

San Fernando Valley Does it Right



Veterans' Parade is a Success

by Nina Royal

Saturday, November 11 beheld weather made to order for the third Annual Veteran's Day Parade sponsored by Congressman Howard Berman and Councilmember Alex Padilla. The parade ran south on Laurel Canyon blvd., beginning at San Fernando Mission Blvd. in Mission Hills and ending at Paxton St. in Pacoima.

Before the kickoff, Congressman Berman made a Presentation of Medals to a World War II Veteran. The US Navy Color Guard did the Presentation of Colors. Then Major General Paul E. Mock, Commanding General, 63rd US Army Regional Support Command conducted the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of the National Anthem was lead by Cile Bormann. The presentation was followed by a fly-over of World War II-era Condor Planes.

Rear Admiral Joseph Maguire, Commander, Naval Special Warfare Command served as Grand Marshal.

There were approximately 85 participants in the parade, including bands and/or ROTC battalions from Cleveland, Polytechnic, Grant, Monroe, Kennedy and Van Nuys High Schools. There were many service personnel and community organizations who participated as well. The four Honorary Grand Marshals were Lieutenant Commander Carlos, L. Phillis, NSCC, Ben Espinoza, Retired, Korean War Era, Valentino P. Paniccia, Commander, Los Angeles Police Dept., who served in the Air Force, Mark M. Chapa, Third Class Petty Officer, Desert Storm War Era and Sergeant Necoline J. Clifford, U.S. Marine Corps.

A carnival, live music and free hot dogs at Ritchie Valens Park followed the Parade. There was also a surprise visit by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa later in the afternoon.

According to Congressman Berman, the community can count on having another parade next year and organizers intend to have even more San Fernando Valley Communities involved.



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NEWS

Take A Closer Look, Says Greuel

Councilmember Demands Scrutiny in Home Depot Appeal Decision

by Edward Rivera

Following new revelations at a recent community meeting over the ongoing Home Depot issue, Councilmember Wendy Greuel has now demanded that LA Planning Director Gail Goldberg take a closer look at the decision. LA City Building and Safety (LADBS) recently decided not to consider Home Depot's current remodeling plans a "Significant Project," which would have triggered a full Specific Plan Review and delay any work on the proposed store.

The community has been battling Home Depot's attempt to build a new store at the former K-Mart site on Foothill Boulevard in Sunland for nearly two years now.

In a letter to Goldberg, Greuel said there was several issues, which arose that would require more scrutiny during the ongoing appeal filed by No 2 Home Depot.

Greuel questioned Goldberg as to "Whether the auto-repair area of the store can be changed to any other use without triggering a Specific Plan review. When (LADBS Chief Inspector) Dave Keim learned about a possible change from

KMart's auto repair area to either retail or "no use" in the Home Depot store, he indicated that the department may have to take a closer look at the use issue. The issue is made even more complicated by the fact that there was a lengthy interruption of the auto-repair use while K-Mart occupied the building."

"It appears that the appeal may have been based on a set of plans that was revised before permits were issued."

Greuel also questioned whether "the fact that some of Home Depot's sales are wholesale affects the conclusion that Home Depot's use category is "retail."

Wrote Greuel, "It was pointed out at the meeting that a significant part of Home Depot's sales (is) to contractors and that those sales are wholesale. The argument was made that a dual

approach to sales (wholesale and retail) should be a change of use and should trigger a Specific Plan review."

The Councilmember also raised the possibility that the community was not shown the actual approved plans before filing its appeal.

"It appears that the appeal may have been based on a set of plans that was revised before permits were issued," said Greuel, adding, "I have arranged for the community to review the approved plans next week, and that review may cause a shift in some of the appeal issues."

Much of the discussion in the meeting held two weeks ago at the North Valley City Hall centered on whether or not Building and Safety considered the floor to be part of the supporting structure, with City officials and local community members offering different opinions. In her letter, Greuel said, "While I assume that LADBS required calculations to justify the slab's thickness and reinforcing, it appears that structural calculations were not required for the building as a whole because LADBS did not consider the slab to be

an integral part of the building's structure."

She told Goldberg, "It would be helpful if your review of the appeal could consider whether overall structural calculations should have been required in this case."

Greuel also took issue with the cost of the remodeling work, and whether or not it exceeded 50 percent of the building's replacement cost. Under the Foothill Specific Plan, if the remodeling of a building area cost more than 50 percent of the building's replacement cost, the remodel is then characterized as a "Significant Project." Greuel was troubled by the fact that LADBS concluded that the remodel cost was less than half of the replacement cost and that no Specific Plan review was required. As she wrote to Goldberg, "The issue gets more complicated if the cost of the work related to several other permits is included as part of the remodel cost."

Finally, Greuel took issue



with the fact that LADBS responded to the community's "well-written 30-page appeal" with a 3-page memo. She asked Goldberg "to deal with each and every point in the referenced appeal in detail so that the community will have the full benefit of your department's reasoning."

The appeal over the LADBS decision is currently at its second level. A local Area Planning Commission would handle any further appeals by either side.

State Denies Northeast Valley Enterprise Zone

The Northeast Valley Enterprise Zone was created in 1986 and renewed in 2001. The boundaries take in much of Pacoima, portions of Sun Valley and Panorama City. Numerous businesses have located there and continue to be there because of the support of tax credits, the most popular being an employee tax credit of \$31,000 per employee over a five-year period.

"I am gravely disappointed in Sacramento bureaucracy," said Councilman Tony Cardenas. "Anyone who visits these areas can see that there is clearly a continuing need in preserving this enterprise zone. We need to bring new jobs to the area and taking away financial incentives for business will stunt economic growth."

Cardenas expressed public outrage today after the state denied a local effort to save the Northeast Valley Enterprise Zone. The enterprise zone would have infused the local economy and created jobs in needy areas such as Sun Valley. Sun Valley had benefited greatly from the program which provided financial incentives for businesses that located there and employed local workers.

Cardenas, along with local leaders, had requested a two year extension on the zone, which includes much of the Councilman's district. Parts of Pacoima and Panorama City will also be greatly affected by the decision made by the State's Department of Housing and Community Development Division of Financial Assistance.

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Sexual Predator Prevention Forum Held in Sylmar

Attendees Express Fears and Frustrations

by Nina Royal

The Neighborhood Councils of Arleta, Mission Hills, Pacoima and Sylmar joined together on November 16 at Olive Vista Middle School in Sylmar, to learn how to keep children safe from sexual predators.

Members of the forum included State Assemblymember Cindy Montanez, Bill Dworin a Consultant with "No Secrets" Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Information, Gerald Fenny, Parole Agent, California Dept. of Corrections; Barry Licata, Parole Administrator; LAPD Lieutenant Ted Matthews, and LAPD Detective Diane Webb, along with LAPD Registration Enforcement and Compliance Teams (REACT).

The forum, attended by approximately 175 people, was spearheaded by Tammy Flores, president of the Sylmar Neighborhood Council. The subject matter became a concern to the communities when it was discovered in September that there were 86 sex offenders living at the former Super 8 motel on Roxford and Foothill Blvd. in Sylmar. (The Parole Board and Police Depart-

ment has confirmed that the situation has been remedied and the offenders are now out. The motel is now under new management.)

Some communities felt, however, that they still have an inordinate number of sex offenders residing in their neighborhoods and demanded a remedy.

According to parole administrator Licata, once an offender has completed his penalty time, the law requires that they be released back to the County of their last legal address. The parolee is then free to live in any community desired, as long as he or she obeys the terms of the parole or probation. This did not set well with community members and some stormed out in frustration.

Licata added that it is the Adult Parole Operations' responsibility to supervise and monitor sex registrants, and to ensure that parolees abide by the local, state and federal laws. When warranted, parolees are tested for narcotic and alcohol use. Under Penal Code 290, persons convicted of sex crimes must register with the law

enforcement agency of their residence address within 5 days of establishing residency. They must also notify

Some communities felt, however, that they still have an inordinate number of sex offenders residing in their neighborhoods and demanded a remedy.

the agency when they leave the jurisdiction. Additionally, they must update their registration information, including employment address,

and vehicle information every year within 5 days of their birthday. Transients must update their location with law enforcement every 30 days or they can be guilty of a felony or misdemeanor charge.

The panel suggests that education is one of the best ways to protect children. The following suggestions were also offered in a pamphlet distributed to community members:

- Teach your children that they have the right to say "no" to any unwelcome, uncomfortable or confusing thought or actions by others. Teach them to tell you immediately and assure them that you are there to help.
- Be sensitive to any changes in your chil-

dren's behavior or attitude. Encourage communication. Look and listen to small cues that something may be troubling them. Most child victims know their offender. Almost half of the offenders are family members.

- Know where your children are at all times. Never leave them unattended or unsupervised. Be involved in their activities. Give your children as much attention and supervision as possible
- Always screen babysitters and caregivers. Get references and also check public registries to screen individuals for prior criminal records.

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Copublishers
 Jeannine Crowley and Nina Royal
 News, Community, and Calendar Editor
 Nina Royal

Section Editor
 Jeannine Crowley

Editor at Large
 Edward Rivera

Graphics and Design
 Jeannine Crowley

Contributing Writers
 Cindy Cleghorn,, Jeannine Crowley, Pamela Goldfinger
 Marlene Hitt, Charles Kassotis, Michael O'Gara,
 Edward Rivera, Nina Royal

North Valley Sales Representative
 Hope Barrios

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COMMUNITY

Business and Professional Women Honored Woman of Achievement

Sunland-Tujunga Business and Professional Women recently honored Cindy Cleghorn as their Woman of Achievement for 2006-07. During a luncheon held at the Hollywood Woman's Club, Cindy Cleghorn who is also chairperson of the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council and serves on the Los Angeles City Neighborhood Council Review Commission was recognized for her service to the community during the BPW Valley Sunset District event. Six other accomplished women from as far away as Santa Barbara were also honored.



L-R: Shirley Kellstrom, S-T BPW, Lynn Brandstater, Verdugo Hills BPW and Cindy Cleghorn

Cindy is known in the community as one who is dedicated to the neighborhood council process, continuing to outreach into the diverse community to bring people more involved in their City government so their voices can be heard. Cindy has been a life-long volunteer and has served on several business and community boards. Cindy is the owner of C&M Printing, Copying, Mailing located on Commerce Avenue in Tujunga. Cindy is also a member of Verdugo Hills Business and Professional Women.

Mission Hills NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

by Pamela Goldfinger
Board Member

A reminder to attend our Neighborhood Council BBQ and Potluck on Wednesday, November 27, at 6:30 pm. Everyone is welcome, bring you family and friends to the Neighborhood Council Office at 10161 Sepulveda Blvd.

We are supporting the Mission Area Police Station's "Toy Drive" and encourage you to drop off unwrapped toys in the boxes provided in the main lobby of the station at 11121 Sepulveda Blvd. They will be doing the "San Fernando Valley Toy Give Away" event for needy children on Sunday, December 10th from 10 am to 4 pm. For more information call the station at 818-838-9860.

Members of MHNC along with local communi-

ties participated in a Pot Luck to honor our newly elected State Senator, Alex Padilla, at the Mission Area Police Station.

The gathering of approximately 100 people was in the Tim Falco Community room. Family and friends along with community leaders and neighbors throughout the district surrounded Senator Padilla.

Felipe Fuentes, Ackley Padilla, Fedeline Gullano from Mary Immaculate School, Tammy Flores, David Crawford and others shared stories and paid tribute to our guest of honor. He was relaxed and at ease and clearly enjoyed himself. Politics was set aside as everyone acknowledged a person who had become a familiar friend and

an important presence as our Council Representative for District 7 since 1999, who then become President of the Council and is now our State Senator. We sincerely wish the Senator well.

The Mission Area Combined Neighborhood Watch Group will be held Tuesday, November 28, at the Mission Area Police Station at 11121 Sepulveda Blvd. Parking is available next door in the Facey parking lot. Felipe Fuentes will be their Special Guest and their featured speaker will be Detective Patty Ferguson. We encourage everyone to become involved in Neighborhood Watch.

Our MHNC wishes everyone a Safe and Happy Thanksgiving Day.

Preditor Forum - from page 3

Persons having information regarding a sex offender who is not in compliance with sex registration laws may contact Detective Webb at 213-473-4737 or by email at: 24834@lapd.lacity.org. The LAPD Val-

ley Bureau REACT unit can also be reached directly at 818-756-5309. It can also be reported on the Megan's Law website at www.meganslaw.ca.gov. Click on "report Information to DOJ" and send the information regarding the

sex offender directly to the California Department of Justice, which will forward the information to the appropriate agency. The Megan's Law website can also provide additional valuable information,

Pacoima NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Interested In a Cleaner Community?

We are consistently confronted with questions about what the Pacoima Neighborhood Council (PNC) is doing to improve the community. The questioners are not the individuals we see at the PNC general meeting every third Wednesday of the month, however.

The questioners are those individuals who sit in the comfort of their homes and expect others to man the trenches of Pacoima, fighting the battles with city authorities, code enforcement departments, and city employees.

Members of the PNC are not paid city employees. They are volunteers who are taking the concerns of the residents to the desk of our city authorities. The PNC

members are in daily contact with the Councilman's Office. We file complaints when various city departments fail to provide services fast enough to the community.

We field complaints from community members because no one seems to be concerned about providing service to the Pacoima residents. The PNC investigates, and lodges an e-mail to the offending department managers, the Councilman's office and the Mayor. When city departments receive our letter via the Mayor's office, our problem takes on a new urgency.

We don't advise you to by-pass the city's regular reporting system, but if you don't receive the services

you seek in a reasonable amount of time, call the councilman office. Utilize his staff to get the services you desire. They work for you.

Every member of the community has a responsibility to do whatever he or she can to improve the neighborhood. There are telephones in every home in Pacoima, and every concerned citizen has the main tool required to contact city code enforcement agencies.

Don't wait for volunteers to report your concerns. Exercise your rights and responsibilities as a citizen of the City of Los Angeles to demand the services your tax dollars pay for.

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Sun Valley NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

A Reminder to Vote!

by Mike O'Gara
Board Member

The Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council will hold yearly elections for Board members on December 9, 2006. It will be held in the Auditorium at John H. Francis Polytechnic High School, 12431 Roscoe Blvd. in Sun Valley from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. All stakeholders may vote in our election.

A stakeholder in Sun Valley is defined as: any person who: lives or works or owns property or runs a business or is a member of an organization within the boundaries of the Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council.

The council will be electing nine board members: three from each category: Resident, Business/Property Owner and At-Large Candidates. Persons who filed out a candidate filing form and submitted it before November 9 will have their names printed on the ballot.

Those who wish to run as a write-in candidate may fill out the filing form and submit it before 5 p.m., December 8. Forms can be found at the Sun Valley Library, 7935 Vineland Avenue. Also, Councilman Tony Cardenas's Sun Valley office at 8133 at San Fernando Road, or the Sun Valley Area Chamber of Commerce at 8133 A San Fernando Road.

Otherwise, interested persons may call Robert McAllister at 818-400-3984 or Jose Felix at 818-504-0566 for a form.

Citywide Alliance of Neighborhood Councils

Updates on the 912 Commission and What is Next for Prop R

by Michael O'Gara

Lisa Sarno, head of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) was the first Guest Speaker. She informed Neighborhood Councils members that Neighborhood Council information will start to be included in the Department of Water and Power bills in April or May of 2007. Also that the DONE expects to have their website updated shortly. She also stated that

would depend on how long you want to wait to have those services performed by the city, which will depend on funds being available. N/C's may want to have it done themselves which is why they decided to have the crews available.

She also mentioned that Empowerment Academy classes are very limited, but open to everyone. AB1234 requires "Conflict of Interest Training" be completed by all N/C Board Members by December 31. The Class can be taken on the DONE website.

Dr. Raphael Sonenshein, Executive Director for the Neighborhood Council Review Commission (912 Commission) gave some very impressive comments at the meeting that was held on Saturday, November 18 at

Los Angeles City College. His past experience having served on the Charter Commission in 1999 will be a valuable part of the commission's work. He understands the confusion of our Neighborhood Council movement both for the neighborhood councils and for the City departments and staff.

There will be a total of 14 public hearings (two

from each planning area). The North Valley Planning area's first meeting will be held this coming Tuesday, Nov. 21st at San Fernando High School. The first seven are being scheduled right away in order to get as much input from the public as possible. After the Commission comes to some resolution, they plan to come back with seven more meetings in each of the seven planning areas and ask the stakeholders if they got it right. They are not going to cast their thoughts in stone. They are going to come back for more discussion and input.

Some of the areas that the commission will look at include:

- Vision and Values
- Powers and Roles of NC's
- Governance System
- Outreach and Participation/Elections
- City Support to NC's's Money allocations. Training.

The final report to City Council is due September of 2007.

He asked the question: "Do you want the 912 Commission to define what is a stakeholder or do you want the individual NC's to be able to define it in their own neighborhoods?"

Should we all be the

End is Near for two DWP Programs!

by Nina Royal

The removal of old and installation of new free water saving toilets will end on December 31, 2006. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power offers this service. The installation includes free showerheads and faucet aerators. The replacement saves up to \$50 per year a water bill. The old toilets use 3.5 to 7 gallons of water per flush and the replacements use 1.6 gallons. Each dwelling unit is limited to three free toilets. Each carries a minimum of 5-year manufacturer's warranty and retails for up to \$100. If you plan to sell your home, a L.A. Municipal Ordinance mandates that 1.6-gallon low-flush toilets be installed when you sell your home. Resi-

dents of Los Angeles can call 1-800-203-7330 for an appointment or further information.

The Department of Water and Power also has a Home Energy Efficiency Cash Rebate Program (Consumer Rebate Program) which will also end December 31, 2006. The qualifying product categories include Refrigerators, Room Air Conditioners, Windows, Pool Pumps and motors, and Central Air Conditioning Systems. Applications must be completed and purchases must be installed by December 31, 2006. Applications can be obtained at your nearest DWP office. For questions call 1-800-374-2224 Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



Dr. Raphael Sonenshein, Executive Director for the Neighborhood Council Review Commission (912 Commission)

the City has agreed to provide work crews for hire by Neighborhood Councils for a fee. Motor Crews will be available for tree trimming, street sweeping, taking down illegal signs, etc. Several of our members inquired as to why Neighborhood Councils should have to spend their money for services that are supposed to be paid by our taxes. Her answer was that it

same or should we have autonomy on this issue? I believe the straw poll was about half-and-half with over 50 people in the room. He also asked the question, do NC's want to be "agencies of the City" or do we wish to be somewhat independent of the City? He does understand that we wish to have the benefits and advantages of both.

Neighborhood Council information will start to be included in the Department of Water and Power bills in April or May of 2007.

Dr. Sonenshein does want to see NC's succeed. Some of the questions he wants to answer are "What are the obstacles to our success?" "How do we get heard at City Hall?"

If you have questions you want asked, or have solutions to problems, the person to write to is Patrice. Lattimore@lacity.org. She will see to it that all 29 of the commissioners will be given your comments. There

will be a new, enhanced web site unveiled sometime next week.

The next part of the meeting was a discussion with Bill Boyarsky, Head of the City's Ethics Commission. Mr. Boyarsky did not speak out against Proposition "R" until after the Election, which angered many people. There is a law (passed by the City Council) that says once an item is put on the Election Ballot by the City Council, the Ethics Commission cannot comment on it. He would have been in violation of two or three laws had he commented on it after the City Council passed it through as a ballot measure. As most of us know the City Committee that approved this as a ballot measure approved it at about 9 AM on a Tuesday morning and put it in front of the City Council for passage a few hours later. No one had time for comments or suggestions. David Hernandez said there is going to be an effort to overturn this measure and he has a court date on Tuesday, November 27th. I am hoping we will all hear more about this very soon. Michael O'Gara is a Board Member of the Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council

COMMUNITY



Cindy Cleghorn,
STNC Chairwoman

It has been a busy month for the STNC starting off with a 350+ attendance at a meeting with our Councilmember Wendy Greuel regarding the proposed Home Depot on November 6, the monthly STNC meeting on November 8 with over 90 in attendance and a second DAC meeting on November 13 with over 50 in attendance. The STNC continues its outreach efforts to bring you closer to the City government process and improving the quality of life in Sunland-Tujunga. Please contact the STNC office anytime to make suggestions and to get involved. Your feedback is important!

Sunland-Tujunga's Winter Holiday Spirit Awards
The STNC announces a Winter Holiday Decorating

Sunland Tujunga NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Program which recognizes residents and businesses who go out of their way to make their neighborhood look extra special during the winter holiday season. Residents are encouraged to nominate their neighbors' home or business or even nominate their own winter wonderland. Many homes and businesses can be nominated and recognized for sharing in the spirit of the season. Each nominee receives a "Holiday Spirit" certificate by mail or at the January 10, 2007 STNC meeting. For more information on the Winter Holiday Decorating program, or to nominate a property by phone, contact the STNC office at (818) 951-7411.

Welcome to the STNC Board Please welcome newly appointed board members Lydia Grant, District 4 Representative (this is the area south of Foothill Blvd), and Chrissa Villanueva, Youth Arts and Entertainment Representative. They are filling positions for board members

who needed to resign. Thank you for stepping forward to serve the community.

We are grateful for the commitment of the STNC board and committee members who volunteer their time in their positions with the neighborhood council. Also, thanks to those in our community who may not be part of the neighborhood council but volunteer to make Sunland-Tujunga a better place for all. On behalf of the board of the STNC, I wish for you a very Happy Thanksgiving.

IMPORTANT -- The next meeting of the STNC will be held at **North Valley Neighborhood City Hall on December 13, 2006 at 7 p.m.** The meeting location has changed for this meeting only.

STNC Board elections will be held on Monday, March 19, 2007. Candidate information sessions will be held in early January 2007.

STNC notices are now on the City's Early Notification System (ENS). To

sign up, please visit the City's web site at <http://www.lacity.org/lacity161.htm>

How to Contact the STNC

The STNC meets every second Wednesday of the month 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 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.

2006 STNC Board

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Lydia Grant, *District 4*
Michelle Sahfran, *Education*
Timothy Borquez,
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Tujunga

November 29 Executive Committee - 7 p.m. at NVCH
November 30 Budget Committee - 7 p.m. at NVCH
December 4 DAC - 7 p.m. at NVCH
December 11 DAC - 7 p.m. at NVCH
December 13 Monthly STNC meeting - 7 p.m. - NVCH **note: location change
December 16 Outreach Committee - 1 p.m. at Joselito's

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

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Sunland-Tujunga Chamber Installs New Board

The Sunland-Tujunga Chamber of Commerce Installation of Officers was held on Friday, November 17, at the Sunland-Tujunga Elks Lodge. Among the Attendees was Los Angeles City Councilmember Wendy Greuel, Linda Johnson, District Representative for State Senator Sharon Runner and State Senator Richard Alarcon. There were also representatives from many local organizations to make presentations to the outgoing Board. A tasty London broil dinner, prepared by Past State Vice President and Elk member Chef Earl Brouhard and his crew was served prior to the installation.

Los Angeles City Councilmember Wendy Greuel performed the installation of the following new Board members: President, Phil Tabbi, First Vice President, Jan Otis, Second Vice President, Joan Slater, Third Vice President, Cheyanna Searcy-Morence, Treasurer, Sonia Tatulian, Past President, Jim Moore and Directors Kathy Anthony, Virginia Curry, Jerry Freidman, Micki Hollian, Paul John-



ston, Mark Flynn, Mike Perry, Jana Wunderlich, Mark Seigel, Marilyn Straight and Ron Cech.

Outgoing President Jim Moore, whose trade is construction, passed a "Hammer" in place of a Gavel to incoming President, Phil Tabbi.



Welcome to Sun Valley

The Sun Valley Chamber of Commerce and Sun Valley Beautiful celebrated their new "Welcome to Sun Valley" sign on Glenoaks Boulevard November 9. After a nine-month effort, the sign now sits on the meridian in front of Woodbury University. The area was previously perceived to be within the City of Burbank.

Second District Councilmember Wendy Greuel and Board of Public Works president Cynthia Rodriguez performed the ribbon cutting ceremony along with committee members Jesse Dizon, Vicki Burch, Jerry Lindaman, John Eshbach, Sue Bartlett, Virginia Beck, Denny Asfar, Lily Lee and Lee McTaggart.



Bob Hope Airport Hosts Mixer

More than 60 people recently enjoyed the Sun Valley Area Chamber of Commerce mixer at Bob Hope Airport, in Burbank on November 16. The Airport, a Chamber member, provided food and refreshments as well as free parking.

While attending, The North Valley Reporter parked in Lot B on Hollywood Way where there was plenty of parking and arrived at the front door of the terminal within seven minutes. The time was the same on the return trip, With Shuttle Busses running every ten minutes from each of their off-site parking lots. residents going out of town for the holidays might we suggest this convenient alternative?

Sunland-Tujunga's Winter Holiday Spirit Award

STNC's Winter Holiday Decorating Program to recognize residents and business owners who go out of their way to make their neighborhood look extra special during the winter holiday season.

Nominate your neighbors' home or business or even nominate your own winter wonderland. Each nominee will receive a "Holiday Spirit" certificate by mail or at the January 10, 2007 STNC meeting. For more information on the Winter Holiday Decorating program, or to nominate a property by phone, contact the STNC office at (818) 951-7411.

Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council
 "improving the quality of life in Sunland-Tujunga"
www.stnc.org

Author Mary Lou Pozzo Featured at BPW Dinner

Business and Professional Women (BPW) of Sunland-Tujunga featured guest speaker and local author of "Founding Sisters" Mary Lou Pozzo. at a Dinner held at the Elks Lodge in Sunland-Tujunga on Tuesday, November 14. The book is regarding the lives of the original "Little Landers" women settlers of the Tujunga area. Some of who she was privileged to meet before they passed on.

Mrs. Pozzo spoke about the contents of her book that took her 14 years to complete. Her research took place at Bades Mortuary and Bolton Hall Museum in Tujunga, also, Huntington Museum in Pasadena. Those who attended were treated to a narration and "sneak preview slide show" of some of the 500 pictures among the 486 pages of her book. Her book can be purchased at Bolton Hall Museum, Cheyanna's Book Store in Sunland, Once Upon a Time In Montrose, Trons In Pasadena and thru Zennia Press, P.O. Box 226, Tujunga, 19042.



Mrs. Pozzo is Past President of the Little Landers Historical Society and current Librarian and Decent at Bolton Hall Museum in Tujunga since 1984.



Santa in Olde Towne

Stop by on Saturday, December 9th
 in front of Crumpets
 at 10031 Commerce Avenue
 and meet Santa 5-7 p.m.

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

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



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7904 Foothill Blvd. Sunland

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 22

FOOTHILL OPTIMIST
Fairways Restaurant
Hansen Dam Rec Center
10400 Glenoaks, Pac
6:30 pm

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

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH
Stonhurst Park
9901 Dronefield, S.V.
7 pm 768-0988

THURSDAY, NOV. 23

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

MONDAY, NOV. 20

ANDRES PICO ADOBE
10940 Sepulveda, M.H.
Tours 1 pm-4 pm
365-7810

SUNDAY, NOV. 26

HOLLYWOOD CHRISTMAS PARADE
Hollywood Blvd.
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
10940 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

MISSION AREA NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH
11121 Sepulveda, M.H.
7 pm 838-9860

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 29

CHAMBER MIXER - BARRY SYLVAN CO.
13752 Foothill #2, Syl
5:30 pm 367-1177

FOOTHILL OPTIMIST
Fairways Restaurant
Hansen Dam Rec Center
10400 Glenoaks, Pac
6:30 pm

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

STNC EXEC & AGENDA
7747 Foothill, S-T
7 pm 951-7411

VHOA MEETING
Lake View Terrace
Rec Center
11075 Foothill, LVT
7 pm

FRIDAY, NOV. 30

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

FRIDAY, DEC. 1

FREE FOR TEENS ANIME & MANGA OTAKU
Club & Games
Sylmar Library
14561 Polk, Syl
3:30 pm

SATURDAY, DEC. 2

ELECTIONS PACOIMA N/C
11243 Glenoaks, Pac
11 am-4 pm

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

SWAP MEET - LAKE VIEW TERRACE IMPROVEMENT ASSOC
Lake View Terr Rec Center
11075 Foothill, LVT
9 am

CORRAL 20 HO HO RIDE
Contact Linda
352-3693
Contact Susan
353-4682

SUNDAY, DEC. 3

HOOP SHOOT AT VERDUGO HILLS HIGH
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

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

MONDAY, DEC. 4

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

LAKE VIEW TERRACE IMPROVEMENT ASSOC
Lake View Terr Rec Center
11075 Foothill, LVT
7-9 pm

FAMILY HOLIDAY PROGRAM
Sylmar Library
14561 Polk, Syl
3:30-4:30 pm 367-6102

ANDRES PICO ADOBE
10940 Sepulveda, M.H.
Tours 1 pm-4 pm
365-7810

MISSION HILLS N/C ZONING & LAND USE
10161 Sepulveda, M.H.
6:30 pm 892-2414

SYLMAR N/C LAND USE
13515 1/2 Hubbard, Syl
6:30 pm 833-8737

TUESDAY, DEC. 5

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

BUSINESS BREAKFAST
NE S.F. Valley
Work Source Center
11023 Glenoaks, Pac
7:30-9:30 am 899-6230

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 6

FOOTHILL OPTIMIST
Fairways Restaurant
Hansen Dam Rec Center
10400 Glenoaks, Pac
6:30 pm

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

SYLMAR N/C OUTREACH
13515 1/2 Hubbard, Syl
6:30 pm 833-8737

THURSDAY, DEC. 7

Pearl Harbor Day

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

"HEATHER'S HANDICRAFTS"
Granada Hills Library
10640 Petit, GH
3 pm 368-5687

FRIDAY, DEC. 8

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

HOLIDAY STORY & CRAFTS
Sun Valley Library
7935 Vineland, S.V.
4 pm 764-1338

FREE FOR TEENS ANIME & MANGA OTAKU
Club & Games
Sylmar Library
14561 Polk, Syl
3:30 pm

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

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

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY CRAFTS BOUTIQUE
Sylmar Library
14561 Polk, Syl
10 am-4 pm 367-6102

HOLIDAY PARTY
Little Landers
Historical Society
10110 Commerce, S-T
1 pm

SVF TOY RUN
LAPD Mission Station
11121 Sepulveda, M.H.
12 pm

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

SANTA'S WORKSHOP
Shadow Hills Pres. Church
10158 Johanna, S.H.
10 am-12 pm

PACOIMA CHRISTMAS PARADE
Contact Council District 7
For information
756-9115

MONDAY, DEC. 11

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

FAMILY HOLIDAY PROGRAM
Sylmar Library
14561 Polk, Syl
3:30-4:30 pm 367-6102

MAGICIAN TONY DANIELS
S-T Library
7771 Foothill, S-T
7 pm

ANDRES PICO ADOBE
10940 Sepulveda, M.H.
Tours 1 pm-4 pm
365-7810

AARP #140
Senior Center
8640 Fenwick, S-T
1-3 pm 353-9571

TUESDAY, DEC. 12

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

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

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

MISSION HILLS N/C HOLIDAY POTLUCK & SOCIAL
San Jose St. School
14928 Clymer, M.H.
Board 6 pm General 7 pm

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

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13

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

MHNC OUTREACH COM.
10161 Sepulveda, MH
6:30 pm

FOOTHILL OPTIMIST
Fairways Restaurant
Hansen Dam Rec Center
10400 Glenoaks, Pac
6:30 pm

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

SYLMAR WOMEN'S CLUB
Odyssey Restaurant
15600 Odssey, G. H.
\$20 833-8033

THURSDAY, DEC 14

CHAMBER LUNCHEON
China Town Buffet
3760Foothill, Syl
11:30 am
367-1177

STNC BYLAWS
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, Tuj
3 pm 951-7411

HOLIDAY MIXER SMALL BUSINESS PARTNERS SUN VALLEY CHAMBER
Fairways Restaurant
10400 Glenoaks, Pac.
5:30-7:30 pm 767-7212

FOOTHILL CPAB
(Comm Police Advisory Bd.)
10631 Vinedale, S.V
6 pm 756-8866

SYLMAR N/C MEET.
Hubbard St. Elementary
13325 Hubbrad St.
6:30 pm 833-8737

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

SHADOW HILLS PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOC. (SHOPA)
Tierra del Sol
9919 Sunland, S.H.
7 pm

FRIDAY, DEC. 15

CHANUKAH BEGINS FREE FOR TEENS ANIME & MANGA OTAKU
Club & Games
Sylmar Library
14561 Polk, Syl
3:30 pm

SATURDAY, DEC. 16

CERT LEVEL 2 CLASS
Granada Hills Charter High School
8am - 5 pm
www.cert.la.com

STNC OUTREACH
Joselitos Restaurant
7308 Foothill, S-T
1 pm 951-7411

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

ARTS, CRAFTS & BOOK SALE
Lake View Terr Library
12002 Osborne, LVT
11 am - 2 pm 890-7404

SUNDAY, DEC. 17

CERT LEVEL 2 CLASS
Granada Hills Charter High School
8am - 5 pm
www.cert.la.com

OMELETE BAR
S-T Elks Lodge
10137 Commerce, S-T
\$6 9 am 352-2098

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

MONDAY, DEC. 18

FAMILY HOLIDAY PROGRAM
Sylmar Library
14561 Polk, Syl
3:30-4:30 pm 367-6102

ANDRES PICO ADOBE
10940 Sepulveda, M.H.
Tours 1 pm-4 pm
365-7810

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

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

SYLMAR N/C LAND USE
13515 1/2 Hubbard, Syl
6:30 pm 833-8737

TUESDAY, DEC. 19

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

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 20

FOOTHILL OPTIMIST
Fairways Restaurant
Hansen Dam Rec Center
10400 Glenoaks, Pac
6:30 pm

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

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

ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION "THE MARCH"
Granada Hills Library
10640 Petit, G.H.
1:30-3 pm 368-5687

THURSDAY, DEC. 21

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

ELECTIONS
S-T Elks Lodge
10137 Commerce, S-T
8 pm 352-2098

FOOTHILLS TRAILS N/C
Lake View Terr Rec.Center,
11075 Foothill, LVT
7 pm 601-4407

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

FRIDAY, DEC. 22

WINTER BEGINS

FREE FOR TEENS ANIME & MANGA OTAKU
Club & Games
Sylmar Library
14561 Polk, Syl
3:30 pm

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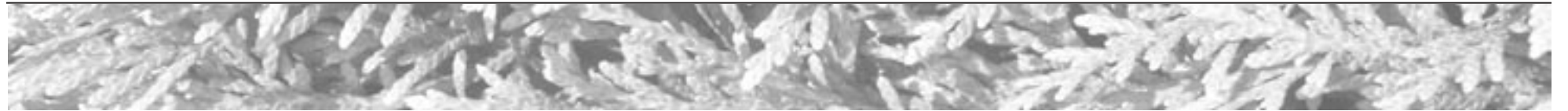
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Margaret Mead (1901 - 1978)



Free Family Fun Holiday Happenings

**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

Saturday, December 9

PACOIMA CHRISTMAS PARADE

Contact Councilmember Alex Padilla's office
For more information
818-756-9115

Sunday, December 24

L.A. COUNTY HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Multicultural Choirs, Instrumental Groups
Dance Companies
Around 1,500 performers
for 35 groups chosen competitively
Music Center, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion
135 No. Grand Ave. Downtown Los Angeles
Doors open 2:30 pm 3 pm – 9 pm
Free Entrance – Free Parking

Thanksgiving Any Reason?

by Marlene Hitt

Here in the foothills at the edge of the great metropolis of Los Angeles our thanksgiving dinners could consist of mangos from Mexico, Oranges from Australia, and standing rib roast from California. I suppose all manner of foods will be served this year.

In contrast, think of the thousands of years when cultures depended on the harvest to see them through the winter. In all countries and in all times, the harvest has been celebrated with thanks by feasting and festivities in gratitude to God for the blessings of plentiful crops.

In America and Canada the government has set aside one certain day in November to, as World Book Encyclopedia says, provide a time to celebrate with family with big dinners, joyous reunions and as a time for serious religious thinking, church services and prayer.

It was in 1541 that the first festival of thanks was held, that celebration by Francisco Vasquez de Coronado and the Teja Indian people who gathered to celebrate the Coronado expedition's discovery of food supplies. Other harvests were celebrated by Spaniards and Indians in 1565, 1598 and 1578.

The festival marked as the first of the American tradition was that in Massachusetts. After that fearsome winter in 1620, when many colonists died of starvation and cold, the following years' corn harvest brought rejoicing. Thanksgiving Day began at that time to show the gratitude of the colonists who were still alive.

It is difficult to imagine the effort that went into the creation of a feast for a whole group of colonists—the cooking of all the food in earth ovens, kneading and baking of so many loaves, hunting for, shooting and dressing all fish and fowl, even keeping fire under the pots—and how gratefully that thankfulness was felt.

For several years following, thanksgiving holidays were for religious observance, not for feasting. By 1863, Mrs. Sarah Josepha Hale, editor of Godey's Lady's Book, who had yearned for a nationally accepted day, saw her wish come true with President Lincoln's proclamation to set aside the last Thursday of November for the day of thanks. The day set by the government changed often through the years after that first pronouncement. Some American presidents who made formal proclamations, mainly to determine the nationally accepted day, were Washington, John Adams, Madison, Lincoln, and Roosevelt.

The "Pardoning of the Turkey" in Washington dates back, probably, to Abraham Lincoln when he pardoned his son's pet turkey.. Wikipedia says that since 1947, the National Turkey Federation has presented the U.S. President with one live turkey and one dressed turkey. The live bird is pardoned and is allowed to live out his days in ease and comfort. In recent years the two turkeys have been pardoned. Since 2003, the public has been invited to vote for names for the two birds. In 2005, they were named "Marshmallow" and "Yam".

The celebration of a good fall harvest has always been both thrilling and comforting. Any trip to the supermarket today can give the same thankful feeling to anyone who has been out of the country for a while. We see bounty all around us. Since it isn't practical to feast every day with a great celebration, perhaps a small note of thanks might be raised after each shopping day.

What will you name your turkey this year? Will you cook it yourself or have it delivered, cooked and stuffed with yams and mashed potatoes, rolls and pie on the side? Remember, the day is supposed to be one in which we all give thanks for sun and rain, a bounty of health and strength and food, remembering the contrast of that original winter allocation of only a peck of meal.



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News from Tony Willis, Battalion 12 CERT Coordinator

There will be a dedication for the opening of the new Air Operations Fire Station in December at Van Nuys Airport. He will keep us informed of the time and date. A makeover for Fire Station 98 may start next year.

He has met with both of the new Chiefs of Battalion 12. He has also been networking with a business that is re-locating to the City of San Fernando and encouraging them to become a sponsor for Battalion 12 CERT. They have medical supplies and other services available that CERT member and first responders need. They may be able to buy their supplies for community caches in bulk at a discount price through that company. They will be meeting together at the end of the month.

Willis has Department handouts for distribution regarding evacuation of wheelchair disabled persons. He stated that he is giving priority to the issue of awareness for seniors and disabled persons.

There are two new CERT classes beginning in January. One in San Fernando and one in Shadow Hills. Visit www.cert-la.com for more information.

News from Officer Michael J. Scott, LAPD Mission Area Station

LAPD in conjunction with Living Hope Community Church and Genesis Entertainment will host the LAPD Annual Valley Christmas Toy Giveaway & Concert. Their theme is "If you have, come and give, if you

need, come and receive".

The event will feature a Motorcycle Toy Ride from West Valley to Mission Area Police Station, toys for needy kids, a live concert, public safety displays and celebrity guests. A fun zone will include a rock climbing wall, inflatable bouncers, face painting, interactive game area, food, popcorn, snow cone and candy booths and a brand new toy for every needy child present. All free.

A tree lighting ceremony, which will include Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Chief William Bratton and celebrity guests will take place prior to the distribution of thousands of toys to LA's most needy.

Mark your calendar for December 10, from 10 am to 4 pm at Mission Area Police Station, 11121 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Mission Hills.

Information from the Los Angeles County Health Department regarding "Bacterial" Meningitis

Two teenagers who attend Crescenta Valley High School were reported to have contacted "Bacterial Meningitis" over the weekend of November 11. They have been treated and are in recovery. The Health Dept. quickly and efficiently set up an emergency medical center in the school gym and provided antibiotics to the student body, particularly

A Note from your Neighborhood Prosecutor....

North Valley Citizens: Have you "ICE'd" Your Phones yet?

by Anthony Paul "A.P." Diaz

Law enforcement agencies around the nation are encouraging citizens to ICE your phone. What does that mean? It means who would you want notified "in case of emergency." Most all of us carry cell phones and now is the time designate your emergency contact numbers with the word "ICE." Your ICE can be your wife, spouse, friend, parent etc. In the unfortunate circumstance that you become incapacitated

- paramedics, firemen, hospital personnel and police officers are being trained to grab your cell phone, scroll down to ICE and make a call to let someone know you've been hurt and where you are. What a great idea and it only takes a minute to do. So, please grab your phone, ICE it and feel safe knowing that if you're hurt, your loved ones can be notified quickly!

You can call me at the number listed below if you have any questions regarding the Neighborhood Pros-

ecutor Program and how it works for you.

Anthony Paul Diaz "A.P."
Deputy City Attorney
Neighborhood Prosecutor Program
Foothill Division LAPD
Los Angeles City Attorney's Office
9425 Penfield Avenue, Suite 3700
Chatsworth, CA 91311
Office: (818) 374-6837
Fax: (818) 374-6813
Email: ap.diaz@lacity.org



those persons who were in contact with the patients. If not treated quickly bacterial meningitis may cause death. Bacterial meningitis is currently treated with medicines called "antibiotics." The following information comes from the Los Angeles County Health Department:

Meningitis is an infection of the lining of the brain and the spinal cord

Continue to page 15



LAPD Foothill Area Officers Honored

The Foothill Area Boosters Association (FABA) sponsored Police Appreciation Day on Thursday, November 17. The food was catered by Lucchese Deli & Catering in Sun Valley and was served to the officers by Community Police Advisory Board members (CPAB) and community volunteers throughout the day from 6 am to 6 pm.

"Hamming" it up at lunch time is Actor Matt Burch of "Operation Repo" with Arleta's Senior Lead Officer Rich Wall. Seated is Pacoima Senior Lead Officer Julian Almaraz. In the background heading for the food is Sunland-Shadow Hills-Lake View Terrace Senior Lead Officer Larry Martinez.



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SOUND Off

What I really think about Prop. R

I finally can say what I think about Proposition R, the phony term limit/ethics measure and its sponsors, the LA Chamber of Commerce and the League of Women Voters.

I'm vice president of the City Ethics Commission. A city law prevents members of the City Ethics Commission from commenting on measures such as Proposition R after they have been approved by the City Council and been placed on the ballot. I was told that if I disobeyed the city law I faced removal from office and accusations of criminal behavior. I counted up the potential offenses—something like two felonies and a misdemeanor—and decided to shut up.

Now that the election is over, I guess I can comment. Why am I doing it here? I chose this space because it's hard to get an audience in the mainstream media. Most of the reporters covering City Hall are good but they and their bosses have their own schedules and it's hard for our commission to crack it. So I thought I'd write about Proposition R and, in the future, other City Hall topics. Council members blog. Why not me?

This proposition was bad, and it's advertising misleading. Contrary to what the ads said, the measure extends term limits and weakens lobbyist control laws. Previously, lobbyists had to file reports on their income and clientele if they earned a certain amount a quarter. Under the new law, they don't have to file unless they work more than 30 hours. Hot lobbyists can

do their work in less time than that and still make big money. It means the top-drawer lobbyists escape regulation. Lobbyists put this thing together. A law firm representing them wrote the law.

At our meeting Tuesday I am going to ask our staff how it will enforce such a weak law. I am also going to ask the staff to find out the origin of the gag rule law that forbids ethics commissioner from speaking out.

I can understand why the chamber was for Prop-

This proposition was bad, and it's advertising misleading. Contrary to what the ads said, the measure extends term limits and weakens lobbyist control laws.

osition R. The chamber is pretty much a front for the business lobbyists who, with city employee unions, call the shots at City Hall. But I still can't believe the League of Women Voters would lend its name to a measure that reached a new low in false advertising. Or that the voters would fall for the measure as a way to crack down on lobbyists when, in fact, it loosens things up.

Bill Boyarsky

Bill Boyarsky is vice president of the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission and a lecturer in journalism at the USC Annenberg School for Communications. He was a columnist and city editor at the Los An-

geles Times, retiring in 2001 and writes his column for LA Observed, an online media journal.

Veterans Day Parade

I want to share my comments on the 3RD Annual Veterans Day Parade November 11, 2006. I would not have heard about it had it not been for my faithful perusal of the NVR. I have to commend the staff for the timely articles and update on local issues in this relatively new, newspaper covering the North Valley.

I was teary-eyed as I watched the parade with its many entries saluting and honoring our living Veterans. The attendance was superb and as a long time supporter of our Troops, their Military Families, Disabled Veterans and Hospitalized Veterans, I felt so proud for them that so many supporters were out there cheering them.

I ran into Nina Royal, one of the Copublishers, with her camera, busy as ever. Thanks again, Nina, for your consciousness. I, myself, took 87 pictures. I met two mothers, separately, who had pain and worry etched in their faces, both with two sons each, Reservists, who are on their second tours in Iraq. On display at one of the booths was a photo along with a reverently framed and preserved Medal of Honor and a second frame displaying the Purple Heart and other distinguished medals, belonging to David Gonzales, the first Recipient of the Medal of Honor from Los Angeles County during World War II. The solemn family and friends of David, once again I'm sure, paying tribute to him, and with this display,

60 some years later, serving us as a reminder of the sacrifice real families have paid. We can thank them for their sacrifice and let them know how indebted and grateful we are, as a nation, for their service. Now, more than ever, this Thanksgiving, let's not forget to remember our troops in our prayers and do what we can to SUPPORT OUR TROOPS.

Lucy Metcalf
Glendale

What Have We Done Los Angeles?

Not only did the November 7th election have Nancy Pelosi and the Democrats in DC celebrating, it generated some celebrations closer to home.

The passage of Proposition R—the so-called Ethics Reform measure—gave our LA City Council members an additional four years in office by raising term limits from 2 four-year terms to 3 four-year terms (from 8 years to 12).

Despite attempts by opponents such as City Controller Laura Chick, City Attorney Rockard Delgadillo, community activist David Hernandez, et al and the great effort on the part of the Daily News—the measure passed with 59% of the votes cast (Not 59% of voter registration). Any opposition was completely eclipsed by the flood of misleading mailers and ads paid for by the financial contributions of wealthy businesses and lobbyists who had the most to gain from the passage of this measure.

The funding for the “NO on Prop. R” campaign was sadly dwarfed by the hundreds of thousands of dollars spent to deceive the voters into thinking this proposition was in their best interest. In light of the Abramoff scandal in Congress and a political climate rife with corruption, it was easy to convince voters that this proposition would protect them from corruption at home. But has it?

In the last week, the LA City Council members have given themselves a 15% increase in pay, and have awarded \$150 million of bond money to a California investment bank with ties to lobbyists to build a new police headquarters. According to a recent article in the Daily News,

Council members concede that L.A. taxpayers might have gotten a better deal had other firms been able to compete for the bonds. But they claim they wanted to keep the contract local, and they insist that their decision had nothing to do with the fact that it benefits one of their lobbyist pals (article dated 11/12/06).

But all is not lost. There is still hope and that hope lies in the courts. According to the state constitution, a ballot initiative cannot have more than one unrelated issue. When two or more unrelated issues are included in one ballot proposition, the voters have to decide to accept both or to reject both.

Any opposition was completely eclipsed by the flood of misleading mailers and ads paid for by the financial contributions of wealthy businesses and lobbyists who had the most to gain from the passage of this measure.

For this reason, a judge in October ruled that Proposition R was unconstitutional because it combined term limits and ethics reform in one initiative and ordered it off the November ballot. Unfortunately, an appellate judge overruled that order and it was put back on.

Community activist, David Hernandez has already taken the steps to file a new lawsuit to reaffirm the constitutionality of the proposition. Since a well qualified Los Angeles Superior judge has already ruled it unconstitutional, victory is in our grasp.

But lawsuits are expensive, and this is a grassroots effort on the part of one lone crusader. In a recent article in the Daily News, David was christened the “San Fernando Valley gadfly”, and encouraged to keep up the fight. We should all give David our seal of approval and echo their endorsement; “We wish Hernandez well.

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The City Council's arrogance continues to grow, and he's now L.A.'s best hope for reining it in (*Daily News article dated 11/12/06*.)

For more information about the lawsuit and how you can help, please visit the website www.termedout.com.

Donna Connolly

"What we've got here is a failure to communicate."

There are tons of things going these days that affect neighborhood councils. But you wouldn't know it if you relied on DONE to tell you. For unknown reasons, it has stopped using its ability to communicate with the outside world using its e-mail system. Maybe you can ask them why. Even a member of the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners commented that it was "operating in a vacuum."

By law, one of DONE's jobs is to be clearinghouse of information for the neighborhood councils. That means more than just doing the minimum of sending out an agenda or a meeting flyer a week beforehand.

Thankfully, we can all subscribe for free to City-Watch at www.CityWatch-LA.com to find out what's going on. It just shouldn't be that way. By law, one of DONE's job is to be clearinghouse of information for the neighborhood councils. That means more than just doing the minimum of sending out an agenda or a meeting flyer a week beforehand.

Board of Neighborhood Commissioners:

On Thursday, November 16, 6:00 p.m. (Boys and Girls Club of Harbor Gateway, 802 W. Gardena Blvd.) BONC will meet to follow-up on the items that they discussed during its day-long retreat last Friday. There were only two of us there from the public, and

I took notes, fifteen pages of them, which will be available on citywatch.com.

BONC doesn't provide minutes of its meetings. (That's a separate subject for those neighborhood councils who have continually been asked by DONE to provide minutes of their meetings.) BONC has its meetings transcribed, but it is only recently that the amount of time that takes to get the text posted on the website has been cut to a month. And there are no e-mail newsletters being sent that explain what is about to be discussed or what has just been discussed. So, there is no reasonable way for neighborhood councils to know about the discussions that took place at the retreat, and now those critical issues are on the agenda for its upcoming meeting as action items.

I am passionate about protecting the principles contained in the City Charter and the Plan for a Citywide System of Neighborhood Councils. I feel strongly that the city needs to do a much better job of giving neighborhood councils the training and resources that they need to allow them to be successful before they start crushing them with more rules and regulations.

The best idea that came out of the retreat was the suggestion from Commissioner Michele Siqueiros that BONC should first establish a policy for how they establish policies.

By doing this, BONC will have to decide whether or not it will involve the neighborhood councils in its discussions of perceived problems and possible solutions, or rush into, as some commissioners seemed to be saying, adopting new controls over all board members because of the kind of people who have found themselves on some boards.

If you would like to share your thoughts with BONC, send them to Jacqueline.Mendez@lacity.org. You can cc: me if you wish to ensure that your message isn't ignored.

Ethics Commission Meeting:

Once Measure R was placed on the ballot, members of the City Ethics Commission were prohibited by law from speaking about the measure, even as private citizens. Before the measure was placed on the ballot, the commission's vice-chair, Bill Boyarsky, was very critical

of the fact that the proposal by-passed the Ethics Commission, and he fumed as said that the provisions in the measure would actually weaken the city's ethics laws.

Public Works Bond Issue:

You may be interested in item #47 that was on the City Council's agenda, Wednesday, November 15. In asking for the neighborhood councils' support for Measures H and R, some City Council members addressed the concerns that both measures were rushed to the ballot without first giving the neighborhood council a chance to provide input, by saying, "It won't happen again."

But, item 47 is a motion signed by seven City Council members to place a bond measure on the city's March ballot that would provide enough money to resurface 4,000 miles of streets over the next 10 years. Part of the problem is that this motion was introduced the day after the election, nobody knows how much it will cost or which streets will be designated, how they will be designated, if the money can only be used for street repairs, and Wednesday was the last day for the City Council to act, unless it wants to wait until the runoff election several weeks later.

Keep up the good work.

Greg Nelson

Far-Out Floor To Area Ratio?

There was little resemblance to the original Floor to Area Ratio Interim Control Ordinance at last week's presentation by the City Planning Department. The purpose of the ordinance is to prevent homeowners from building disproportionately oversized homes or "mansions" on smaller lots.

The example used for the presentation, however, was a 5,000 square-foot lot. Under the original premise, the maximum sized house that could be built on 5,000 square feet was 2,400 including the garage. City planning has increased that Floor Area Ratio and added bonus footage, and a review process which would now make it possible to build a 3,488 sq ft house including the garage on a 5,000 sq ft lot. That equates to a house which contains 70% of the total square footage of the whole lot.

This proposal met with nearly unanimous audience disapproval among the 100 or so people who attended. The only assenters were a handful of developers and one person sympathetic to the developers. A show of hands indicated that the vast majority of persons attending the workshop are not happy with the plan and expect the City to allow communities to have much stiffer restrictions through their community plans.

The good news was that the City has decided to han-

City planning has increased that Floor Area Ratio and added bonus footage, and a review process which would now make it possible to build a 3,488 sq ft house including the garage on a 5,000 sq ft lot. That equates to a house which contains 70% of the total square footage of the whole lot.

dle hillsides separately from the flat land. This workshop was for those areas outside of the hillside areas. The President of the Hill-

side Federation suggested that the planners look at the Mulholland/Cahuenga Pass plan which simply takes a specified circumference around the proposed construction and averages the square footage of all the houses inside that circle and that average becomes the allowable square footage for the new home.

There is another hopeful aspect of the FAR ICO which would allow communities to opt for single story houses only.

I personally reminded them that the General Plan which is no longer on the City Planning web site stated that the policy for new development is that it be consistent with old development as to square footage, mass, and setbacks. I also told the audience they had better take a look at the General Plan Framework which has replaced the General Plan on the web site if they want to see what the City has in store for their community.

I also related to the need to cause new homes to landscape and pave with permeable materials because of the danger to the water table caused by concreted/paved yards and driveways which collect and dump water into the streets and ultimately to the sea instead of the water table. And lastly, I reminded them of the recent water rate increase and the impending shortages of resources such as water, gas and electricity and suggested that they take these matters into consideration.

Allison McCabe
Sunland-Tujunga

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FUR, FEATHERS AND FINS

The Boxer - A Courageous Clown?

by Charles Kassotis

The Boxer has a very distinctive personality that makes them extremely good family pets. They're antics can seem almost clownish at times, though they tend to be very protective when their territory is being invaded. The heavy jowls, doleful eyes and perky ears are among the physical features you'll notice about a Boxer, while the tendency toward joyful greetings and playfulness are the personality traits that tend to be most evident.

The Boxer, sometimes called the German Boxer, originated in Germany as the result of breeding two German dogs that seem to be closely related to the mastiff. Bulldogs were later introduced into the line to produce the Boxer we know today. Until early in the 1900s, the Boxer lines were rather loose with breeding practices left solely to those raising these dogs. The standard today calls for a fawn, brindle and/or red coat, a squared off body and thick neck, among other features. Depending on the breeder and the statutes of the region in which the breeder resides, tails may be docked and ears clipped.



There were several purposes for the breed

when it was being originated. One of the most-often cited was the use of Boxers as bull bait, but Boxers were also used as hunting dogs. The heavy body of the Boxer also made it ideal for pulling and some Boxers were put into service pulling carts for various purposes. Somewhere during the history of the Boxer, someone discovered that these dogs could also be trained to herd, and they became fairly widely recognized as a herding dog.

The same natural intelligence that made these multi-purpose dogs popular a century ago makes them excellent family pets today. They're quick to learn, though they do sometimes have a willful streak and may even sneak around in an effort to get their own way. Patience will typically be rewarded with this breed and the Boxer is a quick study. That's made them coveted family pets, but also sought-after canines for obedience competition and even some rescue operations.

Boxers tend to be rather large dogs and may weigh in at somewhere around 70 pounds. Their size, natural tendency toward protectiveness and

their ability to learn quickly make them excellent choices as watchdogs. They can be very vocal, alerting your family of potential danger and anyone (or anything) presenting a threat of the potential to be tackled by a Boxer!

Despite their size, these dogs can stay very agile and playful for many years. As a rule, they love to play games and will usually be willing to play long after their people have tired out. The beauty is that they're usually willing to play anything - ball, Frisbee, fetch, tag or whatever game you can devise.

The personality of this dog just can't be pent up. You'll find the he shows off all sorts of antics with no prompting, sometimes to convey a message ('I want to go outside to play') and other times simply to garner some attention. Those clownish acts are just one more way the Boxer will endear himself to his family.

For more information on Boxers and other Popular, and not-so-popular breeds of dogs, visit *The Working Dog Directory*. Courtesy of www.therealarticles.com.



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.

Won't You Adopt Me?



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Safety Bits - from page 11

and is usually caused by either viruses or bacteria. It is important to know which type a person has because seriousness and treatment of these infections are different.

Anyone can get bacterial meningitis. Many people can carry the bacteria in their nose and throat and not be sick; however, they can spread it to others. The bacterial is usually spread by sneezing and coughing or direct contact. The bacterial then enters the body through the nose and mouth and starts to damage the body. It is usually more common among people who live in crowded places, among infants, children and young adults. Bacterial meningitis is more severe than viral meningitis. Bacterial meningitis can cause brain damage, hearing loss, make it difficult to learn later and sometimes cause death.

The signs and symptoms vary from person to person. The signs and symptoms of viral and bac-

terial meningitis are often the same. However, not everyone has all the symptoms which are: Fever, Bad Headaches Stiff Neck, vomiting or feeling like you will, confusion and feeling sleepy, a skin rash that look like small purple-red spots and/or loss of consciousness. In infants, the signs include crankiness, sleepiness and poor eating.

Some types of bacterial meningitis can be spread from person to person. They are not as easy to catch as a cold or the flu. For these types of bacterial meningitis, it is often recommended that people who live in the same home with an infected person or who have had direct contact with an infected person's saliva or nose mucus, be treated with "antibiotics". If so, it is very important that this medicine be given as soon as possible (within days) after contact with the infected person. To help prevent some causes of bacterial meningitis, there are vaccines available.

If you have had contact with an infected person, or may have contact in the future, your health care provider may recommend that you get vaccinated to help prevent the disease.

In order to prevent bacterial Meningitis: Avoid sharing eating utensils, cigarettes, lipstick, food, sports water bottles and any other items that may be contaminated orally. Cover your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing. If recommended by your health care provider, get a shot for bacterial meningitis. See your health care provider if you experience the signs and symptoms.

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Music Exhibit at Bolton Hall Museum

Since time began, mankind has made music. Organized music came about because rhythms and melody are part of all nature and a part of the human soul. Birds sing their scattered tones, rocks brush together, water has its own tempo and people sing.

An exhibit at Bolton Hall Museum has been created to display the influence of music

in Sunland/Tujunga and the areas represented by the Rancho Tujunga's early days, continuing through to the 1960's. As we researched in preparation of this display, we become aware of the types of songs, melody, scale, rhythm, written scores, and the ethnic qualities of world music and the instruments used to create the sounds. It seems that a history could be written from the study of music alone.

Much of California music came with the Mexican and Spanish explorers and from the mission hymns. Settlers brought European songs and instruments. When instruments weren't available, they were invented — the washboard, spoons, glasses, saws and buckets. Slowly, violins, guitars, the dulcimer, autoharp, melodion and all the instruments we now know traveled West.

A Musical Journey, the newest exhibit provided by the Little Landers Historical society will give a retrospective of music in the Rancho Tujunga and nearby areas beginning with the Tongva and Chumash, continuing through the Mission and Californio eras. Included are Sunland-Tujunga's unique contributions to music and the people involved.

Some interesting items are the exhibited musical instruments, the story of Nature Boy and Nat King Cole, sheet music from the past, and the various mission manuscripts. See also photos of church choirs from years ago and of music teachers of the past.

A Musical Journey exhibit runs through the end of February. The museum is open Tuesday and Sunday afternoons from 1:00 to 4:00.

Bolton Hall Museum,
10110 Commerce Avenue in Tujunga.
818-352-3420



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Tomi has been not only very professional every step of the way but her meticulous attention to the details we would have never thought of has made the entire experience unforgettable. I would highly recommend Tomi Lyn to anyone. - SK

I know a lot of real estate people, hundreds in fact. I would only **EVER** call the **DREAM TEAM**, Tomi and Tony, for my real estate services. - NT



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