

Land Managers to Determine Use of Trails in LA County

By Ann Walbert

Last year mountain biking enthusiasts filed formal “Change of Use” forms with Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation management to be granted access to trails in Vasquez Rocks in Agua Dulce and Placerita Canyon Nature Area in Santa Clarita. Uses on a County trail are a policy and cannot be changed without a process. Trails are reviewed consistently and objectively, based on the California State Parks Trail Use Change Survey (Assessment Tool).

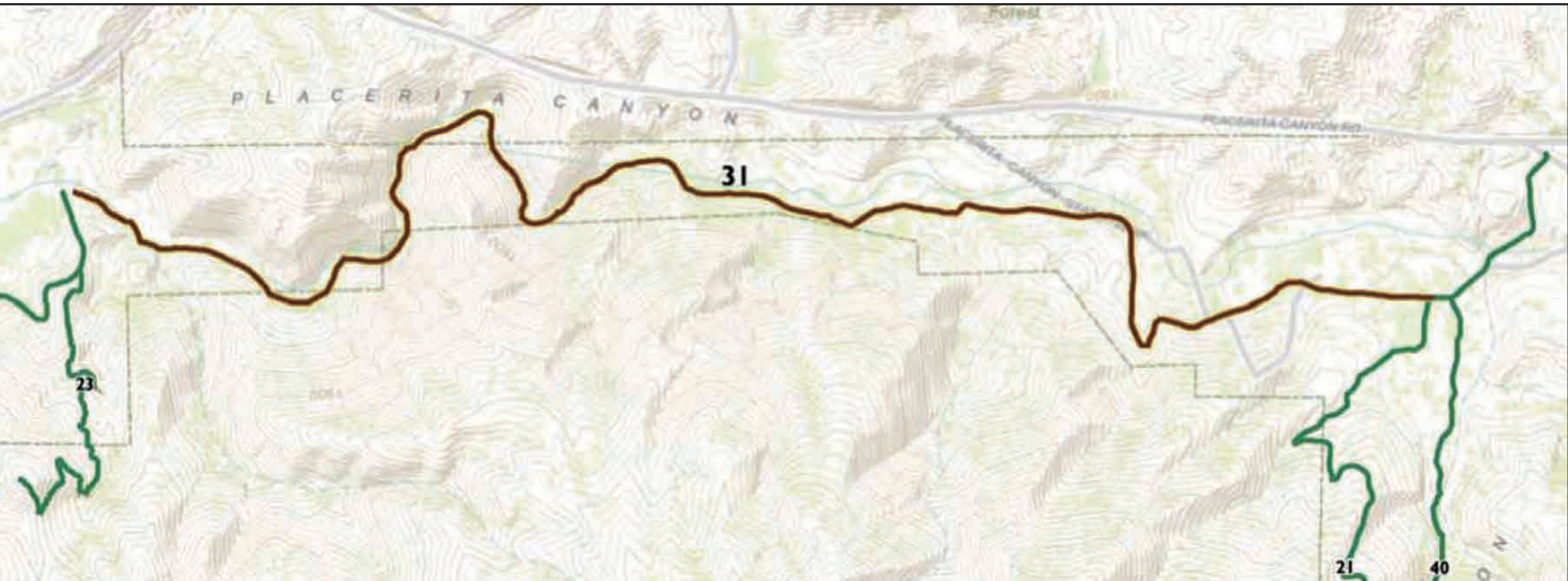
Their first meeting was held in December, 2011, with State Parks, followed by stakeholder interviews, community meetings and a Trail Use Change Survey, ending with a public notification period from June 12 to July 12, 2012. On July 11, Los Angeles County Park Planner, Lorrie Bradly along with members of a third party assessment team The Planning Consultants, held a public meeting to discuss community concerns regarding allowable uses for trails in these two locations.

The trail use change process must address sustainability, which is the ability of the trail to handle the new use. Considerations include erosion, drainage, creek crossings and sensitive resources. The requested change of use is to allow mountain bikes on the same trail that is heavily used by students and other docent led groups. Potential modifications for trail sustainability include reconstructing the trail to remove berms and correct out-slope. Also, construct turnpikes where trail reconstruction is not adequate in order to address entrenchment plus re-route trail to improve sustainability, safety and resource protection and reinforce trail to address erosion issue. The process does not consider if making these modifications will cause hikers or equestrians to stop using the trail. This is one of the flaws in the process.



Heritage Trail with 19 special status species with ranges bisected by trail.

Continued on page 10



Classified as a State Park Unit but is operated and managed by the County as a Natural Area by the County. Requested Use Change: Allow Mountain Bikes

LAUSD’s Arleta Avenue Foot Bridge Contested



Rendering of proposed bridge across Arleta Ave. Connecting Poly High School and Byrd Middle School

By Katherine Russ

In an era when the State of California is struggling with a \$16 Billion dollar deficit and Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) is facing budget cuts, teacher lay-offs and program cuts, building a \$3 Million dollar bridge across a less than heavily traveled street makes no sense. Residents feel it is a waste of money and say the money should be spent on programs to expand curriculums and to offer students trade/ skills classes.

Mike O’Gara, Outreach Chair- Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council (SVANC), said, “I realized years ago that it is better to vote money for education than money to build more prisons. I believe there is a direct correlation. If you don’t teach the young people skills with which they can earn a living they will turn to crime to get money, and society will be the big loser. That’s where trade schools and skill centers come in, and we don’t seem to be building them. We just lost our Cabinet shop at Poly High School after having lost our Auto Shop a number of years ago. Our children are not taught job skills.”

Continued on page 10

COMMUNITY NEWS

Pacoima



Councilman Richard Alarcon, CD7 at the first annual Cowboy Jamboree at the Boys & Girls Club in Pacoima on June 30 which included camel rides and a petting zoo. The Mary White Band is in the background.



The Pacoima Neighborhood Council celebrates Richie Valens Day at Haddon Elementary School where Richie attended. Olga Zubick, Richie’s cousin, shares plaque presented in his honor with students.



Sunland-Tujunga



Sunland-Tujunga – Commerce Avenue’s Historic Olde Towne sign has been restored and placed at Commerce Avenue and Foothill. Former Councilman Paul Krekorian recognized community members for their work and completion of street work, including new historic lamps and sidewalks that began during Councilwoman Wendy Greuel’s time serving Sunland-Tujunga. L-R: Sheri Smith, president, Little Landers Historical Society; Terry Hake-Church and Elaine Brown, Commerce Owners Business Restoration Association (COBRA) and Nina Royal, publisher, North Valley Reporter.



Former Councilman Paul Krekorian for the Sunland-Tujunga, Shadow Hills and Lake View Terrace communities receives his own “Piece of the Rock” in remembrance of his service to the Foothills. Councilman Krekorian recognized the Foothills community at City Hall in a special event held in the Bradley Tower and during the City Council meeting. L-R: Cile Borman, Councilman Paul Krekorian, Richard and Susan Stewart. Executive Director Claire Knowlton also made a presentation on behalf of the McGroarty Arts Center, Tujunga.



Neighborhood Council Elections



Neighborhood Council Candidate Workshop: Recently, candidates gathered at the EmpowerLA Leadership Academy workshop held at the Lake View Terrace Branch Library. Connie Dosch, Branch Manager for the library gave an overview of the services at the library and its history. Region 1 Neighborhood Councils in the North East Valley include Arleta, Foothill Trails District, Mission Hills, Pacoima Panorama City, Sun Valley Area, Sunland-Tujunga and Sylmar. The workshop gave an overview of the shared Region outreach efforts including Daily News and North Valley Reporter advertising, Rally in the Valley event, candidate forums and election day activities. “Beyond the Ballot Box” presentation given by Stephen Box, EmpowerLA Election Coordinator included how great candidates make great elections, great elections send a clear message to City Hall, how to be a great candidate and stand for something, partner with others and start walking. The EmpowerLA website, online election features and neighborhood council resources was presented by Enci Box. All candidates present received a copy of the “Candidate Guidelines” and “Neighborhood Council 2012 Election Manual”.

Saturday, August 4, 2012 Region 1 – North East Valley

Note: Refer to each neighborhood council’s bylaws for more information/details regarding board seats. Each neighborhood council is unique so not all board seat requirements are the same. See page 12 for hours and locations for Region 1 Neighborhood Council Elections.
For more info: www.empowerla.org/elections

Arleta	
Community Based	John A. Hernandez
Home/Condo Owner	Henry Ng
Senior’s Seat	James R. Kallas
Community Based - Neighborhood Watch	
	Lamar Shelby
Youth Group Representative	Luisa L. Chajon
Business Representative	Cyndee Riding
School Representative	Kelly Magallanes
Renter Representative	Sergio Ibarra
Faith Based	Eberardo Sanchez
At-Large Representative	Jack Lindblad

Foothill Trails District	
Area 5 Representative	Terry M. Kaiser
Area 6 Representative	Nancy W. Woodruff
At-Large Representative	Jeff B. Woodruff
Area 4 Representative	Kobie T. Boykins
Area 2 Representative	Alfonso Edeza
Area 6 Representative	Jaycynda M. Trifone-Woodruff
Area 4 Representative	Michael N. Carpenter
At-Large Representative	William E. Davis Jr.
Community Interest	Donna M. Lauber
At-Large Representative	Fritz Bronner
Area 1 Representative	Linda J. Hornick
Area 2 Representative	Dariusz Bakhtar
At-Large Representative	Babatunde Alemoh
Area 5 Representative	Robert (Bob) Bell
Area 3 Representative	Christine Chavarri
Area 5 Representative	Deirdra Vierra
Area 1 Representative	Kevin Davis
Area 4 Representative	Robert Gibson
Area 3 Representative	Daniel Davis

Mission Hills	
At-Large Director	Jesse M. Martinez
At-Large Director	Melvin L. Moody
Homeowner Stakeholder	Raymond X. Garcia
Business Owner Governor	Craig B. Forry
At-Large Director	Burt Sarjentt
At-Large Member	Clint C. Scott
Homeowner Stakeholder	Randy W. Kuluva
Youth Governor	Roberto Martin
Residential Renter Governor	Debra Dalton
Homeowner Stakeholder	Otto Klinger

Pacoima	
Retail Business Representative	Reuben Garcia
Youth Board	Michael D. Gonzales
Retail Business Representative	John A. Hernandez
Senior	Fannie A. Long
At Large	Rebecca Long
Community Based Organization	
	Rosy Santana-Williams
Industrial	Pamela Silver
Retail Business Representative	Jeffrey W. Stansfield
At Large	Edy J. Alvarez
Senior	Pat O’Connor
Senior	Margarie M. Gibbs
Community Based Organization	
	Jenaro E. Ayala
Home/Condo Owner Representative	
	Edwin Ramirez
At-Large Representative	Olivia Ledezma
At Large Representative	Erik Cook
Senior	Dora Tate
Home/Condo Owner Representative	
	Bobbie Pringle
Renter	Alex Morales
Home/Condo Owner Representative	
	Fredi Arriaga

Panorama City	
Unlimited At-Large Director	Manuel I. Bernal
Resident-Renter Center-West Director	
	Saul Mejia
At-Large Director	Lance J. Holt
Resident-Renter Center-East Director	
	Michelle Klein-Hass
Business Director	Susan M. Herrell
At-Large Director	Viviano Montes
Unlimited At-Large Director	Noel J. Olazaba
Resident-Homeowner South-East	
	Angela Sichler
Business Director	Thanh “Terry” Tran
Business Director	Emily Roberts
At-Large Director	Hector Galan
At-Large Director	Michael Marquez
Resident Renter North Director	
	Elizabeth Galan
At-Large	Sonia Sawit
At-Large Director	Juan Salas
At-Large Director	Jack Waizenegger
Business Director	Rodel Lumanog
Unlimited At-Large Director	Gregory Wilkinson
Unlimited At-Large Director	Jack Lindblad

Sun Valley Area	
Residential Stakeholder Director	
	Don R. Harward
Residential Stakeholder Director	
	Lysander Cuevas
Residential Stakeholder Director	
	Erik J. Albrektsen
Residential Stakeholder Director	
	Samuel D. Palomino

<i>Sun Valley Area continued</i>	
Residential Stakeholder Director	
	Amy D. Paris
Business/Property Owner Stakeholder Director	
	Susan A. Bartlett
Factual Basis Stakeholder Director	
	Sergio A. Carvajal
Residential Stakeholder Director	
	Eric A. Castellanos
At Large Stakeholder Director	
	Linda A. Housden
Residential Stakeholder Director	
	Monica B. Vacas
Residential Stakeholder Director	
	Mark Mardirossian
Business/Property Owner Stakeholder Director	
	Ronald Kramar
Business/Property Owner Stakeholder Director	
	Barbara A. O’Gara
Residential Stakeholder Director	
	Carlos A. Torres
Business/Property Owner	
	Maria C. Perez
At-Large Stakeholder Director	
	Gene Culley
Residential Stakeholder Director	
	Gary Aggas

Sunland-Tujunga	
President	
	Mark Seigel
	Ben Wallace
1st Vice President – Community Improvement	
	Paolina Milana-Edwards
2nd Vice President – Outreach	
	Cindy Cleghorn
Secretary	
	Melodee Patterson
Treasurer	
	Antoinette “Nina” Royal
Region Representatives	
Region 1	Kresse Armour
	Angela Vick
Region 2	Thomas P. Smoker, Jr.
	Arsen Karamians
Region 3	Michael Higby
	Michael Jones
Region 4	Araz Parseghian
Group Representatives Veterans	
	Patrick O’Brien
Entertainment Industry	
	Krystee Clark
Union	
	Janet Linsalato
Environmental	
	Richard Stewart
Poets and Writers	
	Joe DeCenzo
Parent	
	Lydia J. Grant
Seniors	
	Albert Timins
Veterans	
	John “Blue” Herget

Sylmar	
At Large Representative	
	Eugene Hernandez
Home/Condo Owner Representative	
	Dwight T. Morrow
Recreation Open Space	
	George E. Ortega
At Large	
	Sherry Lincoln
Home/Condo Owner Representative	
	Roy Smith
Home/Condo Owner Representative	
	Diane Valencia
Educational Institution Representative	
	Ann Marie L. Catano
At-Large Representative	
	Dana Xedos
Senior Representative	
	Rosemary Jenkins
Educational Institution Representative	
	Donald L. Neal
Home/Condo Owner Representative	
	Judith A. Neal
Retail Representative	
	Jeanne Rowe
At Large	
	Ricardo A. Benitez
Retail Representative	
	Hiral Bhakta
At-Large Representative	
	Marlon Stern
At-Large Representative	
	Brianne King
Renter	
	Chris Shows
Retail Representative	
	Richard Perry
Home/Condo Owner Representative	
	Sandra Carranza
Industrial	
	Edward Campos
Faith Based	
	Deidre Campbell-Jones
Renter	
	Kristin Mills
Youth Representative	
	Rubi V. Ramirez
Equestrian	
	Cheri Blose
Retail	
	Laurie Fadness
Community Based Organization	
	Jose L. Oliva, Jr.
Home/Condo Owner Representative	
	Derek Martin
Educational Institution	
	Cori Villalobos-Morrow
Senior Representative	
	Ann Job

COMMUNITY NEWS

Focusing on Local Priorities



By Richard Alarcón
Councilmember, District Seven

Protecting the Environment and Supporting Small Businesses

With La Tuna Canyon, Shadow Hills, all of Lake View Terrace and Sunland-Tujunga among the communities I now have the opportunity to represent, I am excited to work with you and your neighbors on a series of local priorities, including ensuring that our local horse-owners are being served well by the City, that our local environment is protected, and that our local small businesses have the support they need to create jobs and thrive. While I have discussed some of the work I am doing with the equestrian community in the last issue of the *North Valley Reporter*, I would like to focus this column on two of my other priorities: protecting the environment and supporting small businesses.

Environmental stewardship is very important to me and I am proud of my 100% Sierra Club voting record in the State Legislature, as well as of the work I have done to shut down the Lopez Canyon land-

fill and to encourage conservation and efficiency by creating the Los Angeles Green Business program. I have also worked to protect communities and open space from unwanted development – as I did in 2008, when I opposed a pro-developer bill introduced by Assemblymember Felipe Fuentes that would have forced the City Council to approve a zoning change that would have made it easier to build affordable housing on the Verdugo Hills Golf Course. In the coming months, I will continue my support of the Verdugo Hills Storm Water Project, which will help conserve and protect water at the Verdugo Hills Golf Course while also keeping the recreational opportunities in the area protected.

As the son of a small business owner and the husband of another small business owner, I am also committed to making sure that local businesses have the support they need to create jobs in the Northeast Valley. I introduced the “Business Tax Holiday” to the City Council, which attracts businesses to LA by exempting them from paying gross receipts taxes for their first three years in the City. I was also the first City official to propose the strategic elimination of the gross receipts tax in Los Angeles.

Reducing the cost of running a small business is just one step to creating jobs, and I have consistently introduced and supported programs such as the “Production Tax Credit” that are designed to keep the film and television productions in Los Angeles. Especially in the Foothill communities, where most of us has some connection to the entertainment industry (either directly, or through our families and friends), we must do all we can to not only keep film, TV and commercial productions here, but to expand the number of job-creating productions in Los Angeles.

I recently hired Phil Tabbi, who many of you know as a former President of the Sunland-Tujunga Chamber of Commerce, to help me reach out to businesses in the area. Phil will be stopping by businesses to ask how my office can better support your work. Please keep an eye out for Phil and let us know if we can help.

These are only two of the many issues I will be working with you on in the coming months and I am excited that I have an opportunity to serve the entire Foothill region on the City Council. If you have suggestions or ideas (about these or any other issues), please contact me at Councilmember.Alarcon@lacity.org. Thank you.

DONE General Manager Resigns



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am writing to let you know that, effective August 4, 2012, I will be leaving my current position to accept a job offer for a newly created position, Vice President/Executive Director for Civic Engagement for the San Diego Foundation. Named after the founding benefactor, the vision of the Malin Burnham Center for Civic Engagement of the San Diego Foundation is to infuse the entire region with a strong civic infrastructure so that the region can be more proactive, inclusive, and equitable in meeting the challenges of growth while assuring a high quality of life for all San Diegans.

As I leave my home city of 25 years, for this awesome opportunity to make a difference in my new home community of San Diego, I’m called to reflect on what Los Angeles has meant for me.

From my humble beginnings as a first generation immigrant struggling as an outsider to find my sense of belonging in this new country, in New Jersey of all places, I never would have imagined I would be given the amazing opportunities to serve and help others and work for social change that I have.

These opportunities started from my early work in Koreatown to expand opportunities for recent immigrants to the Los Angeles riots in April 1992, when I was suddenly confronted with the shocking tragedy of the worst urban rioting in modern history. This was a life changing event which claimed 54 lives and snatched away the American dreams of over 800 Korean families who violently lost their businesses overnight through no fault of their own. Through that painful experience, and more recently with Neighborhood Councils, it has become clearer to me than ever that the role of communities and government must change in some fundamental ways.

Most recently with my work in city government as the longest serving General Manager for Neighborhood Empowerment (an awesome job title) of the most ambitious and promising civic engagement in the country, I have been truly inspired by the amazing work of volunteers throughout this great city who have answered the call and are devoting so much of their time, heart, and spirit to improve the way government works with neighborhoods.

Leading the Department over the past five years, has been the most challenging, yet inspiring, experience of my professional life. I am proud of what we have been able to accomplish during this time in building a more stable foundation for neighborhood empowerment.

After being cutback by more than 50% due to the fiscal crisis, we shifted our role by recruiting former Neighborhood Council Board members to provide direct assistance to their struggling peers. Councils 4 Councils is now in place and able to send out peer veterans to advice those who are new to neighborhood governance. Over time, it is possible to envision the system

being largely self supporting through a volunteer driven system with city staff playing more of a facilitative, dot connecting role.

Through regular attendance at regional coalition meetings, we built closer relationships with Neighborhood Council leaders who viewed city staff with suspicion and distrust. Many remarked how unusual it was for a General Manager to be attending so many evening meetings in the community.

Bylaws are the constitution and the “rules of the road” for each Neighborhood Council. Coming into the department, I found that the by-laws were a complete mess fraught with inconsistencies, vague or missing language around key sections which determine how Neighborhood Councils make decisions and are accountable to the public. When Boards would get locked in conflict, their bylaws were useless in guiding them out of difficulties. Working with the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners and Neighborhood Council leaders, we now have set the standard for clearer and consistent bylaws for all 95 Neighborhood Councils.

Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils are not only leading the way nationally, but internationally as well. Delegations from Japan, Venezuela, and Canada have come to visit with us and have been fascinated to find what the second largest city in the most powerful nation in the world is doing around empowering everyday people to claim their rightful space in democracy. In fact, the Mayor of Nagoya is currently looking to abolish its city council and replacing them with Neighborhood Councils making the decisions for themselves. Imagine the possibilities....

We are currently on track to successfully complete citywide Neighborhood Council elections in less than half the time and budget than ever before. More importantly, we have launched an ambitious outreach campaign to increase the visibility of Neighborhood Councils while reminding Angelenos of the central purpose - to involve more people and improve government responsiveness to neighborhood needs. We also recruited veteran Neighborhood Council activists to serve as election administrators who are now working in partnership with Board volunteers to recruit as many candidates as possible. It’s possible to imagine that, one day, more people may turn out to vote for Neighborhood Council Board seats than City Council seats because voting for your neighbor is a more direct connection to City Hall.

While leaving the Department in the midst of citywide elections is tough, there are very capable managers in place who will continue to work hard to ensure that these elections are truly grassroots and participatory yet fair and transparent.

The timing of this opportunity at the San Diego Foundation collided at exactly the same moment as my plans to become the first ever Korean American city councilman running on a public participation vision. I saw how quickly the message of local empowerment was resonating with people across the city as well as

in the 13th District. I was looking forward to harnessing the growing energy and inspiration of Neighborhood Council activists all over the city while setting the table of the public debate for how electeds were going to truly create broad and deep public participation and facilitate a path for more people to take back their own democracy. This is still possible by creating a citywide public participation coalition which will vet each candidate’s position on how they can get more people to be involved. I hope the Neighborhood Council leaders will answer this need for such a coalition.

I am deeply indebted to all the hard working and dedicated Neighborhood Council volunteers for your leadership, dedication, and stick-to-it-ness. Your persistent insistence that neighborhoods must be listened to on all matters local is being heard and has planted a seed inside government that can only grow stronger and healthier. This next decade of neighborhood empowerment promises to be a game changer for showing a nationwide audience how governments can re-define its relationship to neighborhoods. I’m extremely lucky to have led the Department during a time in which Neighborhood Councils are blossoming and reclaiming their rightful place in city government - at the center. Taking on my next mission driven position to build up a civic infrastructure for the San Diego region would not have been possible had I not had this experience in Los Angeles.

The invaluable lessons learned from my experiences in this position will strongly inform my new position. You all have shown me how the vision of greater public participation in government is not only doable but a MUST do. The current period of fiscal constraints is the new normal and government needs to shift its working relationship with communities. Through my work in the Department and with neighborhood leaders across this great city, I have seen the future of government - and the future is local.

I am indebted to many for this opportunity, but I would like to mention a few here. To the Mayor for appointing me, to Deputy Mayor Larry Frank for his steadfast support and belief in me, to Grayce Liu who applied her soft power-based, quickstart leadership in realizing some fundamental relational and systemic changes to the system, to Leyla Campos, who survived many years in the Department while continually adapting to the constant changes, and to Stephen Box (Enci and Sydney) for answering the call to build a new kind of grassroots election.

I will be within earshot of Los Angeles and expect to be hearing of all the great things I know you will continue to do to make this a truly great city.

With Gratitude,

BongHwan “BH” Kim
bhk
BongHwan “BH” Kim
General Manager



You Should Know...

By Nina Royal

Grant Applications are being accepted now from qualified non-profit organizations that provide services to women and children across California. Four grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 will be awarded to California charities or non-profit (501c3 or 501c6) entities. Completed applications must be postmarked by September 14, and must include a copy of the organization’s non-profit filing with the Attorney General’s office, along with a letter of recommendation from a member of the Legislature or Capitol Network. The grant is being offered by Capital Network, a non-partisan organization of public and private professionals working in and around the state capitol of Sacramento and has raised and donated more than a quarter million dollars to California charities that address the needs of women and children. The grant application is available online at www.capitol-network.org/giving.html.

The upcoming Watermelon Festival is not only offering free watermelon, but also providing a Watermelon Shuttle Service on Foothill Blvd. from Lowell Ave in Tujunga, to Esko in Lake View Terrace this year. Check www.lionswatermelonfestival.com for stop locations on Foothill Blvd. The 51st annual festival begins on **Friday, August 10 through Sunday, August 12** in Sunland Park, 8651 Foothill Blvd. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$2 for children and toddlers are free. Visit their website or see the NVR Calendar Section and their Ad for further information. There will be plenty of family activities and live entertainment, but you won’t want to Miss Sunland-Tujunga’s own Las Vegas Star, Andy DiMino who will be singing a Dean Martin tribute on Sunday evening.

Big Tujunga Wash mitigation area maintenance activities began July 26 and will continue through **August 17**, between the hours of 7:00 am and 3:30 pm during the weekdays only. Work consists of clearing debris from trails, removing weeds, and exotic species of plants. If you have any questions regarding the maintenance activities, contact Grace Yu at Los Angeles County Department of Public Works: gyu@dpw.lacounty.gov.

Adult and Career Education Service Centers are being opened by Los Angeles Unified School District. Classes will begin on Tuesday, August 7 at multiple

location branches. Two of those branches are in the San Fernando Valley. Registration runs from Monday, **August 6**, through Thursday, August 9 from 8 am to 8 pm and Friday, August 10 from 8 am to 4:30 pm. The North Valley Service Center is located at 11450 N. Sharp Ave., Mission Hills. Continuing students at Pacoima Skills Center can pre-register at North Valley on August 6. For more information visit: adulted-laUSD-ca.schoolloop.com/NorthValleySC., or call 818-365-9645. The Van Nuys Service Center registration is located at West Valley Occupational Center, 6200 Winnetka Ave., Woodland Hills. For more information visit: adulted-laUSD-ca.schoolloop.com/VanNuysSC, or call 818-346-3540.

The Back to School Family Resource Fair is being held **Saturday, August 11**, 12 pm to 3 pm in El Cariso Park, 13100 Hubbard St. Sylmar. This free event consists of Health Screening and Safety Information. There are free giveaways while supplies last. Parking is available at El Cariso Gold Course parking lot.

The SR-710 (Long Beach Freeway connection to the Foothill Freeway) The Metro Environmental Outreach Team will be updating Community Liaison Committee members and the public during an informal discussion regarding information they received during their May, 2012 Open House and they will also share information regarding the analysis process. More participation is needed from North San Fernando Valley community members who are in the sphere of influence of the Foothill Freeway that will be impacted by the additional traffic due to the connection of the Long Beach Freeway to the Foothill Freeway. The closest meeting for Valley members will be held on **Monday, August 13**, at La Canada High School, 4463 Oak Grove Dr., 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

FREE Kidney Health Screening and Evaluation is being held on Saturday, August 18 from 9 am to 1 pm at San Fernando Recreation Park, 208 Park Ave, in the City of San Fernando. The National Kidney Foundation and local host Kidneys Quest Foundation are sponsoring the event. Diabetes and high blood pressure are the two most common causes of kidney failure. Testing for early detection is needed for adults so they can benefit and possibly delay kidney disease through proper treatment. Referrals to- doctors will be provided if needed. For more information contact Natalie Kanooni or Carolyn Urquidez at 800-747-552, or email: kqfoundation@gmail.com. Walk-ins are welcome.

Bishop Alemany High School
Parent Association Guest Speaker Series

**“Stand Up and Speak Out
Against Bullying
and Cyber Bullying”**

Special Guest Speakers
LAPD Deputy Chief Jorge Villegas, Valley Bureau
LAPD Captain John Romero, Mission Patrol Division
Monica Harmon, Public Safety Advocate, LAPD Volunteer

Weds. - Sept. 12, 2012
6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Bishop Alemany High School Alumni Hall
1111 North Alemany Drive - Mission Hills, CA 91345



City Planning Associate Erick Lopez talks about the City's Zoning Code Reform process that will streamline zoning in the City of Los Angeles at the July PlanCheckNCLA meeting. Info: www.plan-checkncla.com

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Wednesday, Aug 1
Rotary Club
Coco's Restaurant
10521 Sunland Blvd., S-T
7:00 pm 818-951-5299

NHWC Comm. Forum
Holy Martyrs Armenian School
1667 Parthenia St., NH
7:00 pm

MHNC Safety Com
Mission Police Station
11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH
6:30 pm

S. V. Rotary
Mandarin Terrace
8815 Sunland Blvd., SV
12:00 pm -1:30 pm
818-768-9888

NHNENC Outreach
Valley Plaza Library
12311 Van Owen St., No Ho
6:30 pm

Thursday, Aug 2
PCNC Land Use
Mission Comm. Hospital
14860 Roscoe Blvd., PC
6:30 pm 818-894-7841

Saturday, Aug 4
LADWP MOU Comm.
Hollywood Com. Center
6501 Fountain Ave., Holly.
8:45 am

LANCC Meet.
Hollywood Comm. Center
6501 Fountain Ave., Holly.
10:00 am

Sunday, Aug 5
Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "The boomer Years"
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
818-352-3420

Monday, Aug 6
STNC Land Use Com
7727 Foothill Blvd., S-T
7:00 pm

FTDNC Outreach Com
9747 Wheatland Ave., SH
7:00 pm

MHNC Board & Gen Meet.
Mission Police Station
11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH
6:30 pm

NHENC Gen. Meet
Penny Lane Rainbow Rm
15314 Rayen, North Hills
6:30 pm.

Tuesday Aug 7
Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "The Boomer Years"
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
818-352-3420

Kagel Cyn Civic Assoc.
Dexter Park, KC
11053 No. Trail Rd., KC

FTDNC Land Use
9747 Wheatland Ave., SH
7:00 pm

MHNC Zoning & Land Use
LAPD Mission Station
11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MHT

LAPD Community Coffee
Albertsons Starbucks
6240 Foothill, S-T
8: 00 am 818-756-8866

Wednesday, Aug 8
STNC Gen Meet.
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
Refresh. 6:30 pm
7:00 pm 818-951-7411

FTDNC Exec. Board
9747 Wheatland Ave., SH
7:00 pm

Sun Valley Beautiful
9081 Tujunga Ave., SV
11:30 am

No Hollywd.Nh'brh'd Watch
Pentecostal Church
6800 Radford St., No Ho
6:30 pm 818-331-1398

FTDNC Equestrian Meet.
9747 Wheatland Ave., SH
7:00 pm

Pan. City Neighborhood Watch
9261 Wakefield, PC
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Thursday, Aug 9
LAPD Foothill Div. CPAB
Japanese Amer. Comm. Ctr
12953 Branford, Pac
6:00 pm 818-756-8866

Valley Alliance of NC's
Sherman Oaks Hosp.
4929 Van Nuys, Sherm.
Oaks
6:30 pm

Friday, Aug 10
GHNNC Polic & Rules Comm
11139 Woodley Ave., GH
4:00 pm

Sunday, Aug 12
Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "The Boomer Years"
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
818-35-3420

Monday, Aug 13
FTDNC Budget Comm
9797 Wheatland Ave., SH
7:00 pm

SNC Land Use Comm
Sylmar Park
13109 Bordon Ave, Syl
6:30 pm

City Redistricting Hearing
North Valley City Hall, S-T
7747 Foothill Blvd.
6:30 pm

PCNC Commerce
Wells Fargo Bank
8548 Van Nuys Blvd., PC
2:30 pm 818-714-2133

SVANC Gen Meet
10631 Vinedale Ave., SV
6:30 pm

SNC Outreach Com.
Sylmar Park
13109 Bordon Ave., Syl
6:30 pm

Northridge West NC
Beckford Elem. School
19130 Tulsa St., Nrdge
7:00 pm

MHNC Budget & Finance
LAPD Mission Station
16161 Sepulveda Blvd., MH
7:00 pm 818-892-2414

PCNC Outreach
PCNC Office (4th Floor)
14500 Roscoe Blvd., PC
6:30 pm 818-714-2133

GHNNC Safety Comm
11139 Woodley Ave., GH
2:00 pm

Sun Valley Chamber Meet
Villa Scalabrini
10631 Vindale Ave., SV
12:00 pm

Tuesday, Aug 14
Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "The Boomer Years"
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
818-352-3420

Wednesday, Aug 15
LAPD-CPAB
Mission Division
11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH
6:30 pm

Rotary Club
Coco's Restaurant
10521 Sunland Blvd., S-T
7:00 pm 818-951-5299

Pacoima NC
Gen. Meeting
Pacoima Comm. Center
11243 Glenoaks Blvd., Pac
6:30 pm

Northridge East NC
Northridge Academy HS
9601 Zelzah Ave., Nrdge
7:00 pm

North Hills West NC
New Horizons
15725 Parthenia St., NH
7:00 pm

Strathern Nh'brh'd. Watch
Church of the Nazarene
12120 Strathern St., NoHo
6:30 pm

SNC Green Comm.
Sylmar Park & Rec. Cent.
Susan B. Anthony Bldg
Polk & Bordon Ave. Syl
7:00 pm

10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
818-352-3420

Hansen Dam Park
Advisory Board
Lake View Terr Rec. Ctr.
11075 Foothills, LVT
7:00 pm

Thursday, Aug 16
FTDNC Gen. Meeting
Lake View Terr. Rec. Center
7:00 pm

Saturday, Aug 18
Plan Check NC
Hist. Downtown O.R. Center
114 W. Fifth St., L.A.
10:00 am -1:00 pm

Northridge East NC
Northridge Womans Club
18401 Lassen St, Nrthrdge
7:00 pm

NHNE NC Board Meet
Arminta Elem. School
11530 Arminta St., No Ho
7:00 pm

Sunday, Aug 19
Bolton Hall Musum
Presents "The Boomer Years"
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Monday, Aug 20
Valley Vote
Galpin Ford
15555 Roscoe Blvd., MH
6:30 pm

GHNNC Land Use Comm
11139 Woodley Ave., GH
7:00 pm

STNC Land Use Comm
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T
7:00

Tuesday, Aug 21
Arleta NC Gen. Meeting
Beachy Elem. School
9757 Beachy, Arl.
6:30 pm

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "The Boomer Years"
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
818-352-3420

S-T Neighborhood Watch
North Valley City Hall
7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T
6:30 PM

Neighborhood Watch
Block Captains Mtng.
Sylmar High School

GHNNC, Rules & Policy Comm.
11139 Woodley Ave, GH
4:00 pm

Sunday, Aug 26
Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "The Boomer Years"
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
818-352-3420

Open Poetry Reading
The Village Poets
Bolton Hall Museum
10110 Commerce, S-T
818-352-3420
4:30 pm dskiles@ca.rr.com



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Mark YOUR Calendar

<p><u>Monday, Aug 27</u></p> <p>GHNNC Gen. Meeting Rinaldi Adult Center, 17450 Rinadli St., GH 6:30 pm</p>	<p><u>Monday, Sep 10</u></p> <p>FTDNC Budget Comm 9797 Wheatland Ave., SH 7:00 pm</p> <p>SNC Land Use Comm Sylmar Park 13109 Bordon Ave, Syl 6:30 pm</p> <p>PCNC Commerce Wells Fargo Bank 8548 Van Nuys Blvd., PC 2:30 pm 818-714-2133</p> <p>SVANC Gen Meet 10631 Vinedale Ave., SV 6:30 pm</p> <p>SNC Outreach Com. Sylmar Park 13109 Bordon Ave., Syl 6:30 pm</p> <p>Northridge West NC Beckford Elem. School 19130 Tulsa St., Nrdge 7:00 pm</p> <p>MHNC Budget & Finance LAPD Mission Station 16161 Sepulveda Blvd., MH 7:00 pm 818-892-2414</p> <p>PCNC Outreach PCNC Office (4th Floor) 14500 Roscoe Blvd., PC 6:30 pm 818-714-2133</p> <p>GHNNC Safety Comm 11139 Woodley Ave., GH 2:00 pm</p> <p>Sun Valley Chamber Meet Villa Scalabrini 10631 Vindale Ave., SV 12:00 pm</p> <p><u>Tuesday, Sep 11</u></p> <p>Bolton Hall Museum Presents “The Boomer Years” 10110 Commerce Ave., S-T Docent Tours 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm 818-352-3420</p> <p>Kagel Cyn Civic Assoc. Dexter Park, KC 11053 No. Trail Rd., KC</p> <p>FTDNC Land Use 9747 Wheatland Ave., SH 7:00 pm</p> <p>MHNC Zoning & Land Use LAPD Mission Station 11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MHT</p> <p>LAPD Community Coffee Albertsons Starbucks 6240 Foothill, S-T 8: 00 am 818-756-8866</p> <p><u>Wednesday, Sep 5</u></p> <p>Rotary Club Coco’s Restaurant 10521 Sunland Blvd., S-T 7:00 pm 818-951-5299</p> <p>NHWNC Comm. Forum Holy Martyrs Armenian School 1667 Parthenia St., NH 7:00 pm</p> <p>MHNC Safety Com Mission Police Station 11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH 6:30 pm</p> <p>S. V. Rotary Mandarin Terrace 8815 Sunland Blvd., SV 12:00 pm -1:30 pm 818-768-9888</p> <p>S-T League of Women Voters North Valley City Hall 7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T 1:30 pm 818-782-4236</p> <p>NHNE NC Outreach Valley Plaza Library 12311 Van Owen St., No Ho 6:30 pm</p> <p><u>Thursday, Sep 6</u></p> <p>PCNC Land Use Mission Comm. Hospital 14860 Roscoe Blvd., PC 6:30 pm 818-894-7841</p> <p><u>Sunday, Sep 9</u></p> <p>Bolton Hall Museum Presents “The Boomer Years” 10110 Commerce Ave., S-T Docent Tours 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm 818-35-3420</p>	<p><u>Monday, Sep 10</u></p> <p>FTDNC Equestrian Meet. 9747 Wheatland Ave., SH 7:00 pm</p> <p>Pan. City Neighborhood Watch 9261 Wakefield, PC 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm</p> <p><u>Thursday, Sep 13</u></p> <p>LAPD Foothill Div. CPAB Japanese Amer. Comm. Ctr 12953 Branford, Pac 6:00 pm 818-756-8866</p> <p>Valley Alliance of NC’s Sherman Oaks Hosp. 4929 Van Nuys, Sherm. Oaks 6:30 pm</p> <p><u>Friday, Sep 14</u></p> <p>GHNNC Policy & Rules Comm 11139 Woodley Ave., GH 4:00 pm</p> <p><u>Saturday, Sep 15</u></p> <p>Plan Check NC Hist. Downtown O.R. Center 114 W. Fifth St., L.A. 10:00 am -1:00 pm</p> <p>Northridge East NC Northridge Academy 9601 Zelzah Ave., Nrdge</p> <p>NHNE NC Board Meet Arminta Elem. School 11530 Arminta St., No Ho 7:00 pm</p> <p><u>Sunday, Sep 16</u></p> <p>Bolton Hall Musum Presents “The Boomer Years” 10110 Commerce Ave., S-T Docent Tours 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm</p> <p><u>Tuesday, Sep 18</u></p> <p>Arleta NC Gen. Meeting Beachy Elem. School 9757 Beachy, Arl. 6:30 pm</p> <p>Bolton Hall Museum Presents “The Boomer Years” 10110 Commerce Ave., S-T Docent Tours 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm 818-352-3420</p> <p>S-T Neighborhood Watch 7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T 6:30 PM</p> <p>Neighborhood Watch Block Captains Mtng. Sylmar High School</p> <p>GHNNC, Rules & Policy Comm. 11139 Woodley Ave, GH 4:00 pm</p>	<p><u>Wednesday, Sep 19</u></p> <p>LAPD-CPAB Mission Division 11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH 6:30 pm</p> <p>Rotary Club Coco’s Restaurant 10521 Sunland Blvd., S-T 7:00 pm 818-951-5299</p>	<p>Pacoima NC Gen. Meeting Pacoima Comm. Center 11243 Glenoaks Blvd., Pac 6:30 pm</p> <p>Northridge East NC Northridge Academy HS 9601 Zelzah Ave., Nrdge 7:00 pm</p>	<p>North Hills West NC New Horizons 15725 Parthenia St., NH 7:00 pm</p> <p>Strathern Nh’brh’d. Watch Church of the Nazarene 12120 Strathern St., NoHo 6:30 pm</p>
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Sunland-Tujunga Lions Club Watermelon Festival



August 10, 11, 12
Friday 5-11 pm; Saturday noon-11:30 pm
Sunday noon–10:00 pm

Sunland Park
Sunland & Foothill Boulevards, Sunland
Sunland Blvd. exit from the 210

Shuttle Service will be available along Foothill Blvd. from Esko Ave. (Wheatland) on the west and from Lowell Ave. on the east.
See website for details.

Parking is limited near the Park; take the shuttle bus!

Admission \$5



PUBLIC SAFETY

Eye on Public Safety



By Nina Royal

Join National Night Out Campaigns in the North Valley

The 29th Annual “National Night Out” (NNO) is being held this year on Tuesday, August 7. The purpose of NNO is to heighten crime and drug awareness, generate support and participation for local anti-crime programs. Also, strengthen neighborhoods and police partnerships as well as send a message to inform criminals that organized neighborhoods are fighting back.

This can be done in various ways with holding block parties, cookouts, youth programs, contests, along with safety information handouts. In the City of Los Angeles, LAPD Senior Lead Officers also participate in the planning along with community members. The following is a list of some of the NNO events that are being held in the North Valley and the public is encouraged to attend as many as you want.

Foothill Station Area Station

Little Landers Park - 5 pm – 8:30pm
10116 Commerce Ave., Tuj

Mighty Bo Young & the Bombers,
Food, Safety info.

Stonehurst Park - 6 pm
9901 Dronfield Ave., SV

Planned activity: potluck, outreach

Roger Jessup Park – 6 pm
12467 Osborne St., Pac

Planned activity: catered food, displays and Outreach

Industrial Metal Supply- 6 pm
8300 San Fernando Rd, SV

Planned activity: potluck, outreach

Mission Station Area

Carey Ranch - 6 pm to 8:30 pm

Holiday Way between Carey Ranch Lane & Brookmont

Food, Drinks, bouncy house and a clown

Sylmar Park - 5 pm to 8 pm
13109 Borden Ave

Safety and Government Info., youth programs, face painting, kick boxing

Zumba Classes, petting Zoo

Brand Park - 4 pm to 7 pm

Brand Blvd., between Columbus and Arleta
Avenues Food, Jump King, prizes and entertainment with a DJ,

North Hills Park - 5 pm – 8 pm
Columbus and Parthenia Place

Food, Skate Park and live music

There may be more additions to this list. Contact the Community Relations Officer at your nearest station for the latest information.

Message from Mission



Captain Todd Chamberlain
Commanding Officer
Los Angeles
Police Department
Mission Division

This summer we need to continue to protect our neighborhood. Our neighbors will be on vacation and it is a perfect opportunity for the criminal element to burglarize and vandalize our community. If you are going out of town, here are a few things to remember: stop your newspaper delivery, secure your windows with anti-slide devices, set automatic timers for key lighting throughout your house, and have someone pick-up your mail. We all deserve to enjoy a vacation and not return home to have found criminal activity. Keep a look out and help our community.

I extend an invitation to our community members to participate at their local “National Night Out” NNO) events within the Mission Area. The 29th Annual NNO is August 7. Stop by the station and pick up a flyer with the complete list of the event close to you. You will find the local event exciting, fun and informative. I hope to meet some of you at these events.

Our police personnel and community are working assertively to improve our quality of life here in the Mission Area. As of July 23, we have had six homicides, 18 rapes, 151 robberies and 213 aggravated assaults. This is a 12% decrease in total violent crime compared to last year-to-date statistics. In the category of property crimes during the same period, we had 373 burglaries, 345 grand theft autos, 658 burglary/theft from motor vehicles and 503 personal/other thefts; representing a three percent decrease in total property crime compared to last year-to-date statistics. Our goals are challenging with opportunities to better our community; with your continuing support, we will achieve our goals.

I want to hear your concerns and encourage your participation in our community policing efforts. Please direct your questions regarding Mission Area to my office at 818-838-9980 or to the Mission area Community relations Office at 818-838-9856.

Thank you for
Supporting
NVR!

Officers Answer Telephone, Make an Arrest



Commander James Cancler
Assistant Commanding Officer
Operations Valley Bureau
Los Angeles Police Department

Combating crime and making the San Fernando Valley safer for all residential and business communities requires the Los Angeles Police Department to be ever vigilant. In these tough economic times for the City when police personnel and equipment are stretched to their limits, the police department encourages the police officers to use their creativity in order to maximize their efficiency and impact on crime problems.

On August 11, 2012, officers assigned to the Valley Crime Task Force conducted a traffic stop on a documented gang member in the area of Pacoima for an equipment violation. As the officers determined that the driver was on probation with search conditions, the officers took the driver to his home to verify his probation compliance conditions were being met. Upon arrival at the house, the officers observed one of the occupants run from the house. When confronted, this man elected to fight with the police officers. This person was quickly taken into custody. Meanwhile, the officers continued their compliance check in the driver’s home. Inside the house, the officers recovered several quantities of methamphetamines.

As the officers concluded their investigation, the officers noted that several cellular telephones were ringing simultaneously in the room with the narcotics. At this point, the driver was now under arrest for the narcotics violation of possession for distribution. This was consistent with a distribution point for narcotics, officers answered the telephones and anonymously arranged narcotics transactions with unsuspecting narcotics buyers.

As a result of this investigative creativity, not only did the officers apprehend a distributor of illicit narcotics in the San Fernando Valley, but they took two would-be buyers off the streets.

The distributor and the buyers all had extensive criminal histories which included gang membership, street robberies, burglaries, and vehicle thefts.

This incident is but one example of officers constantly at the ready to pursue their investigations and raise the standards of public safety in the San Fernando Valley.

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of Neighborhoods

Sat. Sept. 22, 2012 - 7:45am to 4pm
LA City Hall 200 N. Spring St. LA, 90012
www.NCCongressLA.com

Mission Area Police Station Carnival



The Mission Area Police Station hosted their fundraising carnival July 27-29 at Van Nuys and Roscoe in Panorama City. Jesse “David” Barron and officer Jim McDonald together at the carnival.

COMMENTARY

After Villaraigosa...Will Los Angeles Return to Being a Premier City?



By David Barron

Last month, Mayor Villaraigosa and the city council confirmed their failure of managing the financial affairs of our City, when they declared a fiscal emergency, despite city revenues being at an all time high. This fiscal emergency was caused by their policy of handing out hundreds of millions of our tax dollars to their politically connected supporters. Their policy eventually placed the city in a multi-million dollar deficit and a possible bankruptcy filing for the next fiscal year. However, that was no surprise to them. Early on, during Villaraigosa’s first term in office, the city’s Chief Administrative Officer sent letters repeatedly, warning Villaraigosa that his over-spending spree would possibly put the city in a deficit. Most of these elected officials place more importance on their reelection, than serving and honoring their oath of fiscal responsibility to the residents of Los Angeles.

Villaraigosa once said, “...That’s why I was elected to make the tough decisions.” Well let’s look at some of his tough decisions. When Villaraigosa first became Mayor his office budget was \$8.6 million. He quickly and quietly tripled his office budget to \$26 million dollars, while promoting his “Shared Sacrifice” campaign, and forcing city workers to take furlough days (days off without pay) and instructing his General Managers to cut back on city services.

A new responsible mayor would take the title of “Mayor” seriously and could easily cut back the mayor’s office budget by several million dollars and still be effective. With an army of over 230 staff members and a budget of over \$26 million it appears that Villaraigosa is using his staff as a public relations firm.

At the time former Police Chief Bratton was hired, he told Villaraigosa, that due to the size and population of the City of Los Angeles, he wanted to increase the department to 12,000 officers in order to truly

have a safe city. Villaraigosa’s decision was not to support Bratton’s request. Though violent crime is down across the nation, crime is still high in Los Angeles. Based on FBI stats, which listed 64 cities with the worst crime rates, Los Angeles was listed at number 48. If the mayor’s unregulated “anti-gang” programs were abolished, then the city would be able to utilize the tens of millions of dollars it receives to hire additional police officers. The officers could then suppress crime further, as well as decrease their response time to emergency radio calls. Additionally, cutting these programs would free up city owned facilities that are being rented to “anti-gang” contractors for as little as \$1.00 per year for 10 years. These public facilities can then be rented out at fair market rates to the general public. I will provide more details in the next issue of the NVR.

Editor’s Note, David Barron is a Civil Servant with the City of Los Angeles and can be reached at: jessedavidbarron@gmail.com

How the Planning Process Contributes to LA’s Malaise



By Dick Platkin *

“If you cannot predict, how can you plan? The answer is clear; you cannot; you proceed blindly.” -- Gabriel Kolko, “Why America is Doomed to One Disaster After Another,” CounterPunch, May 14, 2012.

There is a widespread feeling in Los Angeles that the bloom is off the rose, that a formerly dynamic city has been in the doldrums for several decades and that, at best, its future offers more of the same. I have no argument with this view. Instead, I would like to explain how the city’s planning process has contributed to this malaise by accommodating a political process molded by economic forces. Hopefully my account will also offer an alternative model to the governance and planning of Los Angeles.

Part of the explanation is, of course, that LA has been whipsawed by global and national trends. In this regard Gabriel Kolko’s article was about this country’s endless, futile, bankrupting foreign wars. He argues there is no end in sight for these military interventions, and the U.S. government will continue to mindlessly wage them because they are no longer capable of either predicting or planning.

Sadly, the domestic consequences of these wars, combined with local government’s similar inability to predict and plan, have become a curse on American cities.

The bipartisan, neo-conservative foreign policy that Kolko dissected neatly dovetails with the neo-liberal (i.e., austerity, deregulation, heavy policing and surveillance) approach to local government painfully visible in most large American cities, including Los Angeles. In both cases the quirks of market forces, whether global or local, subvert the planning process because of our economic system’s regular booms, bubbles, and busts, as well as its periodic breakdowns into crises and conflicts.

CASE STUDY OF LOS ANGELES: A close look at Los Angeles, the second largest metropolis in the

United States, reveals how this downward spiral is unfolding, and how it is abetted by a corrupted planning process.

While the city’s increased emphasis on policing and surveillance parallels the globalized militarism of the United States, so too are City Hall’s selective business subsidies and tax breaks, encouragement of new real estate bubbles, and local austerity programs. For example, in the past several weeks alone, the local press has reported a \$67 million dollar tax break for a new, downtown hotel, unprecedented cutbacks in public education, and a large surge in police murders.

On the 20th anniversary of the 1992 civil disturbance that torched 1000 buildings, murdered 50 people, wounded over 10,000, and arrested another 10,000, Los Angeles is a sad sack of a city. Despite City Hall and media boosterism, decay and decline are in the air. While the city’s elected officials, nearly all centrist Democrats tethered to the real estate sector, still portray Los Angeles as a boomtown, the city is tired, aging, with many unattractive neighborhoods. In reality, it perfectly reflects the broad plight of the United States described by Kolko. Imperial over-reach is far from over and has already resulted in substantial domestic stagnation, with long-term prospects even worse.


Furthermore, the revival strategies of the Los Angeles’s business elites and their political sidekicks are comedic. In response to long-term economic decline, accelerated by the bursting of the housing bubble, they have spared policing and spying, while otherwise cutting public payrolls, employee compensation and hours, and public services and infrastructure to the bone. At the same time they are systematically deregulating private real estate investment and environmental review processes in the pollyannaish, neo-liberal belief that, investors will then rush in for another building boom – a tide that will lift all ships. The absence of sufficient consumer demand due to the City’s stagnant economic base and the resulting high levels of unemployment, does not, apparently enter into their municipal strategy/business model.

To their credit, a small part of their calculation might be correct. There certainly are enough dormant piles of capital stashed around this planet to build many new shopping complexes and upscale apartment buildings in the ritzier parts of Los Angeles. City Hall may even find a few bold investors willing to plunk someone else’s money into the distressed inner-city neighborhoods that revolted 20 years ago in the largest urban unrest since New York City draft “riots” of 1863. Even today, a drive through these scarred neighborhoods reveals how little they have changed and how much vacant land is ripe for real estate speculation. In fact, some of the empty lots on major streets, such as Vermont Boulevard, are the remains of fires set in 1992 by local residents when their anger at police violence and decrepit neighborhoods boiled over.

Unlike the previous Watts civil disturbance of 1965, which was a catalyst for public investment, much of it from the Federal government, in the two decades since 1992 public investment has dwindled. Furthermore, the disbanding of the Los Angeles Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) has reinforced these cutbacks since the CRA was one of the few remaining sources of public investment.

In response to these developments, local officials have never mentioned the obvious: military spending, coupled with tax breaks and bailouts for the well off, the national recession, and Prop. 13’s two-thirds requirement to raise taxes in California, have totally undermined state and local government. Furthermore, deindustrialization due to the outsourcing of factory jobs to low wage foreign countries, has undermined the economic base of Los Angeles and many other American cities.

** Retired LA City Planner Dick Platkin, now consulting to community groups and teaching about sustainable city planning, wrote a version of this article for the Summer 2012 issue of Progressive Planning magazine (www.plannersnetwork.org). Platkin can be reached at rhplatkin@yahoo.com*



San Fernando Valley NAACP’S 57th Annual Freedom Fund Banquet
The 57th Annual Freedom Fund Banquet will be held on Friday, August 24, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. at the Knollwood Country Club, 12024 Balboa Blvd, Mission Hills, CA.

Businesses, organizations and individuals are encouraged to take out ads in the program book. All Ads will be printed in color. Interested parties can contact Elizabeth A. Floyd, Chairperson, Freedom Fund Committee at 818-554-1942 or our Co-Chairperson, Mrs. Bertha Scott at 818-988-9025.

Members are asked to seek sponsorship from their churches, organizations and favorite business enterprises.

SFV NAACP was chartered in 1955. We have made a very positive impact on the quality of life for our families and citizens in this section of Los Angeles County.

Elizabeth Floyd, Chair

Watermelon Festival
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Tujunga Watershed Garden Exchange

By Steve Crouch

What became of W.E. Smythe’s dreams for the Little Landers utopian movement that was such an important part of Sunland-Tujunga’s early-1900s history? The Little Landers believed people should grow food on their own land and trade the surplus for income, that anyone could be independent on a small acreage “irrigated and lovingly farmed”. Times have certainly changed, but the independent spirit of our community’s founders can still be an inspiration in these difficult days.

The Urban Agriculture movement is currently exploding all over Los Angeles. There are community gardens springing up in every community (with long

waiting lists), the Los Angeles City Council recently rewrote an old ordinance now called the Food and Flowers Freedom Act allowing home-based farming, and farmers markets are wildly popular. The Little Landers were way ahead of their times!

Lots of people in Sunland-Tujunga have gardens. It is located in one of the few Los Angeles neighborhoods that are blessed with large lots to grow vegetables and fruit trees, with plenty of sunshine. There’s no shortage of opportunities to grow anything. So why aren’t YOU growing all your own food? Maybe it’s the time, or the work.

There are also many neighbors who don’t have space for a garden and would love to put in the work in exchange for freshly grown, organic food.

The Tujunga Watershed Garden Exchange is a new group for gardeners in the Sunland-Tujunga, Lakeview Terrace, Shadow Hills, La Tuna Canyon and the Sun Valley area. It seeks to connect people who have space for growing with people whom want to garden. They agree to share the harvest, costs, and tools as they want and need. Think of it as a “room-mate service” for gardeners where people register on the web site, meet and agree on their own to the terms, and start gardening. It will also be a forum where people can trade and/or sell what they grow to each other. The web site will be set up soon. In the meantime, contact Steve Crouch at info@twgx.org to express your interest in this community service.

Continued from cover — **Land Managers**

Because of the rare wildlife and plants on Heritage Trail in Vasques Rocks, the Draft Recommendation is not to allow bikes. Heritage Trail has no connections to trails that allow bikes. It does connect with the Pacific Crest Trail.(PCT) a federal trail that runs through Vasquez Rocks. Allowable uses for the PCT are determined at federal level. Additional considerations consist of consistency with state parks, purpose of trails, policy consideration the purpose of trails and policy for natural areas and maintenance thresholds.

Placerita Canyon Natural Area is the only Natural Area that is a State Park managed by the County The County’s operating agreement with State Parks requires that rules and regulations adopted by the County must conform to and be consistent with the rules and regulations adopted by State Parks. Over 300 hikers and horsemen came to the July 11 hearing to oppose the Change of Use Application. 6 advocates of the change supported the change.

Lynn Brown, Vice President of the Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee and National Trail Coordinator of Equestrian trails, Inc, was one of those opposing the Change of Use for bike trails. These are some excerpts from her four page letter in a letter to Ms Bradly. Ms. Brown says “I

understand that L.A. County has a mandate to provide “multi-use” trails whenever possible though out the County, however, the Change in Use document as developed by State Parks has some flaws when it comes to assessment of future conversion. As the document now stands, the condition of the trail itself and the possibility of a safe conversion to multi-use does not take into account the demographic of the current population of users on that trail.” She says this is a serious oversight because hikers and equestrian comprise approximately 90% and bikes and only 10% of trail users. She also says equestrians usually live in the area adjacent to the trails and are stakeholders and support the area, while bikers are mostly day users. She also said that the proposed, expensive mitigations to the Canyon Trail work required to permit one additional user group, is opposite of the purpose of a Nature trail.

The final decision rests with the County. Should the Change in use be approved, there will be a review to determine costs and secure funding for the needed improvements, prioritize safety needs, and evaluate phasing of and implementation process.

Editor’s Note: Ann Walbert is a Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructor at Sprint Now Network and Executive Director for Sun Valley Area Chamber of Commerce.

Continued from cover — **LAUSD**

The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) voted to approve the footbridge bridge back in 2010, along with a 9th grade center that would house additional facilities that include a library four classrooms, an amphitheater, a multi purpose room, and food service and administration support services. Another building would house 23 classrooms and a third building to be used for adult education.

The footbridge to cross Arleta Ave. at Roscoe will be a structural steel and cast in place concrete pedestrian bridge that will span from north of the south exit from Byrd Middle school to just south of the new parking lot at Polytechnic High School.

It was not until April, 2011, that SVANC learned about the new construction, and were not apprised by LAUSD with regard to the bridge until May of this year. LAUSD made no effort to consult with Neighborhood Councils at any time during the planning and construction phases.

SVANC voted to oppose the building of this pedestrian bridge because they felt the plan was too elaborate and that crosswalk system would achieve the same objectives as the bridge, which is student safety, but at a fraction of the cost.

Christos E. Chrysiliou, Assoc. DBIA Facilities Development Manager LAUSD - Planning & Development, maintained that LAUSD’s primary focus was student safety. Certainly no one would disagree with those efforts but safety does not have to cost \$3 million dollars.

O’Gara stated, “It is the opinion of the Neighborhood Council that these 9th graders, mostly aged 14-15 years, can safely cross at what is called a “Safe Cross Walk”. At least a portion of them will not use the Bridge. They will not go all up the stairs to the bridge and down stairs at the other side when it is easier to run across the street.”

It is likely that the project will proceed as planned and completion is scheduled for Fall 2012. Katharine.russ@charter.net.

Back Yard Farming

By Marlene Hitt

In “Monte Vista” and “Tejunga Terrace” everything grew quickly; larger and better than anyplace else. Seven pounds was pretty large for a tomato and the Sunland Peach was a winner. However, animal husbandry was successful too in the valley and on the slopes of “Glorietta Heights”. I refer to Sunland, Shadow Hills, Lake View Terrace and Tujunga.

Success came to those who raised chickens, rabbits, pigeons, and goats. Over at the far eastern end of the valley people were getting rich from growing oranges. Another crop paid well too.

One man, a Mr. Cawston was raising ostriches in Pasadena. Ostrich farming had come into being late in the ‘80s with several farms operating in Southern California. In the 1880s, ostrich plumes were cascading from hats, on ladies necks as boas, for fan dancers, military hats and any number of decorative purposes. According to authors Donald Duke and Michael Patris of the Los Angeles Corral of the Westerners, the value, ounce for ounce, of ostrich plumes was more precious than gold. Southern California became a mecca for plume raising.

One ostrich farm, located in Los Angeles, was the only one with a park . Cawston’s Ostrich Farm and Zoological Garden was located where the Mulholland Fountain is today, on Los Feliz.

The charge was 25 cents which paid for picnic grounds, rides for children, and rides in carts drawn

by ostriches. One display was, to everyone’s delight, to feed an ostrich an orange and watch the bulge slide down its long neck. If you were game you could ride an ostrich. It would be hooded so it wouldn’t turn and bite the rider. The people said that the sensation was like riding a camel. In fact, in the far past people called the bird camel bird. Eggs are large, weighing 3-4 pounds each and were selling for \$75 each.

It was in April 1886 that a Dr. Arthur Sketchly from England decided to bring the ostrich to Southern California because the weather is so like the bird’s native South Africa. This pioneer in business arrived with two railroad stock cars full of birds. He had purchased several of the huge eggs and designed and built an incubator for them. He then sold th farm to Mr. Cawston.

As time went by the Los feliz land was not large enough for the pavilion and buildings for drying and dyeing of the plumes, so the farm moved to South Pasadena. It must have been quite an undertaking because by then they had over 3,000 birds.


By 1906 the Cawston farm was incorporated for \$1 million. The endeavor was, like so many, an example of an empire built on a particular need, and eventually dying away, this one to disappear during World War One.

One advertisement states: “Plumes Remodeled. Get out your old Ostrich plumes and have them made over into new plumes. Costs very little – only a fraction of what you would pay for new plumes – and they will look like new. We can make you a feather hat band out

of your old feathers –for \$2.50.”

That farming venture sure beat out crops like carrots, yes?

Editor’s Note: Marlene Hitt is a former Poet Laurette of Sunland-Tujunga and Director of Bolton Hall Museum

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A black and white line drawing of a stone well. The well is constructed from stacked stones and has a wooden frame around the top. A rope is draped over a pulley on the frame, and a bucket is hanging from it. The well is surrounded by grass.

Fanella knew instinctively that her father was not planning to rest himself, so she followed not far behind, Drake in tow. The pair nearly bumped into Sebastian as he stopped dead in his tracks. “Well you two, I’m glad you’re here. I was hoping to get a few minutes with you. Justine was a great leader in her village for many years. The shell you saw there was not Justine. She’s under guard now. We need to keep this to ourselves and use this as an opportunity and to our advantage. This Justine is quite taken by you, Drake. How do you feel about a little undercover work?” Drake was still absorbing the comment that the “shell” was not Justine. He barely stretched opened his mouth when Sebastian, with a sly smile on his face, chimed in “Good! Glad you see it that way!” Fanella’s eyes had grown bigger while listening to every word uttered by her father and then accidentally let out an involuntary giggle whilst seeing Drake’s silent agreement taken up. “Here’s what I want you to do...” as Sebastian took Drake’s shoulder and walked with him, leaving Fanella to only imagine what his assignment would be.

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A collage of sports logos is displayed. At the top left is the NASCAR logo. Below it are the MLB (Major League Baseball) logo and the NBA (National Basketball Association) logo. To the right of the MLB logo is the NFL (National Football League) logo. Below the NFL logo is the NHL (National Hockey League) logo. In the center is a large, circular Los Angeles Lakers logo. To the left of the Lakers logo is a small image of a light-up car.

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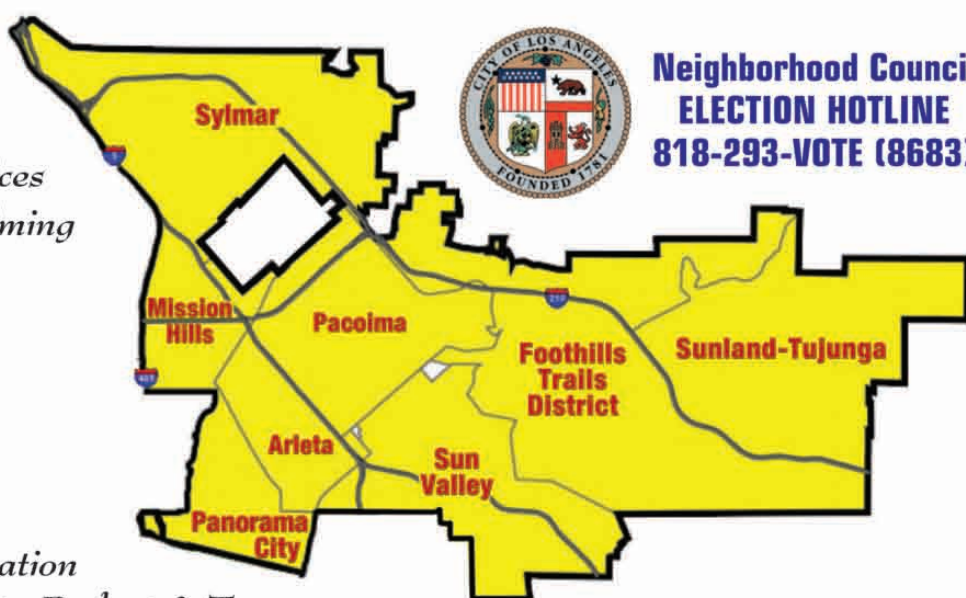
VOTE SATURDAY AUGUST 4, 2012

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YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT

To Improve the Quality of Life in your Community:

- ✓ Zoning & Land Use
- ✓ Planning & Development
- ✓ Police & Fire & Library
- ✓ Park & Community Services
- ✓ Street Repair, Traffic Calming
- ✓ Signage, Parking
- ✓ Crime & Graffiti Control
- ✓ Illegal Dumping
- ✓ Clean Air Programs
- ✓ Community Pride
- ✓ Business Development
- ✓ Scenic & Historic Preservation
- ✓ Community Outreach, City Budget & Tax



Show the city you care about YOUR neighborhood & VOTE!

A STAKEHOLDER IS DEFINED AS:

If you live, work, or own property in the neighborhood or declare a stake in the neighborhood and affirm the factual basis for it or are a member of an organization in the neighborhood council boundaries.

WHY VOTE?

The elected board will represent you and our community as a voice to your Council District and the City of Los Angeles. The more stakeholders that vote, the more power we have as a group to affect change in our community.

ALL STAKEHOLDERS CAN & SHOULD VOTE

ELECTION POLLING LOCATIONS & TIMES

ARLETA Neighborhood Council

www.arletanc.org • 818-897-4908

SELF-AFFIRMATION AT MEETING

August 21, 2012 • 6:30 p.m.

FOOTHILLS TRAILS DISTRICT

Neighborhood Council

www.ftdnc.org • 818-353-2000

VOTE 1:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church - Parlor
10158 Johanna Ave (at Sunland Blvd), Sunland 91040

MISSION HILLS Neighborhood Council

www.mhnconline.org • 818-902-2361

VOTE 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

LAPD Mission Police Station – Falco Room
11121 Sepulveda Blvd., Mission Hills 91345

PACOIMA Neighborhood Council

info@pacoimanc.org • 818-590-4792

VOTE 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Pacoima City Hall – Courtyard
13520 Van Nuys Blvd., Pacoima 91331

PANORAMA CITY Neighborhood Council

www.panoramacitync.org • 818-714-2133

VOTE 1:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Plaza del Valle – Building G
8700 Van Nuys Blvd., Panorama City 91042

SYLMAR Neighborhood Council

www.sylmarnc.org • 818-833-8737

VOTE 1:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Sylmar Recreation Center – Susan B. Anthony Building
13109 Borden Ave., Sylmar 91342
*park in lot off Polk St.

SUNLAND-TUJUNGA Neighborhood Council

www.stnc.org • 951-7411

VOTE 2:30 pm - 8:30 pm

North Valley Neighborhood City Hall
7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga, CA 91042
* parking in rear off Wyngate

SUN VALLEY AREA Neighborhood Council

www.svanc.org • 818-767-6766

VOTE 1:00 pm - 7:00 pm

John H. Francis Polytechnic High School – Auditorium
14321 Roscoe Blvd., Sun Valley 91352

Neighborhood Council Elections

Get Involved – Come Out & Vote – Bring Your Neighbors With You