

City Council Passes “Residential Floor Area Ordinance”

Sunland-Tujunga Receives First RFA District

By Katharine Russ

On September 12, 2008, Los Angeles City Council passed an ordinance No. 180197 establishing The Sunland-Tujunga Residential Floor Area (RFA) District. The first RFA ordinance passed in the city, cites, “The maximum residential floor area contained in all buildings and accessory buildings shall not exceed 30 percent of the lot area.

This regulation shall apply to all non-hillsides RA, RE, RS, and R1 zoned lots within the Sunland-Tujunga RFA district. An additional 20 percent of the maximum residential floor area shall be allowed if any of the methods listed below are utilized. In no event shall a lot be limited to less than 2,000 square feet of residential floor area if a bonus method is included as part of the project. Only one 20 percent bonus per property is allowed.”

In her letter to City Council on September 12, Cindy Cleghorn, Secretary of the Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council (STNC) noted, “Sunland-Tujunga spearheaded the Interim Control Ordinance (ICO) to balance mansionization in our community.” Also the STNC, further recommended, “the ordinance enacting the RFA for Sunland-Tujunga retroactively include project applicants under the new RFA standards, who may have filed or intend to file permit applications, but have not yet received permit approvals through the Planning Department, or Building and Safety, during the period between the time the regulating provisions of the ICO [Interim Control Ordinance] expire and the new RFA regulations become effective.” Opponents of the ordinance argue that the RFA will inhibit their ability to make profits on homes that are remodeled or newly constructed.

James Menotti, a resident of Sunland, said, “With a lot size of 5500 square feet and a house limit of 30 percent you end up with a house about 1650 square feet. With the exemptions you might make 1800 to 1900 square feet. You can not make a profit on this size. Thus the older substandard homes will stay substandard.”

Stan Sugarman, a resident on Mountair Avenue in Sunland, collected 21 signatures, primarily on his street in opposition to the ordinance. In his letter to City Council he writes, “The proposed ordinance overgeneralizes and mischaracterizes each of our individual neighborhoods. It assumes that by forcing smaller houses then out-of-scale houses will be mitigated.”



Photo: L.A. Dept. City Planning

Sunland-Tujunga housing out of character with the community.

Ben Golombek, Councilwoman Greuel’s Deputy said, “This is the permanent version of Councilwoman Greuel’s Interim Control Ordinances (ICO) which have regulated mansionization in the Sunland-Tujunga area since mid 2005. Beginning nearly five years ago, the Councilwoman worked with the community to create a set of development rules that preserved the character of the Sunland-Tujunga community. This is the first RFA created under the recently enacted citywide Baseline Mansionization Ordinance, and the Councilwoman is pleased that the RFA ordinance was approved before the ICO expired, preventing a gap between the ordinances. Other communities will be dealt with on a case by case basis.”

According to the Planning and Land Use Committee, when questioned about the progress of RFA’s for other communities, by Councilmember LaBonge during the hearing, their answer was that the RFA Ordinance is already in the works for other areas Los Angeles.

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Lawsuit Could Stop Mayor’s Housing Plan

By Katharine Russ

Los Angeles - The reality of six story buildings in your neighborhood may not be too far away, as Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa has presented a plan to revive “Inclusionary Zoning” (IZ). The L.A. Council gave the go ahead for the introduction which calls for a proposed law by the end of 2008, mandating developers to build housing units for low income people in affluent neighborhoods. The Mayor’s “Blueprint for Smart Growth” calls for, “the expansion of zoning to meet/accommodate growth and single family to multi family zoning and proposes additions to existing structures, increases in density to accommodate growth by building up, adding structures.” Also, streamlining the entitlement process and shortening the permit process among other things. But nowhere in his “Blueprint” does the Mayor address the infrastructure that would be needed to support all this development. In fact, in the past ten years, development has been on the rise, with the issuance of nearly two million construction permits in just the second quarter of the year. Infrastructure has not been addressed since 1998, until now.

Lucille Saunders and the LaBrea-Willoughby Coalition has recently filed a lawsuit against the City,

effectively forcing them to determine if the City infrastructure (sanitation, electricity, water supply, and transportation) are meeting the City’s current and near current population growth needs. The suit alleges “that the City has failed to perform required monitoring and reporting, while continuing to approve massive development at break-neck speed and asks that the Court enjoin the City from approving zoning ordinances, General Plan amendments, vested tentative maps, development agreements or Specific Plans.”

The suit commands the City to establish a monitoring program, prepare an annual report on growth and infrastructure for 1999-2008, a transportation database, and a revised Hollywood Plan.

The National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education examined the Housing Market Impacts of Inclusionary Zoning. Their February 2008 Report says they found that “inclusionary zoning policies had measurable effects on housing markets. The share of multifamily housing increases; the price of single family houses increases; and the size of single family houses decreases. These results are fully consistent with economic theory and demonstrate that inclusionary zoning policies do NOT come without cost.

Housing that sold for less than \$187,000 (in 1988 dollars) decreased by only 0.8 percent while housing

that sold for more than \$187,000 increased by 5.0 percent. These findings suggest that housing producers did not, in general, respond to inclusionary requirements by slowing the rate of single family housing construction, but did pass the increase in production costs on to housing consumers. Further, housing producers were better able to pass on the increase in costs in higher priced housing markets than in lower priced housing markets.”

In the September, 2007, Melrose Neighborhood Association News, County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky remarked that “the planning process in the City of Los Angeles is not being run by the City Planning Department, but, rather, by lawyers and lobbyists representing developer interests. The result of this corrupted process is the case-by-case approval of inappropriate development.”

Critics call the Mayors “Blueprint for Smart Growth” a blueprint for disaster. Lucille Saunders and the LaBrea-Willoughby Coalition is gathering momentum and support from communities throughout Los Angeles in order to force the city to deal with its infrastructure first, believe their lawsuit will be the wake up call for the Mayor.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

It's That Time of Year

The annual Girl Scout Fall Product Sale has begun. Thousands of girls are taking orders for their Fall Products of nuts and candies provided by the Trophy Nut Company. Varieties included are: Whole Cashews, Select Mixed Nuts, Pistachios, Chocolate Covered Raisins, Butter Toffee Peanuts, All Natural Trail Mix, Gummi Snacks, and Peanut Brittle (in a keepsake tin). Special Pre-Order items available only Sept. 27 to Oct. 15, include: Malted Milk Balls, Cranberry Trail Mix, Honey Roasted Peanuts, Spicy Cajun Mix, GORP Trail Mix, and Fruit Slices.

Gerry Keshka, Chief Executive Officer of Girl Scouts of the San Fernando Valley says the Girl Scout's Sale is an invaluable part of the Girl Scout experience. She also said, "The marketing and financial skills that girls gain are a key aspect of our unique leadership development program."

The Girl Scout's products are great gifts for the upcoming holidays. All cans sell for \$5 each. Proceeds are used to support programs for girls and training for volunteers across the region. The funds may also be used by the Troops to plan special activities or trips, or to cover the costs of their community service projects. The sale ends November 9.

To support Girl Scouts and their Fall Product Sale contact Stephany Blevins, Product Sales Manager, (818) 886-1801, ext 20, or via email at SLBlevins@sfgsc.org to locate a participating troop in your neighborhood. Also support Girl Scouts who are selling nuts and candies at select boothing locations throughout the valley.

Granada Hills

By Jim Summers

The 8th Annual Granada Hills Street Faire sponsored by the Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce Saturday, takes place October 4, in the Old Granada Village on Chatsworth Street, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. There will be over 165 vendor booths from Zelza to Encino Avenues. The festival is for all ages and has exploded in popularity in its short existence, and they expect attendance of over 20,000 visitors this year.

New this year, the GH Street Faire is also offering on-site health screenings to the public, including cardio, skin, bone density, grip strength and more, provided by Providence Holy Cross Medical Center. Both, Granada Hills North (GHNNC) and South Neighborhood Councils (GHSNC) are two of the main participants and will have adjacent booths next to the local favorite, the Old Granada Hills Residents' Group.

In addition to their booth, the GHSNC will have their election for 23 board members. Their previous Board chose this event to get the maximum voter turnout, as they seek to break neighborhood council voting records, and hope to have a well represented Board. Stakeholders can still register to be a write-in candidate up to 5:00 pm, October 3. Four Board spots are still open. You are encouraged to vote if you live, work or participate in groups or organizations within the GHSNC boundary which includes Granada Hills below the 118 freeway.

The Faire always has a joyous and festive atmosphere, keeping alive the motto of this unique com-



munity, "The Valley's Most Neighborly Town." There will be live music on two stages, a variety of great foods, Classic Car and Motorcycle show, the always well received Arts and Craft booths. "Kid's Stuff" will include rock climbing and face painting. There will be media coverage with CSUN providing a live radio broadcast.

Contact Mark Serino at the Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce, (818) 368-3235, or for more information, visit www.GranadaChamber.com, www.OGHRG.org, www.GHNNC.org, www.GHSNC.org, www.GranadaHillsAlliance.org.

Editors Note: Mr. Summers is President of GHSNC, Granada Hills Alliance and Chamber Member and writes for the NVR.

News from Arleta

By Al Piantanida

16 Small Business in the San Fernando Valley were honored recently by the United Chambers of Commerce for participating in their community. Cyndee Riding, of Kids Corner Preschool/Around the Corner Child Care, a member of the Arleta Chamber of Commerce, was chosen for her community service.

The MEND organization, (Meet Each Need With Dignity), located in Pacoima, received a donation of 1,600 Arnold Swartzenegger Rubic's Kubes, 1,200 Children's Voice Recorders, and 300 gold pocket watches donated by Gene Paleno of Hi Tech Component Distributors. Arleta Community Watchdogs, who work with Paleno on special occasions to help brighten the lives of less fortunate people, delivered them.

Community, Faith and Business, spells playground for "Arleta's Kids." On Saturday, August 23, a playground designed by children, was put together in just one day by volunteers from Washington Mutual, the non-profit community service agencies of KaBoom and Child Care Resource Center (CCRC), Liberty Temple Church of God, and

Community members from Arleta, as well as surrounding communities. According to Pastor Dan Maynard, Liberty Temple Church provided the Church's property for the new playground, to be open to all area children in order to keep them off the street, and they plan to run an after school program

The Church presently sponsors a Wednesday evening program called "Kids Klub," where toddlers through teens have access to the playground area. They also provide snacks for all children who attend. The Church has plans to install a basketball court in the near future.

The CCRC Head Start Pre-School is located adjacent to Liberty Temple Church of God and is directed by Maria Gaspar. The facility has 118 children ranging from three years to five years old. The program is split into two sessions, 8:00 am to 11:30 am and 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm. According to Director Jasper, they provide many free services for qualifying low income families and children will have an unlimited use of the new playground.

Editors Note: Mr. Piantanida is Past President of Arleta NC and Member of Arleta Watchdogs and writes for NVR.

Global Climate Change

A free Conference regarding Global Climate Change The Impact Upon Wildlife and Wild Lands will be held on Saturday, October 18, at Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Dr. in L.A., north of the main entrance to Griffith Park.

Enjoy the interesting and diverse experiences and the opportunity to speak with the distinguished Presenters. Among the guest speakers are Congressman Brad Sherman, Dr John Hadidion, and Director of Urban Wildlife, Dr Danny Harvey, Co-Recipient of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize for work on Global Climate Change. Terry McGuire, Director of the Highway Service Center for West and North Region of Parks Canada, Kathleen Rettie, Ph.D., Social Scientist for Parks Canada Agency, California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS) Ron Kosinski, Deputy District Director, Division of Environmental Planning, National Park Service/Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Raymond M. Sauvajot, Ph.D., Chief of Planning, Science and Resource Management, Barbara Marquez, CALTRANS Branch Chief, Resource Management

It begins at 8:30 am with a Native American Blessing. For further information and registration visit: <http://www.gmrnet.com/ESTPSIGNUP.html> or call 818-769-1521

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Gotta Minute.....?

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. One in four women and one in nine men in the United States are victims of domestic violence at some point in their lives according to the CDC Survey in 2005. For more information contact The National Domestic Violence Hotline website, www.ndvh.org or call 1-800-799-SAFE (7233). Translators are available. Break the silence to stop the cycle of violence.

A Mission College Satellite – such a reality is a possibility for the Sunland-Tujunga Community. The community learned what they deem to be exciting news from College President, Judith Valles, guest speaker at the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council's meeting on Wednesday, September 10. Ms. Valles said that the Community College District's Board of Trustees is presently in negotiations with owners of a parcel in the area. However, the satellite is contingent on the passage of "Measure J" on the ballot in the upcoming November election. She emphasized that the College definitely plans to do an (EIR) Environmental Impact Report, a statement which was greeted with a long round of applause by the community members. Mission has also committed to work with the area to determine what courses are needed to support their businesses, enhance careers, and help people re-enter the labor market, along with supporting the local schools.

Housing & Economic Development Dialogue – A meeting was held in the Mayor's conference room in Los Angeles City Hall on Wednesday, September 17. Deputy Mayor Helmi Hisserich and Ken Draper of CityWatch Media Group coordinated the meeting with approximately 15 community leaders from across the city. Gail Goldberg was present for a very short time. The purpose of the dialogue was to discuss the Mayor's mixed income (inclusionary zoning) housing plan. The group discovered they all share the same concerns such as is there an oversight

plan and what roll developers will take. They are also highly concerned about "hot button" issues such as infrastructure, transportation, over-crowding, lack of parks and public safety, for which no solutions were offered by they Mayor's office. His office plans to continue this type of dialogue throughout the entire city in order to exchange perspectives with the many neighborhoods.

Great So. California ShakeOut - The largest earthquake drill in U.S. history is being held at 10 am on Tuesday, November 13. Millions of Southern Californians will participate in the ShakeOut Drill. The ShakeOut will provide an opportunity for everyone to practice what to do in a big earthquake, other natural disaster or catastrophe. The exercise will be critiqued in order to help everyone be made aware of any weakness in the process of becoming better prepared. To learn more about the drill and to register for participation, go to www.ShakeOut.org/register. Visit: www.CERT-LA.com to learn about Disaster Preparedness programs.

Mayor's East Valley Day of Service - Saturday, November 22, is when community volunteers and City services will mobilize together to work on projects for community improvement. The communities of Arleta, Lake View Terrace, Pacoima, Shadow Hills, Sunland-Tujunga and Sun Valley will be participating. They are analyzing the needs of their communities and determining which projects they will be working. The resources for the selected projects will be provided by through the Mayor's office. For further information contact 213-618-6222 or 213-978-1589.

Federal Grant Awarded - Thursday, Sept. 25, U.S. Rep. Howard L. Berman (D-CA) announced \$499,999 from the FY 2009 Patient Navigator Outreach and Chronic Disease Prevention Program will be awarded to the Northeast Valley Health Corporation. The U.S. DEPT. of Health and Human Services

office of Health Resources and Services Administration grants the Federal dollars. The funding will help the Northeast Valley Health Corporation improve health outcomes in the community by connecting its at-risk, predominately Latino patients with necessary breast, cervical or colorectal cancer screening and treatment services.

Unemployment Filing Scam - According to CA State EDD, there are scams on the Internet that are charging a filing fee to file claims for the applicants when such filing is actually free to the applicant. EDD offers the following tips for workers filing for unemployment benefits: Immediately leave any Web site that asks for a payment for unemployment insurance services – there is no fee to file for UI benefits. Do not give your credit card or debit card information. File online by going to www.edd.ca.gov. Click on the unemployment link and then click on the eApply4UI link. This is a secure site on which you can fill out and submit your claim at no cost and with complete security. You can also file at no cost by calling 1-800-411 toll-free numbers for your area and language.

PLUM Hearing continued - Council File No. 08-2309 An appeal Hearing is scheduled regarding development of the Oro Vista Wildlife Corridor. During its September 23 hearing, the Los Angeles City Council's PLUM, (Planning and Land Use Management) Committee determined they want further information regarding previous stipulations that are required to be met by the developer, therefore, the committee decided to continue the hearing until Tuesday, October 7. A Sunland-Tujunga community member, Elaine Brown, initiated the Appeal to preserve the RA-1 horse/animalkeeping property in order to protect the Wildlife Corridor. It will also be heard in City Council on Friday, October 10.

Your North Valley Reporter

Completes Second Year of Service



Nina Royal
Publisher/Editor

I want to thank all our supporters consisting of our advertisers, distributors, contributing writers and, of course, you, our readers, for helping us to continue our sole mission of "Keeping You Informed". I especially want to thank my family, my children, Bobby Royal, Erna Royal, my brother Peter DiNova, and my Investigative Reporter, Katharine Russ, who researches, develops, and writes the Reporter's top stories. Also, accolades are due Valley Printers, who has continued to support and accommodate us, even when we made mistakes, which require remaking of plates, or, heaven forbid, we miss our printing deadlines. I don't want to forget Sandi Paccione, my Graphic Artist who, I am sure, I make a crazy person with all my last minute changes. Thank you to the many others whom I consider my special friends, who also contribute their time and effort. Their continued help and encouragement is paramount to the success of your Reporter.

The Reporter is my passion because it is my personal contribution to our community in the hope of making a difference in our daily lives. My personal goal is to help unite our North Valley communities with a communication vehicle such as the Reporter, so that we are informed and able to work as one body while supporting each other's issues and events.

I believe that what happens in our north valley communities can affect all of us. My personal motto is "together, we can do anything". During the past two years the North Valley Reporter issued the breaking story on the large number of sex offenders being housed in the same Sylmar motel, and was instrumental in their removal from that facility. We were also instrumental in the proposed CRA for the

Stonehurst neighborhood, an issue which has since been revisited. The NVR has kept you informed regarding local development and land use issues, such as Mansionization, Las Lomas, Kohls, Home Depot, Verdugo Hills Golf Course, Providence Holy Cross, SB 1818, and many others. We also report on local election issues and, most importantly, we try to inform you of any issues regarding the City and County of Los Angeles, as well as the State of California that will impact our communities. We support our local Neighborhood Councils, but we are always ready to help other communities.

I consider our "Mark Your Calendar" section the most important staple of our publication because it lists the events and public hearings regarding the North Valley, which enables us to attend and support each other's functions.

We want to continue to keep you informed on the happenings in our communities and we encourage you to contribute information and events to the Calendar section as well as voice your concerns in the Sound Off section. We also want to continue to help non-profit organizations to get the word out about their events. However, please realize that while you may be a "Non-Profit", the North Valley Reporter is currently "No Profit". We have endured four price increases from our printing source since January, due to the escalating cost of gas. My family helps because we hesitate to pass that burden on to our small business advertisers because they are just as financially burdened. The Reporter is a free newspaper and struggles monthly. There are a limited amount of pages available and we rely on advertising to defray our costs. We hope you will understand when we cannot oblige you with a complimentary ad, although we really wish to be able to do so. We do not take subscriptions because it is time and cost prohibitive. If you want to receive the Reporter by mail, we encourage you to send six self-addressed stamped envelopes, with \$1.20 postage per envelope, to our P.O. Box. When we use the last

envelope, we will call to let you know and ask if you want to continue to receive the Reporter.

If you have any questions regarding the Reporter, please contact us at 818-563-1962, or email us at InformNVR@aol.com. We hope you continue to enjoy reading the NVR.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Sunland-Tujunga

By Cindy Cleghorn

A new Ordinance has been passed recently giving Sunland-Tujunga the first official Residential Floor Area (RFA) Ordinance District in the City of Los Angeles. It was passed just in time to replace the soon to be expired Interim Control Ordinance (ICO) that had been in existence over three years. The RFA ordinance is the result of the community's effort over several years, to prevent the increase of mansionized houses, which residents believe are ruining the character of their residential neighborhoods and are, considered eyesores. Their community received help from Councilmember Wendy Greuel's office, the City Planning Department's staff and participation of community members. The new RFA is now being used as a template by the City and will be tweaked to fit each community which is now applying for an RFA Ordinance District.

Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council – The STNC Board appointed Tom Sickora to their Board to fill the position of a retired member, as the Representative for the STNC Region One district during their September meeting. STNC's next General Meeting is Wednesday, Oct. 8, at Mt. Gleason Middle School. Refreshments are provided prior to their meeting at 7:00 pm. Visit their website: www.stnc.org, or call 818-951-7411.



Tom Sickora

The Business community is "Going out for Business"- Denny's Restaurant and Jack-In-The Box have recently finished remodeling to update their stores. The Foothill-Commerce Town Center is rapidly making progress toward completion. Several new food and entertainment establishments have opened recently. Arnie's Café on Foothill & Marcus has live entertainment on Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The Wired Café, on Commerce Ave., just celebrated their Grand Opening, and has live music during the week and weekends. Continue down Commerce a few doors and you'll find Olde Towne Café, whose owners recently completed their first year and have already expanded. They have live entertainment intermittently. Head down another short block to reach the newly opened Nikki's Corner Café.



Outgoing S-T Chamber Sheriff Pat O'Brien, Deputy Sheriff Jan Otis with Mark Seigel, STNC Treasurer

Sake Sake, a Japanese Restaurant with a Sushi Bar, has opened on Foothill Blvd in the shopping center at Scoville in Sunland. Although their community in-



Movie at Little Landers Park Sept. 20, 2008

tends to stay "rural, members are excited about the new eating and entertainment establishments and the possibility of a Satellite college in their future.

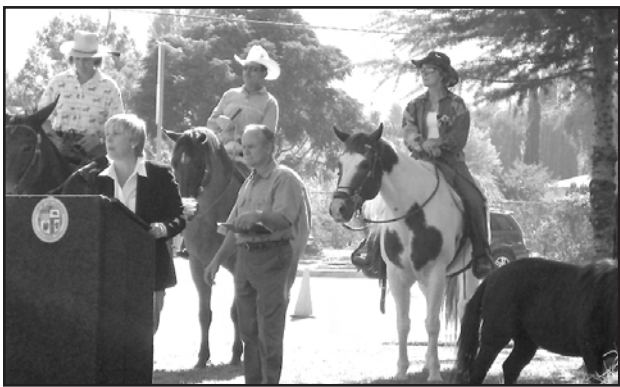
The Sunland-Tujunga Chamber of Commerce held a Mixer at Mission Bank with approximately 60 people in attendance. Awards were presented to outgoing Honorary Sheriff, Pat O'Brien, (Commander of American Legion Post #377), and Deputy Sheriff, Jan Otis.

Movies in the Park were held on the last two Saturdays of September, sponsored by the STNC Outreach Committee, Councilmember Wendy Greuel and Outreach Committee member, Jerry Hovesejian, Chair of the events. The first movie, Shrek 3, was shown at Little Landers Park and the crew cooked up and served 640 Hot dogs, one per person. The second movie, "Flushed Away", was shown at Sunland Park. Approximately 200 people were served Ice Cream Cones and chips. Free raffles for toys were held at each event and approximately 40 toys were given away.

Editor's Note: Cindy Cleghorn is the Past President and current Secretary of the STNC, a member of several community organizations and writes for the NVR. Contact: Cindy@cmprintmail.com

Sun Valley

Pathway Dedicated - Friday, September 19 was the official dedication and ribbon cutting for the Stonehurst Pathway through the Community. Councilmember Wendy Greuel officiated at the ceremony, which began on the lawn of Stonehurst Elementary School. Refreshments were provided for people, equines and pets. The Pathway connects La Tuna Canyon with the Tujunga Wash and Hansen Dam and is part of the Los Angeles Trails Project.



Wendy Greuel at Pathway Dedication

Permeable decomposed granite was used for the surface. It is one of the first sustainable projects approved by the City of Los Angeles' Dept. of Public Works and was funded through the Office of Community Beautification, Foothill Trails Neighborhood Council, Shadow Hills Property Association and utilized talent of dedicated volunteers working together.



Sylmar

Sylmar -Wednesday evening September 24th at The Good Night Inn at 12835 Encinitas Ave in Sylmar was hosted by the Sylmar Chamber of Commerce during their monthly Meet and Greet Mixer. Mike Hernandez (second from left), General Manager, for the corporation was anxious for everyone to see the facility renovations since it has been acquired by its Corporation.



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PUBLIC SAFETY

News From Mission Station



*Captain Jorge Villegas
Commanding Officer
Mission Community Police Station*

Halloween is coming up. Please remember safety when it comes to our children. Contact the Mission Area Community Relations office, or the Community Relations Office in your Division if you need information on how children can celebrate safely.

Saturday, September 20, Mission Community Police Station hosted its Second Annual Open House. It was a fun filled day for everyone who came to enjoy and partake in all the activities. Included were displays from our Swat Team, Hazardous Material Unit, Valley Traffic Division, Mission Area Explorers, who provided us with an outstanding drill presentation, and the United States Marine Corp. Our Jeopardy youth were also in attendance and provided us with an outstanding display of their boxing skills. I want to thank Bobby Arias, from Communities and Schools, who provided us with wonderful entertainment. I also appreciate the efforts of our Mission Area Police Council and Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB) members who provided the community with vital information in regards to their respective duties and accomplishments.

Officer Appreciation Day is around the corner on Wednesday, October 29. If you would like to assist in this event, please contact our CPAB Co-Chair, Melanie Mc Shane, at 818-599-1589.

Regarding our crime fighting efforts, we are proud to announce that Mission Area Station is No. 1 in Operations Valley Bureau, and No. 3 citywide in crime reduction. We have reduced crime in the following: Part I Crimes by 10.1%, Violent Crimes by 11%, Property Crimes by 9.9%, Overall Gang Crime by 11% and Homicides by 55%. Congratulations to our Officers and community members for these outstanding accomplishments.

Our Department created E-Policing to help implement community policing on the Internet. E-Policing allows Senior Lead Officers or Detectives in geographic areas to e-mail crime information, newsletters, or any law enforcement information to community members who sign up. All that is required to sign up is a city address and an e-mail address. E-Policing can help the Department reach its 2008 crime reduction goal, improve communication, and allow geographic area personnel to work smarter and more efficiently. Visit the page on the Department's website: www.laponline.org/e-policing, and encourage community members to sign up. Contact LAPDOnline at 213-485-1750 for more information.

Please remember to be aware of your surrounding in your communities and report any suspicious activity that you may be aware of. I want to hear your concerns and encourage your participation in our policing efforts. Our goal is to work together as a team to reduce and prevent crime.

You questions concerning Mission Area may be directed to me, at 818-838-9980, or Sergeant Adrian Torres, Community Relations Office, at 818-838-9860.

Safety Valet Program a Success



Wendy Greuel

As summer comes to an end and the school year dawns anew, I'd like to take this opportunity to discuss some important steps that I have taken to help improve traffic safety around our schools and neighborhoods. Also, I want to offer tips that can help keep your family safe in this upcoming year. As the mother of a five-year-old who recently started kindergarten, I am acutely aware of the concerns many have regarding the upcoming school year.

In 2005, I started working with LAPD, local schools and non-profit partners to offer the Safety Valet program to all elementary schools in my district. With Safety Valet, morning traffic around the campus is directed into designated drop-off lanes and parent volunteers walk children from their vehicles to their school door. The route guarantees smooth drop-offs and protects children from the dangers of oncoming traffic. It also reduces congestion around schools and improves the school relationship with the surrounding community. The Safety Valet program is a true partnership between LAUSD, LAPD, school principals and parent volunteers. I am proud to say that the Safety Valet program has been offered to all elementary schools in my district with most of them taking advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

While the Safety Valet program is very successful, it is only part of a comprehensive traffic safety program around schools, which I have spearheaded since taking office. It includes improving signs and visibility around all local schools, sponsoring traffic safety press conferences at the start of every school year and a very aggressive car seat safety program. According to the California Highway Patrol (CHP) over 70 % of all car seats are improperly installed and over 80% of child-related deaths that occurred in car accidents could have been avoided with a proper use of a car seat.

Since 2003, I have partnered with the CHP to host 15 car seat events providing over 530 free car seat inspections and given out over 250 car seats to parents in need. These events have been wildly successful, drawing in hundreds of families from all over the City of Los Angeles to learn more about how they can improve the safety of their children and family. I am hosting the next car seat inspection and giveaway at the upcoming Wendy Greuel Child Health and Safety Fair, to be held on October 11, 2008, starting at 10:00 am, at Valley Plaza Park, 6451 Saint Clair Ave., NH 91606. Please feel free to call my Field Office at 818-755-7676, and speak with one of our Field Deputies to sign up for a car seat inspection, or to RSVP for the Child Health and Safety Fair.

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

N. Hills West NC Gen. Meet.

Sepulveda VA
16111 Plummer Bg22 N.H.ills
7 pm 893-8613

Thursday, Oct. 2

PCNC Land Use

Mission Community Hospital
14860 Roscoe Blvd., PC
6:30 pm 785-9355

Elks Lodge #2098

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

Sylmar Women's Club

Odyssey Restaurant
15600 Odyssey Dr. M.H.
11:30 am 833-8033

Kagel Canyon Civic Assoc

Dexter Park
7 pm

S-T Art Assoc.Meet

Guest Artist
Sunland Senior Center
8640 Fenwick, S-T
call 352-24

Saturday, Oct. 4

Granada Hills Street Faire

On Chatsworth from Encino
To Zelzah Ave, GH
10 am - 5:00 pm

LANCC Elections

DWP Downtown L.A.
9 am - 12 pm

Saving LA Project

Charo
4301 E. Valley Blvd, LA
1 - 4 pm

SFV Friends of the NRA

Foundation Fundraiser
Elks Lodge
20925 Osborne, Canoga Pk
6 pm 805-404-0339

Classic Horror Movies

Sylmar Library
14561 Polk, Syl
4 pm

Ad Hoc River Committee

L.A. City Hall, Room 1050
200 No. Spring, L.A
3 pm

Ride for a Cure Finale

Corral 210 Sunland Riders
Hosted by Gibson Ranch
9655 Wentworth, S-T
www.corral210.com

Sunday, Oct. 5

Bolton Hall Museum

Presents "The Paper Trail"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420 SNC -

Monday, Oct. 6

SNC Public Serv. Commit

13515 1/2 Hubbard, Syl
6:30 pm

STNC/DAC

Land Use
NVCH 7 p.m.
Info: 951-7411 www.stnc.org

Tuesday, Oct. 7

Bolton Hall Museum

Presents "The Paper Trail"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420

Review EIR -Part 161

Re: Van Nuys Airport
Fly Away Center
7610 Woodley, VN
3-6 pm www.LAWA.org

Wednesday, Oct. 8 & 9

Green California, Community

College Summit & Job fair
Pasadena Convention Center
Call Eric 626-577-5

Wednesday, Oct. 8

YOM KIPPER EVE

Rotary Club

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

STNC Gen. Meeting.

Mount Gleason Mdl. Sch.
Mt. Gleason, S-T
7 pm 951-7411 www.stnc.org

PCNC-Commerce Com

Wells Fargo Bank
8548 Van Nuys, PC
2: pm

Mayors' Luncheon

United Chambers of Com.
Reserve&Info 981-4256

Thursday, Oct. 9

Foothill Div.Community Police

Advisory Board (CPAB)
Villa Scallabrini, SV
6 pm 756-8866
Thursday, Oct. 9

GHSNC General Meet.

1st Baptist Church of GH
11011 Havenhurst, GH
7:00 pm.

Sylmar Womens Club

"Getting to Know You"
Odyssey Restaurant, GH
11:30 am Reserv 783-2989

Saturday, Oct. 11

Community Budget Day &

Congress of Neighborhood
L.A. City Hall
200 N. Spring St. 3rd Fl. LA
9 am - 3 pm
Register 213-485-1360
or lacityneighborhoods.com

Halloween "Tale Tales"

Lies, Rumors and facts
Little Landers Society
Bolton Hall Museum
10110 Commerce, S-T
11 am 352-3420

Classic Horror Movies

Sylmar Library
14561 Polk, Syl
4 pm

Wendy Greuel's

Child Health & Safety Fair
Valley Plaza Park
6451 Saint Clair, NoHo
10 am

ETI Corral 20 Harvest Moon

Barn Yard Dinner Dance-
10330 McBroom, SH
Fee 6-12 am 352-3634

Sunday, Oct. 12

Bolton Hall Museum

Presents "The Paper Trail"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420

Christopher Columbus

Day Celebration
County Square
Hope & First St., LA
11 am

Monday, Oct. 13

COLUMBUS DAY observed

"Top Rock" Awards Banquet

Honoring Volunteers
Dr. Lloyd Hitt & Mary Lou
Pozzo
Caesars Banquet Hall
Foothill, S-T
\$50 Reserv. 951-7411
5:30 - 9 pm

Sylmar NC Land Use Com

13515 Hubbard, syl
6:30 - 7:30pm

PCNC-Outreach Comm

Plaza del Valle
8614 Van Nuys #B PC
6:00 p.m.

MHNC Zoning & Land Use

10161 Sepulveda., MH.
6:30 pm

Tuesday, Oct. 14

Bolton Hall Museum

Presents "The Paper Trail"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420

SNC Outreach Com.

13515 Hubbard, Syl
6:30 - 7:30pm

Foothill Senior Lead Summit

All Nation Church
1000 Foothill, LVT
6 pm 756-8866

Wednesday, Oct. 15

C of C Mixer

Century 21 Crest
8307 Foothill, S-T
6-8 pm 352-4433

Rotary Club

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

PCNC Rules Committee

Mission Comm. Hospital
Office Building, 2nd Floor
14860 Roscoe, PC
6:30 pm

MHNC Senior Commit

10161 Sepulveda. MH.
6:30 pm

Pacoima NC Gen. Meet.

Pacoima Comm. Center
11243 Glenoaks, Pac
6:30 pm

No. Hills West NC

Sepulveda Va
16111 Plummer, N. Hills
7 pm 893-8613

C of C Mixer

Century 21 Crest
8307 Foothill, S-T
6-8 pm 352-4433

Thursday, Oct. 16

TNC Safety Com.

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

S-T SERVS

NV City Hall
7747 Foothill S-T
6:45 563-1962

STNC Outreach Com

NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
7:30 pm 951-7411

Block Captains Meeting

Sylmar Library
14561 Polk, Syl
6:30 pm

Saturday, Oct. 18

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Commerce & Valmont S-T
12 -7 pm 951-7411

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Mark YOUR Calendar

Art in the Park

Little Landers Park
10110 Commerce, S-T
10 am - 4 pm

Classic Horror Movies

Sylmar Library
14561 Polk, Syl
4 pm

Youth & Men's Club

Lst Annual Fund Raiser
Verdugo Hills Golf Club
Register 7:45-8:30 am
vhillsmensclub@aol.com

ConferGlobal Climate Change:

Impact Upon Wildlife & Wild
Lands
201 Riverside Dr., L.A.
8:30 am 818-769-1521

Sunday, Oct. 19

Bolton Hall Museum

Presents "The Paper Trail"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420

Elks Famous Omelete Bar

S-T Elks Lodge #2098
10137 Commerce, S-T
7\$ 9 am-12 pm 352-2098

Monday, Oct. 20

Ad Hoc River Committee

L.A. City Hall, Room 1050
200No. Spring, L.A
3 pm

PCNC Safety Committee

Plaza del Valle
8614 Van Nuys #BPC
5:30 pm

Tuesday, Oct. 21

Bolton Hall Museum

Presents "The Paper Trail"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420

PCNC Finance Committee

PC Public Library
14345 Roscoe Boulevard
6:30 pm

MHNC Beauti. & Cultural Com

10161 Sepulveda Blvd. MH.
6:30 pm

Wednesday, Oct. 22

Rotary Club

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

MHNC Senior Outreach

10161 Sepulveda, MH.
11 am

MHNC Outreach/Youth Commit.

10161 Sepulveda, MH.
7 pm

Saturday, Oct. 25

Classic Horror Movies

Sylmar Library
14561 Polk, Syl
4 pm

Open House

LAPD Foothill Div.
12760 Osborne, Pac
1-3 pm 756-8866

Sunday, Oct. 26

Bolton Hall Museum

Presents "The Paper Trail"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420

Monday, Oct. 27

GHNNC General Meet.

Van Gogh Elem. School
Van Gogh, GH
6:30 pm

Tuesday, Oct. 28

Bolton Hall Museum

Presents "The Paper Trail"
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420

SNC Gen. Meet.

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

STNC Budget Commit

NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T

Friday, October 31

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ELECTION NEWS
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

There are 23 seats up for re-election including At-Large Stakeholders, Renters, Commercial Property Owners, Homeowners, Students, Seniors, etc. The terms for office will be 2 years each, from October 2008 through June 2010. Any stakeholder may vote in the election and/or run for any position on the Board of Directors for which they qualify. A stakeholder is anyone who lives, works, studies, owns property or has a connection within the GHSNC boundaries: Aliso Canyon Wash to the west, 118 Freeway to the North, 405 Freeway to the East, and Devonshire Street to the South.

Filing Period for Write-in Candidates: 9/5/08 - 10/3/08

ELECTION DAY
Saturday, October 4, 2008
11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Granada Hills Street Faire (Centered near Chatsworth St. and White Oak Ave.)
GHSNC Polling Location:
17729 Chatsworth Street, (North side of Chatsworth St, west of White Oak Ave.)

Any questions? Email: Elections@ghsnc.org

Are you are interested in improving the quality of life in the Granada Hills area? Do you have issues you would like to have help dealing with in your neighborhood? Would like to be of service to your friends and neighbors in your community? If so, you may want to consider joining forces with the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council. You do not have to be a Board Member to help or volunteer for a special project committee. You are encouraged to attend the meetings scheduled every second Thursday of each month the next meeting is Thursday, October 9, at The First Baptist Church of Granada Hills, 11011 Havenhurst Ave., Starting at 7:00 pm.

For additional information visit: www.GHSNC.org

GHSNC; 11024 Balboa Blvd., Box 767 Granada Hills, CA 91344; (818) 363-2787

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COMMENTARY

What Would Ed Hochuli Do?



By Ron Kaye

The best referee in the National Football League, Ed Hochuli, recently blew a call with barely a minute left in a game that cost San Diego a victory over Denver. Hochuli was besieged with hate email from angry fans but responded to each of them in this fashion:

“People deserve a response. You can rest assured that nothing anyone can say can make me feel worse than I already feel about my mistake on the fumble play. You have no idea. Affecting the outcome of a game is a devastating feeling. Officials strive for perfection – I failed miserably. Although it does no good to say it, I am very, very sorry.”

He manned up to his mistake. One can only hope that our officials – the people we elect to serve us – would ask themselves from time to time, “What would Ed Hochuli do?”

After the terrible train crash in Chatsworth, Metrolink spokeswoman Denise Tyrrell owned up quickly that it was caused by human error; the engineer on the commuter train ran a red light. You know what happened to her: Officials went ballistic. How dare she admit to the public what was already obvious. By Monday, she was out of a job.

Owning up to mistakes is against the rules of L.A.’s corrupt political culture. Truth is forbidden. No one takes responsibility. No one is held accountable. More

than anything, that pattern of defending, denying and deflecting is at the heart of how the corrupt political culture of L.A. – with the witting and unwitting complicity of much of the media – keeps up its pretense of respectability. This, even as the city deteriorates and the interests, values, and needs of the neighborhoods are ignored.

You can scratch the surface of our political and civic culture almost anywhere and see the same pattern. Look at how City Hall has handled the Home Depot issue from day one in Sunland-Tujunga, or the Southwest Museum issue in Mt. Washington. Look at the phony City Council debate over putting up 75 billboards, many of them the hideous flashing electronic kind, or the audacity of seeking a new tax for undefined gang programs without accounting for the hundreds of millions already wasted without positive results.

I’ve had time to watch the City Council meetings on cable from time to time in recent months, and it amazes me how staged and rehearsed they seem, how consistently council members obscure the truth or how they ignore it altogether, and then vote unanimously.

How is it possible for 15 council members – more often 14, since wannabe City Attorney Jack Weiss is usually absent – can agree 99 percent of the time? There is only one explanation: Everything has been worked out in back room deals behind the scenes in what amounts to a serial meeting, which would be in violation of the state open meeting law.

There are a few hopeful signs. For instance, Bill Rosendahl and a few other council members, are suddenly asking questions about the abandonment of the Southwest Museum. Tom LaBonge has felt it neces-

sary to publicly state he’s opposed to any development in Griffith Park. More community activists are going down to City Hall to advocate their positions in public and private meetings.

What’s happening is that neighborhoods and various communities of interest are getting better organized and bolder in speaking out. And they are beginning to work together.

For the first time in L.A. history a truly broad-based democratic movement is being born, as people from every part of the city are waking up and getting involved. It isn’t going to happen overnight but it’s the only hope for the future of the city.

L.A. is at the tipping point and urgent action is needed. We can’t go on giving six percent pay raises to DWP workers and raising water and power rates every year. We can’t go on ignoring that our mass transit system is totally inadequate and clearly unsafe.

We can’t go on allowing developers to densify our neighborhoods without plans on how to preserve the quality of life. We can’t go on watching our elected officials cut pay-to-play deals and stand by and do nothing about it.

The only way things will change is if council members are under enough pressure from the public to start being honest, taking responsibility and holding each other accountable. They need to “man up”, like referee Ed Hochuli, and hold themselves to a higher standard. But they will only do that if they know it’s the truth, or there will be serious consequences.

Editor’s Note: Mr. Kaye is the former Editor of the Daily News, Founder, Chairman of Saving LA Project and columnist for the NVR.

Life As We Know It Will Become Extinct

(Part 2 of 3)

By Jack Lindblad

What would you do if you knew societal and ecological collapse was going to end life, as we know it in 20-40 years? And how do you think a lot of other people will do? To do nothing is not on the table.

This installment points to revitalizing the Tujunga/Pacoima Watershed as a local solution to our water crisis.

The two Upper Los Angeles River Area groundwater basins (San Fernando and Sylmar) are at a tiny fraction of capacity - with almost no infiltration. Impervious paving and long-term contamination have denied needed recharge to the basins.

If one-half the urbanized lower watershed is reclaimed to its historic, natural state - using current landscape design methods (with “Green Streets”, non-polluting transportation modes and point sources) and advanced recycled water technologies, potable groundwater could be boosted five-fold, or 75% of the city water supply. To insure a safe water supply, the US Environmental Protection Agency and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board have

announced that Honeywell International, Inc. has recently begun construction of a wellhead treatment system for chromium in the North Hollywood region of the San Fernando Valley - Area 1 Superfund Site.

State and municipal declarations of drought will require reduction in water demand (particularly for landscape irrigation), expanded conservation and reuse programs, exploration of other water supply options, and increased reliance on local supplies. Climate shift implications mean that neighborhood councils must do with being frugal, making sacrifices, planting and cultivating community gardens as neighborhood festivals, being able to hike, bicycle, ride a horse from our homes in the lower watersheds to the upper watersheds in the Angeles National Forest, while in the process getting ourselves weaned off the oil standard, weaned off the power grid.

In a report recently released by the U.S. Department of Energy that analyzed a scenario in which 20% of the nation’s electricity is generated from wind power by the year 2030, the DOE noted that such a shift would reduce water use by approximately eight percent. That’s a significant saving, roughly equal to the average share of western water withdrawals claimed by urban users.

Then what would one do or advocate now given the impending urgency? The watershed must order urban planning and design. One needs to insure that survival of civitas will be dependent on having close-at-hand access to work, food, water, shelter, clothing, health care, and education. Bioregional determinism will define watersheds as political governing units where the bottom up governs from the grassroots.

Editors Note: Mr. Lindblad is a Local Architect and long time Community Activist in the San Fernando Valley who is dedicated to protecting the environment.



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Is fluoridated water a cause of unexplained problems in horses ?

Vets and doctors are not taught to recognize the varied signs of fluoride toxicity. Dr Krook has explained how fluoride works insidiously at the cellular level. It inhibits enzymes, the chemical catalysts which underpin all cellular chemistry, including the energy-production mechanisms of the mitochondria. It also alters the mineral makeup of collagen, bringing about changes to the bones and teeth. It hardens the soft tissue of cartilage, tendons and ligaments causing joint pain which mimics the symptoms of arthritis.

This information was printed in the letters section of Western Horseman Magazine April 2008

First Annual “TOP ROCK” AWARDS BANQUET

to honor Community Volunteers

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President Little Landers Historical Society

MARY LOU POZZO

Historian & Author, “Founding Sisters”

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2008

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6723 Foothill Boulevard, Tujunga, CA 91042

Guest Speaker

The Honorable Councilwoman Wendy Greuel
Council District 2, City of Los Angeles

5:30 p.m. No Host Cocktails & Hor d'oeuvres
Silent Auction

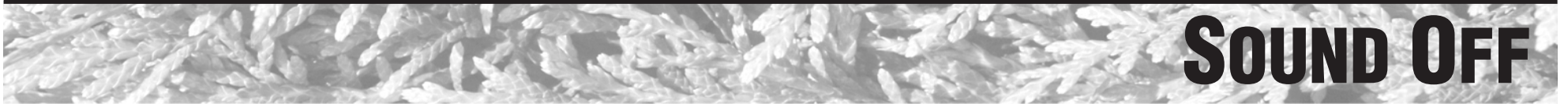
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SOUND OFF

Vote "No" on Measure "A"

Please do not fall for L.A. City Council's latest scam and scare tactics. Please Vote No on Measure "A" which will appear on the November ballot. This measure will add a \$36.00 special assessment to your property taxes (with discounts for low-income seniors), on each real property parcel. City council is promising to earmark the money for gang prevention. By November, it is going to be a life or death issue, if you are to believe city council.

However, this money is being requested without any showing that more money will solve the problem. The money is being requested prematurely before we determine if the recent consolidation of the gang prevention operations in the Mayor's office will be successful, or require more funding. (Since the Mayor recently awarded half a million dollars to a substantial number of non-profits to run gang prevention programs, he must have extreme confidence in these programs since we will probably not be able to track the money? And if not, Zuma Dogg asked, on September 10, if this could be viewed as money laundering?)

If public safety was the city council's true concern, why has Jamiel's Law been tied up in a committee? Why has alternative legislation addressing illegal gang members not been proposed or voted upon? Apparently Jack Weiss has said, in response to public pressure, that city council will address Jamiel's Law in October? Jamiel's Law (www.jamielsslaw.com) is proposed legislation authored by Walter Moore (www.waltermooreformayor.com) that allows L.A.P.D. to ask those arrested, who are also known gang members, about their immigration status. This is a very limited class of immigrants, and will not affect other immigrants who are not gang members.

Think about how much money such legislation could potentially save tax payers. We would not have to pay the booking, processing, and incarceration charges associated with those criminals who are in our country illegally. Our streets will be safer because there will be fewer gang members; consequently less money will be needed for gang prevention.

According to the L.A. County Registrar's website, Measure "A" promises to do the following: "To

address gang violence through prevention and job training programs; preventing students from dropping out of school; funding supervised after-school programs, tutoring/mentoring, vocational/apprenticeship programs, expanded graffiti removal."

Does this sound too good to be true? Then we all know from experience that it is too good to be true. This is just the latest attempt by City Council to bleed us dry. Think about it--what possible advantage will non profit gang prevention programs have over L.A.U.S.D. teachers, personnel and officials who could not keep such a high percentage of students from dropping out? If they have the answers, send them over to the school district. Remember the phone tax, and "ethics reform?" Do not forget that City Council did not use all of our trash fee increase to hire 1,000 new police officers as promised. They have no intent on using the parcel tax to solve our gang problems either.

*Nancy M Norris
Granada Hills*

Support Gang Injunctions

Gang injunctions are the best tool LAPD can use against gangs in Los Angeles. They are an effective and innovative tool to help law enforcement stop gang activity in communities, where residents feel they are being held hostage by gang members who threaten and use intimidation and fear towards them. Gang injunctions have proven to be successful in reducing crime and blight in neighborhoods where they have been implemented because Gang members are forced to modify their behavior

Hard working people deserve to live in a safe environment free from threats and intimidation by gang

members. Their children should be able to play outside. Mothers should be able to go shopping without being verbally assaulted, or asked for money by gang members. Neighborhoods deserve to be rid of graffiti. Senior citizens deserve to feel they can sit on their porch and enjoy the day without fear of gang members threatening and intimidating them. Residents don't want to come home, after a long day at work, and see gang members congregating on their street. They don't want to fear being verbally assaulted, or much worse, while they are walking to their own home.

Some will say gang injunctions take away civil rights from gang members. No one ever discusses the rights of hard working people who deserve to live in a safe neighborhood. Its unfortunate Councilman Richard Alarcon is making the gang injunction a political issue, instead of putting the safety of constituents a priority.

*Monica Harmon
Los Angeles*

Equestrians Need to Stand Up

It's time for all equestrians to stand up and be heard. Friday, Sept. 19. while we were out celebrating the Community Beautification dedication in Stonehurst, the Equestrian Task Force formed in February, released their report.

I urge every Neighborhood Council interested in equestrian issues, to schedule Community Impact Statements commenting on the findings of the committee. This is the opportunity we have been waiting for. The last time equestrians "lashed" the city's attention was in 1968 when the City adopted the Citywide Master Hiking and Equestrian Master Plan

*Mary Benson
Los Angeles Trails Project*

Bring our Troops Home

All I hear is that everybody wants to bring home our troops. Yes, I agree that we should bring them home but, are they going to get the same welcome that our troops that went to Viet Nam got? From what I hear and see on the tube, they are not getting the medical attention they should be have. Are they going to have a job waiting for them and are we going to get rid of illegals to make room for them? I don't think so. Yes, we need to bring back our boys, but, they need to be treated like royalty that they are. They are protecting us and protecting our rights that we have everyday. God Bless America and our Troops, Semper Fidelis

*Joe Pinoy-Lozano
USMC 1954-1957*

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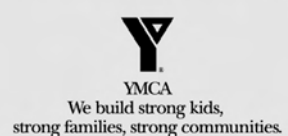


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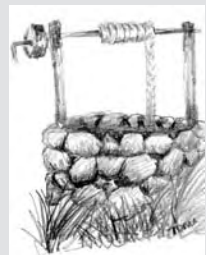
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THIS & THAT



Carrick's Journey -Part Eleven

By
Tomi Lyn Bowling

"One, two, three, four, fi.....wow! All them kiddies your's ma'am? How many youngin's you got there?" Whiskers asked while giggling the whole time. He could not help but stare at the children as the new guards walked up and took him by the arm, escorting him down the steps and away from the ship.

Maddie ignored the laughter and grumblings of the smelly old man and ran up to her son, Drake. She quite literally sobbed joyful tears to be reunited with Drake. Drake, still sedated, was not responsive to her hugs. "Is he OK?" she looked up and asked Fanella. "Yes, he's just sedated", Fanella replied. His brothers and sisters had been asked to wait behind at the cabin. That just was not going to be part of the framework and Maddie would not hear of it. Maddie continued hugging the incoherent Drake whilst turning her tearful, but smiling, face to Fanella and thanking her repeatedly for returning Drake

The children clamored for their older brother. All were elated at his return. The two bodyguards that made this trek helped carry the weighted body of Drake to Maddie's cabin. Whiskers never stopped laughing and giggling at the sight of so many children belonging to one mother. He remarked over and over, in awe, to his captors and shook his head in disbelief as he was lead off to another part of the village.

Once back at the cabin the body of Drake was carefully laid down in one of the beds. Fanella had escorted the lot back to the cabin. "Now get some rest" Fanella said quietly as she hugged Maddie. "Drake will be out for a few more hours. You need your strength Maddie. Now that Drake is back you should all know what is going on here and I would like to brief you. So get some rest, eat, and let's talk tomorrow."

Fanella walked towards the door and could see the exhaustion in Maddie's eyes. She closed the door behind her and headed for the village hall. Maddie was so excited to have her family together again that they all huddled with Drake on the one small bed and fell fast asleep.

It's a Family Event....

"Top of the Rock" Multi-Cultural Festival – Sunland-Tujunga's Neighborhood Council in coordination with Councilmember Wendy Greuel and the Sunland-Tujunga, Shadow Hills Rotary Club are sponsoring a multi-cultural festival to celebrate their diversity on Saturday, October 18. It will be held on Commerce Ave. between Tujunga Cyn. Blvd. & Valmont. The event will feature ethnic food and live entertainment. They are taking applications for sponsorship, advertisement, booths and entertainment. Call 818-951-7411

Sunland-Tujunga "Top Rock" Awards – Will be presented to top community volunteers Mary Lou Pozzo and Dr. Lloyd Hitt during a banquet in their honor on Monday evening, October 18. Councilmember Wendy Greuel is the Guest Speaker. The Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council in coordination with local organizations sponsors the event. Cost is \$50 each, table of 10 is \$400, and reservations are required. Call the STNC Office at 818-563-1962 for further information.

"Art In The Park" Festival – Commerce Owners & Business Restoration Assoc., (Cobra) is holding an Art festival Saturday, October 18, in Little Landers Park/Bolton Hall in Tujunga. NEED MORE INFO

"Spirite of Johny Carpenter" Awards and "6th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner" - A Korean BBQ & Spirite of Johny Carpenter Awards, will be held Friday November 21, 2008, at All Nations Church, in Lake View Terrace. The event is free. The Spirite of Johny Carpenter Annual Award was created in 2003 to honor the memory of the late Johny Carpenter, for his unselfish devotion to the well being of his challenged kids and having people look beyond their conditions. For reservations or to nominate an individual or a group from the Foothills area for the award, call 818-470-5235, or email lamikec@yahoo.com

"Pacoima Holiday Parade and Festival" – The Pacoima Chamber of Commerce is taking Applications from business and organizations for festival booths, program advertisement, and general sponsorship for their Parade and Festival schedules for Saturday, December 6, from 9:00 am - 7:00 pm. They have invited James Edward Olmos to be the Grand Marshal, and Ozomatli to entertain. Call 818-890-9414

Equestrians and Operators of Rideable Creatures

By Irene Munroe and Marlene Hitt

The Bolton Hall museum has two changing exhibits per year which feature subjects that pertain to the old Rancho Tujunga area. This includes Shadow Hills, Lake View Terrace, a bit of the Stonehurst area in Sun Valley and Sunland-Tujunga.

Our community takes such pride in its rural tradition and open space! For that reason we have decided at this time to feature the equestrian community.

Our space is small but we have plenty of objects: saddles, tack, even some clothing. We have tried to fea-

ture all the organizations and businesses in the area we have been able to find. We also include many historical photos with captions, brochures, news clippings, and business cards as we try to show off all the stables, horses, mules, donkeys, riders, history, and everything available to us. This exhibit, to take place from October 5 through March, 2009, is very exciting to us and we hope to you as well. You are invited to the opening reception on Sunday, October 5, from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, as you view the exhibit and eat cowboy snacks. For more information email: Landmhitt@Cs.com

Martin Dubow's "Francey"

By Linda Casteel

Martin Dubow's new novel, "Francey", deals with the subject of reincarnation in a chillingly lifelike manner. Francey's terrifying nightmares have become so graphic, so real, that the next one could very well end her life. A frantic search for the key to her nightmares leads her through a maze of past lives straight into the teeth of a web of intrigue so insidious that it has remained undetected for centuries. The search stops at the gravesites of Lady Susan Sebastian and Edward Delaney. What possible connection could Francey have with the seventeenth century star-crossed lovers? And if there is one, how is she to draw the answer from them? Only with

their secrets drawn from deep within their souls, can the little girl be saved.

To say that I found "Francey" riveting would be an understatement. From the highs of everlasting love, to the lows of terror, envy, and murder, I held tight to the roller coaster; and not until I'd landed safely in a realm of eternal souls, beyond even my own mortality, did it loosen its grasp. This book has altered my view of fate, serendipity, and the possibility of eternal love.

Martin Dubow's book, Francey, is available online at Amazon.com or in the Sunland-Tujunga Library Bookstore.

Editor's Note: Ms. Casteel has been serving the Los Angeles Public Library for 38 years.

Which is Witch?

By Marlene Hitt

October! Colored leaves, pumpkins and Halloween! Halloween has become the second most popular holiday in America, I've heard, and why? Christmas, the first choice, gives us gifts, as the season reminds us of our better selves, while Halloween gives treats of candy and lets us be someone we aren't.

I once needed a costume boost, so I became a witch with a black hat and gown but also a sack of sand around my neck. Sandwich. Another year I was D minor, a lovely musical chord, by wearing a miner's hat and clothing and having a name tag which named me Dee. One more in my list of fifteen outfits that delighted only myself: a costume of gold cloth, gold jewels, crown, and paper plates painted gold. Get it? Gold plated.

How different are my silly outfits of today and our wrapped candy in trick or treat bags than the Halloweens of olden times. Hallowed Evening, or Holy Evening, comes before All Saint's Day, a feast day in

honor of saints and martyrs going back as far as the year 270 A.D.

More modern traditions used this time as a general commemoration of the dead, with ceremonies ranging from an all night wake to a service in which is the calling of a name, as each acolyte would light a candle for remembrance. In many countries families visit the dead and bring flowers to their graves.

Druids celebrated summer's end with feasting as all people have as they have rejoiced over the good harvest. It was Druids who believed that ghosts, fairies, spirits, elves and witches came out to harm people. A custom from Britain and Ireland features the carving of lanterns from vegetables, as turnips and rutabaga with the old belief that the head was the most powerful part of the body containing the spirit and knowledge. Thus the head of the vegetable lantern casts off evil spirits. "Jack-O-lantern" is a concept from North America in the 1800s.

It was in the 1900s here in America that costuming became popular. The earlier costume was a mask,

probably for religious or pagan ceremonies. The idea developed into full outfits which became not only popular but also mass produced as early as the 1930s. It was then also that trick-or-treating became popular.

But back to costumes for Halloween. Outfits were originally worn to imitate supernatural and scary beings like ghosts, skeletons, witches, vampires and devils. Yet, in our current traditions the princess is the most popular costume for little girls, and the imitating of movie and TV personalities are most popular. In the forties, my childhood days, we gathered up items of clothing or fabrics to wear as we became hobos and gypsies, ghosts, nurses and wounded army men.

May we all entertain one of our alter egos and claim dominance over all our fears this Halloween. Happy partying! (That means bobbing for apples and making cupcakes, you know). Would you like to go to the party as a-coughin' (coffin), hallo weenie, self-absorbed (sponges), hot cocoa, black and blue? Or something else?

Watch Your Wallet

Consumer Credit – The Addiction

By Tina Cameron

Consumer credit is like a drug. You experience the euphoria of purchasing what your heart desires and the low of the statement that arrives. You can't imagine life without it. Over time, more colorful cards are added to your wallet stable and balances steadily rise. It becomes the pink elephant in the room that no one talks about but a problem exists regardless.

I'm not one for blaming others for ones mistakes. But... credit card companies do everything in their power to get you addicted. They are targeting teenagers on campuses; and then they make it as difficult as possible to quit the addiction with incentives like checks you receive with your statement to nudge you into using even more. Fabulous marketing fuels it. I personally enjoy watching Viking antics and then "What's in your wallet?" That's certainly worth paying a face-less company 20% interest and receiving nothing tangible in return.

Getting the monkey off your back is a difficult task, but it is achievable. Millions of Americans have freed themselves of the plastic shackles of consumer credit enslavement and are much happier for it. The biggest challenge is just getting started tackling those minimum payments that are 40% principal / 60% interest. If you ask your credit card company to lower the interest rate so that you can get a handle on your payments, they will only scoff at you and remind you that the interest rate is high because of your high balance so they can't possibly lower it because it represents the added risk you've become. In reality they are laughing all the way to the bank on all the money they are siphoning from you.

Literally, start by gathering every penny you can find (drive less, don't shop for awhile, turn down the thermostat, brown bag it) and put as much as you can on the balance to get it cut in half; and, pay your bills on time for at least six months. Once you get there, you will be in a better position to negotiate a lower rate based on the improvement you've made. For some card companies, also telling them your mortgage is automatically withdrawn from your checking account can prompt an interest rate reduction. With a lower interest rate your payments will become more principal / less interest, upon which, you can get some traction to pay them down more quickly.

Keep it up until all are paid off. Don't despair if you start receiving threatening phone calls from the credit card companies. They can become quite nasty when they see you are breaking free of them. But, you will then be in a position to use the cards to your advantage. You do that by using each one, once a year; and before the bill arrives, write a check for the amount you charged and mail it in. Then you have the power over them, and over your spending.

Editors note: Tina Cameron holds a Bachelors of Science in Finance and a Certified Treasury Professional Credential; is a Corporate Risk Manager and a Small Business Owner.

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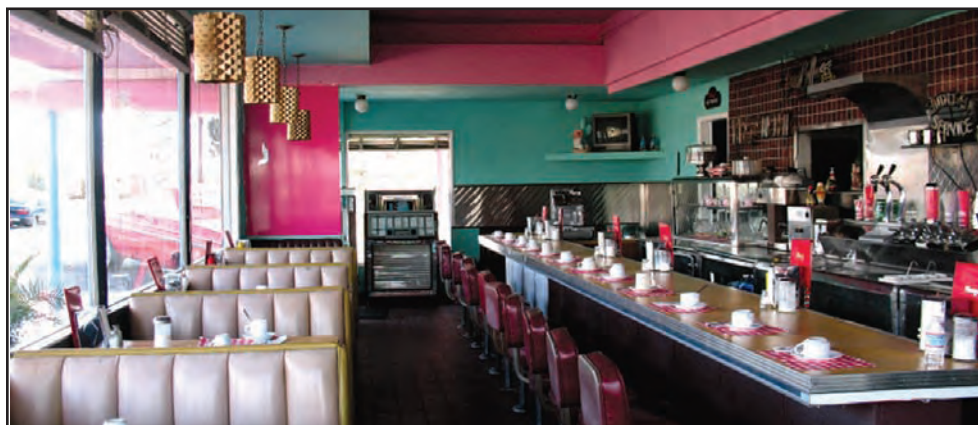
Part 3 of 3

By Mary Benson

While travelling North on Route 99 in Sun Valley, my husband and I discovered the Pink Motel, at 9457 San Fernando Road. You might recognize this relic of a "Motor Hotel," now more commonly known as a Motel, as one that has been used in filming "The O.C.", "The House of Sand and Fog", and "The Whole Nine Yards." This information was provided to us with a little assist from Google and a friendly commentator named Kenny.

When we exited our car to take photos, I felt like I was in a land far, far away. The air felt still. People were slowly milling about the motel grounds looking worn and beaten in their leathery skin. My husband walked over to speak to a man about a red 1960's Dodge for sale. The sign on the window may have said "For Sale", but I swear, if you listened in the soft, quiet, stillness of the air, you could almost hear the car whispering "Buy Me!"

I casually meandered about, taking photos of whatever found itself lucky enough to pop up in front of my view finder. Suddenly, my husband called me over to check out the motel's coffee shop next door. We pressed our faces to the window. "Oh man, it's like a time capsule!" I said. Amazing! The interior seemed to be authentic. There were a few tears in some of the booths' upholstery, old cigarette machines, and slightly dingy lamps. It looked as though they hung up the "CLOSED" sign for the last time around 1955 and just left everything in place-like it was all frozen in time. Although this "famous pink landmark" may no longer be serving food, as mentioned previously, it is now used for filming. We walked around to the back of the coffee shop and discovered a large lot behind a fence with palm trees, dirt, dried grass and a huge pool, now covered in graffiti. I imagine that back in the 50's, the Pink Motel was a nice little place to visit, But one glance at the graffiti marred pool reminds me that it is now a whole "New Generation", as I wonder if that lonely little 1950's Dodge is still sitting there, pleading for somebody to "please, Buy Me!"



Christopher Columbus

Commending a Brave Hero for True Discoveries

By Nayri Vartanian

On the second Monday of October, citizens from across the United States celebrate one man's epic journey in finding the Americas. Christopher Columbus, a hero for beginning the search for what Americans today call, "land of the free and home of the brave," view Columbus as a both a positive and negative historical figure. Although Columbus may not have theoretically discovered the New World, people continue to celebrate his braveness and confidence even though they may lack comprehensive knowledge about his legendary history.

In addition to being an explorer, he was also a trader and colonizer who sailed across the Atlantic Ocean in search of gold. It is believed that he "reached the Americas on October 12, 1492". However, some theorists dispute that he ever actually came in contact with America. They believe that feat was actually accomplished by Leif Ericson, a Norwegian, in the tenth century, as stated by the U.S. governmental White House website.

With funding received from Ferdinand II of Aragon and Isabella I of Castile, rulers of Spain, Columbus set sail on his first voyage for "what turned out to be a five-week excursion across the ocean". On October 12, at 2:00 am, a sailor named Rodrigo de Triana sighted land, which is now known as The Bahamas. Columbus also "explored the northeast coast of Cuba, and the northwest coast of Hispaniola," or what is now known as the island of Haiti and the Dominican Republic. On March 15, Columbus returned to Spain as a hero, displaying all the exotic goods he had brought back with him from his voyage, such as "tobacco plant, pineapple, turkey, and the sailors' favorite, the hammock"

Six months later, Columbus set sail on another journey, one with the hope of discovering exiting new lands. This time he not only landed on islands like Santa Maria



la Galante and Guadalupe, in the West Indies region of the Caribbean, but he named other islands as he sighted them along the way. Some of these islands included Santa Cruz, and the island chain of the Virgin Islands. He is also given credit for finding the larger islands of Cuba, Puerto Rico, and Jamaica as well.

On his third expedition, which originated May 30, 1498, Columbus left Spain determined again to set foot upon the shores of the New World, but instead found the shores of South America. In South America, Columbus explored Venezuela and the Orinoco River.

The main premise for Columbus's fourth passage, which commenced on May 11, 1502, was to search for the Strait of Malacca, a very narrow strait that is crucial to modern day shipping needs and lies between what we now refer to as Sumatra and the Malay Peninsula. And, as Columbus suspected, it does, indeed, link the Indian Ocean with the South China Sea. Also, on this final expedition, Columbus "spent two months exploring Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica", before he returned to Spain on November 7.

Christopher Columbus is a highly respected historical hero. Not just for his finding the New World, but for harnessing the bravery to venture out into a frightening, previously unexplored, massive water wilderness, while not knowing if he or his charges would ever make it back alive from across an ocean blanketing a earth which he still believed to be flat. We commend him for his incredible findings and

discovery of assets, many of which the United States is built upon today.

Information about the "other side" of Christopher Columbus can be accessed by visiting www.gnu.org, a free subscription-based resource affording the opportunity for anyone to research virtually any topic imaginable. It is a web-site where the "world is your library". Further research on the contents of this article may be obtained by proceeding to the "Columbus Home Page" which is the source for some of the information contained herein.



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