

Home Depot: The Battle Rages On

Undeterred by Recent Planning Dept Decision, a Community Explores its Options

by Edward Rivera

SUNLAND-TUJUNGA—When is a “project” not a “project”?

That was only one of the questions debated by a determined crowd Monday evening as the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council’s (STNC) Design Advisory Committee (DAC) hosted a spirited meeting to discuss the ongoing battle against Home Depot’s plans to build a store in a former K-Mart location on Foothill Boulevard in Sunland.

As No 2 Home Depot spokesperson Joe Barrett told the group, to raucous applause, “We believe our community is at a critical crossroads. We can either go down the path of further industrialization, or we can fight to turn our neglected



“In our office now, when we are really PO’ed at someone, we say ‘Let’s send them a Home Depot letter!’”

community into a family-friendly neighborhood. Foothill Boulevard is already at maximum capacity during certain hours, particularly at the same hours that Home Depot does it’s peak businesses. We would have an unacceptable, unsafe traffic nightmare. ”

The gathering at the North Valley City Hall brought together all of the major players in the ongoing drama. Included were 2nd District Councilmember Wendy Greuel and her staff, the leaders of the No 2 Home Depot committee, four representatives of Home Depot, as well as representatives of the Mayor’s office, and the LA departments of Building and Safety and Planning. Representatives of neighborhood councils and homeowner associations from Pacoima, Shadow Hills, Foothill Trails, Sylmar, Kagel Canyon, La Tuna Canyon, Sun Valley, and Lakeview Terrace attended to demonstrate their opposition to the proposed building improvement store. A letter from the Northeast Coalition of No 2 Home Depot was also read at the meeting.

The meeting, which was equal parts strategy meeting, courtroom trial, and pep rally, was heavily anti-Home Depot, as its representatives faced a barrage of tough questions from members of the DAC as well as the audience members (An informal poll taken at the beginning of the meeting

showed 178 against Home Depot, eight in favor and 17 audience members neutral.) The final meeting attendance count was 360 persons.

Much of the impetus for the meeting came after a recent decision by the LA Department by City Planning to allow Home Depot to continue improvements on the building with construction that, according to the department, did not

Councilmember Greuel, who stayed for the length of the three-and-a-half hour meeting, told the group that her opposition to the Home Depot store remained strong.

qualify as a “project,” as described by LA City regulations. That decision sparked an outcry and immediate appeal from No 2 Home Depot, who argued that the decision was “arbitrary and an abuse of discretion.”

Councilmember Greuel, who stayed for the length of the four-and-a-half hour meeting, told the group that her opposition to the Home Depot store remained strong. She reminded them

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Building and Safety Chief Inspector Dave Keim attempted to explain



Sun Valley Trees Still at Risk

John Eshbach, President of the Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council (SVANC) presented the following information in a letter to the City Planning Commission on October 2, 2006. They were not aware of the hearing that took place on September 28, 2006 and hoped to present their case to save the trees at that bordered two projects to be developed, at 8612, 8614, 8616 and at 8648 through 8724 Glenoaks Boulevard in Sun Valley.

The letter stated: “On September 26-2006, the Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council voted unanimously in favor of supporting a determination to save the many street trees that the Bureau of Street Services has required to be removed for the construction of the two tentative tracts on Glenoaks Boulevard.

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of a strongly worded letter she sent to Home Depot in February of 2005, in which she said she would do everything in her power to see that the store does not open in the neighborhood.

She joked, "In our office now, when we are really PO'ed at someone, we say 'Let's send them a Home Depot letter!'"

Greuel then reviewed the history of the project and her office's involvement and explained her dissatisfaction with the Building and Safety decision. (Were the construction to be declared a "project," Home Depot would then be subject to a host of regulations, including a full Environmental Impact Report and a traffic study.)

Greuel was also distressed after Building and Safety responded to a 30-page appeal filed by No 2 Home Depot with just a three-page memo, which she felt did not address all the points of contention. She went on to explain that while Home Depot is contending that their use of the building does not constitute a change of use, "There are different dynamics at work

with a K-Mart and a Home Depot, there are different traffic patterns, this fight is not over."

Greuel then pledged that she would appeal any decisions in favor of Home Depot "at the highest levels," and explained that LA Plan-

The meeting, which was equal parts strategy meeting courtroom trial, and pep rally, was heavily anti-Home Depot, as its representatives faced a barrage of tough questions from members of the DAC as well as the audience members.

ning Director Gail Goldberg will make the final decision. Greuel herself is barred from appealing directly to the Planning Department.

Building and Safety

Chief Inspector Dave Keim attempted to explain the rationale for the decision, saying that among other issues, the structural alterations that Home Depot planned did not "prolong the life of supporting walls and load-bearing members" of the existing building, and thus did not qualify as a project. This sparked an intense debate as to the nature of the construction plans, and whether or not the floor slabs that Home Depot also planned constitute an integral part of the structure.

Planning contended they did not, while several community members, including a local architect, contended that they did.

Keim also explained that the cost of the new improvements did not exceed 50 percent of the value of the building, which would also constitute a project. According to Keim, the new improvements would cost \$3.5 million dollars of a 7.5 million project, thus failing to trigger a "project" declaration.

"This is a decision based on regulations," he said. "We can't make decisions based on popularity." Community



A DAC record turnout came to voice their opinion of Home Depot in Sunland-Tujunga

members are unconvinced that this was calculated correctly.

One aspect of the plans, however, gave supporters of No 2 Home Depot some hope. Home Depot had at one point, planned to change the auto repair section of the K-Mart Store into their Pro Desk, for professional contractors. Building and Safety sent those plans back to Home Depot for corrections because such a move would be a violation of their "tenant improvement" application, considered a "change of use," and cause for the work to be determined a "project." Home Depot officials then told Keim they had no plans for auto repair at the store.

Any other use of the space would be grounds for revoking the permit, and Keim said he would "Keep a close eye on the auto repair section of the building."

For now, the No 2 Home Depot appeal is at City Planning, the second of three levels. A further appeal would be to the North Valley Area Planning Commission.

Both Greuel and Barrett remain optimistic in spite of the uphill battle they face.

Said Barrett to the Home Depot representative Richard Green, "Pack your bags, Mr. Green, you're not wanted in this town."

Trail And Horse Advocates Gather at Equestrian Center

Los Angeles, CA, the 2nd Annual "State of the Horse" Conference and Awards will be held Saturday, January 27, 2007, 9AM-5PM. The Los Angeles Equestrian Center in Burbank is hosting the event in partnership with. "The New Heaven on Earth Ranch Foundation", Los Angeles Trails Project, and the Valley Horse Owner's Association. Look for updates regarding this year's conference sessions and speakers on the Valley Horse Owners Association web site at: www.VHOA

The theme for the 2007 Conference is **Economic Impact of the Horse Industry**. The conference will once again bring together members of the equine industry, horse groups, members of Neighborhood Councils and representatives of State, Federal and Local Government. The conference will examine issues of major concern to equestrians and mutually beneficial strate-

gies and partnerships for the future of horses in California. The horse industry has a marked effect on trends in real estate, vehicle sales, tourism, event venues, health and group programs.

Last year, the first conference brought together representatives from 3 Congressional Offices, 3 City Mayors, USDA, National Park Service, California State Assembly, National Park Service, Los Angeles City Council, Department of Recreation and Parks, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, State Dept of Conservation and leadership from over 30 equestrian and trail groups. As a direct result, the Mayor of Los Angeles signed a resolution to support Federal Legislation authorizing a study of the "Rim of the Valley".

This year, invited speakers from a variety of disciplines will share their expertise. Neighborhood Councils will join trail enthusiasts

and learn about the issues. Members of government as well as horse and trail experts will be on hand to exchange ideas and discuss the future and benefits of horses and trails in our increasingly urbanized world.

An Admission will be charged for conference sessions, which also includes lunch. A reining saddle valued at \$3,000, donated by Champion Turf Equipment, will be raffled. For more information on admission, saddle raffle tickets, sponsorship or ad space contact:

Michael Carpenter, 818 470-5235 or email: lamiyec@yahoo.com

Mary Benson, 800-660-0650 or email maryb@msn.com

Or Carol Locus Ford: e-mail president@vhoa.org



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Saving Trees - from page 1

Since the 1940's Sheridan Gardens Nursery has been a landmark in the community. and the trees planted along the street are growing vigorously, despite the closure of the nursery, as they have done in the past sixty years. Even the replacement of these trees at a two to one ratio will not replace the millions of green leaves and lofty height of these mature trees. The trees measure up to 24" in diameter and fifty feet in height. Their loss is not something that the developers have any power to mitigate. These trees include eight (8) now protected sycamores along the nursery frontage.

"The trees at the 8648 and 8724 were posted on June 28, 2006. Rosalind Stewart, District Director for Council District Two Office and Jon Esbach, President of the Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council were informed of the tree removal request on August 28, 2006.

Together, the two properties contain over two dozen trees that have canopies shading Glenoaks Boulevard. Alternatives exist. The street widening would only facilitate street parking and not widening the street will not hamper traffic flow.

"Development conditions requiring the installation of twelve-foot wide sidewalk

adjacent to the property line would be amended to a sidewalk and curb and gutter that would accommodate the impacted trees. The Sun Valley Neighborhood Council recommends the street order be modified as required by Street Services in order to save this invaluable resource. Saving existing trees is even more important than planting new ones."

Even the replacement of these trees at a two to one ratio will not replace the millions of green leaves and lofty height of these mature trees.

According to the SVANC the projects, one, the building of apartments and the other, the building of condos, are not the issue and they have been approved. The tree removal and street widening are the issues. One project has already been through the Department of Public Works and the tree removal regarding that property was posted in August. The Council Office notified the SVANC and they ap-

peared at the City Planning Commission on September 28th. The SVANC assumed that the Council Office would take action to amend the project conditions in the form of a council motion to the DPW to save the trees. It has not happened and the SVANC realizes now that the Council Office mistakenly believes that the hearing has not yet taken place. The SVANC expects the hearing for the second project is imminent.

According to Yolanda Fuentes, Department of Public Works Commissioner, the Engineering Department requires the street widening for projects of that magnitude. She has agreed to confer with the Engineering Department to address the concerns of the community. However, it may be too late to save the trees. They are looking for the Council Office to intervene with the Planning Office, the Department of Building and Safety and the Department of Public Works. They want the street widening removed from the projects conditions and as terms for approval of those two projects, Widening Glenoaks Boulevard and removing the trees will not be beneficial the community.

CA Health Services Busy Protecting Your Drinking Water

by Elektra Kruger

The California Department of Health Services (CDHS) has recently proposed the establishment of a maximum allowable level of perchlorate in our drinking water. Perchlorate is both a naturally occurring and a manufactured chemical. As a manufactured chemical, it is used as the primary ingredient of solid rocket propellant, numerous industrial processes and pyrotechnics.

Waste from the manufacture and improper disposal of perchlorate-containing chemicals have been discovered in soil, groundwater, drinking water and irrigation water throughout the State including groundwater wells in Los Angeles County and in the Colorado River. Both are important sources of water for Southern California. When ingested, Perchlorate is known to interfere with the thyroid glands ability to produce hormones, thereby endangering pregnant women, fetuses and young children. These hormones are especially important for normal prenatal and postnatal growth

and brain development. In adults, thyroid hormones are needed for normal body metabolism.

In March of 2004, the California Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OE-HHA) established a "public health goal" (PHG) of 6 parts per billion (ppb) as being a level with no significant health risk based on available toxicological data in the scientific literature. The proposed maximum contaminant level of 6 ppb is reported to be far lower than the 24.5 ppb goal level set by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency, though still greater than the 2 ppb adopted by Massachusetts.

Councilmember Wendy Greuel submitted a Motion to the Los Angeles City Council for a report from the following departments. She requested that they direct the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to provide a report on the potential

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COMMUNITY

Progressive Vigilance in the Foothills

by Nick Krall
Land Use Chairman

It was an exciting week for Sylmar. First, we had the Wednesday morning ground-breaking for the future fire station on Foothill Blvd. at the 210 freeway, next to the Vector Control building at the north end of Sylmar.

The planned fire station, which will bring in desperately needed safety services (yet still leave the area below the "standards" set elsewhere) will be built entirely without public money, being funded, designed and built in conjunction with the huge "Legends at the Cascades" development. The exact date of the construction and

opening of the station is not known, as it is tied to some number of homes being sold, in order to provide the developer with the money to build it.

Tom Clark is redesigning the much-maligned Cascades Golf Club course into a genuine, fun, playable links-style course meandering through approximately 850 new homes, condos and apartments.

Next, the ribbon-cutting for the new stretch of bike-path extending from the Metrolink station at Hubbard and San Fernando Road, for approximately 2 miles up to

Roxford.

The bike path is the first phase of a plan to connect bikeways throughout the Valley and all the way to downtown, enhancing cycling as an authentic alternative to the one-passenger car commutes. Phase two is planned to extend from the south end of the City of San Fernando, which has a bike-lane already in place, through Pacoima, per Councilman Alex Padilla. According to C. Lynne Goldsmith, Transportation Planning Manager of the Metro Bike Program for the MTA, they

are working with Burbank and hopefully Glendale will also work with them to have connecting paths to downtown L.A. The funding for phase one was a combination of City of Los Angeles and County MTA funds.

Some important dates: November 28, P.L.U.M. hears appeals on the Edison-driven, RHC Communities/Pacific Partners Self-storage units that were proposed to be built under a mile of power transmission lines against homeowners' backyards in Sylmar, in exchange for park-use of the power lines right-of-way through Hansen Dam. More than five citizens filed appeals, including Anne Krall, who contended that the findings of land-use hardship required in order to build

commercial businesses on Public-Facilities-Zoned land, simply aren't there. Whatever recommendation PLUM makes, it goes to the City Council on December 13th.

These are two meetings that need a strong showing to send the message, the 800-pound gorillas can't meet in private and determine the future of our lives, nor can they get away with pitting one community against another. United we stand!

The next Sylmar NC Board meeting is Thursday, Nov. 9 at 6:30 PM at Hubbard Street School, and the next SNC Land Use Committee Meeting is Monday November 20, at 6:30 p.m. at the SNC office, next to our City Councilperson's field office.

Sylmar NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Mission Hills NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

By Betty Ley
Board Member

Our next Neighborhood council meeting will be November 14, 2006, at San Jose St. Elementary School Auditorium, 14928 Clymer St. Our Business meeting starts at 6:00 p.m. A presentation by Holy Cross Hospital regarding an update on their expansion will begin at 7:00 p.m.

We received a telephone call from a Mr. Oliver Bud. His wife and others have a support group called "New Voice Club" for people who have lost their voice to cancer. The club meets at the Bermuda Trailer Park in Mission Hills at the Parks Club House on the second Saturday of each month from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. People apparently come from as far as Ventura to attend this Support Group. Mr. Bud said that November 11, their speaker will be Dr. Blackwell from UCLA. Contact Tess O'Neal and his wife Ginger. Their phone number is 805-527-2592. It would be awesome if the information for this support group received more awareness through Community News.



Councilman Alex Padilla cuts the ribbon to officially open the San Fernando Bike path..

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LAPD Hosts Open "Haunted" Houses



Foothill Area. Community Relations Officer Karen York, "Clown" CPAB Co-Chair Vicki Burch and Reserve Officer Haydee Capdet.

In keeping with an annual tradition, both LAPD Foothill Area and Mission Area Stations held their open house's on Saturday, October 28, that included a "Haunted House" along with treats and events for children. Parts of the stations closed in order to be decorated and set up with creatures that go "boo" in the night. Scary parts were played by community volunteers who were made up to look like the real thing. Plenty of treats were on hand for both children and adults. Police officers and community volunteers worked together to make their events a success.



Mission Area volunteers, Peter John, Ruth Cano with a white face, and Julie Cano

Pacoima NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

By Edwin Ramiriz
President

We are asking stakeholders to please take the opportunity to comment or to make your recommendations with regards to new housing projects, new schools, Street Vending or about the changes in our community. Your voice is important to us! We will tell you about our activities, goals, and resources and explain how you can help eliminate blight, abandoned vehicles, and bulky items on Streets. Our goal is to help improve our community and the delivery of City services. Take the opportunity to interact with the representatives of the Mayor, Alex Padilla, Tony Cardenas, Cindy Montanez, Richard Alarcon, LAPD, LAUSD, City Departments and most important other Pacoima residents. Find out who is responsible for what and how we can all help monitor the progress and improvements. With your help, Pacoima will become cleaner, nicer and a safer community.

Our next meeting is Nov. 15 at 6:30 PM. Our next elections take place December 2, 06 at Pacoima Youth & Family Center, 11243 Glen Oaks Blvd, Pa-

coima, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information please feel free to call (818) 590-4792 or email: pacoimaneighborhoodcouncil@yahoo.com.

Upcoming Pacoima Board Member Elections information:

Who Can Participate in the Neighborhood Council?

- Any stakeholder (community member) may vote in the election and/or run for any position on the board of directors for which they qualify.
- A stakeholder is any person who:
 - Lives or
 - Works or
 - Owens Property or
 - Participates in a Community Based Organization

What seats are available in the PNC Board of Directors?

- At Large (2) seats open
- Community Based Organization (1) seat open
- Educational Institution (1) seat open
- Senior (1) seat open
- Retail (1) seat open
- Home/Condo Owner (2) seats open

- Industrial (1) seat open
- Renter (2) seats open
- Youth (2) seats open

What Is Expected of Board Members?

- Attend monthly board meetings and committee meetings as needed (generally held in the evenings.)
- Work for the betterment of our Neighborhood Council area.
- Listen to and act on neighborhood concerns and interests.
- Avoid conflicts of interest.
- Have at least one method of being reached by community stakeholders.
- Help decide how best to run the organization and spend its \$50, 000 annual funding from the City.
- Attend free trainings hosted by the Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment to learn how to get things done.

Granada Hills NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

By Kim Thompson
President

I would like to tell you a little bit about the GHNNC. We were certified on September 10, 2002. We are the liaison between the various agencies of the City of L.A., Councilmember Greig Smith's office and the community. We appear at various Commission Hearing on behalf of community interests. We bring items of interest from our Stakeholders to the attention of our Council Office. Our approximate boundaries are, North: County Line, West: Aliso Canyon, South: 118 Freeway and East: 405 Freeway.

Our Board is comprised of 25 Board Members who are elected by the Stakeholders. Some Board Members represent specific interest groups such as Educational,

Neighborhood Organizations, Environmental Groups and Faith Based Groups.

Our meetings are held the last Monday of every month at Van Gogh Elementary Auditorium, 17120 Van Gogh Street in Granada Hills at 7:00 p.m. Our agenda are posted 72 hours before every meeting at 5 different locations: HOW's Market, the display cabinet between the Sugar Suite and Tony's Mexican Food, Albertson's Market, the Odyssey Restaurant and several kiosks in Bee Canyon and O'Melveny Park. These agendas show committee reports, motions to be voted on, public comment on any subject and issues that you wish to bring before us. We want to know what we can do for you.

History Of Granada Hills

We received the following correspondence from Jim Hier, who is writing a book on the history of Granada Hills.

A quick note to let you know the response to the Granada Hills History Project has been great, but I still need to find more photographs and other images that help illustrate events and life in Granada Hills through the decades.

If you previously thought you didn't have anything that could be used in the book, you might be surprised. In addition to "professional" photographs, we are interested in more informal photos that help show what it was like living in Granada Hills or illustrate some of

the more memorable events that have occurred there in the last 80+ years.

Images we are looking for include: Award or dedication ceremonies, Community events, street fairs, concerts or parades, School programs or activities, Local sports teams or sporting events, Photos that document construction of homes and buildings or damage resulting from some of the natural disasters that have struck the area over the years. Pictures of a friend or family member who was an early Granada Hills resident, active in a local church or civic group. Maybe a snapshot of a local celebrity who lived next door or a more nationally known figure that happened to visit Granada Hills and you were lucky enough to snap a picture.

If you think you might have something that can be used, a quick reply to this email is all that's needed. If you aren't sure, contact me anyway and I will let

you know if what you have sounds like something that can be used.

Thanks in advance for any consideration you can give to help out this effort to preserve the history of Granada Hills. My local contact is: Jim Summers 818-321-6259 Jim Hier www.granadahillshistory.com

Reminder

The Rotary Club of Granada Hills is holding a formal rededication of the Granada Hills Veterans Memorial Park on Veterans Day, Saturday, November 11, 11:00 a.m., in Granada Hills Veterans Park (corner of Zelzah/Chatsworth). We invite you to help support our veterans and honor the sacrifices of all the members of the Armed Services. Participants will include Councilmember Greig Smith, along with other elected officials, community dignitaries, veteran's organizations and color guards.

COMMUNITY



DAC Meeting with Wendy Greuel

A big "thank you" to Councilmember Wendy Greuel for meeting with the Design Advisory Committee of the STNC. The North Valley City Hall auditorium had a record turnout ("370") of neighbors who came out to hear from Wendy on the biggest issue in our community - the proposed Home Depot at the site of the former K-Mart. The evening started a little after 7 p.m. and didn't end til after 11 p.m. in an effort to hear from everybody. Thank you to Wendy's staff, Department of Building and Safety Staff, Department of City Planning staff, the STNC, DAC and you for staying the duration. The biggest item I see that the Dept. of Building and Safety went

Sunland Tujunga NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

away with is the confusion as to what will happen to the old auto use portion of the former K-Mart site. Building and Safety promised to look into this part of the plans more carefully.

Thank you to our neighboring neighborhood councils and community groups for turning out in support of the Sunland-Tujunga community. This was an impressive show of unity and support to us and we thank you, thank you!

Wednesday, Nov 8th General Meeting several important recommendations regarding our Tujunga Watershed will be presented.

Check the STNC web site for these recommendations and other updates at www.stnc.org

Citywide Issues: New City Planning Director, Gail Goldberg will soon unveil a strategic plan for the City's Planning Department. In the meantime, be sure to attend one of the following workshops on the Neighborhood

Character Study (Mansionization Study).

The Neighborhood Character Study (also called Mansionization Study) Workshops will be held on November 9, 14, 15, and 16, from 5:00-7:30 PM at different locations throughout the City of Los Angeles. It is important for the City to hear from you regarding on how to best address the issue of Mansionization as it affects non-hillside and non-coastal properties. The Department has developed a citywide proposal that would ultimately address key issues raised by various communities. This is your opportunity to learn more about the study and to share your thoughts on the Department's citywide proposal. I hope you will plan to attend.

Thursday,
November 9, 2006*
City Hall, Room 1010
200 N. Spring St.
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Tuesday,
November 14, 2006*
Valley Region
Marvin Braude Building
6262 Van Nuys Blvd.,
Room 1A
Van Nuys, CA 90012

Wednesday,
November 15, 2006
West Region
Felicia Mahood Senior
Multipurpose Center
11338 Santa Monica
Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90025

Thursday,
November 16, 2006*
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* Spanish translators will be present - Traductores de espanol estaran presentes. Spread the word to attend either of the above dates.

The Citywide Budget Survey deadline is November 15. Be a part of the City's budget planning for Fiscal Year 2007-08 by completing the survey online. You can make a difference in the priorities that are important to you and your neighbors. Visit www.lacityneighborhoods.com and click on the Budget survey link. Printed survey forms are available at the STNC office.

912/Neighborhood Council Review Commission - Plan now to attend the North Valley Public Hearing to be held at San Fernando High School. On Nov. 21st, 6:30. See ad this issue for more details. This is your opportunity to speak out about the future of the neighborhood council system.

How to Contact the STNC: The STNC meets every second Wednesday of the month at Mt. Gleason Middle School at 10965 Mt. Gleason Avenue, Sunland at 7 p.m. All stakeholders are welcome and meetings operate under California's open meeting rules (the Brown Act). Agendas are posted on the STNC web site and also at the S-T Chamber, 8250 Foothill Blvd., Unit B; the Sunland Senior Center, 8640 Fenwick, Sunland and North Valley City Hall, 7747 Foothill, Tujunga. Agendas are also posted at local businesses in Sunland and Tujunga. You can also sign up to receive STNC by e-mail through the STNC web site at www.stnc.org

Check the STNC web site for updates and other committee meetings. Call the STNC office to verify meeting time and location. Thank you to The North Valley Reporter for providing space for this article.

NVCH = North Valley Neighborhood City Hall, 7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga

STNC Office:
7747 Foothill Blvd.,
Room 101, Tujunga, CA
91042. (818) 951-7411
FAX (818) 951-7412

Please visit the STNC web site often for new updates and information at: www.stnc.org

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DAC Chairman
Penny Barcena
District 1
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District 2
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District 3
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Timothy Borquez
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Fax(818) 951-5225

November 8 Monthly STNC meeting - 7 p.m. - Mt. Gleason Middle School
November 11 Veteran's Day
November 18 Outreach Committee - 1 p.m. at Joselito's
November 29 Executive Committee - 7 p.m. at NVCH
November 30 Budget Committee - 7 p.m. at NVCH

Meeting times are subject to change. Check the STNC web site for updates and other committee meetings. Call the STNC office to verify meeting time and location. Thank you to The North Valley Reporter for providing space for this article.

NVCH = North Valley Neighborhood City Hall, 7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga

STNC Office: Contact Ed Rock, Office & Logistics Manager, 7747 Foothill Blvd., Room 101, Tujunga, CA 91042. (818) 951-7411 FAX (818) 951-7412 Please visit the STNC web site often for new updates and information at: www.stnc.org

Drinking Water - from page 3

impact, enforcement of a 6 ppb perchlorate maximum contaminant level (MCL) in our drinking water may have on the LA water supply, to the Council's Energy and Environment Committee. Greuel further requested that the Council instruct the Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) to submit a report supporting this new regulation, as the official position of the City of Los Angeles, to the Council's Energy and Environment Committee. Also, to submit a statement of this position of support to the CDHS.

The report submitted by the City's EAD, supports the CDHS' establishment of a maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 6 ppb for perchlorate in our drinking water. It also supports the establishment of a monitoring system for determining compliance with the MCL of 6 ppb. The report also supports establishing a means to ascertain an appropriate treatment method for remediating perchlorate contamination in excess of this MCL. The EAD reported that passage of this State regulation would protect all California residents from the potential adverse effects of perchlorate, including the residents of Los Angeles, given that groundwater contamination can spread poten-

tially affecting Los Angeles water supplies even if the contamination does not originate in Los Angeles.

Water resources are in increasingly short supply, therefore, water is often bought and sold as a commodity. Additionally, water bottled in other parts of the State is commonly sold in Los Angeles. This proposed statewide regulation will ensure that all drinking water in the state meets the high standards already supposedly achieved by the LADWP. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) reported that it would be able to meet this regulation with existing infrastructure. The DWP reports that to impose this 6 ppb PHG regulation should not result in any fiscal impact to the City of Los Angeles, although statewide it may reach as much as \$24 million. The DWP has been monitoring perchlorate since 1997 and claims that since that time perchlorate has never been detected in water supplied to DWP customers. The DWP admits that, in the past, 8 of the 90 municipal water supply wells have tested positive for perchlorate (and 5 of those at levels above the proposed 6 ppb PHG). At that time, the DWP resolved to provide water below a 4 ppb detec-

Foothill Trails District NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Elections for the Foothill Trails Board of Directors were held on Saturday, November 4, at the Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church in Sunland. They are one of the smallest Neighborhood Council districts with approximately 20,000 stakeholders, because their area is mostly rural. However, they were pleased with the nearly 200 stakeholders that turned out to vote because also have the largest geographic area to cover. In fact, they are having a difficulty locating an area for their office that is available and agreeable to all their stakeholders. They hold their meeting alternating between La Tuna Canyon, Shadow Hills and Lake View Terrace, but they do need an office that is located within their district and they are open to suggestions.

Their new board for the year 2006-2007 is provisional until the votes have been ratified by DONE. They are expected to be: District Reps. Christine Hughes and Kevin Davis, District 2 Rep. Marianne Berglund, District 3 Rep. Erwing Davis, District 4 Reps. Cile Borman and Sandee Ferman, District 5 Reps. Mary Benson and Terry Kaiser, District 6 Reps. Ken Keeble and Ronald G. Sipus, At Large Reps. Callie Ferman and Ted Lange, Current President Mary Ann Geyer. Foothill Trails elects their Executive Board from amongst their representatives, which will be done at the next meeting after ratification is completed.

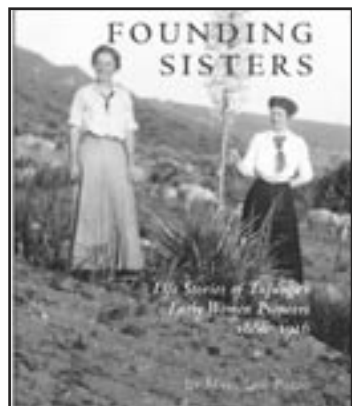
Their next meeting will be Thursday, November 16 at 7 p.m. the Chapel of Village Christian School at 8930 Village Ave. in Sun Valley. According to President Mary Ann Geyer they will determine if there is to be a December meeting at that time.

tion level and to research operations and treatment options to deal with this contaminant. They claim that since 2002, the levels of perchlorate in those wells have decreased to undetectable levels. They claim they are continuing to investigate sources of perchlorate contamination, monitor perchlorate levels and to research new treatment methods, as

they become available.

The LADWP is also supporting the Metropolitan Water Districts efforts to aggressively eliminate sources of perchlorate contamination in the Colorado River. In their report to City Council, the EAD enclosed a copy of draft comments addressed to the State's California Department of Health Services. It is in support of the

CDHS' establishment of an enforceable MCL of 6 ppb for perchlorate in the State's drinking water. It also includes a request for Council authorization to submit those comments to the California Department of Health Services prior to the close of the Nov 3, 2006, Public Comment Period on this new regulation.



Book Signing & Dinner
Tuesday
November 14
6 pm
Elks Lodge
Tujunga

BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL WOMEN

of Sunland Tujunga will honor local author and historian, Mary Lou Pozzo, at a book signing dinner on Tuesday, November 14, 2006 at the Elks Lodge in Tujunga - book signing at 6:00pm, dinner at 7:00. Dinner is \$20.00. Mary Lou's book, "Founding Sisters," life stories of Tujunga's early women pioneers, 1886-1926, has been recognized as an authentic pictorial and descriptive work of our local women pioneers. The public is welcome and reservations may be made at 818-353-5514 by Nov.11th.

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WEDNESDAY, NOV. 8

- MHNC OUTREACH COMMITTEE.**
10161 Sepulveda, MH
6:30 pm
STNC General Meet.
Mt. Gleason Middle School
10955 Mt. Gleason, S-T
www.stnc.org
7 pm 951-7411
- 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
- SYLMAR WOMEN'S CLUB**
Odyssey Restaurant
15600 Odsey, G. H.
\$20 833-8033

THURSDAY, NOV. 9

- FOOTHILL CPAB (COMM POLICE ADVISORY BOARD.)**
10631 Vinedale, S.V
6 pm 756-8866
- SYLMAR N/C MEET.**
Hubbard St. Elementary
13325 Hubbrad St.
6:30 pm 833-8737
- STNC BYLAWS COMMIT**
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
3 pm 951-7411
- S-T LIONS CLUB**
Joselitos Restaurant
7308 Foothill, S-t
6:30 pm 353-5420
- S-T COORDINATING COUNCIL**
Joselitos Restaurant
7308 Foothill. S-T
11:30 am 353-7056
- ANDRES PICO ADOBE**
1 0940 Sepulveda, M.H.
Tours 1 pm-4 pm
365-7810
- KIWANIS CLUB**
Denny's Restaurant
Gladstone & Hubbard, Syl
12 pm 367-9310

FRIDAY, NOV. 10

- FREE FOR TEENS ANIME & MANGA OTAKU CLUB & GAMES**
Sylmar Librfary
14561 Polk, Syl
3:30 pm
- SPAGETTI DINNER**
Elks Lodge #2098
10137 Commerce, Tuj
\$5 6:30 pm 352-2098

SATURDAY, NOV. 11

- MEET & GREET NEW OFFICERS**
S.F. Valley NAACP
11300 Glenoaks, Pac
Reservations
1-4 pm 877-245-9381
- POKEMON LEAGUE**
S-T Library
7771 Foothill, Tuj
1-4 pm 352-1419
- VETERANS DAY PARADE & FESTIVAL**
San Fernando Valley
Laurel Canyon &
San Fernando Mission, Pac
11 am
- STNC OUTREACH COMMIT**
Joselitos Restaurant
7308 Foothill, S-T
1 pm 951-7411
- VOLUNTEER TRAINING FOR MEND**
13460 Van Nuys, Pac
8:30 am- 2:00 pm
www.mendpoverty.org

SUNDAY, NOV. 12

- BOLTON HALL MUSEUM**
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420

MONDAY, NOV. 13

- ANDRES PICO ADOBE**
1 0940 Sepulveda, M.H.
Tours 1 pm-4 pm
365-7810
- AARP #140**
Senior Center
8640 Fenwick, S-T
1-3 pm 353-9571

TUESDAY, NOV. 14

- S-T CHAMBER BOARD INSTALLATION**
S-T Elks Lodge
11037 Commerce Tuj.
Reservations 352-4433
- MHNC BOARD OF GOVERN. & STAKEHOLDERS GENERAL MEETING.**
San Jose St. School
14928 Clymer, M.H.
Board 6 pm General 7 pm

- BOLTON HALL MUSEUM**
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420

- SHADOW HILLS PROPERTY Owners Assoc. (SHOPA)**
Tierra del Sol
9919 Sunland, S.H.
7 pm

- S-T KIWANIS**
Joselitos Restaurant
7308 Foothill, S-T
6 pm 352-4857

- ETI CORRAL 12**
Sylmar Chamber Office
13867 Foothill, #104, Syl
7:30 pm

- SUN VALLEY AREA N/C**
Villa Scalabrini
10631 Vinedale, S.V.
6:30 pm

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 15

- SYLMAR CHAMBER LUNCHEON DEPUTY MAYOR BUD OVRUM, HOUSING & ECON. DEVELOP.**
China Buffet
13760 Foothill, Syl
11:30 am 367-1177

- 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

- PACOIMA N/C**
Pac Youth & Family Cent.
11243 Glenoaks, Pac
6:30 pm 590-4792

- S-T LIONS CLUB**
Joselitos Restaurant
7308 Foothill, S-T
6:30 pm 353-5420

THURSDAY, NOV. 16

- SNC LAND USE**
SNC Office
13515 ½ Hubbard, Syl
6:30 pm 833-8737

- S-T ELKS LODGE**
10137 Commerce, S-T
8 pm 352-2098

- STNC SAFETY COMMIT**
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
6 pm 951-7411

- ST-SERVS/CERT**
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
7 pm 352-5504

- FOOTHILLS TRAILS N/C**
Village Christian School,
8930 Village Ave., SV
7 pm 601-4407

- LAPD BLOCK CAPTAINS**
13867 Foothill, Syl
7:30 p, 367-1177

FRIDAY, NOV 17

- THANKSGIVING DINNER & KOREAN BBQ**
All Nations Church
10000 Foothill, LTV.
Reservations 470-5235.
Free 6 pm

- OFFICERS INSTALLATION S-T CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**
10137 Foothill, Tuj
RSVP 11/14 352-4433
\$20 6:30 pm

SATURDAY, NOV. 18

- SAN FERNANDO PIONEER MEMORIAL CEMETARY**
Foothill & Bledsoe, Syl
9 - noon 365-5860

- GRANADA HILLS N/C PICNIC IN THE PARK**
Bee Canyon Park
Van Gogh St between
Sesnon & Tital Ave. GH
11 am - 4 pm

- CERT LEVEL 2 CLASS GRANADA HILLS CHARTER Hi School**
8am - 5 pm
www.cert.la.com



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SUNDAY, NOV. 19

BOLTON HALL MUSEUM
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420

BREAKFAST-OMELET BAR
S-T Elks Lodge
10137 Commerce, S-T
\$6 9 am-12 pm 352-2098

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MONDAY, NOV. 20

ANDRES PICO ADOBE
1 0940 Sepulveda, M.H.
Tours 1 pm-4 pm
365-7810

4H CLUB MEET.
Shadow Hills Pres. Church
10158 Sunland, S. H.
7 pm 352-0864

TUESDAY, NOV 21

BOLTON HALL MUSEUM
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH
Stonehurst Park
9901 Dronefield
7 pm 768-0988

BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL
WOMEN
7 pm for info. 352-4415

ARLETA N/C
Beachy Elementary School
9757 Beachy, Arl
6:30 pm 897-9122

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 22

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

MONDAY, NOV. 20

ANDRES PICO ADOBE
1 0940 Sepulveda, M.H.
Tours 1 pm-4 pm
365-7810

SUNDAY, NOV. 26

HOLLYWOOD CHRISTMAS
PARADE
Hollywood Blvd at Orange to
Vine Ave.
5 pm

BOLTON HALL MUSEUM
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420

MONDAY, NOV. 27

ANDRES PICO ADOBE
1 0940 Sepulveda, M.H.
Tours 1 pm-4 pm
365-7810

GRANADA HILLS NORTH N/C
Van Gogh Elementary
17160 Van Gogh, G.H.
www.ghnc.org
7 pm 360-4346

MISSION HILLS N/C
COMMUNITY BAR-B-Q
MHNC Committee
MHNC Office
10161 Sepulveda, M.H.
6:30-8:30 pm

TUESDAY, NOV. 28

BOLTON HALL MUSEUM
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-3420

S-T KIWANIS
Joselitos Restaurant
7308 Foothill, S-T
6 pm 352-4857

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION
SERVICE CREDIT FOR
SCHOOL
Sylmar Library
14561 Polk, Syl
3:30-4:30 pm 367-6102

ETI CORRAL
13867 Foothill Syl
7:30 pm 367-9177

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 29

SYLMAR CHAMBER MIXER
Barry Sylvan Co.
13752 Foothill #2, Syl
5:30 pm 367-1177

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

STNC-DAC (LAND USE)
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
7 pm 951-7411

FRIDAY, NOV. 30

STNC BUDGET COMMIT
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
7 pm 951-7411

GRANADA HILLS NORTH N/C
Van Gogh Elementary
17160 Van Gogh, G.H.
7 pm 360-4346

SATURDAY, DEC. 2

WORKSHOP COMMUNITY
GREENING
Lake View Terr Rec.
9-3 pm 623-4879

WOMEN'S CLUB LUNCHEON
Odyssey Restaurant
15600 Odyssey, GH
10 am 833-8033

SUNDAY, DEC. 3

HOOP SHOOT AT
Verdugo Hills Hi by
S-T Elks Lodge
Info at 335-3610

HOLIDAY VARIETY SHOW
Lake View Terr. Rec Center
11075 Foothill, LVT
6:30 pm 899-8087

"COWBOY HOLIDAY
PARADE"
on Chatsworth to Petit Park
Ave. to Zelzah Ave.
1:30 pm

HOLIDAY SHOW
Branford Rec. Center
13306 Branford St. Arl
6 pm 893-4923

THURSDAY, DEC. 7

NETWORKING BREAKFAST
Denny's Restaurant
13201 Gladstone, Syl
7:30 am 367-1177

SATURDAY, DEC. 9

TREE PLANTING WORKSHOP
Hansen Dan Recreation
9 am- 1 pm 623-4879

ELECTIONS SUN VALLEY
AREA N/C
J.H.F. Polytechnic High
12431 Roscoe, S.V.
10 am - 4 pm

MONDAY, DEC. 11

STNC-DAC (LAND USE)
COMMITTEE
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, Tuj
7 pm 951-7411

TUESDAY, DEC. 12

STNC- BYLAWS COMMITTEE
STNC-DAC (LAND USE)
COMMITTEE
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, Tuj
7 pm 951-7411

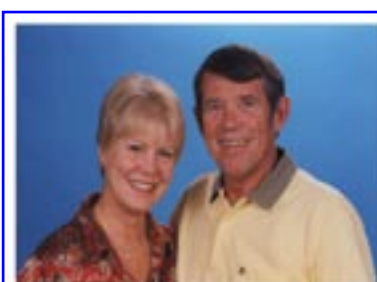
SUN VALLEY AREA N/C
Villa Scalabrini
10631 Vinedale, S.V.
6:30 pm

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13

STNC-GENERAL MEETING
7747 Foothill, S-T
7 pm 951-7411

THURSDAY, DEC 14

Chamber Luncheon
China Town Buffet
3760Foothill, Syl
11:30 am
367-1177



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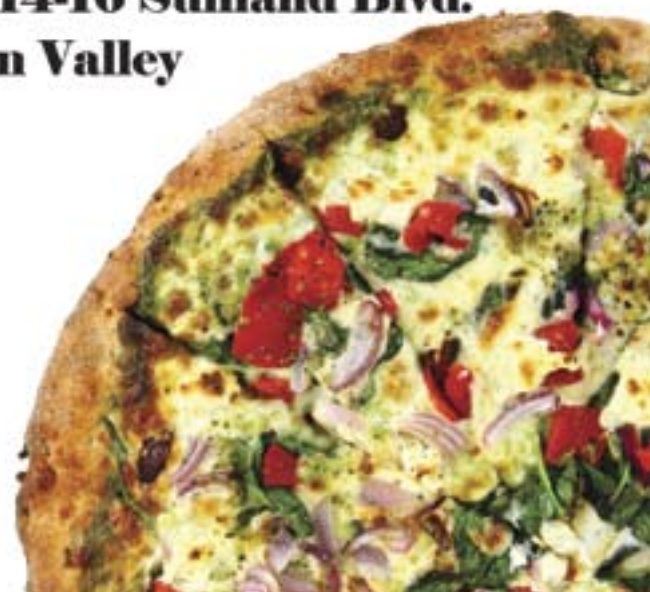
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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

**3rd Annual San Fernando Valley
Veterans Day Parade & Festival**

San Fernando Mission Blvd, M.H. to Paxton in Pacoima
11:00 am followed by Street Fair, Richie Valens Park

Friday, November 17

**Thanksgiving Dinner & Korean Bar-B-Q
All Nations Church**

10000 Foothill Blvd., Lake View Terrance
Free – 6 pm – Reservations reqd 470-5235n

Saturday, November 18

**3rd Annual Granada Hills N/C
Picnic in the Park**

Bring Picnic Lunch, Blanket, Chairs & Umbrella
Food Vendors, Classic Cars, Live Music, Moon Bounce
Councilmember Greig Smith will appear at noon
Van Gogh St. Between Sesnon Blvd. & Titian Ave
Visit www.chnnc.org

Sunday, November 19

Pasadena Doo Dah Parade

Spoof of “other famous parade”

Raymond & Colorado Sts. Old Pasadena
Free – 1:30 pm – 626-440-7379

**Wednesday, November 22 through
Friday December 29**

Annual Holiday Light Festival

Largest Holiday themed event in So. California
Enjoy from within vehicles
Griffith Park along Crystal Spring Drive
Free - pm to 10 pm 1-888-527-2757

Sunday, November 26

75th Annual Hollywood Christmas Parade

Hollywood Blvd., east from Orange Ave. to Vine Ave.,
right on Vine, southbound to Sunset Blvd,
westbound to Orange Ave.
Bring Blankets and chairs
Free – 6 p.m. – 10 p.m. – 323-469-8311

Sunday, December 3

**23rd Annual Granada Hills Holiday Parade
“A Cowboy Holiday”**

On Chatsworth to Petit Park Ave to Zelzah Ave.
1:30 pm

Wednesday, December 6

Holiday Variety Show

Children perform dances, acts and other talents
Lake View Terrace Recreation Center
11075 Foothill Blvd., Lake View Terrace
Free – 6:30 pm 899-8087

Friday, December 8

Holiday Show

Visit from Santa, Performances by preschool,
ballet, jazz, Latin Dance,
Tae Kwon Do & special performance by Senior Citizens
Dance Club and Child Care Center
Branford Recreation Center, 3306 Branford St., Arleta
Free – 6 pm – 893-4923

I was Just Thinking...

P. Vincent DiNova

Veterans' Day, formerly known as Armistice Day, is celebrated this year on Saturday, November 11. Many of us have a family member(s) who is a veteran, or, at the very least, we all know someone who is a veteran. This would be as good time to visit with that person and offer him or her a firm handshake, or even a warm hug for a “job well done”. It is through the combined efforts of our dedicated soldiers and veterans that our country continues to shine as the beacon of democracy for other fledgling freedom loving governments across the globe. Those with whom you are able to converse are the fortunate ones. They are alive and well and hopefully in a safe place. But, as Donald C. Amorosi, Chairman of the Northeast POW/MIA Network in South Glens Falls, N.Y. relates, and as is evidenced by the following article, not all military families are quite so lucky.

The North Valley Reporter is privileged to include among its periodic contributors, Donald C. Amorosi. Mr. Amorosi is a Navy veteran who has spent the better part of three decades working on behalf of all American veterans. He is associated with numerous veterans' organizations and causes and is extremely well versed on most all veterans' issues, especially those involving American POW's & MIA's. With Veterans' Day on the horizon, we invited Mr. Amorosi to submit an article for the current issue of the North Valley Reporter. In our September 27 edition I wrote an article addressing the POW/MIA situation in our country. In that article I shared with you information about a missing soldier named Staff Sergeant Matt Maupin that was provided to me by Mr. Amorosi. He has forwarded to me a copy of a most interesting transcript of an October 13, 2006 broadcast from WKRC, TV 12, Cincinnati, OH. Sergeant Maupin was the topic of that broadcast. The transcript was forwarded to Mr. Amorosi by Lynn O'Shea of the National Alliance of Families, an organization intimately involved with all POW/MIA issues. In the matter of Sgt. Maupin, we can only imagine the an-



guish of this soldier's family as they were kept in the dark while they awaited any factual news regarding their loved one-- news that should have come from a military who's responsibility it is to act in the best interest of Sgt. Maupin and his family. Following is the most recent information regarding his possible fate:

New Effort or Last Ditch Effort—On October 13 WKRC 12 Cincinnati reported on a new effort to locate Sgt. Matt Maupin, Prisoner of War in Iraq. According to a story filed by local 12 reporter Paul Adler: “A new push by the Army to find Sergeant Matt Maupin has resulted in a paid advertisement that appeared on Iraqi television. A military official close to the project told local 12 the ad produced no new leads during its run. That official also expressed doubts that Matt Maupin is alive. We want to make it clear, this military official requested his name be withheld as part of our report”.

“Tonight he shows us the ad... You may not understand the spoken words, but here's the translation: ‘Help heal the pain of these separated families.’ The ad is a plea to find Matt Maupin, but you don't see him until 15 seconds after the start. His parents don't appear for another 20 seconds...”

“An official in Iraq, close to the production of the ad, told us the men who attacked Matt's convoy are hard core opponents, very little will get them to talk. The military official told us the ad focused on Iraqis because, he says, the majority of Iraqis don't care what

happens to Americans”.

Carolyn Maupin (mother): I'm just hoping and praying there's someone over there that's a little bit different than that. Maybe they feel a little bit differently, believe a little differently”.

“Our source told us the ad produced no new leads. He went on to say it's decreasingly likely that we'll elicit information on Matt's location and increasingly likely he's dead or deceased. As you might expect, those are fighting words for Army officials who speak on the record, and they're fighting words for Matt's parents too”.

Carolyn Maupin: “We're to keep our hope up. And praying until they can prove to us 100 percent either way. And that's what I'm going to do. And I realize we only have a 50/50 chance here, but I'm not going the low road, I'm going the high road”.

“The Army's official stance is: ‘We're committed to tracking all leads. The goal is to return Staff Sergeant Matt Maupin. We have no substantiated evidence he's deceased’. While others express doubts, Matt's parents expect no less than a safe return”.

Keith Maupin (father): “Just bring Matt home. That's all I ask of you”.

Is the Army Preparing to Declare Matt Maupin Dead?—“Several months ago we were told, by a very well placed individual, that the Army believed Sgt. Maupin is dead and would like to change his status.

We did not report this

Continued - next page



Neighborhood Council Review Commission Public Hearing

Seven years ago, the City of Los Angeles created a system of Neighborhood Councils to give you a greater voice in local government. These are elected groups of your neighbors and other local stakeholders who give advice to the City Council and City Departments about how to better serve your neighborhood.

**TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 21, 2006
6:30 PM to 9:30 PM**

The Neighborhood Council Review Commission will be holding a public hearing in the North Valley Planning Area. Written comments or brief spoken comments are welcome.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

- ❖ How well is your Neighborhood Council representing you and your needs?
- ❖ Do people know about the Neighborhood Councils?
- ❖ Do Neighborhood Councils have the right roles and powers?
- ❖ Is the City government organized to help the Neighborhood Councils?
- ❖ How can we make the system better?

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information, as we usually like at least a second source of confirmation. WKRC has now confirmed that information. While the WKRC story is soft in its wording, no punches were pulled when we were told the Army believes Maupin is dead. When we were told of this information, we asked why the Army had not acted on the status. Our answer was a pointed look, with a, 'Well...' that trailed off into a shrug of the shoulders. Our

response was, 'The POW/MIA groups.' There was a slight nod of the head and the topic was changed".

Unfortunately, if the information contained in the last paragraph above is true, Sgt. Matt Maupin will not live to become a veteran. He will have paid the ultimate sacrifice for what I hope is a grateful nation. And as we approach this Veterans' Day I ask that you keep Sgt. Matt Maupin and his family in mind And

as you mingle and speak with veterans, feel free to ask them about their military experiences. Many will gladly engage you. However, for some, the recall may be too painful. In such instances a simple "thanks" may make them feel that their contributions were all well worth their effort. If you acknowledge this day in even the simplest of ways, you can not be unaffected by those dedicated uniformed men and women who have

served your country.

In the article above, Keith Maupin, Sgt. Matt Maupin's father pleaded with the Army: "Just bring Matt home...".

And each of us should be demanding that our politicians and generals to do their best to bring them *all* home.

Donald C. Amorosi and the Northeast POW/MIA Network can be reached at kris1976@verizon.net, or

at 33 Wilson Ave., Glens Falls, NY, 1-518-792-2057.

Lynn O'Shea and the National Alliance of Families can be reached at lynnoshea@nationalalliance.org, or at 1-718-846-4350.

SOUND Off

Friends of Granada Hills

Remember enjoying an ice cream at Currie's in the old Alpha Beta shopping center? How about the BIG slide at the corner of Chatsworth and Zelzah (across the street from where the Treasury was) or the trampoline pits on Chatsworth (where the Frosty Queen is)? Maybe you learned to swim at the swim school on White Oak. These are just some of the great old memories that have been coming into the Granada Hills History Project (www.GranadaHillsHistory.com).

In fact, the response and interest in the forthcoming book on the history of Granada Hills has been great. But I could still use some additional photographs and other images (this is going to be a pictorial history of Granada Hills after all).

With the Holidays approaching I know people are going to be rushed and getting focused on things a lot more important than the Granada Hills History Project. But if you were thinking about participating, I would appreciate hearing what you have that you think would be of interest.

Remember you will not be surrendering or losing control of your photographs and other material. I simply need to secure a useable scan of your items (information on the publisher's scanning information can be found here

<http://granadahillshistory.com/GranadaHillsHistoryScanSpecs.htm>). If you don't have the ability to scan your material, I will be happy to work with you to figure out the most convenient way to

get it done.

To that end, I am going to be in Granada Hills from Saturday, November 4th through Saturday, November 11th and will be more than happy to visit with you to discuss what you have and see if it can be used in the book.

Here is a list of some of the events I am interested in including the book and am looking for additional pictures of:

Historic/Memorable Events—1971 Sylmar Earthquake (earthquake damage, evacuation photos from Northridge Park or Granada High, the fire at Thrifty Drug Store, Van Norman Dam, etc.), 1994 Northridge Earthquake (earthquake damage, President Clinton's visit to GH, etc.), the 1991 Jewish Community Center hostage taking, the Red Adair Gas Well fire,

Knott's Landing and other movie and television location filming, etc.

Community Events The Annual Holiday Parade, Dedication of the Granada Hills Library, plays at the Granada Theatre, Jimi Hendricks at Devonshire Downs, Miss Granada Hills competitions, Forth of July celebrations, the Petit Park Band Shell, the Bookmobile, etc.

School Teams/Groups All the City Championship Sports Team from Granada Hills High and Kennedy High (e.g., the 1970 GHHS City Championship Football Team, Kennedy High's 1989 City Baseball Champs), GHHS's Highland Marching Band in the annual Rose Parade, Kennedy High's award winning Drill Team.

Community Sports Teams/Activities The 1963 Little League World Champs, AYSO Soc-

cer, Pop Warner Football. Bowling Teams/events at Granada Lanes, Knollwood Country Club, etc.

The Housing Boom of the 1950's & 1960's Home construction photos, real estate literature/advertising, Balboa Highlands, the old ranches that were subdivide for new homes construction (e.g., Sunshine Ranch, Cascade Ranch, Carroll Ranch), etc.

Bygone Businesses Char-Mar's, The Treasury, the old White Oak Post Office, Thurlow Cullley Real Estate, Nahas Department Store, Granada Movie Theater, Granada Lanes, Food Giant, Peter Pan Dairy and Tinkerbell Cleaners, Hughes, Gemco, Currie's Ice Cream, Alpha Beta, Builders Emporium, Frosty Freeze, A&W Root Beer, etc.

Church and Service Club Events Installation of officers and officials, Awards ceremonies, Chamber of Commerce Events, etc.

School Events Dedications of new schools, fairs, dramatic or musical productions, etc.

Community Amusements The Big Slide, the Trampoline Pits, Swim School, O'Melveny Park, Petit Park, Shopping Center traveling carnivals, school pranks/practical jokes, etc.

As you can see there is quite a bit of history and memories that have taken place in Granada Hills over the years. No doubt I've missed something, so that's why I would still like to hear from you.

If you can help provide images of anything I've mentioned above or of something I've overlooked, let me know.

Thanks for your continued interest in the Granada Hills History Project and

thanks in advance for your help and any photos and images you can provide. For additional information contact Jim Summers 818-321-6259.

JimHeir
GranadaHills
GranadaHillsHistory@gmail.com

Why and how We will Honor our Veterans

The majority of Americans lead daily lives not bound by any set code of conduct. Most pledges that we make, are of our own design and only made to those of our own choosing. At most community events the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag is usually recited in a dull monotone. The singing of the Star Spangled Banner is used as an advertising tool, before super bowl games, to either introduce the latest singing sensation or to resurrect the career of some fading superstar.

In the United States Military there is a code of conduct. Marine Colonel F. Brooke Nihart, who recently died at the age of 87, wrote it. Colonel Nihart, was awarded the Navy Cross for distinguished service in the Korean War. He later commanded the Marine Regiment at Camp Pendleton.

On Aug. 17, 1955, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed an executive order making the code of conduct, written by Nihart, the official credo for Americans in all branches of the military. Every member of the United States Armed Forces recites the code, which was revised in 1977. Article 1, of the Military Code of Conduct states, "I am an American, fighting

in the armed forces which guard my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life in their defense."

That is why we will proudly honor our Veterans again this year at our San Fernando Valley's 3rd Annual Veterans Day Parade November 11, which will begin at 11:00 AM. The theme is "Honoring those Who Served Past and Present." Rear Admiral Joseph Maguire Commander, Naval Special Warfare Command, will be the Grand Marshal of the parade. The parade will culminate at Ritchie Valens Park where a street fair and carnival will be held.

The parade will begin at San Fernando Mission and Laurel Canyon Boulevards. The streets will be festive and lined with cheering families, friends and supporters. There will be high school and elementary school marching bands, and many other attractions to see. There will be government representatives, celebrities and community dignitaries, in the viewing stand.

At that time please, take a moment and know that the men and women representing all branches of the military service, and marching proudly before you, are also carrying the memories of their comrades past and present upon their shoulders. And, as the ten World War Two Condors fly overhead, think about the sacrifice each one of them past and present made and continue to make because one fateful day they raised their hands and pledged to give their lives for "our" country.

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Spiritual LIFE



Prescribing Religion

Spirituality, Religion and Healthy Aging

By Lisa Chippendale
Infoaging Correspondent

Most of the time, a doctor's advice for successful aging would offer the familiar mantras of good health: quit smoking, exercise regularly, eat five to seven helpings of fruits and vegetables a day. Yet perhaps the day could be coming when your family physician might prescribe some unusual advice: go to your house of worship, meditate, pray. In the United States, the traditional boundaries between church and state are blurring with President George Bush's recent initiative to allow faith-based charities to compete for government funding. Might the boundaries between medicine and religion be blurring as well?

Science and Religion Proponents of recent research into the role of spirituality in health believe that it is time for those boundaries to disappear. Numerous studies published in peer-reviewed journals have shown that religious faith and participation in organized religion offer benefits for healthy aging. People with a strong personal faith who regularly attend religious services generally have lower blood pressure; are less likely to suffer from depression; have a greater sense of well-being; have stronger immune systems; and live longer—23% longer, according to a long-term study by Dr. William Strawbridge and other researchers published in the American Journal of Public Health in 1997.

Religious faith seems to increase the ability of older people to cope with illness, disability, loss, and their own mortality. In a study published in 1992 in the American Journal of Psychiatry, Dr. Harold G. Koenig, Director of the Center for the Study of Religion/Spirituality and Health at Duke University, and colleagues surveyed men hospitalized with serious illness. They found that those men who used religion to cope with their illness had much lower rates of depression and reported a better quality of life than those using nonreligious coping methods or who reacted negatively to their situation. In addition, religious people seem to spend less time in the hospital. In a study published in the Southern Medical Journal in 1998, Dr. Koenig and colleagues found that subjects who attended church at least once per week were 43% less likely to have been admitted to the hospital in the preceding year than non-churchgoing subjects. Plus, any hospital stays they did have were markedly shorter.

Not all researchers find the evidence linking religion to good health compelling. Dr. Richard P. Sloan, director of the Behavioral Medicine Program at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in New York, believes that the scientific evidence supporting the association between spirituality and good health is weak. He notes that the results of many studies have not been consistent. Some have shown that religious attendance is associated with longer life, but others have not. In addition, the studies tend to vary on how they define religious and spiritual activity, leading to difficulty in comparing them. In

his paper on this topic published in the Feb. 20, 1999, issue of the journal Lancet, Dr. Sloan wrote, "Even in the best studies, the evidence of an association between religion, spirituality, and health is weak and inconsistent." He also points out that there are ethical problems with a physician recommending religion to patients.

The Relaxation Response For people uncomfortable with traditional religions, work by Dr. Herbert Benson, an Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and founder of the Mind/Body Medical Institute, suggests that you can enhance your spirituality and your health without joining a traditional church or synagogue. In the early 1970s, Dr. Benson defined the "relaxation response" as the opposite of the fight-or-flight response. It brings about a slowed heart-beat, lowered blood pressure, and a reduction in stress rather than the opposite. Drawing on non-Western religious traditions, the relaxation response is triggered through the spiritual practice of many techniques, including meditation, yoga, progressive relaxation, and autogenic training. In numerous studies published in the 1970s and 1980s, Dr. Benson and colleagues showed that regular use of the relaxation response led patients to overcome a variety of stress-related illnesses, such as insomnia, migraine headaches, and hypertension. Patients also reported increased feelings of spirituality.

Although the relaxation response works no matter what the practitioner's spiritual beliefs, Dr. Benson is an avid supporter of religious faith. "There is a tremendous amount of literature that belief enhances healing," he points out, referring to the placebo effect, which he calls "remembered wellness."

Continued - page 15

Free And Confidential Memory Screenings

Tuesday, November 14
2:00 p.m. -- 8:00 p.m.

Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church will be providing memory screenings in conjunction with Alzheimer's Foundation of America's National Memory Screening Day on Tuesday, November 14, from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

A memory screening is a simple and safe evaluation tool that assesses memory and other intellectual functions. It is not used to diagnose any particular illness but may indicate whether additional testing by a qualified healthcare specialist is necessary. The face-to-face screening takes place in privacy with a psychologist, social worker, or nurse. It consists of a series of questions and/or tasks designed to test memory, language skills and thinking ability. The confidential results are reviewed with the person following the screening.

Reservations may be made by calling the church office, drop-ins are also welcome.



Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church
10158 Johanna Ave (at Sunland Blvd.)
Sunland, CA 91040
818-353-2500.



Sergeant Randy Sulstrom of the Crescenta Valley Sheriff's Department is flanked by Women's Auxiliary Vice President Nancy Reitze of Pasadena and cell phone project chairwoman and Auxiliary member Marti Marshall of Sunland.

Helping Seniors to Be Heard

The Church of Scientology Women's Auxiliary Donates Cell Phones To Sheriff's Station

Members of the Women's Auxiliary recently delivered 37 gently used cell phones and chargers to the Crescenta Valley Sheriff's Department. Sergeant Randy Sulstrom gladly accepted the phones for distribution to Foothills-area seniors to use in case of emergency. The phones will be refurbished and programmed for 911 by the sheriff's department as part of the Cell Phones for Life project.

Auxiliary member Marti Marshall of Sunland, who chaired the project, said:

"Giving the phones to our seniors is really a way to provide them with a level of comfort. Now they know that when they need help, it's merely a phone call away. They have more freedom and know that they are not alone in case of any emergency. We are thrilled to be a part of this, knowing we are helping people in need."

For further information on the Cell Phones for Life project at the Crescenta Valley Sheriff's department, contact (818) 248-3464.

FUR, FEATHERS AND FINS



My Cat's Late Night Visitors

by Bob Alexander

My cat Spike is very laid back. He's a lover, not a fighter, so it was with surprise that one morning as I was feeding him his daily ration of cat food, I saw two scratches on his nose. He ate the food like he was famished, instead of taking a few bites then going somewhere to think the situation over. Normally he would then come back to his bowl and begin to eat again. At the time I didn't know there were raccoons eating his food at night.

Spike sleeps in the garage. He has a cat door to the outside, so he comes and goes as he pleases. Only on the coldest winter nights does he sleep in the house, preferring the solitude of his own kingdom where there is always silence after dark. His quiet time was shattered one night a couple of hours after dinner. I heard a noise in the garage that sounded like something falling from a shelf. I opened the door to the garage and saw a large raccoon scurrying from the cat's bowl to the opening in the pet door. He scooted through the door to the outside, then turned around and stuck his head back through the door, staring at me as if I should be sorry for interrupting his dinner.

The next day surveying the damage to my exterior door, where the raccoon had scratched and torn at the pet door to get inside the garage, I did some studying about the subject of raccoon removal. I found out that they are nocturnal animals, sleeping all day and feeding and roaming at night. I also learned that there are ways to remove raccoons without shooting them.

Remove their food supply! This sounded like such a good idea that I tried it. I brought the cat's dish into the house. That didn't deter the

raccoon in the least. He couldn't see the food, so he chewed the lid off the five gallon containers that held the cat food, scattering it all over the garage. This dampened my spirits somewhat, but I was determined to drive him from our house forever!

Play the radio loudly in the areas the raccoon has invaded! They will think someone is talking and stay away! I tuned the radio in the garage to a station that played rap music all night, then turned up the volume. I figured if that didn't do the trick nothing would. It didn't work! Somehow he climbed up a bookshelf onto the top of a refrigerator where I had stored the cat food. He pushed it off onto the floor, dry cat food bouncing on the concrete floor like raindrops on a roof.

Trap the animals. I called the city animal control people and they brought me a trap. This was a big cage that would catch the raccoon without hurting it. The theory is that the raccoons would enter the trap, stepping on the trip mechanism as they ate the bait, (cat food), thus tripping the trap door. The raccoons would be caught, the city would then remove the animal to a safe place, miles away from my house and all would be peaceful again. Wrong! The only thing I caught was my cat Spike! Twice!

I learned that those traps do work, but raccoons are very intelligent. You have to put concrete blocks or some kind of barrier around the sides of the trap so they won't put their paws into the cage and grab the food without springing the trap. Raccoons have paws with fingers that enable them to grasp food and stuff it into their mouths.

By this time I realized I had a family of raccoons. By now I had seen five; two adults and three young ones. The young ones let me take their pictures while munching on Spike's cat food. I reward them for allowing me a photo shoot. The older ones wait patiently outside the door until I finish shooting. They'll finish up the food when I go back into the house. Spike the cat is sprawled in an old chair, yawning at the raccoons.

My wife thinks I'm nuts to have fallen under the spell of the adolescent raccoons. Since one of the young raccoons tries to get into the house every time the Maybe I am, but they are a lot of fun. I've ordered a sure-fire raccoon repellent that I know will work. It's coyote urine. Sprinkled around the area the raccoons frequent, it will scare them away. They're afraid of coyotes because they are one of the natural predators of raccoons. If this doesn't work, I'll order wolf urine.

Bob Alexander is greatly experienced in the art of southern barbecuing and leisure activity. Learn to enjoy yourself with more of Bob's ideas. Visit: www.bluefishbob.com or www.homeandgardenbob.com. <http://www.articlerich.com>

He scooted through the door to the outside, then turned around and stuck his head back through the door, staring at me as if I should be sorry for interrupting his dinner.

Los Angeles Animal Services East Valley Shelter Here Comes Santa Claus...

by Officer Greenberg
LAAS Public Relations Office

Santa Claus will be coming to a LA Animal Services shelter near you. From 2pm to 4pm on Sunday, November 26, 2006, families who adopt a new pet from the East Valley Animal Care and Control Center can have their picture taken with Santa. This is for adopted pets on that day only. Donations to help the shelter animals are welcomed and please, leave your personal pets at home.

Pedigree, Saving Animals' Lives

Monday, October 23, 2006, The Pedigree Company arrived at the East Valley Shelter to shoot a commercial using the shelter dogs. The commercial, as well as print ads, will feature dogs of all types that were housed at the shelter that day. The Pedigree Company has started a website, www.lashelterdogs.com to feature these dogs so that each one will get a loving home. They have graciously agreed to adopt these dogs if they were not adopted 30 days after the shoot. In addition to the two dogs below, please check out the website and see if you will be willing to adopt one of these loving dogs into your home.

Won't You Adopt Me?



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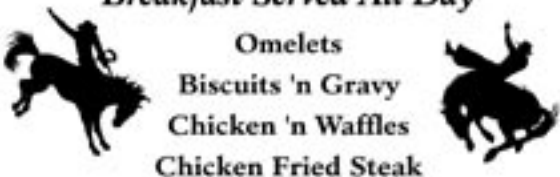
"Stella" ID#728570,
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Prescribing Religion - from page 13

Studies have shown that anywhere from 30 to 70% of patients with certain non-life-threatening illnesses or conditions will recover just by taking a "sugar pill" or other form of placebo. If faith in the medical establishment can yield such positive results, Dr. Benson reasons, combining it with faith in a higher power that can assist with healing can only help the brain "remember" how it felt to be well.

Aging as a Spiritual Journey Is the only goal of spirituality in aging to maintain health? A growing number of people think otherwise. They have begun advocating a different approach to aging: treating the later years as a new, unique stage in life rather than trying to extend youth. Dr. Drew Leder, a professor of philosophy at Loyola University in Maryland and author of the spiritual workbook *Spiritual Passages: Embracing Life's Sacred Journey*, has drawn upon the spiritual beliefs of many different cultures to build a model

of aging as an opportunity for spiritual growth. Most sacred traditions emphasize one of two roles for older adults: embarking on a quest for spiritual growth or mentoring the younger generation. One Hindu tradition urges the elderly to leave behind their comforts and possessions and "resort to the forest" to seek enlightenment. On the other hand, Native American cultures expected older people to become elders, to use their accumulated knowledge and wisdom to advise and guide the tribe. Leder and other proponents of a spiritual approach to aging call their blend of these ideas "spiritual eldering." Leder believes that even ill elderly who are unable to volunteer or travel to spiritual retreats can find solace in the spiritual eldering process. "Even if you don't stay healthy, you can use that as part of your spiritual growth. Disability causes people to seek out social and spiritual wholeness," he says. An inward spiritual journey can help ill or disabled people come to terms with death and dying, re-

lieving anxiety about mortality. And those with a belief in a higher power can still serve others by praying for them and society in general. What all of these approaches to spirituality in aging have in common is an emphasis on achieving inner peace. Extrapolating from the scientific literature, perhaps anything that reduces stress and anxiety can improve the quality of our lives. Whether older people achieve inner peace through attendance at a Christian church or Jewish synagogue, through meditation designed to elicit the relaxation response, or through contemplation of spiritual matters and an acceptance of mortality, the effect is most likely similar. The real goal of successful aging should be to enjoy the extra years of life that advances in Western medicine have brought us.

This article was reprinted with permission from the American Federation for Aging Research and was originally developed for the educational Web site, Infoaging. For more information, please visit www.infoaging.org.

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The Greening of Hansen Dam

The Tree People, a non profit organization, and the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks partnered in planting more than 150 trees in the Hansen Dam Recreation Area. According to TreePeople Jim Summers, Director of Forestry they plan to organize other park plantings and green streets and schools in the San Fernando Valley. The San Fernando Valley planting is part of the goal to plant trees in parks from the "foothills to the sea."

Volunteers from all over Los Angeles came together to plant oaks and other native, drought resistant trees on Saturday, November 4, on one of the hottest days of the month.

To date members and staff of the TreePeople, who are training a new troop of Citizen Foresters, have planted over two million trees. Their partner, the L.A. Department of Recreation and Parks oversees approximately 400 parks covering 16,000 acres. Their partnership is based on that a single person planting a tree can help curb global warming, beautify a neighborhood, clean the air, save energy, capture rainwater for rescue and enhance a community. The next Community Workshop will be held at Lake View Terrace Recreation Center December 2. An R.S.V.P is required by November 25, you may call (818) 623-4879 or email: volunteer@treepeople.org.

Tree planting will begin in Griffith Park in 2007. Volunteers are always needed: to plant trees call (818) 623-4879 for more information or volunteer for Recreation and Parks programs call (888) 427-2757



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**Saturday
November 11, 2006
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

Learn about the different environments and communities and how people relate to their environment. Discover how the native people use nature for food, shelter, music and spiritual beliefs. Students will make bracelets using traditional (Yucca plant) and non-traditional materials. Instructor Oscar Ortiz is a cultural/environmental specialist working in the Santa Monica Mountains conducting workshops, teacher and docent training and has been a docent for over 20 years and is affiliated with several Chumash organizations.

**\$30 for members,
\$40 for non-members**

**Tues - Sat, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
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