected she will join his opposition to this plan.

Tom Heaton, Professor of Engineering Seismology, California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, called the Newhall Pass area one of the most seismically active areas in the nation. He expressed concerns of the ground's stability to withstand tiny fractures that occur when the earth moves and mentioned several collapses of homes in previous years because developers did not (could not) stabilize building areas.

Councilman Smith concluded his letter by mentioning the collapse of major bridges and other overpasses during both the 1971 and 1994 earthquakes in Sylmar and Northridge.

In his letter's cover, he expressed his appreciation to Neighborhood Councils for the foresight they demonstrated in the opposition of the massive Las Lomas Project and asked for continued help to bring the Las Lomas project to a halt.



photos from Councilman Smith's White Paper

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Personal Opinions expressed in "Sound Off" are those of the writers only.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Updates from Mission



*Captain Jorge Villegas
Commanding Officer
LAPD Mission Area Station*

The men and woman of Mission Area are mourning the tragic loss of 29-year veteran Police Detective III Mike Sellah. Mike was tragically killed in an off duty related traffic accident last month. A beautiful memorial service

took place on August 6, 2007, at the Church of the Rocky Peak. Mike was appointed to the Department in May 1978 and was most recently assigned as the supervising detective for the Mission Area Narcotics Enforcement Detail. Mike was was a friend not only to the members of the Los Angeles Police Department, but to the com-

munity as well. He will be greatly missed by all.

National Night out was a huge success. I would like to thank and commend all those who gave of their time to help make it a very meaningful experience for all involved. I was able to attend a number of community events and I was very pleased at the number of community members in attendance. Thank you all for enhancing that relationship between the community and our Department and look forward to that continued success.

Recently our Department created E-Policing, which will help implement community policing on the Internet.

E-Policing allows geographic areas, senior lead officers or detectives to e-mail crime information, newsletters or any law enforcement information to community members who sign up. All that is needed to sign up is a City address and an e-mail address. E-Policing can help the Department reach its 2007 crime reduction goal, improve communications, and allow geographic area personnel to

work smarter and more efficiently. Visit the page on the Department's website at www.lapdonline.org/e-policing, and encourage community members to sign-up. For more information contact the LAPDOnline Unit at (213) 485-1750.

Remember to be aware of your surroundings in your communities and report any suspicious activity that you may be aware of. Our goal is to work together as a team to reduce and prevent crime.

I want to hear your concerns and encourage your participation in our policing efforts. Your questions concerning Mission Area may be directed to me at 818-838-9980 or to Sergeant Adrian Torres, Officer in Charge, Mission Area Community Relations Office, at 818-838-9860. You may also e-mail us at the below listed addresses: * Area Captain Jorge Villegas, 26714@lapd.lacity.org * Patrol Captain William Scott, 27078@lapd.lacity.org * Sergeant Adrian Torres, 31467@lapd.lacity.org

LA's Gang Czar to Speak at Summit

By: Mark Loweree

LA's Gang Czar is to Speak at Faith Coalition Summit. "Historic," is how Chaplain Ken Crawford of the LAPD describes Rev. Carr's appearance. "Rev. Carr's mission is to find real solutions to the gang problem. And any effective, long-term solution ultimately includes getting the community involved."

Speaking to Chaplain Crawford, you see the passion in his eyes. "Imagine what our communities would be like if all children succeeded in school; if homes were safe-havens of support and understanding because parents knew what to do; if adults were themselves models of character and led by example by personally mentoring and guiding our youth. This is what our 4th Annual CommUNITY Summit is about. There are many ways to get involved. Come! There's room for everyone!"

Joining Carr on stage will be Deputy Chief of Police Michel Moore, and LA Councilman Richard Alarcon. Following Mr. Alarcon, the San Fernando Valley Faith Coalition will present their innovative programs to the public, emphasizing results being obtained and how the community can participate. To highlight the evening, the Hero Appreciation Network will award a deserving student with a \$5,000 Scholarship.

"Our youth are at risk, and Faith Coalition is tackling the situation with programs that strike right at the heart of the problem," says Chaplain Crawford. "We have a Parenting Program; we have a "Learning How to Learn" program that is the answer to study difficulties; we are developing a Mentoring Program; and we have a Scholarship Program to help families who may not have the money to send their kids to college."

The San Fernando Valley Faith Coalition is an interfaith union of clergy under the direction of LAPD Chaplain Crawford, with pastors from many San Fernando Valley churches committed to working together to "curb the diverse crises that arise daily in our neighborhoods and within our families."

The problems we face will not be resolved until we all come together and create a safe environment. At the Summit you will see so many ways to get involved. There are many, many people doing great things – but there are many more people out there who are looking for something they can do to make a difference. This Summit is for those people."

We invite you to join us on Tuesday, September 25th, from 6:30 am to 9:00 pm at the Shepherd of the Hills Church at 19700 Rinaldi Street in Porter Ranch. For more information see www.sfvfc.org or phone or email Chaplain Crawford at 818-838-9471 or 23536@lapd.lacity.org.

We're Getting Prepared

45 people attended classes at the Elks Lodge in Tujunga on August 25 to receive training in First Aid and CPR from Los Angeles City Fire Dept. Captain Stacy Gerlich. Also 25 people are attending the 7 week Community Emergency Reponse Training class (CERT) by an instructor of the Disaster Preparedness Unit of the city LAFD, which started August 28 and will be completed on October 9. The classes are a concerted effort of S-T SERVS, the STNC and the Elks Lodge. For information regarding CERT visit www.cert-la.com.



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THIS & THAT

Private vs Public School

By Terry Neven,

Homeschooling became popular during the early 1980s, when most homeschoolers were under the radar and were deemed socially backwards. Men like John Holt and Raymond Moore assisted families with "unschooling" and "religious home schooling." Since then the homeschool movement has become more sophisticated and even public schools have tried to jump on the bandwagon. In many states, such as Iowa and Washington, public school systems embrace homeschooling and encourage families to work with their children.

How can public school compete with a school that helps a sixteen-year-old girl simultaneously earn her high school diploma and an AA degree from Mission College? Or helps an eighteen year old American girl finish her high school while living in Scotland with her missionary parents? Or assist a mother in China with her 8th grade daughter's schooling while the daughter lives in Malaysia? And assists public and private school students with a summer school class or

helps them make-up a course during the school year?

Sunland Christian School, a Sylmar based home-school organization, assists families with creative solutions for their children's education. SCS serves families throughout the world, but primarily in the United States and specifically in Southern California. Some families homeschool full time, and others are completing needed make-up credits while dually enrolled in public and private schools. SCS is competing with the public school system and provides an excellent education for students who have been taught at home by their parents and offer a wide range of home-school services: online, CD-Rom courses, textbooks, workbooks, work experience, concurrent college courses, and the list goes on.

Families are departing the traditional local public schools in favor of home schooling, a more flexible, creative and family friendly approach to education.

Principal. Mr Neven is Principal of Sunland Christian School. Visit www.home-schooling.org or call 800-525-4419

Affordable Housing Depends on Affordable Financing

A Brave New World
By Tomi Lyn Bowling

With statistics guiding the way we are now seeing a tremendous slow in the real estate market, just about everywhere. Indeed some areas are experiencing much worse than just a slow. Amidst headline, banner news, of lender after lender folding, under the weight of loans made that should not have been, one has to wonder...what is going to happen in the future? Well waiting for the prices to fall back to levels that are affordable to the common buyer, the work-a-day buyer, is not likely to be fruitful any time soon. However, prices continuing to go up and making it more and more impossible for the average guy to buy a house isn't workable either. Rents have them trapped. What to do? A bright idea is necessary to pull this mess together. How to keep your personal economy going up as well as the big picture of keeping our United States economy from doing a complete tank. Something new has to happen. Something never done before needs to be invented. Gone are the days when a buyer comes to town with a large down payment, pays his mortgage for the next thirty years without ever refinancing and pays off the house. That has become less common as homeowners tap into their equity to put their kids through college, improve their house, take vacations, buy motor homes, or simply help victims of disasters the world over. For whatever reasons, that well gets tapped by borrowers a lot more than it used to. The income of most income earners is not sufficient to pay for these things any longer. Times have changed. Income has changed. The mortgage world needs to change with too. How about looking at what has worked in the past five years and fixing it so it works even better and is more beneficial. How about streamlining what is done and not being so greedy that loans are given to those that simply cannot and should not have them. There is nothing wrong with 100% financing. It is the allowance of that kind of financing to someone who does not have the means to pay it back that is wrong. There is nothing wrong with interest only loans as long as the borrower has the means to make good on the

loan. OR better yet, change the way this is done and looked at. Interest only payments is a concept that is worthy of further exploration. Think about that for a moment. Interest only payments... that DO NOT roll over. Yes that is what I said. They are permanent. Permanent until such time as the borrower feels he can take on a conventional amortized loan or until he transfers the property. Then the amount borrowed is paid back in full. The monthly payments paid until that time are money made by the lender and are a tax write off to the borrower. Here is the switch. The equity gained in the property is shared between the lender and the borrower as long as the borrower holds an interest only loan. It is a 50/50 proposition. Say you buy a house for \$200,000. Interest only payments are made for two years. Then you sell the house that is now worth \$240,000. That additional \$40,000 is shared between the lender and the buyer. It is not cheap and easy money for a buyer, the lender, as always, makes a hefty profit. Soon as the borrowers refinance or switch to amortized money the lender then loses their interest in any further equity. The lender shares in the equity right up until the switch so that the appraised value of the home becomes even more important in a refinance as that would determine the equity that is shared up until the loan switches to a conventional loan. It is the kind of idea we need to see right now. It's an idea that will keep loans affordable for buyers now. It's an idea that allows the loan concept to grow with the buyer's ability to make more money or that simply stays interest only as the property appreciates or until the property transfers to a new owner. In any case the lender makes money. Either way the borrower/buyer owns his house and is not just paying rent to make someone else's equity grow. Real estate goes up and down. It is always a general direction of up. It is inevitable that there will be equity even if periods of time dictate that there will be times when there is none. This can be... No it is a win win idea. One way to address affordable housing is to make financing affordable. It can be done, right now.

Let Your Voice Be Heard About Rate Increase

LADWP Wants to Know

By Nina Royal



Soledad Garcia

Los Angeles - Soledad Garcia, Chairperson of the Neighborhood Councils/LADWP Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Oversight Committee (OSC), spoke at the City Wide Alliance of Neighborhood councils held at Los Angeles City College on Saturday, September 15. She

said that the OSC is not recommending any water and power base rate increases at this time because it has not been given the full 120 day notification as provided in the Intra-City MOU, dated May, 2005. The LADWP MOU agreement with Neighborhood Councils is that DWP will provide notification and supporting documents to the Neighborhood Councils 120 days before the proposed rate action is submitted to the Board. The commission also said that the review period should begin upon the date of the first Huron Consulting presentation, which was made on August 18, 2007.

The OSC has made the following recommendations: Any transfer of funds to the city must be based upon DWP having excess operating funds. In no event should DWP Bonds be used, directly or indirectly, to enable the City transfer. The DWP should implement a department wide workforce planning system as elaborated upon in various current and independent consulting studies. The DWP should reduce overtime labor costs to less than 10 per cent Huron indicates is common among other utilities. They oppose the department's policy of paying wages significantly in excess of prevailing market rates. Salaries are already 15%-40% higher than comparable classifications in other city departments as well as other public and private utilities. They also recommend the hiring of a rate payer's advocate to provide advice and counsel in furtherance of the aims of the intra-city memorandum of understanding between Certified Neighborhood Councils and the L.A. Department of water and power at city expense.

The LADWP wants input from Neighborhood Councils. They will be presenting their rate proposals to the LADWP Board of Commissioners on October 2, 2007 at their regular Board meeting. Neighborhood Councils that do not have a meeting scheduled can send a letter to the board stating their general positions, then follow up with a formal resolution after their Board has met.

An LADWP Resolution Form with instructions can be downloaded from the LADWP NC web page, MOU notification and emailed as an attachment, or faxed to: 213-367-8788, Attn: Greg Bartz, LADWP NC Liaison.

The LADWP challenges the recommendations to the OSC. To research information, visit the following websites, visit <http://www.ladwp.com/ladwp/cms/ladwp007915.jsp> and www.myneighborhoodcouncil.org.

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THIS & THAT

Watch Your Wallet

The Idiot's Guide to Subprime Mortgages

By Tina Cameron

The subprime fiasco has been playing out in the financial press for months. But this is not just a financial market issue, this is a personal issue. The banks took on risky loans and the consumers took onto themselves risky loans: it takes two. You could be one of them and not realize it.

When financial institutions (i.e. banks and other lenders) are doing well, they tend to take on more risk; translated - higher returns on their investments. The more risk you take on, the greater the reward or the greater the disaster. We see this happen about every 10 years in the mortgage industry. Back in the early 1980's the variable (aka adjustable, or A.R.M.) rate mortgage arrived on the scene and bankers themselves were skeptical. We knew variables were designed to capture those people who could not qualify otherwise. These people had poor credit histories, short job stints, unverifiable income or other characteristics that made them a riskier customer to trust with hundreds of thousands of dollars. But, lenders could charge more in the long run which would offset the risk. The domino affect is that the teaser rate turns into the market (higher) rate, folks can't make their monthly payments and you end up with a flood of foreclosures. Then, the financial markets start freaking out and pull back on giving out credit like candy. This practice contributes to the weakening of the economy (but that's a whole other story for another day).

Today, it's no different. The flavor of the decade is the subprime mortgage.

Yes, there will be investigations by some trying to determine if any customers (you) were coerced, but they will turn out to be nominal. You the customer should think about your own personal finances and how much you can afford and if you can not afford it to the point you could actually lose your home, don't do it. Don't just blindly trust that "the bank wouldn't have given me the mortgage if I couldn't afford it," because sometimes lenders will. Be wary of teaser rates. Before you sign anything, know how high your interest rate could climb and have someone calculate for you the mortgage payment that translates into. So if your monthly payment begins at \$2000, but later jumps to \$3000, could you still afford it? There is another way. The old-fashioned way - but it works.

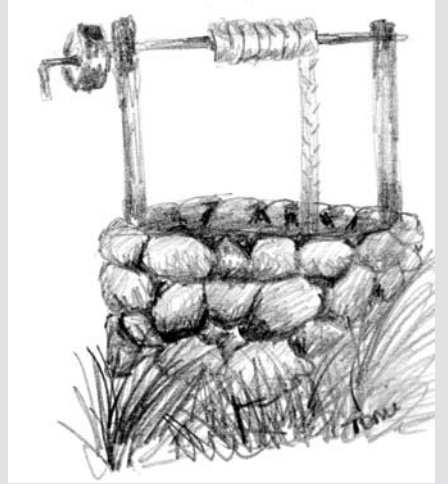
Take the time and save up for a good down payment. In the meantime clean up your credit report and stay at the same job. Buy when the market is low, not high, refinance when interest rates go down, and DO NOT take equity from your home unless it is for home improvement only. Take personal responsibility. That is the way to do it right.

Tina Cameron, B.S., CTP, holds a bachelors in Finance, is a Corporate Risk Manager, Certified Treasury Professional, Board Member of the So. Calif. Assoc. for Financial Professionals, and Sun Valley Small Business Owner.

Carrick's Journey

By Tomi Lyn Bowling

Just as her cup dipped into the water pulled up out of the well, a shot rang out, knocking the bucket out of her grip and sending it falling, cup and all, back. Maddie ducked down behind the well and signaled to her children, hiding



behind the thicket of bushes, to run further into the woods. Two more shots rang out bouncing off of the stone well. Everything was happening so fast. Her two year journey to this famous well was flashing by, in her mind, with vivid recollection of all that she and her family had endured in their quest to get here. The loss of her husband, the most prevalent and painful memory, pierced her heart all over again as if it happened yesterday. She could see him saying to her "he is 200 yards away from you, to the east, behind the trunk of dead tree". She could not lift her head for a look as another shot rang out, narrowly missing her head, grazing the side of the well. Maddie quickly calculated where he was and threw two stones into the woods to her right, away from the thicket where her children had been hiding. The shots went flying to the location where the rocks landed.....(To Be Continued.....next issue)

Someone We Should Know

Meet Sunland-Tujunga resident, Paul Armbruster and his wife, Penny, who relocated from the San Gabriel Valley in 1996. Paul is lucky to be alive. His life took a tragic turn in 2004 when he was severely injured in an accident. Because he suffered through many surgical procedures and physical struggles, his doctors had him stop working in mid 2005. His recovery was painfully slow and grueling during the two years of his recuperation, facing the possibly of death along the way. He credits his family and close friends for saving his life. His says his wife and son, Caleb, were especially influential in his recovery.

Paul is now getting stronger every day. He is using his credentials, experience, and talent to serve families of our community by opening his unique business, "NextStep, the Family Advocates". He also continues to serve the community both financially and through volunteerism. More recently you may recognize Paul from his two-term service as District 4 representative on the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council. Paul was also a volunteer coordinator for several years of the Olde Towne Street Faire. He and his family have supported many local organizations and charities, while serving the community over the years.

Paul is a native Southern Californian, has worked in many capacities which afforded him the opportunities to interact with children of all ages and levels of educational and emotional development. His positions were in areas of Special Education, severely emotionally disturbed children, milieu therapist at a residential facility, and worked as an aquatic therapist in graduate school. Paul, a successful advocate for children, is an experienced administrator and influent in educational law.

Paul wants everyone to know he is back and engaged in his new business, "NextStep, the Family Advocates". His team provides services for families who have concerns about their children either socially, emotionally, or academically, and are at a loss as to where to turn. "There is one common thread that all successful families have," Paul says. "They continually work together through communication and trust...Children can't be fixed. They don't break. Communication is what breaks down in family and social systems. Those behavior patterns are what needs the repair work..."

Paul says, if you are looking to push your child's challenges off on others, "NextStep", at any price is not the place for you. However, if you would like to learn more about a novel, effective method of opening what might be powerful lines of communication between you and your child, as well as noticeable improvement in his or her social and academic development, you might want to give Paul a call. And if you mention this this column, you will receive a 20% discount off the initial consultation and first three hours of actual services.

(See: "NextStep, the Family Advocates" ad, in this issue for address and phone number)

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SOUND OFF

Will We Do the Right Thing?

By Lloyd Hitt

Current headlines call our attention to the shutdown of the Sacramento delta water supply at certain times of the year, part of the Owens Valley water must flow down the Owens river again, and Nevada and Arizona demand a bigger share of Colorado River water. Last week thousands of homes were left in the dark by Edison and the DWP in the middle of a heat wave. While this goes on, our response continues to be to pave over the aquifer with asphalt and concrete, remove old growth trees and build large homes with thirsty energy demands on small lots. Are we at the point in our desert oasis of diminishing returns? Is more, better? Is there anyone at the helm as we sail into the perfect storm?

Historic Tujunga Canyon Road (Horse Thief Trail) continues to be a nightmare every morning and night for thousands of drivers from Sunland-Tujunga and La Crescenta. We are already looking at a development (White Bird) less than a mile west from the VHGC that will stretch the available infrastructure and resources in Los Angeles beyond its limits. A block north, on Tujunga

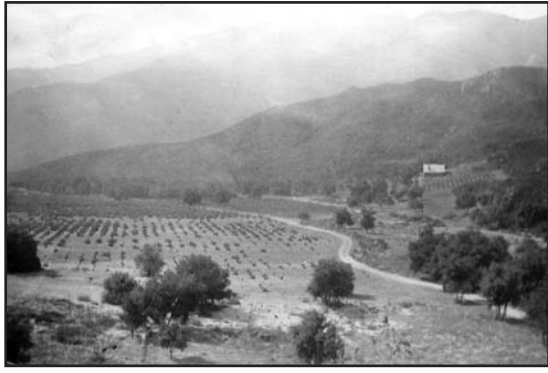


Photo by Lloyd Hitt

Canyon, 25 condos will go up soon. Does this sound all too familiar? We "talk" about thinking green but if we are serious about what we will leave to our children and grandchildren, we can not turn our backs on over 60 acres that at this moment is almost pure green. The Verdugo Hills Golf Course is essentially a green park as I write. Mayor Villaraigosa talks about 35 new parks in the next several years for Los Angeles. The most difficult part of establishing a new park is finding suitable property that is for sale. Sixty acres of rolling hills and broad flat areas of lawns and oaks at this site is about as green as it gets. Restrooms and park & golf course offices are already there. The golf course could be reduced to expand other park activities if need be. A sprinkler system is in operation and parking lots already built. There is another 16 acres on the west side also for sale. I have no idea what the carbon footprint is for VHGC but I shudder to think what it will be for the proposed 229 large homes with 460 to over 500 cars and the removal of over 90 mature oak trees.

We have talked about the Tujunga Canyon traffic before with the L.A. Planning Dept. and it was decided by

Would Ya Believe...

By Virgie Tillman

Nearly every American knows when they purchase insurance for home, auto, and/or health that if the premiums are not paid, the insurance company will cancel your insurance? "Nuff said". Any reasonable person would question why a credit report is even necessary under those circumstances. If you ask, the answer will reek of molten dung.

American Family sent me a letter in July to inform me that they were going to check my credit report and "a negative report may affect my current premiums". I called my agent and asked, "Why, after 20 years, are you suddenly going to check my credit report?" Her answer was evasive, as she said, "let's just wait until they do to see what happens."

I am nearly 55 years old and have had a decent credit history for 30 years. In the past 15 years, I have had exemplary credit and have never filed bankruptcy, or had any foreclosures or repossessions. I have never made a late payment on a credit card, mortgage, or auto loan.

On August 30, American Family sent me a letter that said in part, "The information in your credit report resulted in your premium being higher than it would have

been otherwise." The letter, also, informed me that "this is unfavorable to you".

Concerned, and intensely angry, I called American Family Credit Response Unit and spoke to Jackie. It took twenty minutes for Jackie to give me the reason why my premium will now be "higher than it would have been otherwise". She cited "insufficient credit history length" and "recent credit checks". When I asked her what American Family Insurance thought a SUFFICIENT length of credit history was, she was not allowed to tell me. Perhaps, I need to have 200 years of credit history before it is "sufficient". "Recent Credit Checks" meant the refrigerator I purchased on a 12-month interest free account; ONE credit checks in over a year.

Jackie refused to tell me what my premium would have been if my credit was "perfect"- whatever that means- no one has "perfect credit"; it's impossible because every time too many people have a good score the Credit Unions raise the ratings (now at 850, not 800).

She told me American Family Insurance has certain criteria that is not divulged- if the reasons were legitimate reasons for raising my premiums they should be divulged. This feels like no less than gouging, and is exceptionally unfair. You can bet if American Family Insurance is doing this- all Insurance Companies are, most probably, doing the same.

A Microchip Brought Lily Back to Me

On Saturday, September 8th, I was walking my three dogs in Sunland Park, as I have done hundreds of times, when my two-year old Labrador Retriever, Lily, suddenly took off running out of the park. At the time, she didn't have her collar on because I had given her a bath and forgotten to put it back on her.

Over the next two and a half days, I hardly ate or slept. I constantly replayed the scene over and over in my mind, wishing I had done things differently. All that mattered was that I find her and get her home again safely. It was a truly horrible experience that I would not wish on anyone.

Ironically, it was at that same park, a few months earlier, I had gotten Lily microchipped during an Animal Services Fair. Thanks to that little chip - and the efforts of a Good Samaritan - my Lily was returned to me fifty hours later. On Monday, September 10 at 5:30 p.m., I received a call from the East Valley Animal Shelter in Van Nuys after Lily was brought in. The microchip provided Animal Services with my contact information and they were able to tell me Lily was alive and well!

Shortly thereafter, I received a call from the woman who had found my dog. 'Liz' found my 'Lost Dog' flyer in Sunland on her way back from dropping Lily off. She initially apologized for bringing Lily to the Shelter thinking she had done me a disservice. However, I told I was grateful that she brought Lily there. How else would she have found me without Lily's I.D. tags? Had it not been for the microchip, it might have been days or weeks, if ever, before she may have found my flyer.

To those who love their pets, please get your dog microchipped. You never know when an emergency is going to occur where your pet might get separated from you. If that happens, that chip might be the only way to get your pet back again. Learn from my painful experience. Perhaps it will save your some worry in the future.

Pat Kramer
Sunland-Tujunga

(Editor's Note: According to Antonio Teves at the L.A. East Valley Animal Shelter in Van Nuys, most other pets, including cats, turtles, horses, and appropriately sized birds can also be microchipped. The shelter can be reached at 888-442-7381)

the city that a complete traffic study must be done that not only covers Tujunga Canyon but Foothill as well. No new large projects should move forward that impact the traffic on Tujunga Canyon until the study is in. The traffic study should be only one part of an EIR. Air quality, impact on aquifers, water supply, electricity, schools, libraries, habitat, and police and fire stations must all be considered. We must insist that a complete EIR be done by an independent or randomly selected agency other than the developer's company.

The above photo is from our grandparents time. Are we going to save what little is left for our children? The view is from Foothill Blvd and the farm house on the right is the Begue's in the early 1900's. The open land is almost gone except for the Verdugo Hills Golf Course. What will our excuse be? (Lloyd Hitt is President of the Little Landers Historical Society)

Freedom. How Long? What Cost?

Give me liberty! Or Give Me Death!

Live free or Die!

The Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave:

Here we are in 2007 awaiting an election in 2008 that may well be a big factor in {our} freedom.

One party wants to dictate who you can use for medical care. They want to remove the Second Amendment of the Bill of Rights and remove your right to own the means of self-protection... Freedom is on the line in this next election. While politicians leave a lot to be desired in general, the overall political process of Democracy says we need to vote. One party wants to control what you do, who you can see for medical care, if you can protect yourself and is willing to "tax and spend" you into the ground to achieve the "Great Society" dreams of socialism. The other parties are not particularly great (and don't talk about the libertarians... they have some good ideas but are too far removed from mainstream to stand). But, they have historically protected the Second Amendment (the right to own and bear arms) and that gives those {who} understand how America was formed some great satisfaction. You see our founders knew from experience that Citizens needed to have power beyond a paper ballot to rein in an oppressive government. They had experienced the pains of serfdom; they had the experience of Mother England and her efforts to neuter the Colonies and those signers of the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights understood all too clearly how "power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely."

They wished to "empower" Americans with freedoms that could not be usurped. But Freedom demands a price... education and awareness. Understanding that "social services," societal giveaways, and the "addiction" to being "taken care of" all led to serfdom! Live free or die? Will you elect those who believe that you, the electorate, should have the right to protect yourselves and hold them accountable in the most servitude? Or do you want to "be taken care of" no matter the injustice and servitude imposed upon you and your prodigy?

"The great object is that every man be armed... Everyone who is able may have a gun." (Patrick Henry, at ratification of the Constitution at the Virginia Convention)

"The advantage of being armed... the Americans possess over the people of all other nations... Notwithstanding the military establishments in the several kingdoms of Europe, which are carried as far as the public resources will bear, the governments are afraid to trust the people with arms." (James Madison, author of the Bill of Rights, in his Federalist Paper, No. 46)

"To preserve liberty, it is essential that the whole body of the people always possess arms, and be taught alike, especially when young, how to use them." (Richard Henry Lee, Virginia delegate to the Continental Congress, initiator of the Declaration of Independence, and member of the first Senate, which passed the Bill of Rights.)

Rick Yerrinton
Tujunga

SIDE BAR

Field Deputy Retiring

Alvin Kelly, Field Deputy for Councilmember Tony Cardenas is moving to Texas. Then community is invited to join him at his farewell dinner on September 25, at Dimions Restraurant 8272 Sunland Blvd, in Sun Valley. Call 818-768-0531 for reservations. Cost is \$20.00

Community Cleanup Scheduled

LAPD and SFV Faith Collation is sponsoring a community clean up. They will be meeting at the Sport Complex Center parking lot on Foothill Blvd. and the 210 Freeway. SLO Jon Walker, 818-756-8866, invites you participate on September 29 starting at 7 am..

New mural in Sylmar Park

Created by muralist Omar Ramirez of Self Help Graphics, the new mural is a "must see" at the Sylmar Park Recreation Center pool. It was sponsored in collaboration with the Mayor's Office and the Sylmar Youth Task Force. According to Moises Carrillo Chairperson of the Task Force, their goal is to provide a coordinated and proactive approach to improved access to youth programs in Sylmar. . Call 818-517-5858 for more information regarding the program.

Sunland-Tujunga Rejoices

Sunland-Tujunga Alliance and members Joe Barrett, Abby Diamond, Paula Warner and Sherry Smith entertained approximately 200 guests at the Elks Lodge on September 8, to thank community members for their efforts, hard work in convincing the City Council to void the "over the counter" permits issued by the Dept., Building and Safety to Home Depot. Home Depot must now complete and environmental assessment before applying again.

Pioneer Cemetery Renovation Dedicated

The San Fernando Valley Historical Society sponsored a re-dedication ceremony for historical Pioneer Cemetery located on Bledsoe St and Foothill Blvd. in Sylmar on August 28. The Society has been in the process of renovating it for several years. The cemetery is thought to be the second oldest in the San Fernando Valley. On display at the entrance were new engraved memorial bricks honoring the more than 600 hundred people buried there. It took a lot of research because he original copper plate listing their names, still in place is corroded and the names barely recognizable. For information regarding tours, visit <http://www.sfvhs.com/>

YMCA to Hold Fair

The Crescenta-Canada YMCA is holding a Senior Wellness Fair on Tuesday, September 25. Their Keynote Speaker is Dr. Stella Chan who will talk about "Treating the Whole Person. The YMCA is located at 1930 Foothill Blvd, La-Canada, For more information call 818-790-0123 x225

Sylmar Relay for Life is starting up

The Sylmar Relay for life Committee, coordinated by the American Cancer Society, is having a kick off for their 2008 Relay for life event. They had a blockbuster turn out for 2007 and hope for a repeat next year. They are signing up volunteers for their planning committee, team and Survivors. There will be meeting on Tuesday, September 25, from 6 to 7 pm at Shakey's Pizza, 13701 Foothill Blvd. at Hubbard in Sylmar. Just show up or contact njckrall@yahoo.com or Sonia Lopez@cancer.org for more information.

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Not the Fourth of July

By Marlene Hitt

The misplaced of the world arrived,
sick and weak from weeks in steerage,
sailed into this land, saw the statue in the harbor of America
as she welcomed them to a land of freedom, liberty and opportunity.
Beautiful Liberty, with her arm raised, her high-held torch,
returned the fullness of hope, renewed strength,
revived purpose.

You are safe, my child, secure, protected
Just call 9-1-1- if ever you need help. You will hear sirens sing,
Help will come.

Nine one-one, nine eleven, 2001, September,
the season of colored leaves, endings, sleep.

September 11, you autumn child,
Innocent trusting child.
Call 911!

the early day was crisp.
Air breathed in once, then collapsed out,
strangled by the thunderous sound of explosions,
of steel and concrete turned to rubble,
and the scream of sirens.

Voices shouted, yelled, moaned, become still.

The towers had fallen, an attack begun.
"That morning nineteen terrorists affiliated with al-Qaeda
hijacked four commercial passenger airplanes,"
one an American Airline Flight 11; one-one.
These were hate missions, with hatred strong enough to die for.

Sirens screamed from all directions through flame, debris,
choking dust, and terror so much of it as to remain
in all our memories, darken all our dreams.

My child, you are not safe! Not secure!
Nine-one-one is busy. Help cannot come.
Do not call, close the windows, hide.
Sirens are screaming in duet, trio, chorus.

*(Deaths - two thousand nine hundred ninety three Injured - unknown)
(Marlene Hitt is the past Poet Laureatte of Sunland-Tujunga)*



Photo taken by Peter DiNova in 2001

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