

North Valley Open Space Under Siege



Neighbors Fear the Loss of Verdugo Hills Golf Course

News Analysis
by Nina Royal

As the number of developments in and around the Sunland-Tujunga area continues to increase, and developers enter into agreements that allow more construction than the community is comfortable with, local residents now fear for the increasing loss of local open space.

At least one developer—MWH, Inc., owned by Mark Handel—is responsible for a number of large developments on Foothill Boulevard and Huber Street

Continued page 3

Permit Appeal Against Home Depot Denied

Sunland-Tujunga Community Outraged

by Nina Royal

Angering local residents and activists, the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety has denied an appeal sponsored by the No2Home Depot group in Sunland-Tujunga. The appeal was denied October 5.

The Department had originally issued Home Depot permits on July 24 for what they termed “tenant improvements,” rather than a “project,” incurring the ire of the community, and triggering the appeal. A “project” ruling would have required that Home Depot complete an Environmental Impact Report.

The No2HomeDepot group, which filed the appeal, is also part of a non-profit organization called the Sunland-Tujunga Alliance

(STA), a 501(c) 3 Community Benefit Corporation. Both organizations share similar members. The two groups had united to work together after learning the home improvement chain had purchased the lease of the former Kmart building at 8040 Foothill Boulevard in October of 2004. The group has said it is determined to bring in a general retail store such as Target, citing the lack of such stores in the area.

Upon learning of the July 24 issuance of permits, the group scurried to raise funds to file an appeal. They asked the city to rescind or revoke any City Building Permits issued for the Home Depot Facility, positing that the permits were a violation



Residents near proposed Home Depot may have a view like this from their kitchen windows.

of the City Code ordinances, the California Environmental Quality Act and the Foothill Boulevard Corridor Specific Plan.

In the letter prepared by Luis Sanchez, for hearing officer Lincoln Lee, Department of Building and Safety, stating various reasons for rejecting the appeal, including the fact that

the proposed work does not prolong the life of the supporting beams of the building, and does not increase the floor area. Home Depot is not changing the use of the building, and the proposed work does not exceed 50 percent of the replacement cost of the existing structure. Also, the proposed work was reviewed by the

Department of City Planning and deemed not to constitute a “project.”

In a response letter to Building and Safety officials, Abby Diamond, secretary of the Sunland-Tujunga Alliance wrote, “Please note that LADBS did not provide any of the Building Code sections that they relied on

Continued page 2

INSIDE

Trying to Save the Trees on Sheridan Gardens property.
page 2

How to Protect Yourself From ID Theft.
page 2

Neighborhood Councils: Who, What and Where.
page 5

Blessing the Animals at Shadow Hills Presbyterian.
page 14

Mark Your Calendar: Watch for Holiday Events.
page 8

NEWS

Regional Airport for Palmdale?

Alarcon and Runner Plan Initiative

by Nina Royal

State Senators Richard Alarcon and George Runner have formed a Bi-Partisan Initiative to develop a new regional airport in Palmdale, to address the growing aviation need for Southern Californians.

Both Alarcon and Runner believe that the development of a new airport in Palmdale will afford the north Los Angeles County area economic growth opportunities, resulting from the availability of state funds required for the build-out of the infrastructure to support the airport. It will also create new jobs, increase hotel occupancy, and increase goods and services to the Los Angeles Region.

The Senators' goal is to form a broad coalition, including community partici-

pation. They also plan to gather support for earmarking State Infrastructure Bond funds for the construction of the airport, along with other infrastructure projects such as a high speed rail and additional freeway lanes needed for the movement of people and goods.

Alarcon and Runner are hoping that community members embrace their goal for the airport and become supporters and advocates by gathering signatures in support of their plan. A meeting will be held Friday, October, 13, at the Van Nuys State Office Building Auditorium, 6150 Van Nuys Blvd. from 10 am to noon. For further information or questions, call Mr. Alvin Kusumoto at 818-901-5588. A meeting RSVP is requested.

Street Services to Remove Protected Trees

Sun Valley NC vows to fight

by Nina Royal

The Sun Valley Neighborhood Council (SVNC) is scrambling to save their neighborhood's trees. The SVNC was only recently

Council, which recently voted unanimously to save the trees.

The properties were originally purchased by Ted



Council member Greuel wants to save the trees.

notified by LA Street Services of the planned removal of 30 canopy trees—8 of which are protected Sycamores—on Glenoaks Boulevard in Sun Valley. Street Services plans to remove the trees from the front of the former Sheridan Gardens property. The department also plans to widen the street, also against the wishes of the Neighborhood

Stein and Dan Rosenfeld, who plan to construct 102 condominium units on the street.

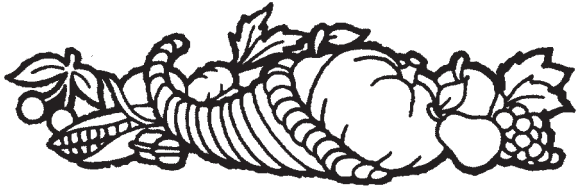
During a regular City Planning Commission meeting September 28, Councilmember Wendy Greuel said she supports the development, but also wants to save the trees. The developers said they are not opposed to keeping them and will coop-

erate with the community's wishes.

LAPD Senior Lead Officer Michele Rodriguez has voiced a concern that the widening of the street will be conducive to "street racing" and will only benefit additional parking for the large semi-diesel trucks which now occupy the boulevard, to the consternation of the community.

SVNC board member Benson questioned how widening a street can be more important than saving existing and protected trees which are at least 75 years old. Street Services has said it will replace each tree with 2 young trees. According to Benson, however, City planning department has the ability to stop Street Services from destroying the trees. She also voiced concern that new trees may take decades to actually become shade trees and provide a natural canopy.

She is hoping that other communities will come forward and write to the City planning department to encourage them to stop the order to remove the trees.





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Appeal Denied

from page 1

to make their determination regarding structural alterations. No examples were given. Unfortunately, they did not address our detailed comments included in Exhibit "C" of our Appeal. Keep in mind that answer #2 of the 4 questions ... specifically pointed out that the "engineer of community" would have to prove that the floor slab is structural. We did that, but the subject was only given a brief comment in the Discussion section of the response. In my opinion, this response from LADBS is not adequate and it is a great disappointment. In other words, it's a farce. We will be pursuing the next stage of the appeal process and we would like your comments."

Joe Barrett, Chairman of the No 2 Home Depot campaign, added, "The response was prepared by Luis Sanchez on behalf of Lincoln Lee, a senior official at LADBS. We expected Mr. Lee to defend his departments' actions, but we never thought he would defend them by ignoring so much of our Appeal. Although we

expected LADBS to not address some of the issues we presented, we are shocked at how many issues they chose to overlook or just plain ignore. Even worse, many of the challenges we presented were directly tied to specific codes that fall within the

"The longer this battle goes on, and the more we learn about the inner workings of the City, the more we are convinced that LADBS is a dysfunctional.

jurisdiction of LADBS and they completely neglected to respond to them. Their report is a complete farce and we will be presenting our follow-up challenge within the next two weeks.

"The longer this battle goes on, and the more we learn about the inner workings of the City, the more we are convinced that LAD-

BS is a dysfunctional. if not downright corrupt City department."

According to Rocky Wiles of the Engineering Bureau, the No 2 Home Depot Campaign must file an appeal with the Department of City Planning no later than October 20, 2006.

The property now occupied by Home Depot was originally a grape vineyard. It then became an Edwards Family-owned drive-in called the Sunland Drive-In Theater, until 1976 when Kmart took over and opened its doors. The construction of the Kmart store caused many small family-owned merchandise businesses to close, as they were unable to compete with chain store prices. Residents fear that the same fate will befall local hardware stores, with the construction of the Home Depot store.

More information on the issue is available at www.no2homedepot.com. The Home Depot website is at www.homedepot.com.

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Open Space Under Siege

from page 1

in Sylmar, on what was once pristine open space. Although within the legal bounds of the law, many community members consider them an eyesore.

"The two story box units with minimal space between them, are extremely visible from both the 210 Freeway and the boulevard. They appear to be packed together like sardines with no yards or room for trees," said one resident who asked to remain anonymous.

"However," the resident said, "Mr. Handel is within his rights and has a by-right from the state as well as the city of Los Angeles, both offering a density bonus for multiple affordable housing units.

MWH has now set its sights on the Verdugo Hills Golf Course on La Tuna Canyon Boulevard at Big Tujunga Canyon Road in Tujunga. Handel purchased the golf course in 2005. The property is presently zoned RA, A1 and the club house is zoned commercial. Since its purchase by MWH, the grounds are starting to show signs of deterioration. At least a few golfers have speculated that it is not being maintained properly in order to show that the course is not being used to its maximum potential and should be granted the vari-

ance they plan to request.

Handel attended a Town Hall meeting sponsored by the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council (STNC) in June 2005. At that time he presented proposals for two possible projects, one for 320-plus detached townhouses and one for a 300,000-square foot retail shopping center with 1,100 parking spaces. Both plans were defeated by straw vote. The Council members did not want to give up the golf

'The two story box units with minimal space between them, are extremely visible from both the 210 Freeway and the boulevard. They appear to be packed together like sardines with no yards or room for trees.'—A Sylmar resident.

course, and felt the new retail development would take business away from the new Foothill Commerce Town Square due to open next

year.

Handel made another presentation to the Design Advisory Board of the STNC in July 2006. His massive new proposal included 27 units of housing in five buildings, two stories high, south of La Tuna Canyon along the 210 freeway, 24 two-story townhouses accessible from Tujunga Canyon Boulevard, two three-story 60-unit, multifamily complexes along Tujunga Canyon by the intersection of La Tuna Canyon, and eighteen 2-story structures built on the golf course property along with a commercial area covering 10,500 square feet with access off La Tuna Canyon.

Handel said he wants to preserve a public executive golf course in and around the town homes to be maintained by a property owners association. He has also volunteered to reduce the height of the buildings from four stories and three stories to two-stories.



Developer is crowding houses together but is staying within legal limits.

Many community members are also leery about developer-negotiated "deals." The developer of the Cascades project in Sylmar promised the community a much-needed Fire Station. The fire station may not be built anytime soon, however, as the developer reportedly is short of funds. Whitebird developers, responsible for the Canyon Hills project, have promised the Sunland-Tujunga community parkland in exchange for a variance, but are having trouble finding an agency willing to spend the money to oversee and maintain the property.

Meanwhile, homeowners in the Renaissance development, a gated community in Sunland-Tu-

junga, are unhappy because hikers are going through property, which is actually negotiated parkland, which provides access to The Rim of the Valley.

The Foothills community has long been attractive to developers, particularly the areas near the 210 freeway, as it bisects the communities on its way to the Simi Valley and Golden State freeways. Local activists are hoping to continue to enlist the help of neighborhood councils and elected officials to preserve not only open space, but also locations that hold historic value as well.

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LA County Seal's Day in Court

On October 17, 2006 Robert J. Muise of the Thomas More Law Center will be presenting his case, Vasquez v. La County, a county employee opposing the changing of the Original Seal, to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. Muise is also handling the Mt. Soledad Cross case. The calendar begins at 9:30 and his is fourth case in line.

His plan is to request a stay on the continued changes of the Original Seals until the court cases have been resolved.

The court is located at the Richard H. Chambers Court of Appeal Building 125 South Grand Ave, Pasadena, Ca 91105.



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GPA Amendment Disallowed for Terra Vista Project

78-Unit Plan Moves to PLUM Committee

by Elektra Kruger

LAKEVIEW TERRACE—The Los Angeles City Planning Commission on June 22 disallowed the requested General Plan Amendment (GPA) from Minimum Density Residential to Low Density Residential for the Terra Vista Project in Lake View Terrace, and recommended the Mayor and City Council do likewise. The commission also disapproved the requested Zone Change from A2-1 Agricultural Zone to RD6-1 Restricted Density Multiple Dwelling Zone. They determined that the Mitigated Negative Declaration was an inadequate environmental clearance and recommended preparation of a full Environmental Impact Report.

The Planning Commission cited a number of factors, including the lack of sufficient land-use and environmental impact analysis presented in regard to the consequences the General Plan Amendment/Zone Change might have on the property. Those consequences could affect the Project Density, alteration of features and characteristics of the Project Site and also have potential adverse

effects on the surrounding area.

The CPC felt that the Zone Change request was not consistent with good zoning practice, since the scale, density and character of the proposed 78-unit Project would not be compatible with the surrounding RE-40, RE-11 and RS-1 neighborhood. While the developer did present a 49-unit alternative to the Planning Department hearing officer, he never officially filed it as an alternative plan with the Planning Department; therefore the June 22 CPC hearing could only evaluate the 78-unit proposal with no alternative proposal available for presentation.

The CPC was also notably unhappy with the developer for being so lax in terms of the proposed environmental clearance. In terms of the proposed environmental clearance, the Commission felt that a mitigated negative declaration would be insufficient to provide adequate analysis and mitigation of the Project's very significant potential environmental impact. The environmental effects of the project have the potential to have substantial adverse ef-

fects on human beings as well as the potential to substantially reduce wildlife and plant/animal communities, whether directly or indirectly, due to the presence of the fault-line. The main purpose of the EIR would be to force a study of Project Alternatives to mitigate, lessen or even avoid project effects on the environment.

The end of August was a busy time for the Terra Vista Project file. Mr. Mark Handel filed an appeal against the findings of the CPC. The Planning Department then forwarded a memorandum to the Mayor recommending that he concur with the findings of the City Planning Commission along with a description of the reasons behind their decision. Mayor Villaraigosa forwarded a memorandum to the City Council stating that he did indeed concur with the findings of the CPC and recommended that they too concur with those findings.

The file now sits in the hands of the City Council's Planning Land-Use and Management Committee, more commonly known as the PLUM Committee.

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Sylmar Campaign Successful

Convicted Sex Offenders Gone

by Nina Royal

The "Picket Parade" on Wednesday evening, October 1, organized by Sylmar residents and backed by their Neighborhood Council, was instrumental in convincing the owner of the former Super Eight Motel to terminate the stay of the unacceptable guests. The convicted sex offenders stay caused the former Super 8 Motel, on Rockford and Foothill Boulevards in Sylmar, to become disenfranchised by the Super 8 Corp. chain.

Louis Perry, Public Service Committee Chairman of the Sylmar Neighborhood Council, stated that Mr. Patel, owner of the motel called him after their picket on October 1st and said he

was willing to do whatever it took for the group to cease picketing. The Group made public their plans to continue nightly until the offenders were removed. The peaceful picketers were too many to count. Men, Women and Children chanting slogans, marched in front of the motel and also all four street corners of Foothill Blvd., where the motel is located. There was a large police presence, however picketers were respectful and no unlawful incidents were recorded.

According to Perry, he attended a meeting with the motel owner, LAPD, the Director of Probation and representatives from Assembly Women Cindy Montanez and Councilmember

Alex Padillas office. They assured him that the convicted sex offenders are no longer motel residents. They gave no indication as to the motels former guests whereabouts. Attempts to contact the owner of the motel has been unsuccessful, therefore its' fate remains unknown.

Perry stated that the Sylmar Neighborhood Council intends to continue to monitor the quantity of sex offenders in their community. Their community believes they have more than their fair share and they intend to stay on top of it.



Pickers at the Super *

COMMUNITY

Mission Hills NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

by Pamela Goldfinger

If you have not been to our Council Meeting, please join us! Our Board of Governors/Stakeholders General Meeting meets monthly, on the second Tuesday of the month, at 6:00 pm in the San Jose Street School Auditorium, 14928 Clymer St., Mission Hills. Board Business begins at 6:00 pm and Presentations begin at 7:00 pm. We usually have an informative Guest Speaker who addresses concerns of the community and answers questions.

The Posting for all Board and Committee Agendas for stakeholders are at the following locations: Country Club Auto Body, 11025 Stranwood Avenue, Mission Hills Market, 15340 Chatsworth Street, Vista Paint, 11034 Sepulveda Blvd, Ralph's Market, 10400 Sepulveda Blvd., Dunn-Edwards Paint, 15335 Chatsworth Street, Valero Gas Station, 15544 San Fernando Mission Blvd. and MHNC office, 10161 Sepulveda Blvd.

A note from David Crawford, MHNC Chairman: Aleta Francis, our MHNC Vice-Chair has resigned due to the demands of a very busy schedule. Joining the MHNC effort in the summer of 2004, Aleta assisted in outreach, served on the Tech Committee and helped with facilitating our public meetings. Her Power Point presentation at our certification hearing before the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners will not be soon forgotten. Following her election to the MHNC Board of Governors in December 2005, she was chosen by her fellow Board members to serve as Vice-Chair. Aleta has been a tremendous asset to the MHNC. Her contributions and service as well as her vision and leadership will be greatly missed. On behalf of our community, we thank Aleta, with much heartfelt appreciation and wish her the best of luck!

A Gold Star goes to Charlie Conrad, who faithfully tends to the entrance doors at our General Public Meetings and assists wherever needed. We also thank him for his continued support and service. He is a MHNC 'Gold Star' volunteer!

The following is the MHNC Committee Directory. Hopefully you will find

something interesting and enjoy participating. NOTE: Unless stated otherwise, all committee meetings are held at the MHNC office located at 10161 Sepulveda Blvd., Mission Hills 91345.

Beautification & Cultural Affairs Committee - Meet monthly on the first Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm. The MHNC Beautification & Cultural Affairs Committee is currently looking at options for returning the 'Day of the Dead Festival' to Mission Hills. This tradition has been on hold for two years due to a lack of funds. The American culture is made up of many nationalities who celebrate different traditions, foods and beliefs, brought to this country by their ancestors. We are a diverse country. Let's be proud of who we are, where we have come from and remember to take pride in where we are now...The United States of America. What customs & traditions do you observe in your family? We would like to know. Please call Betty Ley at 818-837-3664 or E-mail: mhnc@verizon.net.

The Outreach Committee - Meets monthly on the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm.

Teen Youth Outreach Committee - Meets monthly on the first Saturday of the month at 4:00 pm. From Betty Ley, Youth Outreach Committee Chair, Thank you, Youth Outreach for their contributions to our 1st annual "Teen Event". The Dept. of Recreation and Parks, The LAPD Explorers, LAPD Mission Area Officer, John Gomperz, The Clean and Green Team, Mission Area Combined Neighborhood Watch, The Body Works Studio, Bobby Arias "Communities in Schools", Stefni Valencia ~ Council District 7 and our wonderful Community Volunteers all made contributions. "Thank you one and all. See you next year!"

Zoning & Land Use Committee - Meets monthly on the first Monday of the Month at 6:30 pm. The MHNC Zoning & Land Use Committee recently received notification in regard to a proposed development on Indian Hills Road (behind Holy Cross Hospital). A meeting has been scheduled with the developer's representative and our Zoning &

Land Use Chair, Lee Bauer, along with the YMCA, the President of the Mission Hills Neighborhood Watch and Council District 7. From Lee Bauer, MHNC Recording Secretary, "There is plenty of

We are a diverse country. Let's be proud of who we are, where we have come from and remember to take pride in where we are now.

room for improvement of the appearance of Mission Hills. Making our community beautiful will not only improve the value of our homes but will also improve our hearts. There is

nothing more satisfying than walking out into a community that lightens your heart and brings you joy. Now it is our opportunity to use our city funds and develop the aesthetics of Mission Hills. Don't hide out! Come and join us at our MHNC General Meetings or Community Barbecues."

Take a moment to review each committee. Do you have experience or an interest in any of these subjects? If you have teenagers at home, perhaps you might volunteer an hour or two a month to Youth Outreach. Are you interested in improving the appearance of Mission Hills? Maybe our Beautification & Cultural Affairs Committee would be of interest to you. Do you want to keep 'Big Box' stores out of Mission Hills? Then sign up for Zoning & Land Use.

Your Neighborhood Council and its committees is overseeing the well being, and is shaping the future, of Mission Hills. We know you have opinions, good ideas and talent to contribute. MHNC looks forward to hearing from you.

Your Mission Hills Neighborhood Council welcomes and encourages your participation. A MHNC stakeholder is any individual who lives, works or owns property in the MHNC area. Stakeholders are also individuals actively involved in educational organizations, homeowners associations, service organizations school/parent groups and youth groups in the MHNC area. However, MHNC stakeholder status does not include passerby or patrons of MHNC businesses

Please join us for our Community Barbecue. We offer Free Food, Friends & Fellowship hosted by our MHNC Outreach Committee, held on the 4th Monday of each month from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the MHNC office.

Don't hide out. Please join us for this monthly 'meet & greet' social. We provide food but feel free to bring your favorite dish to share with your neighbors. Our next BBQ is October 23. We hope to see you there!

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COMMUNITY

Sylmar NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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Treasurer: Ellie Brooks
SNC Secretary: Doris Jacobs

Welcome to Sylmar Neighborhood Council. We invite to you to come, participate, and let your voice be heard regarding the issues and concerns of Sylmar. Our meetings are on the second Thursday of each month, from 6:30 to 8:50 p.m., at Hubbard Street Elementary School Auditorium, 13325 Hubbard Street in Sylmar. Our next meeting is October 12, 2006.

To address the Board on any item of the agenda we request that a "Speaker Card" is filled out prior to the Board taking action. Comments from the public on Agenda items will be heard when the respective item is being considered. Matters not appearing on the Agenda that are within the Council's jurisdiction are heard during the "Public Comment" period which is limited to 2 minutes per speaker.

The Sylmar Neighborhood Council Agenda is posted for public review at Sylmar Chamber of Commerce, 13867 Foothill Blvd Sylmar; Sylmar City Library, 14561 Polk Street Sylmar; Mission College, Office of the President, 13356 Elldridge St; Ross Liquor, Corner of Polk & San Fernando Road; Roxford Veterinarian Clinic, 13571 Glenoaks; and the Sylmar Neighborhood

Council Office, 13515 1/2 Hubbard Street.

Some of the items on the SNC Agenda for October 12 are:

- An explanation of procedure regarding motions for reconsideration and SNC grievance process will be discussed.
- A Discussion and possible BOD action has been requested for the SNC to join and appoint a Board member to the L.A. Neighborhood Council Congress (LANCC):
- Discussion and possible Board action regarding "closing down Sylmar Juvenile Hall," with an invitation to Juvenile Hall officials requesting them to make a 15 minutes presentation regarding the facility.
- The SNC will also be considering a recommendation to the L.A. City Council as presented by Eugene Hernandez: "Neighborhood Councils were created by the City Charter to give a voice to residents throughout the City of Los Angeles, and Neighborhood Council Directors, are elected by the Stakeholders and represent a constituency of the voters in the City of Los Angeles. Neighborhood Council Directors should be allowed the same rights and privileges accorded to other elected officials when addressing the Los Angeles City Council during Public

Comment periods and in Special Hearings, whereby the Los Angeles City Council President suspending the one minute rule for Neighborhood Council Board Members during the public comment period."

- There is always Discussion and possible Board action regarding Land Use Committee recommendations. At the October 12 meeting the board will consider the recommendation to support the proposed condominium development at 13389 Hubbard Street if there is no density bonus, giving the developer a maximum of 27 units.
- The Land Use Committee also recommends the support of the proposed 45-foot monopine telecommunications tower at 16045 W. Foothill Blvd.
- The Land Use Committee recommends the adoption and refinement of a Community Vision

Statement to establish a list of community desires regarding various aspects of Sylmar land use. The board will also consider supporting the recommendation with conditions, a reduced project of 200 town-homes on Foothill at Harding and to support an R1 single family home development at 13147 Gladstone Ave. with the conditions of removing squatters and illegal homes on the property.

- There will be a discussion and possible Board action to support or oppose Proposition R and inform the L.A. City Council, other neighborhood councils and associations who are compiling lists of support and opposition of the SNC's decision.

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provided upon request. To ensure the availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting the Neighborhood Council Project Coordinator, Leyla Campos at (818) 374-9894, or e-mail leyla.campos@lacity.org.

Please note that several items on the Agenda were previously tabled because of the election results which held up other business. We will be catching up and appreciate your patience. Come and join us, bring us your ideas and concerns so we can work together to improve the quality of life in Sylmar.

Our November meeting date is November 9, 2006. Unless noted otherwise, our General Meetings are always held the 2nd Thursday each month at Hubbard Street Elementary School Auditorium, 13325 Hubbard Street in Sylmar. Our office is located at 13515-1/2 Hubbard St. We can be reached at 818-833-8737, fax: 818-833-8707 or email SylmarNC@verizon.net our website is www.sylmarnc.org

Pacoima NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

About the PNC

by Moe Pichon
Vice President

The Pacoima Neighborhood Council (PNC) was certified in March 2002 and meets the 3rd Wednesday of each Month at the Pacoima Community Center at 11243 Glenoaks Blvd in Pacoima. We are in the North Valley Region and are shared by two City Council Districts, Councilmember Tony Cardenas in District 6 and Alex Padilla in District 7.

Our boundaries consist of Northeast: Foothill Blvd and the perimeter of Hansen Dam. Northwest: Los Angeles City Limit and the Tacoma Wash. Southeast: Bradford St. and the perimeter of Hansen Dam. Southwest: Golden State (5) Freeway.

The members of our Board consist of: Edwin Ramirez, President, Moe Pichon, Vice President, Board Members, Trudy Aldridge,

Christopher Castro, Reuben Garcia, Ray Lopez, Isaac Luna, Mineola Newman, Ernesto Ferrer Ocampo, Carlos Ortega, and Sandra Suarez. All members can be reached at pacoimaneighborhoodcouncil@yahoo.com They're also numerous committees that are unlisted at this time. In order to obtain further information; please contact Moe Pichon at 818-590-4792

The Pacoima Neighborhood Council (PNC) is increasing pressure on the Los Angeles Department of Parking Enforcement to rid the community of abandoned vehicles. Cars have a tendency of sitting on the street until the tires are flat, the windshields are muddy, trash accumulates under them and spiders anchor them to the asphalt.

We are asking the residents to store their unlicensed, inoperative vehicles in their garage or out of public view. Those who own

these types of vehicles are being asked to find suitable storage. Driveways are not considered suitable for the storage of unlicensed inoperative vehicles.

L.A. City ordinances prohibit parking cars and trucks on the street over 72 hours. Violators are subject to having their vehicles impounded and eventually sold. Re-claiming cars and trucks from the impound lot can be expensive.

The PNC is encouraging all residents to call to get vehicles that are parking violators removed from the community. Parking spaces are becoming rare throughout the entire community of Pacoima.

We are encouraging all community members to accept responsibility and do whatever is necessary to help improve the quality of life in Pacoima.

Live Eat Drink FOOTBALL

at **Georgio's Pizza
and Sports Bar**

818.767.6225
8414-16 Sunland Blvd.
Sun Valley





Family Day A Huge Success

Pacoima Beautiful couldn't have picked a more perfect day to hold their 6th Annual Family Day at the Pacoima Youth and Family Center in Pacoima.

There was something for everyone, crafts, games and prizes for children and live music for adults. There was also an abundance of food available for a small fee. They provided free health service information regarding asthma, lead poisoning, and nutrition as well as screening for body fat, bone density, diabetes and osteoporosis. They also offered workshops on Emergency Preparedness and Illness Prevention.

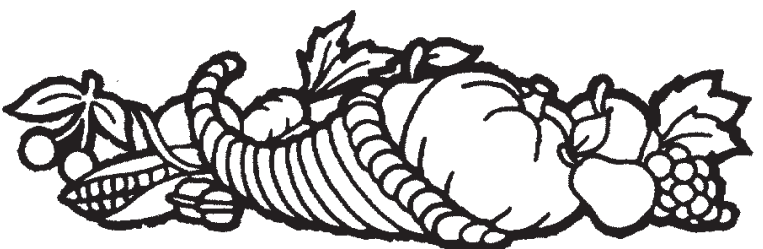
Some of the sponsors included State Senator Richard Alarcon, U.S. Congressman Howard Berman, Assemblywoman Cindy Montanez and Councilmember Alex Padilla who had arrived after his panel participation in the LAPD Mission Area Station Town Hall Meeting.



Hey, Anyone Want to Run Through the Sprinklers!

Saturday, September 25, was a beautiful night for a Bar-B-Que and Dance at Tierra Del Sol in Shadow Hills. Sponsored by the Shadow Hills Property Owners Assoc. Elektra Kruger said "It was a "no particular reason party." They served scrumptious Prime rib, barbecued Chicken and Beans along with Corn on the Cob and Coleslaw. People were dancing to live Country Western music when the commotion began. Someone had forgotten to turn off the automatic sprinkler system.

That got everybody's attention! Jenny Curry, Director of Tierra Del Sol, Roberta and Ivan Cole, and others scrambled to put covers over the sprinkler heads until they could be turned off. These community members are known throughout their neighborhood for their resilience and stamina and they did just as expected. They had a good laugh and went right back to dancing and having a great time.



Sunland Tujunga NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

by Cindy Cleghorn
STNC Chairperson

A big "thank you" to Verdugo Hills High School Football! I had the honor of "tossing the coin" at the Homecoming game last Friday. What a thrill to participate in this exciting "sold out" event in our community and meet so many great students, parents and players! And congratulations to the Dons on winning the game!

The next meeting of the STNC will be held on Wednesday, October 11th at Mt. Gleason Middle School with refreshments at 6:30 p.m. Meeting starts at 7 p.m. Please join us for updates on the STNC's recent activities as well as local land use and community improvement topics. At all our meetings, you have the opportunity to speak out. The Public Comment time is your opportunity to announce local community events or bring issues (within our jurisdiction) to the attention of the board, local residents and city department reps --- all in one place. If you'd rather not speak, your comments can be submitted in writing. Come to hear more about what's going on with Public Safety and Land Use and what's the latest regarding the proposed Home Depot? How can you get involved? Tell your friends and neighbors. Meetings are for everyone!

Did You Know?

The Foothill Blvd. Corridor Specific Plan (FBCSP) Ordinance covers Foothill Blvd. from the 210 Freeway on the West to Lowell Ave. on the east. The Design Advisory Committee (DAC) of the STNC is our land use committee and consists of volunteer neighbors who give of their time and expertise to the committee's work. We often find that owners of properties in the FBCSP area are not aware of the ordinance and that it may affect them should they want to make improvements on their property including change of use, structural additions, signage, leasing to a tenant or ownership change. The STNC helps to bring more awareness of this important City ordinance to you. The FBCSP became effective October 27, 1995 along with the Design Guidelines and Standards Manual in effect as of February 22, 2001. If you would like a "free" copy of the Specific Plan, including the Design Guidelines, stop by the STNC office. It is also available on the STNC web site at <http://www.stnc.org/dac.html>

The DAC reviews most sites within the FBCSP area that the City submits to us. The DAC makes recommendations and takes an advisory vote in favor or opposition to plans submitted as well as recommending changes to plans. Your questions and involvement help in the implementation of the FBCSP. Join us next Monday, Oct. 16 at 7 p.m. for the next DAC meeting to learn more.

Volunteers Needed - The STNC is looking for volunteers to join the DAC. If you have interest, expertise and a willingness to participate, we need you. Join us next Monday or contact the STNC office for more info.
Community Spotlight - At the Oct. 11 meeting we will acknowledge members of the community and/or groups who contribute to improving the quality of life in Sunland-Tujunga. Pastors Aaron Peterson with The Hub, a Vineyard Church and Bobbie Refiner, Sunland Foursquare Church will attend.
November 7, 2006 General Election - If you have not registered to vote, you have until Oct. 23 to do so. Voter registration forms are available at the STNC office.
STNC Board Elections - It is that time of year again! The STNC Elections paperwork has been submitted to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) for review. This begins the 140-day countdown to STNC election day! Candidate applications will be ready in a few weeks and I encourage you to take a look at running for a board seat. All 21 board seats are up for election who represent all areas of our community. More details soon.

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-Tujunga. You can also sign up to receive STNC by e-mail through the STNC web site at www.stnc.org
Please check the Calendar Section for meeting schedule

A Call to ACTION!

THE EDUCATION & OUTREACH COMMITTEE of the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council is holding

A Special Meeting to **MOBILIZE** our Community

HomeDepot:
The FIGHT Has Just Begun!

Come learn what YOU can do.
Wednesday, October 11, 6-7 p.m.
Mt. Gleason Middle School Auditorium

Free Pizza!

Open Letter to the Community

Dear Friends,
It is outrageous for the No 2 Home Depot Campaign to be treated with such disregard. It is our time to be at the ready for whatever their action team needs us for.

Come out and see what we can do together with the support of our neighborhood council and our city councilwoman, Wendy Gruel.

Tell everyone you know.
The fight's just begun.

Deborh Ray
Chairwoman, DAC Education & Outreach Committee
818-951-7411
www.stng.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

LVT-Lake View Terrace, LTC-La Tuna Canyon, G.H-Granada Hills, KC-Kagel Canyon
MH-Mission Hills, LA-Los Angeles, NVCH-North Valley City Hall, VN-Van Nuys
PAC-Pacoima, SH-Shadow Hills, S-T-Sunland-Tujunga, SV-Sun Valley, SYL-Sylmar,

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WEDNESDAY, OCT. 11

STNC GENERAL MEET.
Mt Gleason Middle School
10955 Mount Gleason, S-T
www.stnc.org
7 pm 951-7411

FOOTHILL OPTIMISTS
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 Odyssey, G.H.
\$20 833-8033

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

MHNC OUTREACH
MHNC Office
10161 Sepulveda, M.N.
6:30 pm

THURSDAY, OCT. 12

SYLMAR CHAMBER MEET PRESIDENT MORENO
Mission College
China Town Buffet
13760 Foothill, Syl
\$25 11:30 am RSVP
367-1177

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

S-T LIONS CLUB
Joselitos Restaurant
7308 Foothill, S-T
6:60 pm 353-5420

S-T COORDINATING COUNCIL
Joselitos Restaurant
7308 Foothill, S-T
11:30 am 353-7056

OFFICER APPRECIATION DAY
LAPD Mision Area Station
Food donations welcome
11121 No. Sepulveda, M.H.
6:30 am - 9 pm 838-9860

KIWANIS
Denny's Restaurant
13201 Gladstone, Syl
12 pm 367-9310

FRIDAY, OCT. 13

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

SATURDAY, OCT. 14

POKEMON LEAGUE
S-T Library
7771 Foothill, Tuj
1-4 pm 352-4481

PANCAKE BREAKFAST SCOUT TROOP/PACK 307
Tujunga United
Methodist Church
9901 Tujunga Cyn
\$3

FALL FESTIVAL & BBQ
Tierra Del Sol
9919 Sanland, S. H.
11 am - 4 pm 352-1419

CASINO NIGHT SUN VALLEY CHAMBER
Fairways Restaurant
Hansen Dam Golf Course
10400 Glenoaks, Pacoima
5:30-10:30 768-2014

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

SUNDAY, OCT. 15

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

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

SAN FERNANDO PIONEER Memorial Cemetery
Foothill & Bledsoe, Syl
Tours 9 am-12 pm
365-5860

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Fran's Cell 818 395-5351 Ray's Cell 818 395-5363

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**ELKS OMELET BAR
BREAKFAST**

S-T Elks Lodge
10137 Commerce, Tuj
\$6 352-2098

MONDAY, OCT 16

4H CLUB MEET.

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

ANDRES PICO ADOBE

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

**STNC-LAND USE
(DESIGN ADVISORY COMM)**

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

SYLMAR BLOCK CAPTAINS

Sylmar Chamber Office
13867 Foothill, Syl
7:30

TUESDAY, OCT 17

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Stonehurst Park
9901 Dronefield, SV
7 pm 768-0988

BOLTON HALL MUSEUM

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

**S-T BUSINESS &
PROFESSIONAL WOMEN**

7 pm for info 352-4415

JOB FAIR

BEVERLY GARLAND
Holiday Inn
4222 Vineland, No Ho
10 am-2 pm

ADULT COMPUTER CLASS

Pacoima Library
13605 Van Nuys, Pac
12-1 pm 899-5203

WEDNESDAY, OCT 18

PACOIMA N/C

GENERAL MEETING
Youth & Family Comm.
Room
12143 Glenoaks, Pac
6:30 pm 590-4792

FOOTHILL OPTOMIST

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

S-T CHAMBER MIXER

Mission Valley Bank
9116 Sunland, SV
6 pm 352-4433

ROTARY CLUB

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

S-T LIONS CLUB

Joselitos Restaurant
7308 Foothill, S-T
6:60 pm 353-5420

THURSDAY, OCT 19

WORKSHOP,

INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT
500 W. Temple Rm 374, LA
10 am-12 pm
Register on line
www.surveymonkey.com

ST-SERVS/CERT

NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
7 pm 352-5504

FOOTHILL TRAIL N/C

Lake View Terr Rec.
11075 Foothill, LVT
7 pm

ELKS LODGE #2098

10137 Commerce, Tuj
8 pm 352-2098

MIDDLE EASTERN DANCE

MARY ANN CAPP
G. H. Library
10640 Pettit, G.H.
4 pm 368-5687

TEEN COUNCIL MEET.

Pacoima Library
13605 Van Nuys, Pac
4:30-5:30 pm 899-5203

SYLMAR N/C LAND USE

SNC Office
13515 1/2 Hubbard, Syl
6:30 833-8737

FRIDAY, OCT. 20

FREE FOR TEENS

ANIME & MANGA OTAKU

Club & Games
Sylmar Library
14561 Polk, Syl
3:30 pm

SATURDAY OCT. 21.

TREE PLANTING WORKSHOP

Sunland-Tujunga Library
7771 Foothill, Tuj
11 am-1 pm 1-800-GreenLA

**CALIFORNIA FEDERATION
OF CHAPARRAL POETS**

S-T Library
7771 Foothill, S-T
951-4211

**LAPD "ABOVE & BEYOND
THE CALL OF DUTY"**

AWARDS
& Buffet Dinner
Sunland-Tujunga Elks Lodge
10137 Commerce, Tuj
\$15.00 donation
6 pm 352-5504

**"GHOSTBUSTERS"
MOVIE UNDER THE STARS**

Petit Park
16730 Chatsworth, G.H.
7 pm 756-8501

SUNDAY, OCT. 22

**CERT REFRESHER
FOR GRADUATES**

Fire Station 88
5101 N. Sepulveda, S.O.
7 am-4 pm

BOLTON HALL MUSEUM

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

CONCERT IN THE PARK

**KAEDMON AND
JIMMY "GUITAR" SMITH**
Little Landers Park
10110 Commerce, Tuj
4 pm

MONDAY, OCT. 23

ANDRES PICO ADOBE

10940 Sepulveda, MH
Tours 1 pm-4 pm
365-7810

STNC EXECUTIVE COMM.

NVN City Hall
7477 Foothill, Tuj
7 pm 951-7411

GRANADA HILLS NORTH N/C

Van Gogh Elementatry
17160 Van Gogh, G.H
www.ghnnc.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, OCT 24

S-T KIWANIS

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

BOLTON HALL MUSEUM

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

**MH'S NEIGHBORHOOD
WATCH & MH'S CHRISTIAN
CHURCH, "SEX OFFERS IN
OUR COMMUNITIES"**

Assemblywoman Cindy
Montanez
Sylmar N/C Pres. Tammy
Flores
14941 Devonshire, M.H.
7 pm

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 25

**SUN VALLEY CHAMBER
MEET GAIL GOLDBERG**

Indust. Metal Supply
San Fernando Rd. S.V
5-7 pm

ROTARY CLUB

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

FOOTHILL OPTOMIST

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

THURSDAY, OCT. 26

WORKSHOP, ART GRANT

500 W. Temple Rm 374, LA
10 am -12 pm
Reg. on line
www.surveymonkey.com

**COLLEGE & CAREER
CONVENTION**

L.A. Convention Center
1201 S. Figueroa L.A.
South Hall
6-9 pm 562-458-9372
scannon@lachamber.org

FRIDAY, OCT. 27

HALLOWEEN MIXER

SYLMAR CHAMBER
Pioneer Mem. Cemetary
Foothill & Bledsoe, Syl
Costumes optional
6-8 pm 367-1177

YOUNG ADULT COUNCIL

Sylmar Library
14561 Polk, Syl
3:30 pm

FREE FOR TEENS

ANIME & MANGA OTAKU

CLUB & GAMES
Sylmar Library
14561 Polk, Syl
3:30 pm

SATURDAY, OCT. 28

HAUNTED HOUSE

LAPD MISSION STATION
11121 Sepulveda, M.H.
5-9 pm

SPAGETTI DINNER

OUR LADY OF LOURDES
7355 Apperson, Tuj
Adults \$6, Child \$3
4:30 - 7:30

TREE PLANTING WORKSHOP

SPANISH
13605 Van Nuys, Pac
11 am-1 pm 1-800-GreenLA

SUNDAY, OCT 29

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Broker Associate
Notary Public

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Software Helps Kids Develop Their Music

ARA—A software program invented by Professor Tod Machover at MIT's Media Lab as a way to teach kids about composing music has taken on a new life as the backbone of a popular new music Web site for young budding musicians.

The site, www.H-Lounge.com, is a hybrid of social networking, music and commerce. "We provide an online community where kids can share their music, get feedback from other members and even make money," says Richard Resnick, CEO of H-Lounge.com.

Kids download Hyperscore, the music composition software, for free and use it to compose songs. "The software lets users sketch out a piece of music visually, so even kids who can't read music can compose interesting and complex songs using the software," says Professor Machover.

Once a member has composed a piece of music, they can upload it to the Web site, making it available to the entire H-Lounge community. Other members can then offer opinions, suggestions and constructive criticism.

"The site has become a

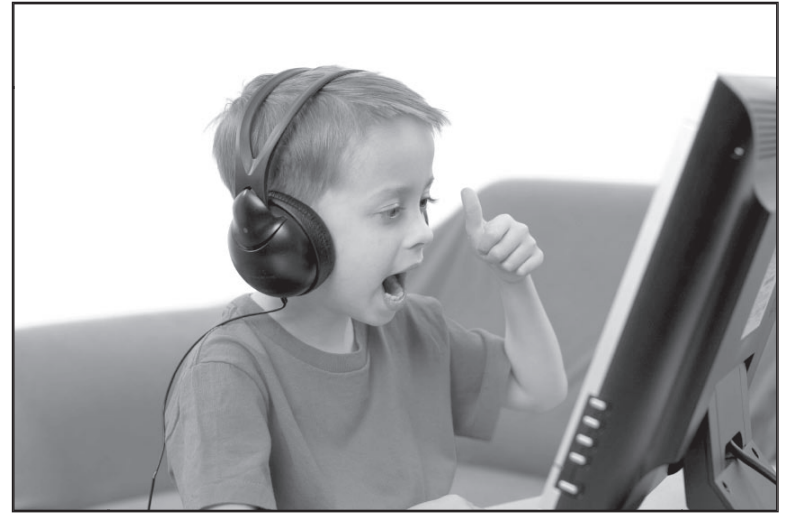
The software lets users sketch out a piece of music visually, so even kids who can't read music can compose interesting and complex songs

sensation among many indie bands, so our members get to rub elbows with and get feedback from serious, pro-

fessional musicians as well as other members who also have strong opinions," says Resnick.

Members are able to buy and sell these compositions as cell phone ring tones on the site. Once a song is uploaded into the H-Lounge community, members can purchase the song for a ring tone and the composer receives 30 percent of the \$2 cost. "Lots of kids get checks from us every month," says Resnick. He points out that while 30 percent of \$2 may not seem like a lot of money, percentage-wise, it's more than most signed artists make on their ring tone royalties. Members can buy a monthly ring tone subscription that entitles them to five ring tones a month. Skype ring tones are also available.

While Hyperscore allows anyone to compose music, as H-Lounge has increased its visibility among musi-



cians, many of them upload their traditionally-composed songs on the Web site as well. "What first drew us to H-Lounge was that it was a simple way to create ring-tones and sell them. But the icing on the cake is getting to connect with other musicians and make connections with fans, which is huge for underground hiphop being that it's such a grassroots, street-level form of music," said DJ Dainja of Psyche

Origami, an Indie group signed by the Atlanta-based Indie label ATF. In addition to sharing critiques of songs, H-Lounge members share everything from tips on breaking into

the music scene to information on hot new bands. It's also a place to get and give ideas, inspiration and encouragement.

Hyperscore maintains its core business as a learning and teaching tool for schools, cultural institutions, and museums, but creator Tod Machover is thrilled by its new incarnation as part of H-Lounge, introducing hundreds of thousands of young people to the joys of composing music.

For more information or to become a member, visit www.h-lounge.com.

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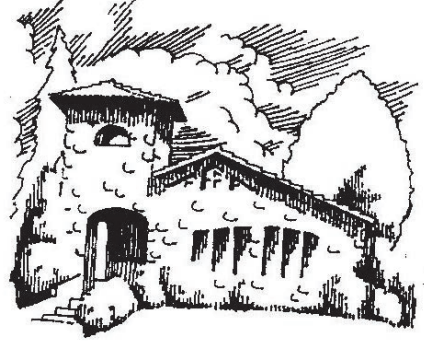


10041 commerce ave
Tujunga Ca, 91042

(818) 951-5000
Fax(818) 951-5225

bring this coupon

Take a "Musical Journey"!



You are invited experience a retrospective of music in the Rancho Tujunga and nearby areas beginning with the Tongva and Chumash, and continuing through the Mission and Californio eras. Included are Sunland-Tujunga's unique contributions up through the mid 20th century.

The Special Exhibit presented by the Little Landers Historical Society will be on display at Bolton Hall Museum from September 9th through the end of February 2007.

The Museum is located at 10110 Commerce Ave., Tujunga, and is open Sundays and Tuesdays from 1 pm to 4 pm. For further information, please Contact Lloyd Hitt at 818-951-1041.

NOTICE

The Commerce Avenue Street Fair is POSTPONED until Spring, but "Christmas on Commerce" will SWING!

info: 818-352-2988

*My music is best understood
by children and animals.*

Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971)

SERVING THE PUBLIC

FYI - Safety Bits - L.A.

By Nina Royal

Please plan to participate in Officer Appreciation Day at the LAPD Mission Area Station, 11121 No. Sepulveda Blvd, Mission Hills, on Thursday, October 12, from 6 am to 9 pm in the Tim Falco Community Room. You can bring your favorite dish or help serve breakfast, lunch or dinner. Donations are also appreciated. For further information call 818-838-9860.

There is a LAFD CERT Community Meeting for Battalions 12 and 15 on Friday, October 13, at the Shepherd of the Hills, Room 1, 19700 Rinaldi St, Porter Ranch, 7 pm - 8:30 pm. Come and share concerns and stay advised of the latest information.

The California Service Corp. urgently needs 30 volunteers for Team SAFE-T. The volunteers must be bilingual, Spanish and English, and be well-versed and experienced in Disaster and Emergency Preparedness. The event is a 5-hour telethon about

emergency preparedness for the Southern California Spanish community. It will be held Wednesday, October 18, 2006, at Univision, KMEX-TV, 5999 Center Drive, Los Angeles, from 6 pm - 11 pm. Volunteers should arrive at 4 pm at the Western Los Angeles Studio for orientation. Contact L.A. Sheriff Deputy Wilson Lee at 323-526-5363, email wlee@lasd.org or Judith Mori, CSC at 916-445-6687 or email judith.mori@scs.ca.gov.

You are invited to come and help honor the Foothill Area LAPD Station Police Officers who will be recognized for serving the Sunland-Tujunga area "Above & Beyond the Call of Duty" at their awards dinner on Saturday, October 21, at the Sunland-Tujunga Elks Lodge, 11037 Commerce Ave. in Tujunga. Donation is \$15. No Host Cocktails 6-7 pm, Dinner served 7 pm, Awards presentation is at 8 pm. The event is co-sponsored by the

S-T Safety & Emergency Response Volunteer Services and the S-T Elks Lodge. Call Nina Royal, 818-352-5504 or Elks Lodge 818-352-2098 for further information.

Reminder, the CERT Refresher for graduates is on a Sunday this year, on October 22nd. It will be held at Fire Station 88, 5101 No. Sepulveda Blvd, Sherman Oaks, Registration begins at 7 am and exercises are 8 am - 4 pm.

LAFD, Division 3, which covers the San Fernando Valley, is having Quarterly Division Training on Tuesday, October 24, 7 pm - 9 pm, at Fire Station 89, 7063 Laurel Canyon Blvd in No. Hollywood. It's an opportunity to refresh your skills on Fire Suppression with live fire extinguisher training especially if you missed the semi-annual training the previous Sunday.

Foothill has New Neighborhood Prosecutor

By Anthony-Paul Diaz
Deputy City Attorney

Greetings North Valley Citizens! My name is Anthony Paul Diaz (A.P.) and I am the new Neighborhood Prosecutor assigned to the Foothill Area Community Police Station.

What is a Neighborhood Prosecutor? In 2002, City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo created the Neighborhood Prosecutor Program. This innovative and dynamic program takes criminal prosecutors, like myself, out of the courtroom and puts us directly in the community to work with you, the LAPD and the City to come up with non-traditional approaches to solving crime.

Some of the issues we work on are illegal dumping, graffiti, narcotic houses, illegal street racing, group home issues, blighted properties and other quality of life problems.

I work with the Senior Lead Officers and other specialized units to identify, prioritize and solve problems eroding community safety and quality of life. I also prosecute problem individuals and entities that do not abide by local city and state laws.

Prior to Foothill I worked at the Devonshire Division for four years and transferred to Foothill at the request of Captain

Joe Curreri. Captain Curreri and I are working together and looking at ways to improve and strengthen community participation in Foothill. We are continuing to target such crimes as illegal vending, graffiti and problematic motels and properties.

I'm also working with such groups as Graffiti Busters, Neighborhood Councils, Neighborhood Watches and Chamber groups. Some of our goals are to clean up and improve Hansen Dam, Broadus Elementary School and major thoroughfares such as Van Nuys, Foothill, Osborne and San Fernando Boulevards.

There is a lot of good work to be done in Foothill and we need your participation to help us prioritize the issues affecting your neighborhoods.

I am located at the LAPD Foothill Area Station on Osborne Street in Pacoima. I am looking forward to working with you and assisting to help make the foothill communities a much safer and peaceful area to enjoy living and raising families. If you would like to discuss a problem in your community, please do not hesitate to contact me at

Continued page 15

How to Protect Yourself from I.D. Theft

Real World Tips From Someone Who Knows

by Sgt. Julie Rodriguez,
LAPD

The crime of Identity Theft is on the rise and it has become a significant problem with the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and for the people who reside in the City of Los Angeles. The LAPD encourages anyone victimized by Identity Theft to contact the LAPD or their local law enforcement agency to report the incident. The LAPD investigates these crimes through their Financial Crimes Division. Below are some helpful tips to consider so you don't become a victim of Identity Theft.

- Do not sign the back of your credit cards. Instead, put "PHOTO ID REQUIRED."
- When writing checks to pay your credit card bill, DO NOT put the complete account number on the "For" line. Instead, just put the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of the number and anyone who might be handling your check as

it passes through all the check processing channels won't have access to it.

- Put your work phone number on your checks instead of your home phone number. If you have a PO Box use that instead of your home address. Never have your Social Security number printed on your checks.
- Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine. Copy both sides of each license, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel in case your wallet is lost or stolen. Keep the photocopy in a safe place. Also carry a photocopy of your passport when you travel either here or abroad.
- File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where your credit cards were lost or stolen. This proves to credit providers you were diligent and this is

a first step toward an investigation.

- Call the three national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and also call the Social Security fraud line number: Equifax: 800-525-6285, Experian (formerly TRW): 888-397-3742 Trans Union: 800-680-7289

Also call the Social Security Administration (fraud line): 800-269-0271

For additional information contact the LAPD by calling them toll free at 1-877-ASK-LAPD or TTY 1-877-275-5273 for the hearing impaired. You may also obtain additional information on this subject, along with additional crime prevention tips, by visiting the LAPD's web site at www.lapdonline.org and clicking on "Crime Prevention Tips" icon.

Sgt. Julie Rodriguez is stationed at the Mission Area Station, 11121 N Sepulveda Boulevard in Mission Hills. She can be reached at 818-838-9856 or 33508@lapd.lacity.org

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SOUND OFF

Trash, Trash Everywhere!

I believe several factors come into this dilemma.

First, I am happy to say that CalTrans just completed last week cleaning up the on-ramp of the 210 going west. Hoorah! However, the trash is already accumulating. Somehow, some folks never got no training. Almost every time I get on that on-ramp someone throws something out of their window with no regard at all for the lousy thing they just did. What's even worse is to watch them throw it in the riverbed.

Two, the reason Starbucks is cleaning up their trash, if they are, is because several of us have made a point of going in there and complaining about all the trash in front of their place. I personally have talked to the Manager twice. That's the way to confront any trashy place - talk to the management - and give any suggestions you can that can help, like adding a couple more trash containers or emptying them more often or having the help, when it is slow, to police the trash.

Three, one time at the Sunland 7-11, I was confronted by a belligerent homeless guy. I went in and complained to the owner/manager, and he literally went out and threw the homeless guy off the property (The manager is a pretty big and intimidating guy, by the way.) So, I would suggest complaining to the management that the place is trashed and threaten that you will stop patronizing them if they do not start cleaning up the trash - but first, before

you get militant, suggest that they supply a trash container or two (Don't think they have any now,) and perhaps add some signs asking people to help to keep the town, the riverbed, and therefore the ocean clean by putting their trash in their new containers.

Believe it or not, there are people in this community that go out and clean specific areas. We are planning a big cleanup soon along Commerce, particularly south of

Thankfully, we still have our civil rights, so we can live as we choose providing we do not break the law, but usually if an area begins to clean up where it has been predominately trashy, most people will also make an effort.

Foothill. Perhaps you could organize such a cleanup in an area close to you.

Thankfully, we still have our civil rights, so we can live as we choose providing we do not break the law, but usually if an area begins to clean up where it has been predominately trashy, most people will also make an effort.

Perhaps the STNC should be asked during public forum to ask the City to post signs.

The STNC could have a contest to create some catchy signs that encourage people to give their town a little TLC by disposing of their trash appropriately. It might be a great project for Mt. Gleason or Verdugo High.

Why not go to the Chamber of Commerce meeting and ask them to get involved, possibly in conjunction with the STNC or the other local service groups.

Try calling the Council office and ask them to arrange for more trash cans. They provide businesses with both trash containers and bags, although the bags, in order to function worth a darn, need tie-downs which are not provided. The business must agree to empty the trash and since the trash is often heavy and the bags tear, it generally must be emptied when half full. To some business owners, this seems to be too much to ask. They need motivation: or a town slogan such as "A clean town is likely to be a prosperous town."

Ask the Council to help organize groups to do clean-ups - even to have a town meeting to gather interest and trade ideas.

Perhaps one of our local newspapers could start a publicity campaign to bring to people's attention that we love our beautiful town - but we don't love it trashed.

And if you think this is bad, start looking around. We are looking a whole lot better than lots of other places. Go through the valley in just about any direction. What a pit! Even La Crescenta is worse than we are in some places - well, at least as bad! Maybe we should have a sign mounted at each end of town saying, "Sunland-Tujunga the cleanest little town in LA!"

Basically what I am saying is think outside the box so as to get the trash inside the box.

Elaine Brown
Sunland

Congratulations on the New Paper!

In a community where bitter, inaccurate and hysterical vitriol passes for newspaper coverage, it's nice to see a paper that respects the idea of objective news.

It can't be easy putting out a local community newspaper, but you definitely have a fan in me. It's so nice now to have an alternative to the other weekly heating pad. Welcome to the neighborhood!

Steve Ortega
Sunland

Haines' Pond: What's Really Going On?

After reading the article in this paper September 6th from Tomi Bowling, we felt we had no choice but to respond.

We are the "poor distraught neighbors" with the flooding problem. We are also the neighbors with the large pools of stagnant water, which we were told by Vector Control breeds mosquitoes and the West Niles Virus. We have horses, as do many of our neighbors. The flooding though our property washed out the private road to our neighbors. They had to walk to and from their homes until it could be fixed. We all took care of the flooding, put the road back and restored our land without asking for one dime from the county or city. We were left with tons of sediment from the flooding.

We have many pictures and e-mails about the problem with this channel and proof of what needs to be done. We have had verbal statements from the agencies, but found verbal facts not to be true. We have done all the research and then presented the facts. Regarding West Nile Virus, there have been no cases of horses, they have all been vaccinated, but there have been eight cases in humans.

We do agree that the project will not work without Angeles Golf Club doing their part. The Golf Club went into protected area of the endangered Santa Ana Sucker, in order to fix the three holes that were washed away from the flood last year. However, when we asked them to fix this side, we were told there was no way they could do any work because of the Santa Ana Sucker. However, they used bulldozers, tractors, trucks and what ever they wanted to fix their side. We still do not understand why they would be able to fix the side that was in the protected area, but leave the side which we were able to prove was not in the protected area. The Golf Club has been an on going problem with not taking care of the channel. We were asked to write to our Senators and all the other politicians by the Flood Control because County does not have the right to make the Golf Club do its' job. Only the city can put pressure on the Golf Club to do so. We resent the statements Tomi Bowling made about us putting pressure on anyone. We only asked for the agencies to do what they are paid to do by the taxpayers. We then did what the agencies suggested we do to

help ourselves. The Angeles Golf Club has done nothing on this side of the channel to better the community. We are still waiting for the trails they promised. Again, we want to state that the Golf Club has made this problem for the taxpayer by not maintaining this side of the channel. They are the ones who are hurting the wildlife and endangered species.

Finally, we want to make it clear, we only asked that Flood Control remedy the flood water problem and to keep it away from our property. They need to keep water moving and not leave huge pools of stagnant water. The Flood Control Dept. should clean the sediment when the level is too high and they had not done so when we were flooded. Therefore, the sediment, trash and the huge amounts of Arundo (which is a weed) caused the water to take a new course right through our property. The Flood Control said one large channel leading away from the homes in this neighborhood is what is needed. We also have many facts confirming this is what is needed to help the endangered species. One large channel is better for them and the public. The Arroyo Chub is on a list of Fish of Special Concern, not on the Endangered List. The picture Tomi Bowling showed in the paper of the channel was taken after several major clean-ups by the Flood Control. It took many men filling dump trucks full of trash and debris to get it to look like that. It was only after the many clean ups that the water could flow again. Nobody, single-handed, could have made it flow. But we do thank Barbara T for the work she does.

Donna Danielson
Sunland

We Need North Valley Reporter

Congratulations on the launch of the North Valley Reporter. I accidentally found my copy and enjoyed your "current" articles. We really need N.V.R. in Sylmar to keep us up to date.

You do a very professional job.

Adele Thomas
Sylmar

Congratulations

I thought your last issue's reporting on the convicted sex offenders was sharp and intuitive; in fact, the whole paper is a refreshing change from the only other local paper in town, which lately has simply become someone's crying

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David DeMirjian
(by e-mail)
Tujunga

Development on Terra Vista Way... Not!

The Terra Vista Project in the Lake View Terrace community sits on approximately 36.6 acres bordering the Angeles National Forest to the North with existing RS-1 homes to the South. Also, approximately 600 feet to the North lies the Southern border of the Lopez Canyon Landfill that closed in 1997. To the East is vacant Minimum Density and Very Low II Density land. The Bartholomous Canyon of the Angeles National Forest lies beyond that.

One would think that, if anything, the developer, Mr. Mark Handel, would design a low-density development to serve as a buffer between the Open Space Wildlands of the National Forest and the existing homes rather than a Project many times higher in density.

As it turns out, the initial proposed Project was for 78 two-story detached townhomes, clustered on the lower and flatter 8.8 acres adjacent to Terra Vista Way. It would be a large Open Space lot on the steeper, essentially unbuildable, land adjacent to the Forest. This would call for a General Plan Amendment/Zone Change (GPC/ZC) from Minimum - A2 to Low-Density Residential - RD6. In addition, Mr. Handel invoked the reduced lot-size Ordinance which would result in 5,000 sq. ft lots. However, once allotting easements for street width and sidewalks, it would result in about 3,500 sq. ft of actual fencible yard. This is not what we want to see in our foothills at the base of the Open Space of the Angeles National Forest. Not only is such housing density out-of-place at the base of our foothills, it is totally out-of-character with the surrounding neighborhood.

Mark Handel prepared an environmental clearance Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). This is not an adequate environmental clearance by any stretch of the imagination! The property is traversed by and SITS RIGHT ON TOP OF a potentially active seismic fault, the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault-line.

No structures may be built on 2.1 acres of the property which are classified as

Restricted Use Zone, which means NO STRUCTURES MAY BE BUILT. This is due to the known presence of the fault line and its potential danger and close proximity. There has already been an extensive history of landslides/mudslides, lateral spreading of soils and flooding in and off of this property. Evidence of past landslides are visible all across the steeper hillsides to the rear of the property. Imagine how easily any of these could be precipitated by the slightest of ground-shaking. No geologic/seismic evaluations were done to determine potential seismic hazards eg landslides, lateral shifts and their consequences. What greater hazard can this pose given the proposed grading plan of the Project? The Project involves leveling of the terraces and recontouring of the slopes at the base of the foothills, with terrace drains up to 80 feet. In some in places, retaining walls are up to 13 feet in height.

The property lies adjacent to the now-closed Lopez Canyon Landfill. What potential might there be for marked increase in methane gas seepage in the event of an earthquake? There are already methane gas meters placed throughout the property. The property lies in a High Fire Danger Zone which is aggravated by being in a High Wind Velocity Zone. It is even more dangerous as it is at the very edge of the Open Wildlands of the National Forest, which is ever so prone to sudden and uncontrollable wildfires. The nearest Fire Station lies beyond the 2-mile target radius. How, in good conscience, can such high density housing even be considered in this location?

There are no storm-drains in the proposed Project area. Water run-off, will be considerable if the proposed Project is approved. The run-off will enter Terra Vista Way, then drain into Kagel Creek and enter the Little Tujunga. It will then run into the Hansen Dam Flood Control Basin, now a federally protected habitat for endangered species. ANYTHING draining out of the development will eventually impact this environmentally sensitive wildlife habitat.

The property lies within the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor and contains a key trail hub linkage to trails in Lopez Canyon, Kagel Canyon, Little Tujunga Canyon and the Hansen Dam Flood plain. The property is located in an undeveloped portion of the Upper Los Angeles River Watershed which is currently under study and any consid-

eration of a GPA should require an evaluation of how a Project Development can maximize protection of the natural setting and features of this environment. There are no sewer systems nearby and, because of their great distance away from the proposed development site, the developer may not even be required to hook up to the Citywide sewer system.

Additionally, are our already overcrowded schools are supposed to absorb the large number of children that will come with a development of such high density? No one can deny Mr. Handel his by-right housing density - and those children must find their place in our crowded school system. But to give discretionary approval to a development many times greater than by-right would be unthinkable. No amount of School Fee payments will put more buildings on the Fenton Ave Elementary School campus, only more chairs will have to be squeezed into existing classrooms.

Following numerous meetings with the community, Mr. Handel did reduce the number of proposed units to 49 on June 9, 2006, but, did not back off on the proposed GPA/ZC to RD6. Per the Slope Density Ordinance, the development of the entire site should actually be limited to 31 units

Elektra Kruger
Shadow Hills

I Have Seen Many Come And Go.

Do you publish letters in your newspaper? If so, please let me congratulate you on your efforts. I have lived in the Foothills area for about ten years, and this is definitely the best local paper yet. I have seen many come and go. My son has a business in the area and I will be asking him to advertise. What a pleasure to have a choice in local papers.

Cynthia Molnar
Lake View Terrace

City Planning Defies Foothill Corridor Specific Plan

In a move which has angered some members of the Sunland-Tujunga community, The North Valley Planning Commission has approved an exception to the Foothill Boulevard Corridor Specific Plan, by approving a Verizon Wireless telecommunications tower on a local church property.

Community Christian Church, at 10189 Tujunga Canyon Boulevard in Tujunga, originally came to the Design Advisory Committee (DAC) of the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council (STNC) in 2004 asking for a Plan Exception, to put up a flagpole. They then returned with the alternate plan to erect a 51-foot wireless telecommunication facility along a section of street which is designated "Scenic Highway in Major Activity." The tower was approved by the Planning Commission October 5.

The North Valley Planning Commission has approved an exception to the Foothill Boulevard Corridor Specific Plan, by approving a Verizon Wireless telecommunications tower on a local church property.

The planned proposal was for a cell tower higher than the height allowed in the plan, which reportedly did not meet the requirement that wireless telecommunication facilities are to be screened from public view and blend in with the local environment.

The DAC worked with the church and suggested several alternatives. The church turned down the suggestions, and never returned to the DAC.

A hearing notice for August 11 was then sent to the surrounding neighbors in July of this year, to the surprise of many. The hearing was attended by residents Elaine Brown, and Terry Hake Church—both officers of the Commerce Owners and Business Restoration Association (COBRA). Cindy Cleghorn, president of the STNC, also attended and all three spoke against allowing an exception to the Specific Plan. Two members of the church spoke on behalf of the proposal.

The recommendation report generated as a result of that hearing was reportedly full of errors, with missing documents and an incomplete history of the DAC meetings. The report also said that STNC President Cleghorn was in favor of the installation, not against it. The report recommended the tower for approval.

The October 5 hearing was attended by local activists Abby Diamond, Elaine Brown and Charlotte Leu, who were armed with pictures and letters from the STNC and COBRA requesting that the cell tower be disapproved. The Commission allowed the tower with only minor changes, requiring that four instead of two pine trees be planted next to the monopine. It has been pointed out that if those trees survive, it is estimated it will take many years before they will grow tall enough to even partially screen the tower.

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FUR FEATHERS AND FINS

Bless the Beasts and their Children

Animal Event Draws a Loving Crowd of Devoted Owners

by Jeannine Crowley

SHADOW HILLS – Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church was a flurry of furry and feathered critters Saturday as their owners gathered to celebrate the Twenty-First annual Blessing of the Animals. Reverend Dr. Janet Winslow said a prayer for each animal and a group blessing to include all homeless animals in shelters and feral animals roaming the streets.

The blessings of the day were not only in the prayers. Several organizations involved with animal rescue, care, and safety were available with information and samples. The Tujunga Lots of Pets table was a favorite with the canine crowd as treats were handed out and second helpings were accepted gratefully.

Valley View Vaulters, gymnasts on horseback from Lake View Terrace, demonstrated their skills while co-founder Rick Hawthorne explained the maneuvers. Many special needs students have succeeded at Valley View and have improved their physical and emotional health.

Lisa Janes of Life4Paws told happy tales about dogs that have been rescued through the organization, which partners with West Valley Animal Shelter. Life4Paws also helps to provide pet owners with microchip tags, a lifetime identification tag. The group will also hold a Monte Carlo Night fundraiser Friday evening October 20 at 7 p.m. at The Venetian Palace, 6740 Corbin Avenue, Reseda. All proceeds benefit animal rescue.

Equestrian Trails, Inc. was also in attendance, demonstrating their dedication to the acquisition and preservation of trails, good horsemanship, and equine legislation. The group works to establish local and nationwide trail systems, and to create residential horse areas. As a charitable foundation, the group also funds worthwhile projects such as



Rev. Dr. Janet Winslow praying for all animals

scholarships and horse rescue.

Denise Fleck, instructor, writer and artist, representing Sunny-dog Ink, had first-aid tips, information about caring for senior pets, and hand-painted pet-themed ceramics at the Sunny-dog stand.

West Valley Bird Society was represented by several beautiful macaws, including Daisy Cockatoo, and Atila Toucan. WVBS provided

information about bird clubs, rescue organizations, and signs of a sick bird in "A Bird's Eye View," a newsletter published by West Valley Bird Society. Their thirtieth Anniversary Bash is Friday, October 10, 7:30 p.m., at the Agoura Hills/Calaba-



sas Community Center, 27040 Malibu Road, in Calabasas.

It was a day to celebrate animals and those who love them.



Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church
10158 Johanna at Sunland Blvd.
353-2500

Halloween Pet Safety Tips

Things That Go Bump in the Night Shouldn't Include Your Pets.

by Denise Fleck

Following a few simple suggestions will ensure that Halloween won't be a dangerous time for human, canine or feline. Costumes designed to alter the appearance of their favorite humans can be frightening to animals as can the eerie sounds and continuous flow of goblins at your door. To prevent even the most well adjusted pet from fleeing and ending up in a shelter or worse, walk your pets before dark so that they can answer nature's call prior to the goblins coming out. Then keep them in a quiet room during peak trick-or-treat hours as costumes and high-pitched voices could make them feel the need to protect their home and humans from these bizarre looking visitors.

When you trick-or-treat with your kids, don't bring along the family pet. With costumes on and lots of ghouls on the streets, your dog could be difficult to hold on to. Make sure your pets always have clearly marked ID tags and microchips so that they can be quickly identified should they become separated from you.

Remind kids not to share their "loot" with their pets and please store and dispense your goodies so that they are not pet accessible! Most animals consume wrappers along with the candy and both can cause intestinal upsets. Chocolate is toxic to dogs, cats and ferrets, and although a 50 pound dog would have to eat 50 ounces of milk chocolate (or only 5 ounces of baking chocolate) for it to be fatal, a much smaller amount could cause tremors, nervousness, vomiting, diarrhea and an increased heart rate. Just like people, some animals are allergic or more susceptible, so restrict your pet's access to candles and Jack-o-Lanterns which can burn them and create a fire hazard should they get knocked over.

Use common sense and realize that even though you think your pet looks adorable in a costume, he may not be as receptive. Never leave your dog or cat unattended while in costume, make sure elastic bands don't pinch and never paint skin or fur. Do not place a mask over your dog or cat's eyes, nose or mouth. Even the gentlest pooch can become snippy when he can't see what's going on around him.

Finally, people taking advantage of the anonymity of costumes may succumb to malicious pranks targeting black cats or other animals. They may tease, injure, steal or torture your pet. Keep your cats and dogs inside for the night even if you don't normally do so, if you see anything suspicious regarding the treatment of an animal, call your local animal control or police department ASAP.

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New Neighborhood Prosecutor

from page 11

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 Deputy City Attorney
 Los Angeles City Attorney's Office
 Neighborhood Prosecutor Program
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 Chatsworth, CA 91311
 Office: (818) 374-6837
 Fax: (818) 374-6813
 Email: ap.diaz@lacity.org



Oops the gentleman on the left is not Alejandro Ruiz but Anthony-Paul Diaz, (A.P.) Diaz. Please pardon us.

NOTICE

The Commerce Avenue Street Fair is
 POSTPONED until Spring, but
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Columbus Remembered

by Linda Desiante

The American people have devoted time and thought to the people and events of our Nation's past so that we might better prepare for the challenges of the future. While Christopher Columbus' epic voyage took place almost three centuries before the founding of our democracy, his journey helped shape our national experience and offers important lessons as we chart our own course for the future.



One of the most valuable of those lessons is the importance of sustaining our spirit of adventure, our willingness to explore new concepts and new horizons. Columbus, after careful study and planning, rejected the conventional thinking of his time, sailed for the open seas and succeeded in opening up a New World for the people of Europe. Like Columbus, our founders rejected familiar paths of the past and ventured boldly to create a new form of government that has profoundly shaped world history. Explorers, pioneers, inventors, artists, entrepreneurs all have found a refuge in America and a chance to achieve their dreams. Columbus while having little formal education was a visionary who against all odds held fast to his dreams and ventured out in what today could only be called a primitive world. Without radios, satellites, modern technologies or safe harbor he held fast to his beliefs that a new world was waiting to be discovered. It was his intelligence, determination and bravery we have all come to admire.

Today we have other worlds to explore from the deepest oceans to the outermost reaches of space to the genetic code of human life. The same adventurous spirit that propelled Columbus' explorations will enable us to challenge old assumptions, acquire new knowledge, and broaden the horizons of humankind.

Columbus' story illustrates the importance of diversity. He was born and raised in Italy, he learned much of his seafaring knowledge and experience from Portuguese sailors and navigators; and he put those skills in service to the King and Queen of Spain, who funded his explorations. By establishing a safe, reliable, route between Europe and the New World, Columbus opened the door for subsequent explorers from Spain, France, and England and for the millions of immigrants who would be welcomed by America in later centuries. But the encounters between Columbus and other European Explorers and the native peoples of the Western Hemisphere also underscore what can happen when cultures clash and when we are unable to understand and respect people who are different from us. While more than 500 years have passed since Christopher Columbus first sailed to these shores, the lessons of his voyage are still with us.



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