

Brown Wants to Shift Parole Responsibility to Local Police

Seeks Community Corrections Grant for His proposed Assembly Bill

By Katharine Russ

Governor Brown's realignment proposal (AB 109) to transfer responsibility for "lower-level offenders" and parolees from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to local jurisdictions would put approximately 38,000 offenders in the first year under the supervision of local public safety officials and local courts. By 2014, this number would skyrocket to 68,000.

AB109 will not go into effect until a community corrections grant program is created by statute that will appropriate funding. Brown stipulated, "I will not sign any legislation that would seek to implement this measure without the necessary funding." The cost of this program has not been determined but will likely fall on, already burdened, California taxpayers purportedly through a State Constitutional Amendment (SCA) 1 x 1 that creates a five year tax extension upon voter approval during the June special election.

Republican Assembly Leader Connie Conway expressed concerns over the bill. She said, "This flawed measure amounts to a 'Get Out of Jail Free' card for thousands of felons who should be in state prison. These dangerous felons have committed a laundry list of crimes including preying upon children and seniors. The Governor has signed this bill in the name of cost-savings, but it could end up costing lives by letting dangerous criminals out onto our streets without proper supervision. This law will only shift the state's responsibilities onto the backs of local government without resources to keep our communities safe."

Under last year's Senate Bill X3-18 that went into effect on January 25, 2010, and was supposed to save



AP

\$100 million, several innocent people were killed and several police officers nearly killed. The risk assessment database touted by CDCR officials that identified which inmates would classify as low-level offenders was a failure in part because parole agents relied only on the parolee's current prison offense, not their history.

Last year, the Los Angeles Police Protective League (LAPPL) cautioned that the risk assessment database could not accurately sift through criminal histories and identify differences between low and high-risk offenders. LAPPL was correct- one of every 10 evaluated were discharged from active supervision even though they posed a significant risk to public safety.

The most recent in a string of many blunders by the CDCR was the March 18, 2011 incident involving a retired Burbank police officer who went to McDonalds Restaurant at 7950 Foothill Blvd. in Sunland. The unsuspecting officer didn't know that a robbery was in progress as he walked up to the counter.

Ryan William Reese was pointing a gun at store employees and demanding money. When Reese struck one

of the employees, the retired officer intervened. A struggle for the Parolee's gun ensued and ultimately, the officer was forced to pull his gun and kill Reese. Reese was on parole for a low-level, nonviolent offense. He was a gang member with a history of mental illness and considered dangerous. Reese lived in the Sunland-Tujunga area when he should have been residing at his recorded address in Lancaster. None of this information was contained on his face sheet.

Provided that Brown can fund the bill, the plan is to implement AB 109 over the next 3 to 4 years through attrition and will apply to all parolees released after July 2011. Prior to July 2011, parolees will be reviewed and determined whether they are supervised by the Division of Adult Parole Operations (DAPO) until they are discharged or returned to local jurisdiction.

With inaccurate, incomplete and missing data surrounding current "low-level" offenders, how will this transition from the CDCR to local law enforcement fare when budgets throughout both the Los Angeles

Continued on page 3

L.A. PLUM OK's Community Care Facility Ordinance

Moves to City Council for Approval

By Katharine Russ

After a week-long delay, the City Planning Department and City Attorney now have answers for questions asked by PLUM Commissioners at the March 29th meeting. At the April 5th hearing, after some discussion, the Community Care Facility Ordinance (CCFO) was approved and will be sent to the City Council for a final vote.

Last week, nearly 200 people attended the PLUM Meeting to express concerns over Councilman Greig Smith's proposed CCFO that would add definitions of Community Care Facilities, Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly and Alcoholism/ Drug abuse Recovery or Treatment Facilities that would bring the ordinance into conformity with the California Community Care Facilities Act. State law mandates licenses for six or fewer residents in any single-family zone and requires "performance standards" for those with seven or more resi-

dents. Those standards will include parking, noise levels, security lighting must not be seen by adjacent properties, access to facility must not interfere with traffic, residential character must be maintained, prohibit unreasonable disruption of neighboring properties, total occupancy must not exceed more than 2 residents per bedroom/guestroom.

At the heart of the issue are Sober Living Facilities (SLF) which hundreds of residents and several Neighborhood Councils have lodged complaints with Los Angeles Police and Council members related to ongoing issues of aggressive behavior, foul language from "tenants", continued drug and alcohol use, traffic/ parking problems, and host of other problems, including health and safety issues that may arise with up to 40 occupants crammed into single family homes, often without 24 hour supervision or effective treatment plans.

Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council cited two homes in Granada Hills where over 85 calls were made to Los Angeles Fire Dept./Paramedics in three years, 48 calls were made to Los Angeles Police Dept. in 2 years. There were felony arrests and investigations for parole violations. On more than one occasion there were late night parties where some 300 individuals attended. At one of the houses, the owner was incarcerated and running his business from jail.

Continued on page 5



Left:
Phyllis Winger, Chief
Planning Deputy for
Councilmember Grieg
Smith spoke in favor of
the Ordinance sponsored
by Smith

Right:
Paul Dumont of Sober
Living Network spoke
in opposition to the
Ordinance

COMMUNITY NEWS

You Should Know...



By Nina Royal

SR710 Extension – Thursday, April 14th is the last day to submit comments to the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) for the SR-710 North Gap Closure project. (Long Beach to Foothill Freeway). Comments that were submitted during this initial Scoping period must be addressed later during the EIR/EIS phase so it’s important to submit comments now. Send letters to: Ron Kosinski, Deputy District Director of Environmental Planning, Department of Transportation, District 7, 100 South Main Street, MS 16A, Los Angeles, CA 90012, or contact at: ron_kosinski@dot.ca.gov

Support our Firefighters’ Ride for 9-11 at Saddle Ranch Chop House Restaurant, Universal City Walk, 1000 Universal Studios Blvd., #195, Universal City **Thursday April 14**, to help the Firefighters Athletic Organization. They will be cycling across the USA to honor those who lost their lives on 9-11, as well as those who continue to fight for our freedom and safety. The Ride will begin July 24, in Hollywood and end in New York City at the FDNY Firefighters Memorial on September 9. Visit: <http://www.ride-for9-11.org/> for more information

Support our Officers – LAPD Foothill Division’s Running Team is selling shirts in order to pay their expenses to participate in the prestigious Baker to Vegas Run that begins on **Friday, April 15**. The Run is the largest law enforcement event of its kind in the world. Teams participate not only from throughout the USA, but also from Canada, Berlin, and Hamburg Germany. Cash donations are also accepted and appreciated. Checks should be made out to Foothill Area Booster Assoc. in care of Baker to Vegas. For further information call Officer Larry Martinez, 818-634-0705

The Sun Valley Watershed Strathern Wetlands Park Project is holding a meeting to solicit input from the community on the recreational components of the project. The proposed project will involve conversion of an existing 46-acre construction debris landfill into a multi-use wetland park. The meeting will be held at R.E. Byrd Middle School, 8501 Arleta Ave., Sun Valley **Saturday, April 16**, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Monday, April 25 is the deadline to submit comments regarding Onsite Shopping Cart Containment Ordinance. Read the proposed ordinance at: cityplanning.lacity.org/codestudies/Misc/shopping-carts.pdf. Submit comments to L.A. Dept. of City Planning, Community Planning Bureau, City Hall, Room 621, 200 No. Spring St., L.A., Ca 90013. Contact Gabriela Juarez, 324-978-1199, or e-mail her at: Gabriela.Juarez@lacity.org. for further information.

Huge Plant Sale – Community members always gather at the gate anticipating its opening. They want to be the first to pick from over 1,000 plants of all types grown by volunteers to be sold for a fund raiser by the Little Landers Historical Society. The funds help maintain Bolton Hall Museum, registered as Historical Site Number 2 in the city of Los Angeles. Donations begin at 25 cents and up. The sale will be open from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm **Saturday, April 30**.

Los Angeles designates Saturday, April 30 as a “Day of Service”. This year the focus is on the Los Angeles River. The city is hosting river cleanups, educational tours, and activities that include art projects, various other projects, festivals, bicycling, picnics, etc. Visit www.theriverproject.org for more details, or contact angelica.ayala@lacity.org, or call 213-304-8785.

Mother’s Day, Sunday, May 8, is being celebrated by the Sunland-Tujunga Elks Lodge with an especially beautiful ceremony honoring Mothers, followed by a Champagne Brunch served by Officers of the Lodge dressed in their finest.. Mothers have always dined for free, but because of these hard economic times, a small donation may be requested. The Lodge is located at 10137 Commerce Ave, Tujunga. Call 818-352-2098 for further information.

The Congress of Neighborhoods Summit will be held on **Saturday, September 24** in L.A. City Hall . “Increasing Public Participation in Government” has been selected as the theme. Neighborhood Councils are being requested to become involved and help support the Congress with planning and expenses. Their meetings are held twice a month. For more information contact Cindy Cleghorn at cindy-cleghorn@me.com, or call 818-429-6699. Also visit: <http://losangelesncongress2011.blogspot.com/>

Disaster Preparedness – Dr. Lucy Jones from Cal Tech gave a short presentation to the Los Angeles City Council on Friday, April 8. She said that Los Angeles has a long way to go before we are ad-

equately prepared for the “big one.” We have thousands of buildings that have not been retrofitted and need to be identified as such and take more steps to improve our safety. According to the USGS, California can learn from the recent large earthquakes in Chile, New Zealand and Japan. For more information, visit the following websites: USGS.gov - USGS Report 2011-1053 on the 2010 Chilean Earthquake and Tsunami Response. Also visit: www.preparela.org and www.Redcross.org. Preparedness training is available through the L.A. City Fire Department. For more information visit: www.cert-la.org.

Changes to Community Gardens are being proposed by the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners regarding the Community Garden Program. They include: Policy on Community operated open space, Operating Guidelines for self-operated community gardens, and changes to schedule and rates and fees for garden facilities. To find out if a garden in your neighborhood will be affected, visit: www.laparks.org/commissionerhtm/pdf2011/apr06/11-105.pdf

NEW Hazardous Waste drop off center, called S.A.F.E, for Solvent’s Automotive, flammables and Electronics, will be located at 10241 N, Balboa Blvd, Granada Hills. The site was a former Fire Station that moved to larger quarters. The ground breaking took place on Tuesday, March 31.

Lopez Canyon Truck Driving School – An Appeal by a group called Community Alliance for Open Space will be heard in Los Angeles County Superior Court on **Thursday, May 12**, regarding the City of L.A’s approval of a Truck Driving School in the canyon area that was the site of a former garbage dump. Their premise is that the city failed to demonstrate that its approval of the MND was justified. The hearing will be at 111 North Hill St., Dept. 86, at 9:30 am.

City Council Public Speaker Cards – no longer require speakers at City Council meetings to list personal information such as home address and telephone number. Community members complained to Councilmember Paul Krekorian after the public speaker cards were used to intimidate speakers who spoke on behalf of their Community to support the Care Facilities Ordinance (Sober Living Homes). The motion to eliminate the information presented by Krekorian was passed unanimously by the City C

Fines Proposed for ACE

The following Administrative Code Enforcement (ACE) fine proposal by the City Attorney’s Office was presented at the March meeting of Plan Check by City Attorney Jane Usher. The following graphs depict the fine schedule for building improvements without permits and for illegal signs. The proposal needs to be approved by the City Council before going into effect. For more information visit PlanCheckNCLA.com

Fine Schedule For Violations Involving Improvements Without Permits (Based On Square Footage Of Illegal Improvement)			
SQUARE FOOTAGE OF THE IMPROVEMENT IN VIOLATION	ADMINISTRATIVE FINE PER DAY OF VIOLATION		
	1 st Violation	2 nd Violation	3 rd Violation (and All Subsequent Violations)
250 to less than 500	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$4,000
500 to less than 2,500	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$8,000
2,500 to less than 5,000	\$3,000	\$6,000	\$12,000
5,000 to less than 10,000	\$4,000	\$8,000	\$16,000
10,000 to less than 25,000	\$8,000	\$16,000	\$32,000
25,000 or more	\$16,000	\$32,000	\$64,000
Violations for improvements for which no permits could have			

Fine Schedule For Sign Violations (Based On Square Footage Of Illegal Improvement)			
SIGN AREA OF SIGN IN VIOLATION	ADMINISTRATIVE FINE PER DAY OF VIOLATION		
	1 st Violation	2 nd Violation	3 rd Violation (and All Subsequent Violations)
Less than 150 square feet	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$8,000
150 to less than 300 square feet	\$4,000	\$8,000	\$16,000
300 to less than 450 square feet	\$6,000	\$12,000	\$24,000
450 to less than 600 square feet	\$8,000	\$16,000	\$32,000
600 to less than 750 square feet	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$40,000
750 or more square feet	\$12,000	\$24,000	\$48,000

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Council District Two Update



*Paul Krekorian
Councilmember, District 2
Los Angeles City Council*

In early March, the people of Council District 2 again gave me the privilege of being their voice in City Hall by re-electing me to the Council. I am deeply honored to be able to continue to serve this district and all of its communities on the City Council.

During the last four months, I have heard from many people who have asked why we had stopped sending our weekly e-newsletter, CD2 News. I'm pleased that so many people enjoy the newsletter and noticed its absence! During the election season, however, I decided it was appropriate to give CD2 News a break. My staff and I wanted to ensure that the CD2 News is always seen as a valuable informational tool, and not as a vehicle to promote

my re-election. Now that the election is over, I am pleased to report that the CD2 News is resuming, effective immediately and you can sign up by going to our website, <http://cd2.lacity.org/newsletter-signup/index.htm>

Though we haven't been sending the CD2 News in recent months, we have been busy expanding other ways we inform you about our neighborhoods and City Hall. While the newsletter will continue to go out every week, our blogs, Twitter, and Facebook accounts will keep you informed between publication dates of the CD2 News.

If you are interested in policy issues, please check CD2Policy.blogspot.com. There, you can find updates about issues our office and City Hall are working on and view motions the Council has passed that could affect you or your neighborhood.

For public safety mavens, check blog.CD2Emergency.info for constant updates about traffic, police, fire, inclement weather, or other issues happening in and around your neighborhood. This is an impor-

tant new means of communicating critical safety information to you, especially in times of emergency.

Please take the opportunity to sign up for those blogs right now (or leave a comment online to join the conversation). While you're at it, check out our @CD2News Twitter account, and our updates on Facebook at facebook.com/PaulKrekorian.

I am proud that my staff and I put a high priority on providing excellent constituent service throughout the district. That service is not limited to problem solving for constituents on the variety of city issues they confront. It also must include providing relevant and useful communication and information that is available online that you can check at your convenience.

Your needs relating to city government are not always limited to 9 to 5, and neither is our commitment to meet those needs.

As always, I look forward to hearing any comments or suggestions you may have.

Email: councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org

Septic Tank Owners Still Disgruntled and Confused

There was a shortage of standing room at the Los Angeles Department of Public Works' Bureau of Sanitation public hearing regarding On-Site Waste Water Systems, (OWTS) held at a bursting North Valley City Hall in Sunland-Tujunga on Thursday, March 24.

The confusion is over how "high risk" determinations for groundwater contamination by Septic Tank owners are made. This is a big problem especially for home owners in La Tuna Canyon, the largest group in the area who are designated high risk and will be adversely affected, because they would be required to hook up to sewers from more than 200 feet away. Their estimated costs would be approximately \$50,000.

Many people were also upset because of a glitch in their system failed to send out timely notices for the meeting and many interested parties did not attend. B and S promised they will be holding another meeting in the area in the near future and will field more questions at that time.



Continued from cover — Brown

Sheriff's Department (LASD) and the Police Department (LAPD) have been slashed? Brown's bill is void of provisions for the additional criminal prosecution, court costs and workload.

In the past 2 years Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca has cut overtime and 500 deputy sheriff positions. LAPD has also stopped paying officers overtime. Some 800 officers have been taken off the streets are now handling civilian jobs and staffing the new Metropolitan Detention Center. Consider that LASD has one deputy per 300 residents and LAPD has one officer per 426 residents.

Todd Gillam, Vice President- Parole Agent Association of California, said, "There is no other plausible outcome to this bill, but increased crime. The bill takes about 150,000 criminals (Half from DAPO and half from CDCR) and tells them; (1) If you violate parole, you won't go to prison, (2) If you continue to use drugs,

you won't go to prison, (3) If you commit a new crime you won't go to prison. And, somehow they believe this will reduce recidivism. The 150,000 parolees and inmates effected by this bill will be placed into the already over whelmed and under funded county systems. Additionally, the county courts will have to adjudicate the nearly 100,000 parole violations each year, with out the ability to "defer to parole." DAPO processes each violation for well under \$2000; where as the average criminal trial cost was \$13,000. The counties will simply not be able to afford to adjudicate the volume of offenses they will be faced with (A 1.3 Billion dollar expense to the counties)."

The February 2011 White paper written by Los Angeles County District Attorney, Steve Cooley, illustrates the reality of negative consequences for Angelenos. In part, it says, "Governor Brown's realignment proposal in the area of Corrections and Rehabilitation will wreak havoc on Los Angeles County's criminal justice system

and the State as well. The term "lower-level offenders" used to describe qualifying felons is wholly misleading as it includes very serious felony conduct. It does not adequately consider the felons' prior criminal history, the magnitude of the harm done and the number of victims. Thousands of convicted felons will be on the streets with minimal supervision. In a time of shrinking budgets, the LADA and all other criminal justice entities from law enforcement agencies to the courts would require substantial additional staffing to handle the predictable, significant increase in criminal filings due to felons serving very little or no time in custody. The realignment proposal is a public safety nightmare."

If this bill makes it to the June ballot, voters will decide the safety of their neighborhoods. Voters should also remember that felons NOT housed in state prisons, under the current election code, would have the right to vote. Brown's bill does not address an amendment to the Election Code.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

The Armenian Genocide: Incomplete Mourning

Part 3 of 3 Parts

By Nayri Vartanian

In Part 1 of Incomplete Mourning we presented a historical perspective of the Armenian people living in the Ottoman Empire, and in Part 2 we provided detailed evidence that most historians, and those of us with logical sensibilities, believe led to the Armenian Genocide.

As an Armenian living in the Los Angeles vicinity, I feel it is my responsibility to educate readers who know little, are uninformed, or, even more sadly, may be misinformed about this issue. In the short space provided here, I feel it is essential that I expound upon the current state of this political matter because it is not only a local issue concerning the Armenian community, but also the American and Turkish communities as well.

Though the Armenian Genocide commemoration is approaching its 96th year, many people may be wondering why the Turkish government has been denying the occurrence of such a catastrophic event for years without end. One main reason is because of the retributions the Turkish government will have to pay Armenia as a “token form of justice.” What type of retribution you may be asking? It is what many Armenians are fighting for today—land!

Although Armenia is a very small country today, before the Genocide and the expansion of the Ottoman Empire, it was a larger, thriving, rich kingdom. Thus, the Armenian people today are expecting a greater amount of what was once their territory to be returned to them as rightful owners. How much land are the Armenians actually expecting? In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson formulated the territorial boundary--or map—outlining the land that was to be yielded back to the Armenians. It is contained in the Treaty of Sevres (accent on first e) and is known as Wilsonian Armenia.

“The Treaty” was actually signed on August 10, 1920. It is an extremely important legal and legitimate document in which the Turkish Government

acknowledges the atrocities it perpetrated upon the Armenian people. Further, the treaty also assures there will be some type of economic justice awarded to the victims and/or their descendants. Additionally, the treaty ensures that the Ottoman government will grant to the Republic of Armenia a sizeable segment of its Eastern Province, which is the aforementioned Wilsonian Armenia. Though the Ottoman government and other nations signed this treaty, not a single one if its required conditions has yet been honored.

It is because this historic document seems to be non-existent in the eyes of today’s Turkish government that the Armenian people have had to resort to other methods in getting the Genocide recognized. Last year the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) launched a massive national campaign simply titled: “End Turkey’s Gag Rule.” It was created to illustrate and demonstrate to the people of the United States in a very blunt, and somewhat startling manner, what is taking place today: The Turkish government is literally gagging the United States and not allowing its officials or elected representatives to formally speak out against the genocide.

The Armenian Question has turned into a full-blown political quagmire. With little humanitarian concern, the issue continues to be buried by the United States because the benefits of being an ally with Turkey outweigh the benefits of officially acknowledging the genocide. This is, without question, why the United States House leaders failed to schedule a vote on the Armenian Genocide Resolution



H.RES.252 last December. Though there are many others, the two reasons mentioned herein are principally responsible for the governments of Turkey and the United States not willing to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide.

And so it continues... The Armenian Question is like an ugly wart on the end of the nose of American politics: Everyone knows it’s there, but no one dares to say or do anything about it.

To learn more about Armenian Genocide Resolution H.RES.252 or other facts about the Armenian Genocide, visit www.anca.org/endthegagrule/facts2.html.

Editor’s Note: Ms Vartanian is a Journalism student at UC Irvine and an Intern for the NVR. Parts 1 and 2 can be reviewed in the April and May 2010, issues archived in the NVR at www.northvalleyreporter.com, click on the Archive icon.

Valley Alliance Holds Annual Meeting

The Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) had a full house during their Annual Special Awards meeting on Thursday, March 10 at CBS in Studio City. Some of the dignitaries present included Councilmembers Paul Krekorian, Jan Perry, State Assemblymember Mike Furer, City Attorney Carmen Trutanich and Controller Wendy Greuel, LAUSD Board member Tamar Galatzan, DWP GM Ron Nichols, Street Services Interim Director Nazario Saucedo, DONE GM BH Kim, Deputy LA Fire Chief Patrick Butler. Councilmembers Krekorian and Perry were both presented with “You Got it” awards and Northridge West, Sherman Oaks and NC Valley Village were presented "Best of" awards by Jill Banks Barad, Founder and Chair of VANC. 32 out of 34 valley neighborhood councils were represented.



BH Kim, DONE General Manager, Jill Barad, VANC Founder & Chair, Paul Krekorian, Councilman CD2

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Thursday, April 14

Valley Alliance of NC's
Sherman Oaks Hospital
4929 Van Nuys Blvd.,
S.O.
6:30 pm

FTDNC Equestrian Comm

9747 Wheatland Ave.,
SH
7:00 pm

GHSNC Gen. Meeting

Granada Hills Pavillian
11128 Balboa Blvd., GH
7:30 pm

LAPD Foothill CPAB

Japanese American
Com.Center
12953 Branford, Pac.
6:00 pm 818-756-8861

Budget LA Meeting

Hollywood Presby.
Church
1760 N. Gower, Holly
10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Sunday, April 17

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "On the Home
Front and on the Front"
10110 Commerce Ave.,
S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm 818-352-3420

Monday, April 18

PASSOVER BEGINS

Valley Vote - canceled
Galpin Ford
15555 Roscoe Blvd., NH
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 pm

Tuesday, April 19

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

Bolton Hall Museum

Presents "On the Home
Front and on the Front"
10110 Commerce Ave.,
S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm 818-352-3420

S-T Neighborhood Watch

N.V. City Hall
7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T
6:30 pm

Wednesday, April 20

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

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

Northridge East NC

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

Bingo Night

S-T Elks Lodge
10137 Ave., S-T
6:30 pm 818-352-2098

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

Sylmar NC Green Comm.

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

New E/W Vision Comm.

Fire Station #87
10124 Balboa, GH
1:30 pm

Thursday, April 21

FTDNC Gen. Meeting

www.ftdnc.org for
location
7:00 pm

Neighborhood Watch

Block Captains Mtng.
Sylmar High School
13050 Borden Ave., Syl
6:30 pm

Northridge East NC

Northridge Academy
9601 Zelzah Ave., Nrdge

NHNE NC Board Meet

Arminta Elem. School
11530 Arminta St., No
Ho
7:00 pm

Sun Valley Chamber Mixer

John Wells Driving
Range
11501 Strathern St., No
Ho
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Neighborhood Watch Car 17A35

St. Euhrasia Church
11766 Shoshone, HG
7:00 pm 818-634-0577

Neighborhood Watch Car 17A81

Giannelli Square
19451 Londelius, Nrth
7: 00 pm

Neighborhood Watch

Sylmar High School
13050 Borden, Syl
6:30 pm

Friday, April 22

Good Friday

April 22 - 24

S – T Easter Carnival

See Ad in Calendar
Section

Saturday, April 23

Friends of Mid-Valley
Reg. Library
16244 Nordhoff, NH
10:30 am

Spring Easter Egg Hunt

Sylmar Rec Center
13109 Borden, Syl
11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Sunday, April 24

HAPPY EASTER

Bolton Hall Museum

Presents "On the Home
Front and on the Front"
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

Monday, April 25

GHNNC Gen. Meeting

Rinaldi Adult Center,
17450 Rinadli St., GH
6:30 pm

By-Law Reform Group

Bario Family Center
4927 Huntington Dr, LA
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Tuesday, April 26

Bolton Hall Museum

Presents "On the Home
Front and on the Front"
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

Neighborhood Watch Car 19A43

LAPD Community
Room
11121 Sepulveda, MH
7:00 pm

Wednesday, April 27

Neighborhood Watch Car 17A67

Calahan Elem. School
18722 Knapp, Nrth
7:00 pm

Thursday, April 28

Neighborhood Watch Car 17A23

S. John Eudes Church
9901 Mason, Chat
7:00 pm

Saturday, April 30

Plant Sale – Fund Raiser

Little Landers Historical
Soc.
Alley – 9929-31 Com-
merce, S-T
9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Spaghetti Dinner * Brown

Bag Action, Dancing,
Live Music
Honorary Mayor Jim
Sauer
11037 Commerce S-T
\$10 Donation 6:00 pm

Los Angeles Day of Service

Sunday, May 1

Bolton Hall Museum

Presents "On the Home
Front and on the Front"
10110 Commerce Ave.,
S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm 818-352-3420

Monday, May 2

STNC Land Use

7727 Foothill Blvd., S-T
7:00 pm

FTDNC Outreach Com

9747 Wheatland Ave, SH
7:00 pm

Tuesday May 3

Bolton Hall Museum

Presents "On the Home
Front and on the Front"
10110 Commerce Ave.,
S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
818-352-3420

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, May 4

Rotary Club

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

NHWNC Comm. Forum

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

Bingo

S-T Elks Lodge
11037 Commerce Ave.,
S-T
6:30 pm 818-352- 2098

MHNC Safety Com

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

Thursday, May 5

PCNC Land Use

Mission Comm. Hospital
14860 Roscoe Blvd., PC
6:30 pm 818-894-7841

S. V. Rotary

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

PCNC-Commerce Com

Wells Fargo Bank
8548 Van Nuys Blvd.,
PC
2:00 pm

S-T League of Women Voters

North Valley City Hall
7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T
1:30 pm 818-782-4236

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COMMENTARY

Time to Wake Up Los Angeles



By Ron Kaye

Given the performance of the Los Angeles mayors in recent years, you should ask yourself whether it matters that much who gets to live in Getty Mansion and be chauffeured around by plainclothes cops and served like royalty by an army of staffers. For that matter, will it really change the way the city is run, to get a few honest people onto the City Council committed to public service rather than self service?

What is broken in the politics of L.A.? The real power is behind the thrones of the princes and princesses elected to public office by small minorities of those eligible to vote. Developers, union bosses, contractors, consultants, political operatives and public relations manipulators operate behind the scenes channeling millions of dollars into political campaigns, officeholder accounts and issue funds to control over the politicians.

The euphemism for this corruption is called "buying access." The truth is they are buying the politicians outright and use their clout to punish anyone who gets upity and stands in their way.

Remember when Richard Riordan promised to turn

L.A. around nearly 20 years ago? He was wealthy and independent of the power structure, promising to privatize everything from the DWP's power grid to parking lots and everything else that can be done cheaper and better by the private sector. They thwarted his efforts at every turn so he proposed to change the way power worked at City Hall through fundamental reform of the City Charter by stripping the City Council of its authority as the governing body, expanding the mayor's power and devolving local authority to boroughs or neighborhood councils.

Charter reform was hijacked by the City Council and special interests. The result was a City Charter that is a mish-mash of blurred lines of authority and Neighborhood Councils without any authority at all. The political machine now has more power than ever, and the public less, despite the tireless efforts of hundreds of ordinary people to dig into the nuts and bolts of government and work to make things better.

L.A. is in a perpetual downward spiral. Half a million people are unemployed or unemployable as poverty keeps on soaring. A third to half our children still don't get a high school diploma. Gangs are now treated as a form of social organization like service clubs and their turf respected. We subsidize directly and indirectly lux-

ury hotels, condominiums and entertainment zones and let them devour our limited energy resources with digital billboards that blight our landscape.

We pay taxes for services that are being slashed even as we pay again the full cost of providing those services. In the name of public transit, we raise fares and cut bus service so we can build a subway and train system to the Westside, so developers can build even more skyscrapers and create more congestion. Everything is for sale. It is madness. Our homes, our jobs, our futures are at stake and yet the overwhelming majority sits on the sidelines, oblivious to what is going on as if it doesn't impact them.

There will come a day of reckoning as there always is for people who live beyond their means and we will look for someone to blame. We need look no farther than at the reelection in the mirror, at ourselves.

We have the power to turn L.A. around any time we choose, get involved and get our neighbors involved. The only question is whether we will wait until the inevitable day arrives when the bills have come do, or will we start to exercise our power and start seizing control today.

Editor's Note: Ron Kaye, former Editor of the Daily News, blogs at ronkayela.com

Mayor Practicing Ethics?



By Doug Epperhart

The mayor of Los Angeles, Antonio Villaraigosa, recently agreed to pay a \$42,000 fine for accepting tickets to sports and entertainment events. The penalty, split about evenly between the state's Fair Political Practices Commission and the city's ethics commission, is for failing to report these freebies for events ranging from Dodgers games to the Academy Awards.

The fine could have been as much as \$167,000, but the commissions cut Villaraigosa slack because he wasn't aware that he had to report these gifts. Despite ethics training and access to a boatload of lawyers throughout his decades-long political career, apparently the mayor's ignorance of the law is an excuse.

It isn't the failure to report that rankles so much as

it is Villaraigosa's attitude. His initial excuse was that attending these events constituted some sort of public relations exercise. I'm not certain how showing up at a Lakers game or hobnobbing with pop stars at Grammy parties benefits the people of Los Angeles.

What bothers me is that the organizations who shower these goodies on the mayor want something from the city, whether it's tax breaks or planning shortcuts, or a sweetheart deal from the Community Redevelopment Agency. What really bothers me is that Villaraigosa thinks he can take these presents and not think there's anything wrong with it.

This situation highlights just a small strand of the web of corruption that exists between politicians, developers, and lobbyists in Los Angeles. Look at what's going on with the proposed football stadium next to Staples and you'll get some idea of the choreography

involved in a deal of that magnitude. Everybody knows how the show is supposed to end. The hard part is maintaining the suspense. Will the special committee recommend the deal? Will the city council vote for it? How many years before the taxpayers wise up?

Corruption is defined as "impairment of integrity, virtue or moral principle." Taking tickets to a ball game may not constitute a crime, but doing so on a regular basis from people who have an ongoing need to influence the city's decision-makers is certainly corrupt.

Someone once said behaving ethically is doing the right thing when you don't have to. How often does that happen around city hall?

Editor's Note: Doug Epperhart is a longtime neighborhood council board member and journalist writing about city government and politics. He can be reached at epperhart@cox.net

How Can We Fix L.A.'s Planning Mess?



By Dick Platkin

In response to several recent questions on how Los Angeles can fix its dysfunctional planning process, these are my suggestions.

It all begins with the State of California's legal requirement that cities must have legally adopted current, comprehensive, and internally consistent General Plans. So far so good. The Los Angeles City Planning Department has uploaded and posted the city's seven legally required General Plan Elements on its web-site, including its 35 local Community Plans and the discretionary General Plan Framework Element.

But, a careful look at these adopted policy documents reveals that they are a facade. To begin, they have no monitoring program, an act of negligence which has landed the city in court.

Furthermore, in addition to the failure to monitor these plans, many of them are older than the city planners in charge of them. Their update is long overdue, and the ball is clearly in the court of City Hall to bring these antiquated policy documents into the 21st century.

Consider how Los Angeles has changed since these plans were prepared and how the city will continue to change over the next several decades:

- Open Space - 1973
- Public Recreation/Service Systems - 1980
- Air Quality - 1992
- General Plan Framework - 1995 (not mandatory,

but prepared to comply with an EPA action whose settlement directed the city to update and integrate its General Plan elements.)

- Noise - 1999 (1996 Council File)
- Transportation - 1999 (Preparation began in 1987)
- Conservation - 2001 (based on 1990 data)
- Housing - 2009

Other adopted, optional elements which have not been uploaded to the city's web-site include Power Systems (1968), Libraries (1968), Public Schools (1968), Sewerage and Wastewater (1968), Cultural and Historical Monuments (1969), Water System (1969) CD 12 Equestrian Trails (1968), and Bicycle (1996).

In violation of State laws, these mandatory and optional General Plan elements have different base years, different horizon (expiration) years, different graphic formats, different policies, and different base maps. They, nevertheless, have two things in common. First, they are all shelf documents ignored by the city's officials in land use, budget, capital projects, and work program decisions.

Second, they were prepared in an era when Los Angeles was still a booming city expecting endless decades of financial and demographic expansion. Despite the boosters, this assumption has just crashed to earth with the release of the new 2010 census data. As a city, Los Angeles has hardly grown over the past 10 - 20 years. In the meantime, the city's public services and public infrastructure have been neglected and are now unable to meet the needs of the city's residents and commuters. As a result, even though the

city's population is stable, the gap between its needs and available public infrastructure and services continues to widen because of local government cutbacks.

So, repairs to this deplorable situation are desperately needed. Just as the navigator of a modern commercial airplane could not do his or her job with old, inconsistent maps and technical manuals, the second largest city in the United States cannot be competently governed with old, inconsistent plans and maps. To climb out of this hole, and then comply with State of California's planning laws and guidelines, L.A. should proceed as follows:

- 1) Immediately update the seven required elements of the General Plan, as well as the integrating discretionary element, the General Plan Framework. These updates should be based on the recently released 2010 census data, and they should have realistic assumptions about L.A.'s future: minimal population gain, minimal economic expansion, and aging under-funded public infrastructure and services. Furthermore, these updates should reflect two other unfolding crises: climate change and peak oil (i.e., the end of the oil era). Many cities have already prepared new elements or amended their adopted General Plan elements to respond to these new realities. Los Angeles should follow suit.
- 2) Since the General Plan's Land Use element applies the other seven General Plan elements to the city's 35 local communities, these community

Continued on page 9

COMMUNITY NEWS

SOUND OFF

No Community Clean Up

I retired 13 years ago and became more involved in my community. One of my requests to our city council representative and staff and to our neighborhood council is to have community clean ups. In the last 13 years we have had only one clean up, and my requests continue to fall on deaf ears. Why do I still continue trying to help?

Joe Pinoy Lozano
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Caltrans–Improving I-5 in the Valley

Closes North I-5 Hollywood Way Off-Ramp

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) announced that they closed the northbound Golden State Freeway (I-5) Hollywood Way off-ramp on Tuesday, April 12, and they expect the closure to continue through spring 2012.

The closure is part of the I-5 High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV or carpool) Lane Improvement Project now under construction between the Hollywood Freeway (SR-170) and Buena Vista Street in Burbank. Closing the ramp is necessary so that crews can widen the freeway, construct the Hollywood Way bridge abutment, and build sound walls and retaining walls. Detour signs will be posted. Closures are subject to change.

The project includes building an HOV lane in both directions along I-5 between SR-170 and Buena Vista Street in Burbank, a total distance of

8.8 miles (4.4 miles in both directions) and replacing sections of concrete pavement, constructing sound walls, and realigning the Hollywood Way on-and-off-ramps.

Caltrans is also constructing an HOV lane in both directions of the I-5 between the Hollywood Freeway (SR-170) and SR-118, a distance of 6.8 miles (3.4 miles in both directions). They are widening four under-crossings, replacing sections of pavement, and reconstructing the mixed-flow connector to build a direct HOV connector at the I-5/SR-170 interchange. A direct HOV connector allows for freeway-to-freeway transfers without exiting the carpool lane.

The purpose of this \$69 million project is to help alleviate congestion, encourage carpooling, improve air quality, reduce noise, provide a smoother ride for motorists, and reduce traffic on city streets. Work is expected to wrap up in summer 2014.

Continued from page 8 — **FIX LA**

plans should be the last ones updated. Clearly, the city’s current approach of updating several community plans (e.g., Hollywood, Granada Hills, and Sun Valley) based on outdated plans, policies, and data makes little sense. These updates should clearly be set aside until the General Plan itself is properly updated to reflect a careful analysis and projection of the 2010 census data.

3) Once the General Plan is updated, it must be immediately applied to the governance of the city. It is the city’s navigation system. Since the General Plan minimally determines the city’s priorities for the next 20 years, these policies should be reflected in year-to-year budgets, as well as the city’s annually updated five-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP). This document, prepared by the City Administrative Officer (CAO), should be sent to the City Planning Commission so it can act on its legal obligation to confirm the CIP’s consistency with the General Plan.

- 4) The fourth priority is to use the updated General Plan to review the city’s many zoning overlay ordinances, such as specific plans, historical preservation overlay ordinances, and transit-oriented districts.
- 5) The final step is to implement the updated General Plan by amending the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC). At present the Department of City Planning is preparing several dozen amendments to the LAMC in order to reduce administrative barriers for discretionary actions (i.e., legal loopholes in the zoning code). This process should take place after the city’s plans are updated, not before.
- 6) During the entire General Plan update process, the city’s elected officials must ensure that city’s code enforcement authorities, in particular the Department of Building and Safety, are properly staffed and fulfilling their requirements. After all, politicians who continuously profess their commitment to law enforcement should stop slighting

the city’s adopted zoning laws, building codes, and environmental regulations. If these officials had the foresight to adopt them, then they should guarantee their enforcement.

None of these six actions chart new territory to fix L.A.’s broken planning process. The state’s planning laws and guidelines have been around for several decades. The best practices of the planning profession have been well known for the same period, and the city’s professional planners have the academic training to undertake this six-part work program.

What is needed is a green light from the city’s elected officials, along with the necessary resources. While there will be serious costs, they are far less than the eventual costs of muddling through the next two decades and beyond with outmoded, irrelevant plans.

Editor’s Note: Dick Platkin is an LA-based city planning blogger, consultant, and teacher. Address comments and/or questions to rhplatkin@yahoo.com

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Gang Members Arrested for String of Violent Robberies



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

The success of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) in combating crime and maintaining historic lows in crime reduction has been reported by a variety of media outlets. A key and often-underreported factor in this success has been the willing partnership with communities to provide information to the police. In order for the police to effectively remove predatory street criminals from our neighborhoods and communities, crime victims and witnesses are encouraged to share information with the police. Effective police and community partnerships directly lead to enhanced public safety for everyone.

During the late evening of January 25, 2011, a group of four gang members began a crime spree of three street robberies in the San Fernando Valley. They loaded up in what was described as a white sport utility vehicle and proceeded to prey upon a variety of unsuspecting community members. While cruising

through Sun Valley the gang members observed a lone male locking up his work truck after a long workday. The gangsters approached the victim and produced a handgun and demanded his money and valuables. Fearing for his life, the victim complied and turned over his property.

Approximately an hour later, the same group approached a young man walking through the intersection of Osborne and Glenoaks. Again, they produced a gun and asked him, "Where you from?" Before the victim could run away, the suspects pounced on the victim and beat him with their fists, feet, and the butt of the gun. Before leaving, they emptied the victim's pockets. The victim was treated for his injuries and fortunately survived this brazen attack.

Not satisfied with their night of mayhem, the same gang members continued on and later spotted a lone female sitting in a car in the area of Roscoe and Laurel Canyon. This victim was robbed at gunpoint and her purse was taken.

Police officers from Foothill Area patrol responded to these crimes and completed preliminary investigations. Victims and witnesses provided detailed infor-

mation that narrowed the search for the suspects. Information was gathered and suspect's descriptions were broadcast throughout the area to other police officers. It was evident that the same suspects had committed all three robberies.

The luck of these suspects was about to run out. Within an hour of the last crime, police officers from the Operations-Valley Bureau, Valley Crime Task Force were patrolling in the community of Pacoima when they observed a vehicle that matched the description of the suspects' sport utility vehicle. The officers stopped the vehicle and detained the occupants. During their investigation, they recovered evidence that linked the suspects to all three robberies. All the suspects were booked for robbery. Later, Foothill Area detectives recovered the firearm used during the robberies.

Ultimately, four violent suspects were removed from our streets due to the efforts of several courageous citizens who gave detailed reports of the crimes and the efforts of the Los Angeles Police Department. This was just one example of how responsive and attentive police officers coupled with brave and caring citizens can help make our streets safer.

Message from Mission



Captain William "Bill" Scott
Commanding Officer
Mission Area Station
Los Angeles Police Department

On Sunday, April 4, Mission Area officers responded to a Domestic Violence call on Dronfield Ave. in the Sylmar community. During the investigation, an armed gunman opened fire on Los Angeles Police Officers, striking one of our K-9 officers in the face. The suspect barricaded himself in his residence and continued to fire upon officers, endangering not only their lives, but the surrounding community as well. Several hours had passed until SWAT officers were finally able to safely enter the residence whereupon the suspect was found dead from gunshot wounds.

Officer involved shootings are among the most comprehensive and complex investigations conducted by the LAPD and the investigation is ongoing.

I understand that this incident on Dronfield had a huge impact on the community. Officers closed your streets, blocked your driveways, and turned off your water and power. Please know that our intentions were not to inconvenience any of you. These tactical issues needed to be enforced, not only to keep all officers safe, but you as a community as well. Thank you for your understanding and your calls for concern and support for Officer Jenkins and all officers involved in this intense standoff.

Regarding our Mission Area crime fighting effort, as of 04/02/11, Total Part I crimes (burglary, grand theft autos, burglary/theft from vehicles, personal/other theft) have been reduced by 17% year-

to-date compared to last year. Total violent crimes (homicides, rapes, robberies, aggravated assaults) have been reduced by 17% year-to-date compared to last year also. Additionally, victims of shootings are down 28% compared to last year's YTD statistics. Outstanding accomplishments!

I want to hear your concerns and encourage your participation in our Community policing efforts. Your questions concerning Mission Area may be directed to me at (818) 838-9980, or to Sergeant Adrian Torres, Officer in Charge, Mission Area Community Relations Office, at 818-838-9856. You may also e-mail us at the following addresses: Captain William Scott, 27078@lapd.lacity.org, Captain John Romero, 25756@lapd.lacity.org, Srrgeant Adrian Torres, 31467@lapd.lacity.org

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Carrick's Journey

—Part Thirty One

Going Down

By Tomi Lyn Bowling

Despite the vastness and seemingly never ending size, Fanella knew her way around the woods very well. The sudden appearance of a huge stone on the path she had normally taken was enough to cause her to stop sharply. When they'd all gathered their wits, picked themselves up off the floor, and stood upright to look outside to see why Fanella had stopped, no one understood.

Only Fanella was aware that the new obstacle was in fact new. Sebastian looked at his daughter's face and could see that she was alarmed. He asked Fanella what the problem was and Fanella said, "Something's changed Sebastian. This stone was not here before." Not wanting to challenge the knowledge of the best scout they'd ever had he said, timidly, "Are you certain you've followed the same path you'd normally take?" Fanella was deeply concerned and hardly mumbled an answer as she thought about what could have happened, looked all around the woods she could see from her windshield, and considered what action to take at that exact moment.

The ship hovered for only a few seconds though it had seemed much longer. Then a shot rang out and ricocheted off of the side of the ship. This prompted Fanella's decision without so much as a word to anyone else. She took off making a sharp right turn and began weaving her way through the trees. The dense forest created protection for them as there were very few, friend or foe, that could navigate through trees the way Fanella could.

Taking aim at Fanella's ship was a waste of time in the forest. So the shots continued to ring out for the first 300 yards of their exit, bouncing off of tree after tree. Fanella didn't stop to explain but kept weaving as she spoke out, "It was a trap Sebastian. This will add a little time to our journey but we'll still be there very soon. Sebastian the path has been compromised. Hopefully no one else fell for it." Drake and Sebastian bounced from side to side as she'd weave. As promised the trio arrived within the hour. The ship took a sudden turn down a hole that Drake never even noticed was coming up. He jumped up in surprise thinking they were crashing. The ship now maneuvered through the darkness going deeper and deeper underground. The tunnel was quite vast with turns and corners just like it was a road. As his eyes began to adjust Drake took a great interest at such an enormous underground tunnel. The journey continued for another mile down below the surface.

As Fanella began to slow down the tunnel opened up to a huge underground place. It was an entire city. Drake had never seen anything like it and gasped in awe that so much life could exist beneath the ground.

To be continued....

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Crime Rate Rising

By Marlene Hitt

Our news media nags us with reports of crimes committed, day after day. When we think about history the question arises: What, at any given time, is a crime? Way back in the 1800s and before, outlaws rode through. Tirbucio Vasquez, the hero-villain, used to ride up Horse thief Trail (Tujunga Canyon Blvd) from the ranchos around Los Angeles where he'd drive his stolen horses into the canyons and into the desert. The Murietta Gang came through, too, to their hide-out up Tujunga Creek into Dark Canyon.

News reports in 1928 tell that some of the biggest supplies of bootlegged whiskey came from the Tujunga Valleys and hills, that had the best stills in the state. One big bust happened when Feds pulled a surprise raid on a house on Manana Street (Pinewood Ave.) A big still was found in a cave up in the canyon. The four men operating it were arrested and the deputies confiscated 200 gallons of liquor and 9,000 gallons of mash in 30 wooden vats. The guys had a hidden trap door and an electric signaler. The officers who had looked for that Still for months, finally got to it.

Of course there's always crime. When Tujunga was an independent city, City Hall had to buy a couple of jail cells from the City of Glendale for a token cost of a dollar and put them in Bolton Hall. They were needed sometimes for the drunks and the runaways.

Thefts from the Tujunga orchards and vineyards, more than the usual, started as more people moved in, and there were reports of chicken feed being stolen from houses. That was when somebody stole cases of eggs, a box of Crisco and bags of grain from the feed store. They even filled their gas tank with nine gallons of gas from the store pump before taking off. Everybody complained about the lack of response from the sheriff. Later on the citizens got a couple of deputy sheriffs to stop the speeders going down Michigan (Foothill).

Once, two men were arrested for leaving their fire unattended in the national forest. They had to pay \$50 fine each. The first murder in town was of an elderly woman beat to death in her home. There

would be the first mention of marijuana, November 14, 1930. Then the poisoning of the fire station mascot "Buddy".

As time went by more murders occurred and more burglaries.

After the 210 freeway opened we found out what crime is all about. A woman who wouldn't give the robber her social security money was shot and killed in the parking lot near Ralph's. Mr. Irey, jeweler, was severely injured in a robbery of his store in the Sunhill Center.

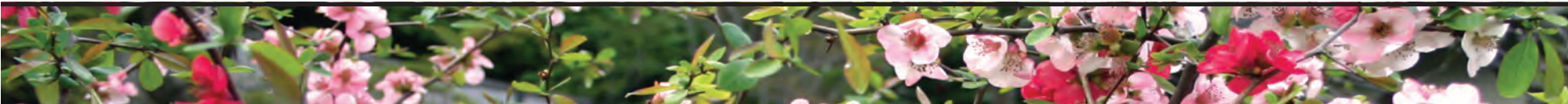
When armed robbers hit Hobers Pharmacy first it was 1981, the first of 9 in the following 15 years (none before from 1939 until 1981). The level of planning in one hold up was superb from the point of view of the robbers as they dressed so carefully, wearing masks and costumes, that there was no article of body or clothing which could be identified. One robber came in the back and one in the front of the store. The first bad guy carried a sawed off shotgun, held 8 witnesses at gunpoint, and the other took cash and drugs. One customer, having just entered the store didn't respond as ordered so one shot was fired. Burglaries continued and after each incident a great deal of money was spent to hopefully discourage any more attempts. Crime is very expensive to a business owner.

After reading about the bootleg liquor the original question arises, what is a crime? We are facing that change in perception with the marijuana issue for one.

At the last Sunland-Tujunga neighborhood Council meeting officers Wall and Martinez proudly reported that crime is way down here in the area. Each month at the meeting we are given a map showing crimes of different sorts in our area. This map reassures us as citizens that we are pretty safe here in the Foothill Division territory, now, in 2011.

The horse thieves are pretty much gone. But lock your car! Turn on outside lights. Leash you dog. Be aware. In some other world maybe there is a universal understanding of what is right and what is wrong and respect each other?

Editors Note: Marlene Hitt is a Director at Bolton Hall Museum, a former Sunland-Tujunga Poet Laurette, and writes for the NVR.



Good Things Can Happen When Communities Unite

By Al Piantanida

East San Fernando Valley Nature Walkway - The Arleta Community Watch Dogs, under leadership of Founder Al Piantanida, was awarded a Los Angeles Community Grant of \$4,720 to beautify the Pacoima Spreading Grounds which has always been an eyesore. An additional goal for improving the eyesore was to create a healthy environment where everyone can exercise by walking and gaining a sense of serenity as they enjoy the nature trail. The completed Nature Walkway was opened recently and both goals have been accomplished.

The grounds encompass Arleta, Pacoima, and Mission Hills. Their project's goal was to take the 2,519 feet long by seven feet wide bare strip of dirt and transform it into a thriving California Native Eco System for public use. On Saturday, January 22, they planted over 2,100 native plants. Three hundred fifty residents and volunteers from the local valley, city, state, and county governments worked together to complete this monumental task.

The Project was also backed by four Neighborhood Councils: Arleta, Mission Hills, Pacoima and



Photos courtesy of Al Piantanida

Panorama City. Other monetary support from Public Officials included offices of State Senator Alex Padilla, State Assemblymember Felipe Fuentes, County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, the Mayor's office, Councilmembers Richard Alarcon and Tony

Cardenas, LAUSD Board Member Nury Martinez, L.A. office of Community Beautification, Dept. of Public Works and Sanitation, LADWP, Recreation and Parks and Traffic Enforcement by LAPD.

Other organizations involved include, Affordable Housing of America, CPAB-LAPD Mission Station, Designer Nick Hulea, Dinner Table Gardening, El Super Market, icon-CDC, J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, Laborers Local 300, M.E.N.D., Northeast Graffiti Busters, Ornelas Construction, Pacoima Beautiful, People in Progress, Providence Holy Cross Medical Center, Sod and Soil, Tojo Landscape, Vallarta Markets, and Youth Policy Institute.

Project meetings were held at city departments, schools and on the site by Manager Yolanda Anguiano regarding required permits, design and layout, time frame management, securing donations and volunteers. The new trail is being maintained by the Nature Walk Committee and volunteers are welcome. Contact Al Piantanida at 818-897-9122 for further information.

Pacoima



Marie Harris Honored by Los Angeles City Council in Van Nuys on Friday, April 1: A motion was sponsored by Council District Seven Representative, Richard Alarcon, and seconded by Tony Cardenas, Representative for Council District 6, which designated the intersection of Glenoaks and Van Nuys Boulevards in Pacoima as "Marie Harris Square" and passed unanimously. In his support letter to the Council, Congressman Howard Berman said, "Marie Harris was an outstanding activist in our community."

Ms. Harris, a long time Pacoima Activist, was memorialized for her monumental community service. She was an outstanding community leader who dedicated her life's work to making her community, Los Angeles County, and the entire San Fernando Valley a better place for all people to live and work."

As the Founder of the Pacoima Property Owners Association, she worked tirelessly on several community beautification projects including the "Back To Pacoima & We Love It Expo." She also served on numerous boards and committees, which included the Pacoima Senior Citizens Multipurpose Center, Olive View-UCLA Medical Center Foundation, Economic Alliance of San Fernando Valley, and Unite LA-Urban Network for Improving Training and Education in Los Angeles.

Community leaders who attended the meeting to show support for Ms. Harris were: Mel Wilson, Altera Real Estate, Committee Chairman; Herb Piken, The Piken Company, Honorary Committee; Rev. Tony Booker, Lakeview Terrace American Baptist Church; Rev. Arthur Broadous, Calvary Baptist Church; Nicole Chase, Boys & Girls Club San Fernando Valley; Jose DeSosa, Community Activist; Sidney Harris, Documentation; Ms. Harris's daughter, Rolene Naveja, Project Organizer of The Marie Harris Project Committee and whose efforts spearheaded this recognition; and a host of community members, family and friends.

Council District Seven staff will work together with the Los Angeles Department of Transportation and other city departments to design and install signs for the Marie Harris Memorial site. Information regarding the dedication ceremony will be announced in the near future.

Northridge



"Best of Community Beautification & Pride" award was presented to the Northridge West NC volunteers during Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils Annual Awards meeting in March

By Glenn Bailey

Operation Clean Sweep- In an attempt to quell the concerns of a stakeholder that the foliage around his home was in danger of burning because of fireworks in his neighborhood, Tom Johnson, President of the Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC), and his daughters volunteered to clear the area around the stakeholder's property during 4th of July weekend, 2010. This one act of kindness created a civic pride that spread among the rest of the council members and stakeholders and became known as Operation Clean Sweep.

In the weeks that followed, Tom accumulated a steady force of 20 volunteers who showed up at specific designated areas each Saturday with their own tools in hand to clear weeds and debris. His project generated so much interest that Jo Ann Phillips, a retired stakeholder, began a second group, now 12

strong, who work on Thursday mornings from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Volunteers Teri Grossman and Chris Williams were also instrumental in organizing clean ups in their part of the community.

The council held a special Pre-Super Bowl Kick-off event on Saturday, January 15. More than 100 community members turned out to clear several miles of road followed by a BBQ sponsored by NWNC to thank them for their hard work.

NWNC 's Operation Clean Sweep is now in its' 35th week. The council and its more than 500 volunteers have cleared debris and weeds from approximately eight miles of its neighborhood and gathered well over 1,000 bags of trash, weeds and overgrowth, fulfilling their goal of "Unity in our Community."

Editor's Note: Glenn Baily is a Community Activist in the San Fernando Valley and a member of the Bicycle Advisory Committee.