

Building and Safety GM Adelman: 'We Only Enforce'

*Dept Head Explains His
Department's Role*



by Nina Royal

Building and Safety inspectors are not the ones to blame for that ugly apartment on your street, Andrew A. Adelman, general manager of the LA City Building and Safety department, told a Sylmar Chamber of Commerce luncheon audience last week.

Speaking with a slight case of laryngitis, he still managed to captivate the group with his witty sense of humor, even making light of the current Home Depot standoff in Sunland-Tujunga.

According to Adelman, Building and Safety inspectors are like police officers and only enforce building codes. It is the Planning Department that approves and signs off on projects. The Building & Safety department only issues permits.

The number of dwelling projects in Los Angeles has now climbed to 15,000 per year and construction is booming, said Adelman, but the City needs to do more code enforcement to preserve neighborhoods. The City, however, has only 140 inspectors for approximately 4 million people.

"We want to do a better job," Adelman said, "but tax dollars are limited."

Adelman also noted that permits can now be applied for by fax and through the Internet. There are five permit centers throughout the city and they have 500,000 walk-ins per year, with an average wait of 10 minutes. Though some eyes in the audience rolled at that claim, performance times at local B&S offices have improved dramatically since Adelman's hiring.

Many of the audience members also told Adelman there is a need for more inspectors to issue violations for businesses operating in residential areas. They mentioned that people were living in trailers and RVs on numerous lots in Sylmar, and that the community has a large amount of new buildings under construction, and builders will not let the Graffiti Busters group on to their sites to remove the graffiti, since the contractors are not doing it themselves. Adelman responded by reminding everyone of the numbers they must use to report those incidents and call for service.

Adelman also explained that Building and Safety covers all new construction with the exception of public schools, government buildings and hospitals. Code Enforcement covers everything except federal and state buildings, and multi-family dwellings, which are covered by the housing department.

The general manager concluded by saying he really

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Super 8 Corp Severs Ties With Sylmar Franchise

Sex Offenders Extend Their Stay



by Nina Royal

After the discovery that a Sylmar motel was housing convicted sex offenders, the New Jersey-based Super 8 Motels, Inc chain has ended its franchise relationship with the owners of the controversial Super 8 at Foothill and Roxford. Super 8 Motels, Inc vice president Marcus A. Hanks, notified Sylmar Neighborhood Council Public Service Committee Chairman Louis Perry by letter of the end of their partnership.

Wrote Hanks, "Super 8 Motels, Inc. issued a notice of default and termination to the independent owner-operator of this franchised property, Pradip D. Patel. This notice, which ends our franchise relationship with Mr. Patel effective today (September 22, 2006), cites 'Operation of the premises in a manner that creates an imminent danger to the health and safety of facility guests.'

"Mr. Patel is required to remove all signs and other items from his property that display the Super 8 logo within 14 days."

Our Sylmar community is still outraged," said activist Tammy Flores, president of the Sylmar Neighborhood Council. Both Flores and Perry told the NORTH VALLEY REPORTER that the promises made by the representative for motel owner, Patel, to remove the sex offenders within two weeks, is not taking place.

Community activist Perry was originally notified by Gina Franco Acevedo about the sex offenders living on the property. Perry then began working closely with Acevedo, Flores and elected city officials to mitigate the situation.

A meeting was held on September 5, between community members, representatives from the State Parole Board, State Senator's Of-

fice, the State Highway Patrol, the Los Angeles Police Department and the General Manager of the then Super 8 Motel Franchise. The management agreed to remove the offenders within two weeks.

Government officials and the motel representative agreed to cooperate; however, some law enforcement officials believe that it is better to have them all in one place, where it is easier to keep them under surveillance, than to have the offenders spread out over an entire community.

While some community members are sympathetic to the issue, meetings of community organizations and homeowner associations continue to take place regarding the offender problem and the removal of the sex offenders. Said Perry, owner of a security protection service, "I will not

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NEWS

Big Tracks on Foothill

by Jeannine Crowley

In the early hours of Monday, Sept 18, an unidentified Tujunga resident was traveling eastbound on Foothill Blvd. At Pali, he saw what appeared to him to be a large dog slowly crossing Foothill from south to north up ahead. He slowed down and as his headlights lit up the animal, it turned its head to look at him, revealing its identity as a large mountain lion.

The lion crossed Foothill and went into the parking lot attached to the Montessori School at 6401 Foothill Blvd. The motorist then drove slowly into the parking lot and watched the big cat jump over the fence. He

immediately called 911 and Animal Control. He then drove over to Creemore and began looking for the cat while still talking to the Animal Control officers. All he found was a man out walking at 4:30 am. He warned the man and drove back to the school parking lot, fearing the big cat might stay in the play yard of the school.

The Animal Control officer said that sightings were most common right after dusk and right before dawn. She also stated that a mountain lion has a range of about 100 miles. The cat eventually disappeared and could not be found after about 30 minutes of searching.

'No Home Depot' Community Members File Appeal

Small Local Group Battles National Chain

by Nina Royal

The national home improvement store chain, Home Depot, recently moved just a little bit closer to claiming a foothold in Sunland-Tujunga.

The company has recently been issued permits by the City of LA allowing them to refurbish a vacated former K-Mart property on Foothill Boulevard, as long as they stay within the original footprint of the building. When the battle against the store's development first began about two years ago, the community was confident that Home Depot would not accept those terms and conditions, nor would Building and Safety grant them the required permits for tenant improvements. They were sure Home Depots' plans would be classified as a "Project," and would therefore, be illegal. However, Building and Safety eventually decided to issue them the requested permits.

The community has not given up, however, claims Joe Barrett, leader of a local organization known as "No to Home Depot." The organization recently filed for non-profit status in order to raise money to fight the giant box store.

On September 18, the organization and the Sunland-Tujunga Alliance, Inc. filed an appeal on behalf of the Sunland-Tujunga community with the Department of Building & Safety and City Planning. The appeal contends that the permit was issued without the required Project Permit Compliance Review for consistency with various Community Specific Plans. According to the appeal, Home Depot does not fall within the "Neighborhood Retail" use, and the entire project, circumstances and history were not considered. The appeal also contends that the Building Permit review for the work is not a ministerial process,

and exceeds "operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public or private structure" allowing an exemption under California Environmental Act (CEQA) Guidelines. Therefore, either a Mitigated Negative Declaration or Environmental Impact Report should have been prepared for the review and approval of that project.

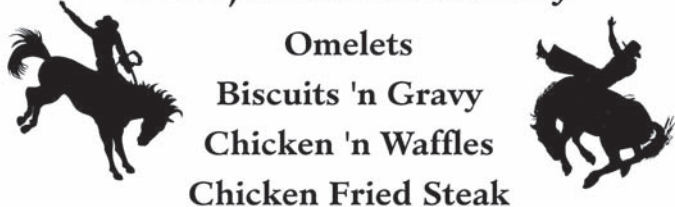
The community struggle began in 2004, when Kmart declared bankruptcy and had to give up their lease on the property. Bobbie Douglas, a former 20-year employee with Kmart, said she worked at that Kmart store and it was one of the most successful in the chain as well as the only general store of its kind across the Foothills region. Douglas was instrumental in notifying the community about Home Depot's intention to come into Sunland-Tujunga and

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Shadow Hills

49 Condos Proposed to Replace Restaurant

Community Members Vow to Preserve Cherished Landmark

by Jeannine Crowley

Anita Cerna, Community Planner for the Los Angeles City Planning Dept., announced to the Design Advisory Committee of the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council that the owner of 8737 Fenwick Street, Mario Sterling's, is beginning the process to build 49 condos on their property. This will involve zoning and Conditional Use changes.

Sterling's was once a busy Sunland-Tujunga restaurant. As Elaine Brown, a Sunland-Tujunga resident recalls "I moved here in 1983 and my husband and I frequented Sterling's two or three times a week. It was flourishing and you could not eat on the weekends without reservations. When you finished dinner Thursday thru Sunday, you could go into the bar for drinks and dancing, providing you



Will condos replace catering at Mario's?

could find a place to sit down."

When Sterling's became "Mario's Sterling," customers waited for over an hour to be seated, happy to do so in support of the new restaurant. It seems to be the opinion of many Sunland-Tujunga residents that an upscale restaurant with good food and good service is needed in the area. Those

old time S-T residents that reminisce of dinner and dancing at Sterling's would like to see the restaurant remain and reopen.

The owners of Mario's Sterling were unavailable for comment.

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I was Just Thinking

by: P. Vincent DiNova

Did you know that the third Friday of every September (this year it was on the 15th) is designated as National POW/MIA Recognition Day? This

day honors those men and women who are still held in enemy hands, as well as those who have been buried on foreign soil.

Also, every year, by proclamation, the President of the United States declares April 9 as "National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day." This day honors those who came home from all wars. Also, did you know that in the past decade, an average of twelve of those returnees have been dying each day?

In 1997 there were bills passed in both the House and the Senate mandating that the POW/MIA flag be flown on specific holidays. In the following year, 1998, they passed the Defense Authorization Act which requires the flag to be flown on Memorial Day, Armed Forces Day, Flag Day, Veterans Day, Independence Day, and POW/MIA Recognition Day. Most significantly, also in 1998, the Veterans Administration mandated that the now largely recognizable black and white POW/MIA flag be flown at all their facilities.

The POW/ MIA issue will forever be embedded within the mind-fabric that is America's consciousness as long as we keep sending our men and women off to war—or what ever it is we choose to call it. If they have been captured by the enemy while serving as members of our armed forces, they are prisoners of war. If they have been fighting for our country and we can not account for their whereabouts, then they are missing in action. Simple, so one might think.

But not simple at all, according to Donald C. Amorosi, Chairman of the Northeast POW/MIA Network in South Glens Falls, NY. As an example he cites an incident that occurred just outside of Baghdad on April 9, 2004, in which two soldiers of the Army reserve's 724th Transportation Company from Brownsville, Illinois, were captured by enemy insurgents. Our military classified them as "Duty Status Whereabouts Unknown" rather than as "Prisoners of War", or "Missing in Action". Eventually, the remains of one, Sgt. Elmer C. Krause, were recovered. However, although the fate of the second soldier, Pfc. (now Staff Sargent) Keith M. Maupin is still unknown, he is not considered a POW. The reason given to Amorosi for this "undesignation" by Shari Lawrence, spokeswoman for the Army's Human Resources Command is that "to be a POW you have to be in the hands of a recognized military of a recognized government".

Lawrence's explanation raises some perplexing questions in the mind of Amorosi. "It is not the responsibility of the family to prove that their loved one is alive. It is the responsibility of the government to prove otherwise...Where does this place those taken by both North Korea and China during the Korean War, those in the hands of the Pathet Lao, Viet Cong, and the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam? (and what about) Mike Durant in the hands of the Somalis? And Sgt. Keith Maupin? He is a Prisoner of War, pure and simple."

There are two sides to every coin, of course. If this country receives what Amorosi and his colleagues consider to be proper designation for our military POW's and MIA's under current war-like conditions, so too shouldn't the enemy? What about all the Guantanamo detainees? Should we not refer to them as Prisoners of War and afford them all corresponding rights and liberties accorded them by such a designation?

Amorosi, a six-year Navy veteran who spent most of his tour on a nuclear submarine from 1963 through 1968 says: "The Nature of war has changed markedly and permanently. Rather than change accordingly to provide maximum protection of all we send into harms way, our government is being allowed to establish requirements that are too specific to be workable, too vague to be applicable, or too confusing to be understanding. They apply standards to validate their unwillingness to act".

When asked why he is so passionate about the POW/MIA issue Amorosi soulfully responded: "While good friends served in country, I was protected by hundreds of feet of water and as very good friends' lives were taken, I served in relative security. My involvement in this issue and in veterans' issues, in general, is significant beyond words. (I am trying) to address failures of alarming magnitudes which impinge on the lives of our veterans and our families. (I think I am trying to) compensate for doing so little when others were sacrificing so much. Guilt is a powerful motivator".

It is not just the families of military personnel that should be concerned. It is a problem that should pain the hearts of all Americans, according to Amorosi. "If American service men and women being treated as disposable (commodities) is as offensive to you as it is to me, I entreat you to become involved in whatever way you are able to maintain a consciousness in this country that can not be ignored."

Donald C. Amorosi and the Northeast POW/MIA Network can be reached at kris1976@verizon.net, or at 33 Wilson Ave., Glens Falls, NY, 12803, 1-518-792-2057

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Who's the Boss?

Neighborhood Councils Seek Authority to Impact City Council Decisions

by Elektra Kruger

In 2003, in response to Mayor and Council directives, the City Clerk established procedures by which to receive advisory input from Neighborhood Councils (NC's) on matters pending before the City Council. This input came to be known as Community Impact Statements (CIS's). Once received by the City Clerk, these CIS's are added to the

official record i.e. the respective Council File. Our local neighborhood councils, now seek to have the authority not only to respond to existing items before Council for legislative action but also to have the authority to initiate such legislative action.

There is presently no clear approved practice permitting Council Files to be created by communications

from NCs. Any policy statement submitted by a NC on matters or issues not directly pending before Council has no file on which to attach that communication. Such communications have, been referred to as "non-Community Impact Statements".

On March 3, 2005, the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council submitted such a "non-CIS" communication suggesting that NCs be granted the authority to initiate Council legislative action by having issues brought before it by a NC and assigned an official Council File Index number (CFI). This controversy has now engendered its very own CFI #05-0575, and is still referred to as "Non-Community Impact Statements." It has since become known to many as the Neighborhood Council Initiative Statement. The issue, once having been assigned its own CFI, created an avenue for NCs citywide to submit official position statements in the form of CIS's that could now be filed in an official record and can now be tracked throughout the Council deliberation period.

A full 24 NCs have submitted CISs including the STNC, recommending that Council consider assigning CFI numbers to original policy recommendations from NCs that are not yet tied to existing Council Files. They should also be referred to the appropriate committee and/or Council President with the understanding that each Committee Chair will have the discretion whether and when to hear the matter, as with existing Council Files today.

On April 12, 2006, the Chair of the Rules and Elections Committee requested the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) to submit alternative proposals that would allow certified NCs to submit non-CISs (or Initiative Statements) to the City Council upon approval of the statement by a certain number of NC Boards, the key to the proposal being justification for the number of required signatures.

Several methods have been under consideration.

One model has been a comparison to the current practice for introduction of Motions to the Los Ange-

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les City Council. Council requires 2 votes or 13% of the Council's Members to sign a Motion before it is allowed to be introduced. There are currently 86 certified NC's citywide. By that token it would require 11 NC's to sign on to submit an Initiative Statement. Do you know of 11 NCs that understand our issues and needs? Another suggested approach was one of regional representation. There are 7 Area Planning Commissions (APC) in the

City. The requirement could be that one NC from each APC must sign for a total of seven signatures. Do you think South-Central has any concept of our issues?

The favorite among NC's themselves has been to require three signatures. Deliberation regarding the number of signatures that should be required is where we stand today in the Rules and Elections Committee and the Education and Neighborhoods Committee.

COMMUNITY

Honorary Sheriff Installation at Sunland Tujunga Chamber Mixer

The September 13 Sunland-Tujunga Chamber of Commerce Mixer provided a gala evening for all the American Legion Post 377. American Legion Auxiliary

President Kathy Anthony emceed. Outgoing Honorary Sheriff and Deputy Julie Malcom, Past Honorary Sheriff, and Phil Tabbi, Past Honorary Deputy, received several awards from Mike Antonovich's and Wendy Greuel's office, Sunland-Tujunga Chamber of Commerce and American Legion Post 377, as well as other Community Service organi-

zations. Food was served by Steve Rundle.

Pat O'Brien (American Legion Post 377, Commander) and Jan Otis (Elks Club #2098) were installed as Honorary Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff.

Randy Rivera and Bill Lenaburg, performed "Sheriff" songs they had written for Pat and Pat's daughter, Kelly O'Brien. They sang a nostalgic Veteran's song, "Before You Go" for her father and Chamber/Post members attending the event.



Wendy Throws a Picnic

More than 200 community members attended Councilmember Wendy Greuel's 4th annual District 2 Community Picnic and Celebration on Saturday, September 9 at Sherman Oaks Park. Held to honor those in the community who have worked hard throughout the year to improve their communities, it also gave her son Thomas a perfect opportunity to play "fireman."

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COMMUNITY

Sylmar Neighborhood Council Board Members Installed

By Nina Royal

Challenges to the Sylmar N/C election in July halted the installation of the new Board Members for the year 2006-2007. However, the grievances filed by a community member were not validated by DONE. Therefore the installation of Board Members was allowed to go forward as rescheduled on Wednesday, September 14.

The Commanding Officer of Los Angeles Police Departments' Mission Area Station, Captain Jorge Villegas facilitated the swearing in of the following Board Members: Kathleen Clement, Randell Lee Kelly, Eleanor Brooks, Jeanne Rowe, George En-

rique Ortega, JR, Rodolfo Lopez, Fidel Ramirez, Tammy Flores, Bonnie Bernard, Quyen T. Vo-Ramirez, Lynn Zekanis, Cheri Blose and Jan (Jeanette) Sandstrom.

SNC Executive Committee members are elected from within their newly elected Board of Directors. Elections were held by the Board that same evening and Tammy Flores was re-elected to the position of president. There was a tie for the position of Vice President. According to SNC by-laws a coin toss is an acceptable way to determine the winner if it is agreeable to both candidates. Bonnie Bernard was elected Vice President by a coin toss. Eleanor Brooks was elected

Treasurer. The Secretary of the SNC is a paid position.

Presentations were made to the outgoing 2005-2006 Board Members from Congressman Howard Berman, State Senator Richard Alarcon, State Assemblymember Cindy Montanez, LA County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky and Councilmember Alex Padilla.

Ms. Flores then proceeded with appointing Eleanor Brooks to chair the Outreach Standing Committee, and Nicholas Kroll continues as Chair of the Land Use Committee, also a Stranding Committee

The next General Meeting of the SNC will take place September 28. They will be dealing with issues such as sex offenders, land use, a motion to join LANCC and more committee appointments.

For more information, visit their website, www.sylmar-neighborhood-council.org.



The newly installed Sylmar Neighborhood Council board.



LAPD Partners With Community at Town Hall Meeting

By Nina Royal

Foothill Areas' Community Relations Officer, Sargent Herrold Egger, pictured above, addressed members of the Foothill Area Station communities during the departments annual "Police and Community Collaborative Teams" (PACCT) meeting. The meeting, which was held at the Elks Lodge in Tujunga on September 12, was to partnership with members in order to help brainstorm ideas to solve crime and quality of life issues in their communities.

They discussed and agreed to work together on Abandoned Vehicles, Graffiti and the on going problem of Illegal Dumping, which seems to be a problem in all communities. They also discussed the \$1,000 reward for the arrest and conviction of any caught in the process of doing either crime. For further detailed information regarding that program, visit www.lapdonline.com, www.lacity.org or call 311, or your LAPD Area Community Relations Officer.

Pacoima's Villasenor Moves On

TNI Head Helped Pacoima Grow and Thrive

Vicky Villasenor worked diligently for six years to improve the Commercial Corridor of Pacoima. She was a key facilitator in many Community Developments in Pacoima, and was instrumental in the beautification, clean up and development of the commercial corridor.

With the close of the LA City Targeted Neighborhood Initiative (TNI) program on September 15, 2006 Villasenor's position will cease to exist.

As part of Villasenor's work, and the support and assistance of the NLS (Neighborhood Legal Services), Pacoima received over 3.5 million dollars in

improvements on Van Nuys Blvd., including planting over two hundred trees, installing new boulevard medians and new sidewalks where people previously had to walk on dirt.

Pacoima now enjoys cleaner sidewalks due to a new "clean-up" which continues to help remove over a ton of litter from local streets each month.

TNI community projects included banners on light poles and a "Welcome" stone which gives the community a long-desired sense of identity. New attractive benches for residents and shoppers were also installed. Pacoima

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Sunland Tujunga NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Why The Neighborhood Council?

by Cindy Cleghorn,
STNC Chairperson

To make a difference! Yes, you can get involved in the neighborhood council to make a difference in Sunland-Tujunga. The Sunland-Tujunga community expects an opportunity for our voice to be heard by City Hall. I've heard it said that being involved with the neighborhood council is a chance for concerned stakeholders to be the voice of the community and not say "no" to change. The STNC hears from all sides of an issue, which often includes lively pro and con discussions. The STNC is you! We're volunteers who give of our time, expertise and service to the community. It is our intent and hope that we give Sunland-Tujunga a real voice to the issues that concern you. Your attendance and participation make it possible. Thank you for keeping our numbers growing and spreading the news about your neighborhood council -- STNC.

If you haven't checked it out yet, getting involved on a committee is a great first step to "making a difference". The STNC's committees have a place for everybody from land use issues to the new Arts & Culture Committee chaired by board member Tim Borquez. Committees help to guide the STNC board which is the governing body of the neighborhood council. STNC committees require at least one board member and the chair does not need to be a member of the board.

STNC Board Elections - It is that time of year again! The STNC Elections committee, chaired by Scouting Rep Mark Seigel, held their first meeting to begin planning the election of the 2007 STNC board. 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.

Sunland-Tujunga Land Use Issues Update (just one of many): The former Ralphs Market at 6348 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga is proposed to become a PetSmart and will include Banfield, The Pet Hospital. At the recent DAC meeting they proposed plans to move the existing sign on the front of the building to the left and also increase its height. PetSmart plans to occupy 20,000 square feet and the remaining 14,000 square feet will be leased to a tenant (not yet known). The DAC has asked PetSmart to return with a "sign plan" as well as other answers

to the DAC's questions regarding the entire site at their next October 2 meeting. A zoning variance will be applied for later as it is required for the surgical veterinary procedures. PetSmart would like to open as soon as possible and seeks community support of their plans.

Citywide Issues: As you may have heard, new Director of Planning, Gail Goldberg, has been making many changes within the Department of City Planning (DCP). Mrs. Goldberg believes that a Community Planner should be assigned to each community and work with that community

The STNC hears from all sides of an issue, which often includes lively pro and con discussions.

only. I think this is a great idea and hope soon that Sunland-Tujunga will have our own, dedicated and knowledgeable City Planner working with and in the Sunland-Tujunga community. As we hear with most all City departments, staff is limited and there's not enough time or budget for them to focus 100% on us. We look forward to the anticipated changes so our community will be "better represented".

The STNC board voted to oppose the proposed 2.75% Department of Water & Power (DWP) rate increase and recommends all neighborhood councils vote to oppose as well. The STNC also voted to support the DWP Oversight Committee recommendations that the LADWP MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) use its best efforts to provide notification of any rate action 120 days (previously 90 days) before the proposed rate action is submitted to the Board of Water and Power Commissioners; that modifications to the MOU be in writing by mutual agreement of the Board of Water and Power Commissioners and participating neighborhood council; and that the MOU shall expire five years (previously two years) after it is first executed by LADWP. The STNC's new liaison to the DWP MOU Oversight Committee is David Cain, STNC District 3 board member. As of September 1, 2006, the LADWP reassigned Ms. Winifred (Winnie) Yancy as the Lead Neighborhood Council Liaison. Ms. Yancy will also be supervising LADWP Liaison Greg Bartz and any additional LADWP liaisons that may be hired in the future. Currently two are expected to be hired with a goal of seven. It is Ms. Yancy's hope that each certified neighborhood council will be visited quarterly and that more neighborhood councils will be represented in the MOU process. 48 of the 88 neighborhood councils in the City have signed on to the LADWP MOU.

The Citywide Budget Survey is out and budget planning for Fiscal Year 2007-08 has begun. It's time to fill out the Mayor's Budget Survey. You can make a difference in the priorities that are important to you and your neighbors. Completing a survey will help shape our government to better serve us. Deadline is November 15, 2006.

To make it easy, you can complete the survey online at www.lacityneighborhoods.com and click on the Budget survey link. Printed survey forms are available at the STNC office. Stop by anytime during office hours to fill one out. Completed surveys will be turned into the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. Board members Michelle Sahfran (Education rep) and John Blue (Media & Communications rep) represent the STNC in the Citywide Budget process. Regional meetings will begin in January.

912 Commission - The commission is reviewing the Citywide System of Neighborhood Councils as required by the Charter. At a recent special meeting, the Commission selected Dr. Raphael Sonenshein as Executive Director. Dr. Sonenshein is a political science professor at Cal State University in Fullerton and has history with the creation of neighborhood councils in Los Angeles having served with the appointed Charter Reform Commission. A "brainstorming session" was held at the September 21 meeting to identify topics to be reviewed. Commission meetings are held twice a month and also replayed at 4 p.m. Fridays on Channel 35. There are 29 members of the Commission and I represent the neighborhood councils of the North Valley, appointed by the Mayor. Meetings are open to the public. Visit the web site for more info at <http://www.lacity.org/ncrc/>

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

- Cindy Cleghorn, Chairperson
- Nina Royal, Vice Chairman
- Linda Brand, Treasurer
- Deborah Ray, Recording Secretary
- Jeannine Crowley, Corresponding Secretary
- Victor Castro, District 1 & DAC Chairman
- Penny Barcena, District 1
- John Van-Es, District 2
- Joan Slater, District 2
- David Cain, District 3
- Janet Linsalato, District 3
- Dan McManus, District 4
- Michelle Sahfran, Education
- Timothy Borquez, Cultural Arts
- George Powell, Youth
- Dr. David, DeMulle Environmental
- Saro Minassian, Business
- Mark Seigel, Scouting Rep
- Richard Stewart, Interfaith Rep
- John Blue, Media/Communications
- Shirley Kellstrom, Parliamentarian

September 27	Executive Committee - 7 p.m. at NVCH
September 29	Budget Committee - 7 p.m. at NVCH
October 3	Design Advisory Committee (DAC) - 6:30 p.m. at North Valley City Hall (NVCH)
October 11	Monthly STNC meeting - 7 p.m. at Mt. Gleason Middle School
October 14	Outreach Committee - 7 p.m. at Joselito'sH
<p><small>*Subject to change. Check the STNC web site for updates or call the STNC office to verify meeting time and location. Thank you to The North Valley Reporter for providing space for this article.</small></p> <p><small>NVCH = North Valley Neighborhood City Hall, 7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga</small></p> <p><small>STNC Office: 7747 Foothill Blvd., Room 101 Tujunga, CA 91042. (818) 951-7411 • FAX (818) 951-7412 Please visit the STNC web site often for new updates and information at: www.stnc.org</small></p>	

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Share your events with your neighbors through: Nvreporter@aol.com FREE!

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

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WEDNESDAY, SEPT 27

STNC-EXEC & AGENDA MEET
 NVN City Hall
 7747 Foothill, S-T
 7 pm 951-7411

FABA-LAPD FOOTHILL
 Boosters Assoc.
 12760 Osborne, PAC
 8:30 am 756-8866

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

SATURDAY, SEPT. 30

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

LOS ANGELES RIVER
 Detail Workshop
 Chevy Chase Rec
 4165 Chevy Chase
 Atwater Village
 10 am-12:30 pm

SUNDAY, OCT. 1

YOM KIPPUR

BOLTON HALL MUSEUM
 10110 Commerce, S-T
 Docent Tours
 1-4 pm 352-342

THURSDAY, SEPT. 28

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

ELECTION INFORMATION FORUM
 Valley Alliance of N/C's
 CBS Studio, Carla's Café
 4024 Radford, Studio City
 6:30 pm

MIXER - AMERICAN LEGION & SUN VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMM.
 9026 Sunland Blvd. S.V.
 5:30-7:30 pm 768-2014

TUESDAY, OCT. 3

KAGEL CANYON/CIVIC
 Town Council
 Dexter Park
 www.kagelcanyon.com
 7 pm 890-0993

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 4

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

FRIDAY, SEPT 29

STNC- BUDGET COMM.
 NVN City Hall
 7747 Foothill, S-T
 7 pm 951-7411

SENIOR APPRECIATION DAY
 Pacoima Senior Center
 11300 Glenoaks, Pac
 10 am Reserv.. 834-6100

THURSDAY, OCT 5

COMMUNITY RESOURCES & EMPLOYMENT FAIR
 By City of L.A.
 L.A. Convention Center
 West Hall B
 9 am-3 pm 213-485-6334
 www.LACITY.org/DOD

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESOURCE FAIR
 Court Area, City Hall
 200 N. Spring, L.A.
 9 am - 12 pm

FREE FOR TEENS
 Anime & Manga Otaku
 Club & Games
 Sylmar Library
 14561 Polk, Syl
 3:30 pm

NETWORKING BREAKFAST
 Sylmar Chamber
 Denny's Restaurant
 13201 Gladstone
 \$25 367-1177

S-T ART ASSOC.
 S-T Library
 7771 Foothill, S-T
 7:30 pm 249-7270



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

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www.sylmarnrc@verizon.net
13515 1/2 Hubbard, SYL
7 pm 833-8737

MCPC
11121 N. Sepulveda, MH
838-9860

FRIDAY, OCT. 6

POKEMON LEAGUE
S-T Library
7771 Foothill, Tuj
4-6 pm 352-4481

FREE FOR TEENS
Anime & Manga Otaku
Club & Games
Sylmar Library
14561 Polk, Syl
3:30 pm

YOUNG ADULT COUNCIL
Sylmar Library
14561 Polk, Syl
3:30 pm

SATURDAY, OCT. 7

BLESSING OF ANIMALS
S. H. Presbyterian Church
10158 Johanna, S.H.
10 am - 2 pm 353-2500

**HARVEST MOON
DINNER/DANCE**

CHILDREN'S HEALTH FAIR
Councilmember Greuel
Valley Plaza Rec.Center
6451 Saint Clair, N.H.
10 am - 2 pm 755-7676

6TH ANNUAL FAMILY DAY
Youth & Family Comm.
Room
12143 Glenoaks, Pac
10 am 590-4792

TOWN HALL MEETING
LAPD Mission Area Station
Sylmar Park Auditorium
13109 Bordon, Syl
10 am 838-9860

SUNDAY, OCT. 8

BOLTON HALL MUSEUM
10110 Commerce, S-T
Docent Tours
1-4 pm 352-342

MONDAY, OCT. 9

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

**MISSION HILLS N/C
GENERAL MEET.**
San Jose St. School
14928 Clymr St. M.H.
7 pm

MONDAY, OCT 9

COLUMBUS DAY

TUESDAY, OCT. 10

**SUN VALLEY N/C
GENERAL MEETING**
Villa Scalabrini
10631 Vinedale, S.V.
6:30 767-2024

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 11

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

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

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

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

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

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.
7 am - 9 pm 838-9860

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

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

MONDAY, OCT 16

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

ANDRES PICO ADOBE
1 0940 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

TUESDAY, OCT 17

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH
Stonehurst Park
9901 Dronefield
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

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

ROTARY CLUB
Coco's Restaurant
10521 Sunland, S-T
7 am 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 374A
10 am-12 pm Reg. 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

FRIDAY. OCT. 20

FREE FOR TEENS
Anime & Manga Otaku
Club & Games
Sylmar Library
14561 Polk, Syl
3:30 pm



Sharon Yoho
Broker Associate
Notary Public

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YOUTH AND EDUCATION

Giving Students an Option

Inovative Program Helps At-Risk Youth

Where there was a need, John and Joan Hall saw a way

The two educators founded the Options for Youth Charter Schools program in 1986 in order to serve at-risk students who would have otherwise left school, and students who had previously experienced difficulty in traditional schools. The program operates through five independent, WASC-accredited charter schools with 25 learning centers located throughout California.

Options students are enrolled in courses that lead them toward a high school G.E.D. diploma, or help them catch up to their own grade level in order to re-enter a comprehensive or alternative school program. Enrollment in the program is voluntary. Once enrolled, students have the opportunity to learn at home and complete courses in core and elective subjects while receiving guidance counsel-

ing. The Options students usually take one course at a time, allowing for greater in-depth learning and less confusion, and set their own time and pace for learning.

Options students usually take one course at a time, allowing for greater in-depth learning and less confusion.

Courses that come easy to a student can be completed at a faster pace and more time can be given to subjects that are more difficult to master. Learning is focused on the specific skills needed to achieve maximum advancement in minimum time.

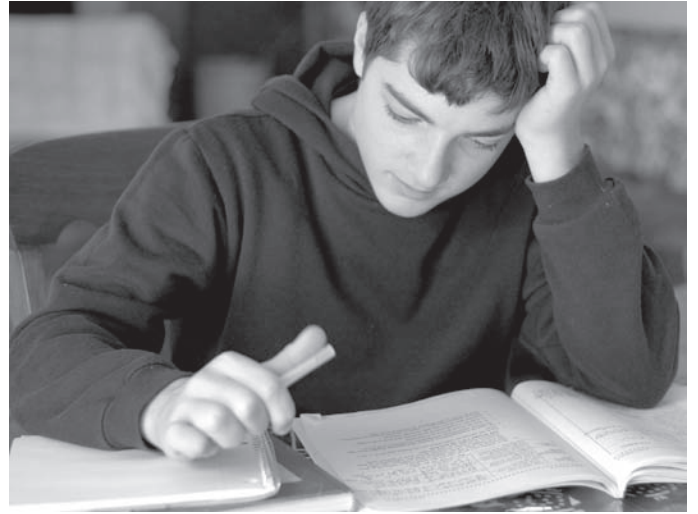
In addition, the program's open entry process allows a student to enroll any time of the year with no need to wait for a class

or semester to start. Thus, the students experience year-round learning without long vacations to interrupt the learning process or school term.

With the Options program, even parenting teens no longer sacrifice their family to the school year. Students with jobs can also coordinate their school schedule with their work commitment.

The Options program also gives hope to students with debilitating diseases, allowing them to continue their education without the pressure of long school days or performing when they are sick or in pain.

"I had one teacher, JT, for the three years I was at Options," said Julie, an Options graduate. "He helped me to set goals and kept me motivated. He got to know me and understood my strengths and weaknesses. I talked to him about the music and art I liked.



Sometimes he would tease me by singing a line or two of a favorite song of mine when I came into class. We had a great relationship and I cried when I had to say

goodbye to him." The program now serves 4,500 students. More information is available at www.ofy.org.

Options for Youth in the North Valley Area

Burbank 1
1701 W. Verdugo Avenue
Burbank, CA 91506
(818) 566-7525

Burbank 2
401 S. Glen Oaks Blvd. #110
Burbank, CA 91502
(818) 566-9809

Northridge
8415 Reseda Blvd., #7
Northridge, CA 91324
(818) 886-8392

Sylmar 1
12677 Glen Oaks Blvd.
Sylmar, CA 91342
(818) 367-7158

Sylmar 2
13711 Foothill Blvd., #B
Sylmar, CA 91342
(818) 833-8757

Van Nuys
7335 Van Nuys Blvd. # 119
Van Nuys, CA 91405
(818) 781-9059

La Crescenta
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La Crescenta, CA 91214
(818) 236-2060

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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.



Deborah Ray

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By Christmas

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An intellectual snob is someone who can listen to the William Tell Overture and not think of The Lone Ranger.

Dan Rather

SERVING THE PUBLIC

FYI - Safety Bits - L.A.

by Nina Royal

The Los Angeles Fire Department and Department of Transportation have created a program to remove illegally parked vehicles in locations posted in the Severe High Fire Hazard Zones. Fire Station Commanders have surveyed and identified critical areas where parked vehicles could delay evacuation of citizens and hamper fire company access during an emergency.

The LAFD is requesting assistance from trained CERT volunteers. They would like CERT members to assist them in notifying the public regarding the RED FLAG - No Parking, Priority Program, by placing information notices on vehicles in the affected areas when Red Flag Days are required. The days would mostly be in August and September, on an average of 3 to 7 days a year. Battalions mostly affected are 2, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 17 and 18. However, volunteers from any area may participate. Volunteer Forms may be obtained at www.cert-la.com/red-red-flag-days.htm.

The Los Angeles Fire Department Museum is seeking volunteers to occasionally help with several different projects and chores. They will also train qualified volunteers to give tours. Volunteers will welcome visitors; answers question and assure the safety of children who are unattended by adults. The Museum is open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., volunteer

hours are flexible. They usually start their day off with a cup of coffee and snacks around 8 a.m. and it is not necessary for them to stay the entire day. Any amount of time will be greatly appreciated. Interested volunteers are encouraged to call Bob Lee at 323-464-2727 or stop by to see him at the Museum (Old Fire Station 27) 1355 No. Cahuenga Blvd, Hollywood.

Local Citizens Corp Councils will participate in shipping out 80,000 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Public Alert Radios to every public school in America this week. The Departments of Education and Homeland Security are working in conjunction with local Citizen Corps Councils to reach school districts and offer assistance with setting up and testing the radios. Visit www.citizenscorps.gov/pdf/Radio/Letter_to_Councils_Re_NOOA_Radio to view detailed information and learn how to volunteer and help ensure public schools take advantage of the opportunity to have early warnings of local hazards and emergencies.

The CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Refresher held by the Los Angeles City Fire Department is taking place on Sunday, October 22, from 7 a.m. (registration begins) to 4 p.m. at Fire Station No. 88, 5101 No. Sepulveda Blvd in Sherman Oaks. CERT members are trained

to assist the Fire Department and their communities in the event of a disaster. The refresher is for L.A. CERT graduates. Persons trained by other agencies are also welcome and encouraged to participate but they must bring a copy of their CERT certificate or CERT ID card prior to registration. Registration can be completed on line at www.cert-la.com/biannual.htm. Volunteers must have a completed Volunteer Enrollment Form on file with the city or they must request one at www.cert-la.com/Volunteer-Enrollment-Form and fax back to 818-804-5302 upon completion, before being allowed to participate in the refresher. This is a requirement in order to be covered by the insurer of Los Angeles City while participating in the program.

Participants are encouraged to bring drinking water and a lunch that will not spoil, along with their equipment, food and drinks will not be provided.

Hansen Dam Volunteer Patrol, Volunteer Coordinator, Kristin Sabo, issued an update in a press release on September 9. According to Ms Sabo, the Volunteer Patrol assisted Park Rangers and LAPD officers for nine weekends starting with the Memorial Day through Labor Day weekends. They addressed safety concerns associated with the Los Angeles City area of the Big Tujunga Wash. They assisted by educating the public

Continued page 15

Crime Picture

By Captain Jorge A. Villegas

Area Commanding Officer
Mission Area Division



Mission Area Community Police Station serves the Panorama City, North Hills, Granada Hills, Mission Hills, and Sylmar communities. I have approximately 250 sworn and civilian personnel that staff the station. As far as our crime picture goes, Mission Area has currently decreased crime by approximately 5% over last year's 18% decline. This may not seem like a large figure, but what it more accurately represents is about 250 less victims of crime. The goal for the year is to achieve a decrease in crime of 8%. The Mission Area command staff, and all sworn and civilian personnel, are diligently working to make this goal a reality.

On August 31 there was a breakfast recognizing the outstanding Officers, Supervisor's, and Civilian personnel assigned to LAPD's Mission Division. It was held at the Odyssey Hotel in Granada Hills and was a wonderful event. The breakfast was hosted by the Mission Community Police Council (MCPC). The MCPC is a group of local community members and business owners who support and sponsor the personnel of Mission Community Police Station. Their sponsorship and fundraising provides much needed supplies and equipment for items not

purchased by the City of Los Angeles. The MCPC is also very involved in providing funds for the many youth programs within Mission Area. These youth programs include the Explorers, the Police Activity League, and the gang deterrence program Jeopardy. If you would like further information about MCPC, please contact the Mission Community Police Station-Community Relations Office at 818-838-9860.

I would like to invite everybody who lives, works, or visits Mission Area to attend a Townhall Meeting on October 7, 2006. It will be held at 13109 Borden Avenue (Sylmar Recreation Center) from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. This meeting will include presentations by local elected officials, informational seminars on Neighborhood Watch, Business Watch, and Apartment Watch programs. There will also be an open forum and presentation by Deputy Chief Michael Moore. Please come and bring your families for a fun-filled informational day.

Captain Jorge A. Villegas
Commanding Officer
Mission Area Station
818-837-9858

LAPD Officers Switch Roles for a Day

By Nina Royal

Foothill Division Officer Julian Almarez and Alejandro Ruiz from City Attorney Delgadillo's office donned Aprons and balanced serving trays for the "Tip-A-Cop" fundraiser held on September 13th at Fairway's Restaurant at the Hansen Dam Golf Course in Pacoima. Many other officers also participated in this event.

All tips earned by the officers were donated to the Foothill Divisions' Jeopardy "Balance the Odds" Foundation. The Jeopardy Program provides after school



Service with a smile

tutoring, remedial education, parenting classes, counseling, mentoring as well as gang prevention and intervention to youth and their

families. For more information or to volunteer, contact Jeopardy Family Center at 818-837-1167.



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SOUND OFF

Congratulations North Valley Reporter

I love your new paper. I found some meetings in my area that I did not have on my calendar. The layout is very nice. Only good things to say about it.

Marti Marshall
Sunland, CA

The Extinction Of Affordable Housing?

California's manufactured homes represent the last source of truly affordable housing for seniors, families of modest income, and the disabled. Many state and local legislators believe replacing Mobile Home Parks with "high density" development is the answer to our housing woes. In reality, eliminating this stock of affordable housing displaces thousands of homeowners, many becoming homeless because they cannot afford \$400,000 for a home or are too old to qualify for the loan.

Seniors with fixed incomes represent approximately 67% of all manufactured homeowners in the State of California. The "working poor," families, and the disabled make up the remainder. While most of the residents in California's 5,500 Mobile Home Parks own their manufactured homes, all but a few pay monthly rent for the dirt beneath their homes. Until recently, this rent was affordable - residents could pay their

space rent, and have enough money left over for utilities, food, medications, and a few of the simple things in life. All of that has changed.

In California and the nation, billion dollar corporations are buying up thousands of Mobile Home Parks. It is estimated that such companies currently own 30% of the entire Mobil Home Park market in the State of California. These corporations have cornered enough of the market to qualify as "mini-monopolies." Their business tactics enable them to legally steal equity from the homeowner and transfer it to the landowner immediately upon purchase of the park. Ultimately, it becomes impossible for manufactured homeowners to sell their homes. Corporations win - Home Owners lose!

Using an extremely vicious and aggressive business plan, these Corporations "strip mine" manufactured home owners of their financial resources and their freedom. By increasing space rent for existing homeowners by 18 to 40%, and increasing space rent to new homeowners they double the existing rate in the area Corporations Gain title to resident's homes through eviction or abandonment proceedings when they can no longer pay rents. Local Rent Control Ordinances (RSO) and Californi Mobilehome Residency Laws (MRL) assist manufactured homeowners in achieving some measure of affordability and protection under the law - but not enough!

Neighborhood Friends, a non profit organization based

in L.A and Orange counties, advocates the preservation of manufactured home ownership in California. NF opposes the destruction of California's two most precious commodities - the elderly and affordable housing.

Neighborhood Friends is actively working with local and State agencies to expose the activities of destructive corporations, amend laws, and prevent the loss of the manufactured homeowner's affordable lifestyle.

Through the efforts of Councilman Alex Padilla and his Field Deputy Khaim Morton, two motions in support of manufactured homeowners on these issues were recently passed unanimously by the Los Angeles City Council.

Edmnd Burke wrote, "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing."

Neighborhood Friends is available at www.neighborhoodfriends.us,

Jean Bell
Sylmar

Does Anybody Care?

We are losing the war here in our country. Gangsters are running the streets killing whomever they want, going unchecked. There is illegal vending, illegal signs, illegal yard sales, people selling furniture out of their house as a business and no one cares.

I report these situations on a daily basis and occasionally something happens. The politicians and everyone else for that matter are tired of hearing my complaints.

It is a sad affair when our country is being given up without firing a shot and our boys who are fighting, are dying for nothing. The enemy is right here. They are the politicians that we elect to serve us and to abide by the constitution of the United States of America, not Mexico. God Bless our Troops.

Joe Pinoy Lozano
Mission Hills

Lady Justice Removes her Blindfold

In spite of many vital issues facing Americans today, one which, at face value may seem insignificant, is being played out here in the Los Angeles. The millions residents which make up one of the largest cities in the

United States are governed by a fifteen member City Council and Mayor. The ground rules for governance are outlined in the City Charter. The enforcement of that charter rests with the City Attorney, who represents the city and therefore the people.

This section of the charter outlines the duty owed to the Neighborhood Councils by the City when enacting significant changes.

Sec. 907. Early Warning System. "The Regulations shall establish procedures for receiving input from neighborhood councils prior to decisions by the City Council, City Council Committees and boards and commissions. The procedures shall include, but need not be limited to, notice to neighborhood councils as soon as practical, and a reasonable opportunity to provide input before decisions are made. Notices to be provided include matters to be considered by the City Council, City Council Committees, and City boards or commissions."

A measure which would extend the city council term limits most definitely would fall under this Charter provision. But what if the council ignores the charter? What if the council fails to seek input from the councils as stated in the Charter? What if the city council is in direct conflict with the rules pertaining to "conflicts of interest"?

Who do we as council members turn to? The City Attorney? What if the City Attorney is representing the city councils interests in an attempt to keep the Measure on the ballot? As is the case in this instance. As stated before, the city attorney is a party in the appeal attempting to overturn the lower courts decision that the Measure violated the State Constitution.

Former Mayor and City Attorney James K. Hahn in his 2000 opinion which the city attorneys office still uses today, said: "If you are asking whether a neighborhood council can become involved in political campaigns or use its official status and resources to influence the election or defeat of candidates and ballot measures, our advice is that, with the exception of taking a public position in support of or opposition to a ballot measure, a neighborhood council may not engage in that type of conduct."

Now comes the "timing"

rub. When can a Neighborhood Council take "a public position in support of or opposition to a ballot measure"? From the last response from the City Attorneys office, it would be *prior to the measure getting on the ballot*. Just as in the case of the Ethics Commission who did not get an opportunity to review and offer input on this ethics reform measure and who is barred from speaking of their objections, the councils are headed for the same fate. By ignoring the charter and not submitting the proposed measure to the Neighborhood Councils, the City Council has been able to keep the Ethics Commission and the Neighborhood Councils out of the process. For this they want four more years.

Whether you agree or disagree with Term Limits, you can not agree with this form of political antics for personal gain. As the City Attorney's office that is laying and interpreting the rules for the Neighborhood Councils is also representing the interests of the City Council, we as council members must have a separate legal advisor to protect our interests as outlined in the charter. This must be done for those councils who will follow in the future.

Today I will seek that legal advisor.

David Hernandez
www.termedout.com

Congratulations and Thanks for Remmbering 9/11

Congratulations on the first edition of our new local newspaper. I wish you great success. I very much like the layout, the subjects and the fresh new feeling it invokes.

I'm especially appreciative of the fact that your front page featured the memory of the 9/11 Twin Towers honored dead. My company's headquarters was housed on the 100th. floor of the North Tower, and I lost a lot of co-workers in that tragedy. In watching the Ground Zero memorial ceremony today, when their names were read, I couldn't help but notice how many and varied ethnic names were included on that long list. Every possible ethnicity you can imagine all died together that day. Truly, Americans come in all colors.

Olina F. R. Lowe
Sunland

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Environmental Alphabet Soup

IR....What?

by Mary Benson

The City of Los Angeles' Department of Water and Power is partnering with and listening to other agencies and their stakeholders. This a monumental change. Their partnership centers on regional resources integration. Their new acronyms start with the letters "IR".

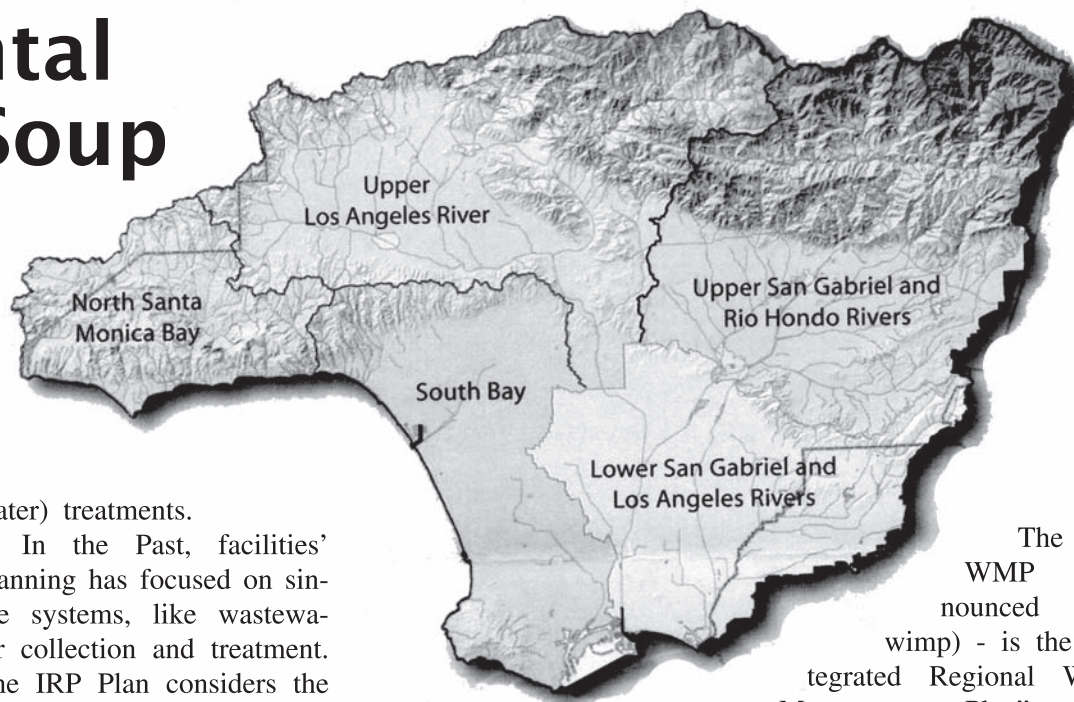
The "IRP" Program, (Integrated Resources Planning) is the wastewater program that came on the scene about three years ago. The main partners are L.A. City's Department of Water & Power, Bureau of Sanitation, community leaders and representatives from neighboring cities including Glendale and Burbank. North Valley Neighborhood Council Representatives from Foothill Trails, Sun Valley, Sunland-Tujunga, Pacoima, Sylmar and Granada Hills, to name a few, were also included along, with other Neighborhood Council Representatives throughout Los Angeles. The three year process has evolved into plans that integrate a variety of storm water and wastewater (untreated sewer

water) treatments.

In the Past, facilities' planning has focused on single systems, like wastewater collection and treatment. The IRP Plan considers the combined impacts of three water systems: (1) wastewater (sewage) (2) stormwater and flood control and (3) reclaimed water (treated sewage and stormwater) and their overlapping influences. The Department of Water and Power is responsible for building and the delivery system for the recycled water that the City's Bureau of Sanitation treats.

They are now moving out of the Phase II stage of IRP planning which included, Financial Planning, Public Outreach, Environmental Documentation and Facilities Planning.

Phase III proposes a Five Billion Dollar Bond to finance expansion of sewage treatment. The city has narrowed down its proposals to



four alternatives. All include water recycling. Sometimes the projects are found in more than one alternative. The Sewage Treatment Plant in Sepulveda Basin must find uses for the resulting "reclaimed" water.

Alternative 4 - focuses on the expansion of the Tillman (Sepulveda Basin) and Hyperion (Playa Vista). It proposes a new sewer line between Tillman and Glendale's treatment plant through Toluca Lake and Burbank and diverting dry weather runoff into newly constructed wetlands, which will return clean water to creeks throughout the entire Los Angeles Basin. It also includes a water conservation campaign.

The IRWMP (pronounced er wimp) - is the "Integrated Regional Water Management Plan" which began in January of this year. IRWMP adds drinking water supply and watershed management to the IRP goals for reuses. The major partners are the County's Department of Public Works and Los Angeles City Department of Water & Power. One monumental hurdle is governance for 92 independent cities, the DWP, County Public Works, dozens of environmental non-profits and other governmental agencies like the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

The goal is to create a single database that shows all projects, regardless of their stage of completion.

More than 1,000 projects have already been listed in the database. Projects listed before September 7th will be part of the IRWMP's grant submission to the State of California for Prop 50 Chapter 8 funding.

IRWMP divides the County of Los Angeles into 5 sub-regions. The North Valley Sub Region is the Upper Los Angeles River. Upper Los Angeles River includes the Tujunga, Pacoima and Sun Valley Sub watershed areas. Projects in the database include everything from those that already have environmental clearance (Final EIR) to "napkin" projects that are merely an area and a location that meet one or more of the IRWMP's project goals.

The next Countywide workshop for IRWMP will be on October 25, 2006. For more information, visit www.lawaterplan.org/strategic_plan, www.sunvalleywatershed.org, or www.lacity.org

Mary Benson is the Steering Committee Representative for the above-mentioned region. Projects are submitted under the name LA Trails. Submissions include a proposal for recyclers in Sun Valley and Haines Creek restoration.

A Ton of Trash

By Tomi Lyn Bowling

Saturday, September 16, was Coastal Cleanup Day, an annual state-wide event, normally geared toward beach locations but in recent years expanded to include river channels (that end up at sea). For the third year in a row, Heal the Bay and our own local Tujunga Watershed Council sponsored a cleanup in the Tujunga Wash, this year at the Haines Channel Outlet in Sunland. Approximately thirty people from Sunland, Tujunga, Shadow Hills, North Hollywood, La Crescenta and Lake View Terrace, arrived early in the morning to take part in the annual clean up led by community activist and Tujunga Watershed Council director Deb Baumann.

The Haines Channel Outlet, the controversial location of a future county of Los Angeles project to redirect the flow, was littered



Photos from the event are posted at www.TujungaWatershed.org

with much debris. Present in the collection were many cans, plastic bottles, bags, golf balls, old bedding, a

Heal the Bay and our own local Tujunga Watershed Council sponsored a cleanup in the Tujunga Wash, this year at the Haines Channel Outlet in Sunland

bed frame and springs, shopping carts (many), two soccer balls and even a bowling ball among other items.

An estimated weight of one ton of trash was collected by the group in this trip. Permits are required for the event and provided by Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, which also made arrangements for a final pick up of the rubbish collected by Saturday's volunteers. Bags for pick up, gloves, water and other essentials were provided by Heal The Bay and refreshments were provided by the Angeles National Golf Course. One of the participating neighbors said, "We believe if everyone knew that this trash ends up in the sea they would take more care to ensure that it does get to a receptacle."

Environmental Impact Report Released

Adel H. Hagekhalil, Division Manager of the Bureau of Sanitation, announced the release of the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) on September 6, for the Integrated Resources Plan (IRP) and is now available at www.lacity.org/san/irp. His announcement states that the IRP FEIR, along with the IRP implementation strategy and recommendations, are being processed for consideration and certification by the Board of Public Works and the City Council to consider and certify in October, 2006.

Steering group meetings lead by the Bureau of Sanitation encompassed community leaders throughout Los Angeles along with neighboring cities, in the integrated water resources planning over several years. Necessity, implementation, conservation and cost were strong considerations The plan inte-

grates planning for the three interdependent waters systems: wastewater, recycled water and stormwater. The IRP reviewed the water and wastewater needs of the City for the next 20 years and identified necessary infrastructure improvements and policy recommendations.

The Environmental Impact Report presents the City staff recommended alternative and provides updates to the Draft EIR based on the public's input. Both EIR's assessed the environmental impacts of the 4 final alternative projects, along with the no project alternative in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. For further information contact Adel H. Hagekhalil, 323-342-6225 or Jawahar P. Shah at 323-342-6253.

LA Water Board Votes in Favor of Water Pollution Limits

Action Will Make Bacteria Pollution Limits easier to enforce During Dry Weather

LOS ANGELES, 2006—In a victory for environmental groups and millions of Southern California beachgoers, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control (LARWC) late voted September 15 unanimously 8-0 to incorporate bacteria pollution limits called the "Bacteria TMDL" into the Los Angeles County Storm Water Permit. The TMDL standards (Total Maximum Daily Loads) require beach waters and discharges from storm drains to be free from unhealthy levels of fecal bacteria. They would apply to all Santa Monica Bay beaches from Palos Verdes to the Ventura County line during dry weather between April and October, when tens of millions of residents and visitors use the beach.

"This action makes cities and the county accountable for clean beaches and protecting public health," said Mark Gold, executive director of Heal the Bay.

"The Regional Board's decision sets a national precedent on how to effectively regulate water quality to prevent thousands of needless illnesses."

The Board's decision implements a federal court consent decree, obtained by NRDC, Heal the Bay and Santa Monica Baykeeper in 1999, obligating the EPA and the Water Board to set new, lower limits for water pollutants degrading Southern California waters. Any violation of the Board's new standards is an express violation of the federal Clean Water Act, punishable by fines or other enforcement action.

Water samples taken this summer showed that 24 of the 65 beaches tested in Santa Monica Bay—more than one-third—have violated the Clean Water Act since the July 15, 2006 deadline to meet clean water standards at area beaches. Beach water at the 65 locations in

Los Angeles County is monitored by the LA County Department of Health Services, the City of LA's Environmental Monitoring Division and the LA County Sanitation District.

One of the chief goals of the environmental groups' lawsuit was to make waters in the Los Angeles region "fishable and swimmable" as required by the 1972 federal Clean Water Act.

"For too long, LA County has gladly raked in millions of dollars from beachgoers without making serious investments to protect the beach and public health," said Tracy Egoscue, executive director of Santa Monica Baykeeper. "This decision should ignite a series of actions that will reduce the Bay's most damaging sources of pollution. One major factor remains, however: whether the County and local municipalities

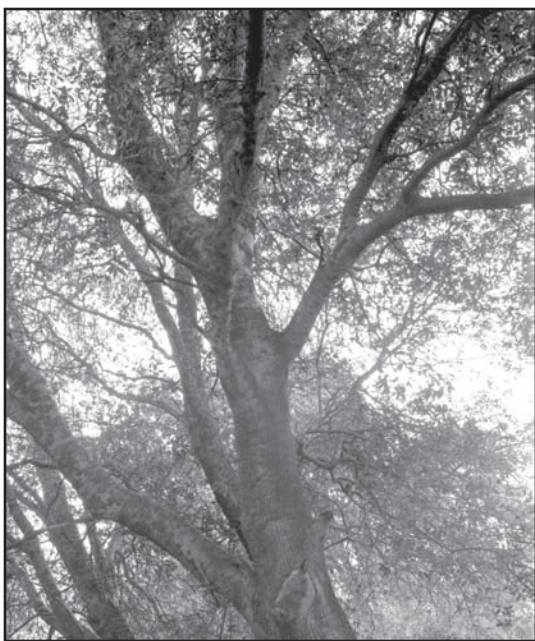
will continue to pay private law firms to fight this type of regulation, or will instead work aggressively to preserve a valuable public resource."

The day-long hearing, which wrapped up at 7:30 p.m., drew a large crowd of supporters from many facets of the community. Concerned surfers, swimmers, doctors, parents, and children also spoke in support of the bacteria pollution limits. Members of the business community came to the hearing in support of the action. In testimony read into the record, David Smith of the Association of Volleyball Professionals (AVP) emphasized how clean beaches are necessary for the economic vitality of

his organization.

In addition, Gov. Schwarzenegger wrote a letter of support encouraging the Regional Board to make the limits easily enforceable. Representatives from cities and LA County testified in opposition, saying in effect that a cooperative approach with negligible threat of enforcement was more appropriate.

In the end, clean beaches prevailed. Cities and other dischargers are now subject to fines up to \$10,000 per day per violation. The Water Board's affirmative vote is a major victory for water quality in Santa Monica Bay.



Tougher Ordinance Will Save The Oaks

New Law Makes it Tougher to Topple Trees

previous width was 8 inches, and the ordinance now includes lots of less than one acre. Today City officials can withhold building permits for as long as 10 years in the most serious cases.

Poisoning one of these trees, burning it, endangering its root system or damaging it by changing the natural grade is also forbidden. While no permit is necessary to prune any of these trees, it is recommended not to trim an oak by more than ten percent of its green foliage at one time.

A sick or dangerous tree can still be removed on an owner's property in various cases. Residents must first hire a tree expert to ad-

vising them and then request a permit. The lost tree must be replaced with two new native ones somewhere on the lot. Trees planted by the homeowner are exempt.

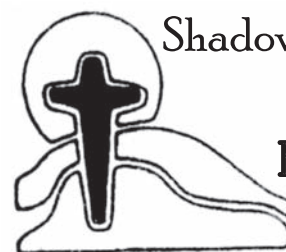
Tree removal and indigenous foliage laws vary from City to city and county to

county. In unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County, any oak 8 inches or wider at 54 inches from ground level may not be removed, but those regulations could also be toughened in the wake of the City law, which was enacted April 23.

According to local arborists, the nearly 1 billion oaks in California today are not on the federal endangered species list, nor are the other species protected by the newly toughened ordinance.

A newly revamped city regulation protecting four species of indigenous trees will make it far more difficult for homeowners and developers to chop down trees on their property.

The revised native tree ordinance covers all oaks (except the scrub oak), the Western sycamore, Southern California black walnut, and the California bay laurel. It now makes it illegal to remove or otherwise destroy any trees that are at least 4 inches wide at 54 inches above ground level. The



Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church

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Saturday October 7, 10 am – 2 pm

Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church celebrates the blessing of animals in our lives. Bring your four-legged friend - dog, cat, horse, bird, iguana, etc. to receive a blessing - all are welcome! Activities will include a 4H Petting Zoo, dog agility demonstration, local pet portrait artist, pet costume contest, bake sale, music and refreshments throughout the day.

For information: 818-353-2500

10158 Johanna Avenue •

(corner of Sunland Boulevard & Johanna Avenue in Shadow Hills)

Adelman from page 1

wants to facilitate the needs of the people, and is also considering hiring inspectors to work staggered hours including weekends. He has had little success in finding the right person for that type of position, however. Adelman also invited people to call him with their concerns and said he answers his own phone from 5 to 8 pm.

Code Enforcement Inspectors are dispatched from north, south and central L.A. They can be reached by dialing 311, or 1-888-4-build or online at www.ladbs.org

Super 8 from page 1

stop until my personal mission to have them removed is completed"

Flores added, "If they are not removed by the morning of Wednesday, September 27, Plans are being made for all concerned community members to picket in front of the motel, beginning at 4 p.m. that afternoon, and (it) will continue until the offenders are removed"

Management was unavailable for comment regarding the situation.

No Home Depot from page 2

brought her concerns to the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council. She fears that physically challenged members of the community will not have another local general store and that Home Depot will negatively impact the quality of life of the rural community. A school, church and single family residences surround the planned Home Depot, and the store will bring unwanted large trucks and increased traffic to the area, argue the No Home Depot members.

The No to Home Depot Campaign and community members have been vocal in their rejection of Home Depot, setting up a website and appearing at all public functions and events wearing T-shirts and flying their banners and gathering petitions.

On Friday, August 11, the North Valley Reporter sent a letter to Home Depot asking why the company was adamant about that particular location when the

majority of the community appears to want another type of business. The company was also asked whether or not they would be interested in trade development rights. Home Depot had previously said publicly it needed the Sunland-Tujunga location because they have maxed out their space at the San Fernando location and need the additional room to give good service. Home Depot did not respond specifically to the questions and instead issued a generic press release in response.

More information on the Home Depot issue is available at www.homedepot.com and www.notohomedepot.com.

Moving on

from page 6

is a safer and cleaner community today than before the TNI program and crime has dropped forty percent in the last three years.

Pacoima now awaits the opening of a new credit union, plus a promised "Neighborhood City Hall." The City Hall ground breaking will be announced in the near future.

Said Ms. Villasenor, "It is hard to leave a place where I have spent six years and worked with such inspiring people. However, I know that our paths will cross in the future. Please keep in touch, my email is bluebead@earthlink.net. I wish you all the best."

FYI Safety

from page 6

in preventing unsafe conditions. They also assisted in unsafe area closures, which were determined by officers, enforcing park rules and regulations, providing safety contact numbers as well as safe locations to enjoy picnicking, swimming and other activities. Also, because of the Patrol, "Illegal Off Road Vehicle" incidents, which had previously been a tremendous problem, have been curtailed. They have proven to be an added plus for the park.

Over 1500 members of the public have come in contact with the volunteers, requesting help or information regarding the well-known recreation area.

The Hansen Dam Volunteer Patrol is looking for more members. If anyone has the interest or desire to sign-up for the Volunteer Patrol, they are encouraged to contact Kristin Sabo at www.ksabo@wildwildwest.org or 818-470-1746

The North Valley Reporter has a new address!
www.northvalleyreporter.com

Alternative Car Race in the Works

Dr. Edson A. Johnson of Sunland is seeking support for a local Tesla Alternative Car and Vehicle Race and would like to participate in his pioneer hybrid 1985 Sinclair C-5 built in the United Kingdom. He believes a local race would bring attention to energy and fuel alternative vehicles and in turn help improve the environment and economy in the north valley.

According to Johnson, he has been in touch with the City of Santa Monica as well as the Secretary

General of Tourism, Baha California, Mexico, both have expressed interest in sponsoring such an event.

Dr. Johnson is the sponsor of the new Global Energy Independence Day celebrated yearly by Los Angeles County July 10, the birthday of energy pioneer Nikola Tesla, (1856-1943).

To learn more about alternative vehicles and energy, visit the following websites: www.PESWiki.com, and www.teslasociety.com or email MMmstires@aol.com

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As Lovely as a Tree

City and Residents Plan a Million of 'Em



City of Los Angeles residents are invited to join Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa Saturday, September 30, as he launches Million Trees LA -- his plan to plant one million trees in Los Angeles. Thousands of tree seedlings and five-gallon trees will be distributed at 15 different locations across the City of Los Angeles to residents who pledge to plant them.

Several non-profit groups have become "Tree Planting Partners," and are key leaders in implementing Million Trees LA. They have committed to planting large numbers of trees throughout the City. Hollywood/Los Angeles Beautification Team (HLABT) will help plant 125,000 trees in Council Districts 2, 4 and portions of Council District 13. Koreatown Youth and Community Center has pledged to help plant 50,000 trees in Council Districts 8 and 10. Los Angeles Conservation Corps will help plant 200,000 trees in city Council districts 6, 7, 9, 11, and 15. North East Trees group will help plant 200,000 trees in Council Districts 1, 12, portions of 13, and 14. TreePeople is helping the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks plant 300,000 trees on Recreation and Parks property city-wide including wilderness areas.

Tree Adoption Sites are open from 10 a.m. (or when trees are available) to 2 p.m. (or until trees are gone.)

North Valley locations:

- Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church 10158 Johanna Ave. Sunland, CA 91040
- Sun Valley Park Recreation Center 8133 Vineland Avenue Sun Valley, CA 91352
- Ritchie Valens Park (formerly Paxton Park) 10731 Laurel Canyon Boulevard Pacoima, CA 91331
- Devonshire Elementary School 10045 Jumilla Ave. Chatsworth, CA

Additional sites may be found on www.milliontreesla.org, in the calendar listing for September 30, 2006.

Get a tree, plant it and make it count towards the one million tree goal by logging on to www.milliontreesla.org or by calling 3-1-1.



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