

## Strip Mining in Sylmar Area Underway

By Katharine Russ

A motion introduced by Councilmember Richard Alarcon on August 19, 2011, in opposition to the mining project states: “As the Lead Agency, the County Regional Planning Staff determined that the review period for the Notice of Preparation (NOP) would be from April 11, 2007 to May 11, 2007. Since that time, the County Department of Regional Planning has not moved forward with the required State mandated environmental review process. It has not held a scoping meeting or any public meetings with public agencies, city staff, neighborhood organizations, private organizations, environmental organizations or city residents.”

Alarcon has asked that all relevant departments assist him in finding possible actions the City can take to oppose the mining operation. The project, located just across from L.A. City Limit is actually located in Supervisor Michael Antonovich’s district, yet the people most impacted are in the City within Alarcon’s and County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky’s districts. There is presently no date selected by the Los Angeles City Council to vote on this Motion. However, Councilmember Paul Krekorian’s office says, “The motion has been referred to the Information, Technology and Government Affairs Committee, chaired by Councilmember Tony Cardenas.”

During late summer 2010, Sakaida & Sons Trucking began grading the roads throughout the project without a permit for the work. A November 17, 2010 inspection of the property revealed, “Violations of the Los Angeles County Building Code (Title 26).” The violations consist of grading without benefit of a permit, which is a violation of Section J103.1 of the Building Code. But it was not until May 3, 2011 that the County of Los Angeles Public Works Department issued a Notice of Violation for the alleged grading.

The violation has not been cured at this writing. Just days later, Alarcon sent a letter to Sakaida expressing his concerns upon Sakaida’s failure to inform him of the mining operation, and asked that he be apprised on the status of the project so that his staff could coordinate concerns from the community.

According to the NOP filed in April 2007, Sakaida & Sons Surface Mining Project would operate a mining operation on 24.8 acres of a 73-acre site. Sakaida plans to remove 3 million cubic yards of sand and gravel, proposing use of Maclay and Hubbard Streets to transport 230 dump truck loads per day of the mined material through residential areas and I-210 over a seven-year period.

The location of the site is south of the Pacoima Dam and east of Pacoima Canyon Rd. in Sylmar. Page 12 of the NOP provides a partial list of the potentially significant impacts that the community and surrounding area could face, including earthquake induced landslides and liquefaction, where saturated dirt substantially



The mining area covers 24.8 acres of the 73 acres within the yellow line. There are residents beneath the chapparel on the bottom and also to the right of this project. The black area above is presently being graded.

loses strength and stiffness under stress conditions, causing the dirt to behave like a liquid. Flooding, high erosion and debris deposition from run-off along with obnoxious odors, dust, hazardous emissions, noise from heavy equipment, fire hazards, traffic/access, hindrance of emergency response times, raise tremendous concerns for residents who live very close to the site. In addition, the site is not designated as a mineral resource area.

The mining operation and processing plant at the site will consist of: 2 ea. bulldozers, 4 ea. front-end loaders, 2 ea. processing and conveyor systems and crushers, up to 7ea. generators both rated at 250 horsepower, a self-contained portable processing plant, 2 ea. above ground fuel tanks, an Administration office, a scale house, portable restrooms, water supply trucks, tanks and mined material will be stored in huge stockpiles on the site.

*Continued on page 4*

## Truck Driver School Nixed by Superior Court

*L.A. City Council votes NO appeal*

By Katharine Russ

On August 9, 2011, the Los Angeles City Council voted to accept the Court ruling in Community Alliance for Open Space v. City of Los Angeles, et al. They instructed the city attorney not to appeal the Superior Court ruling that decided the fate of city council member Richard Alarcon’s Teamsters Joint Council 42/ El Proyecto del Barrio backed project.

On May 17, 2011, the California Superior Court upheld a Writ of Mandate against the City of Los Angeles,

for the approval of a Truck Driving School in Lopez Canyon. The Community Alliance For Open Space (CAFOS) sought to reverse the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) citing violations of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and approval of a variance that violated applicable zoning laws.

The lawsuit alleged, “The MND is legally insufficient for the City Planning Department to use as the environmental clearance document for the approval of the variance. And, even if a variance granted by one City Department to another were proper, there is no substantial evidence in the record establishing that the proposed diesel semi truck driving school can meet any of the variance test requirements of the City Charter.”

In 2008, Alarcon reneged on his promise and earmarked \$100,000.00 to underwrite the relocation of a Truck Driver Training program from Long Beach to Lopez Canyon landfill in Lake View Terrace where the funds originated as community mitigation money in the 1990s.

Several organizations and Neighborhood Councils opposed the project citing Alarcon’s 1996 promise to restore the property to “its original gem”- open space. L.A. County Supervisor Michael Antonovich added his voice to those expressing concerns that the trucking school was initiated without proper clearance under CEQA. He persuaded the entire Board of Su-

pervisors to reject the plan as well.

El Proyecto del Barrio, a not-for-profit organization, would have paid the sum of \$1.00 per year to lease the property from the City for a period of five years.

In her decision, Superior Court Judge Ann I. Jones noted, “In this case, as a matter of law, there is a fair argument sufficient to trigger preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). As noted by the Chief Executive Officer of the County of Los Angeles, the MND failed to properly identify the baseline or the existing conditions at the landfill against which the significance of the environmental impacts of the training academy project could be properly measured.”

The City Charter, Section 562, forbids the use of a variance for “special privilege”. Sec. 562 states in pertinent part, “A variance shall not be used to grant a special privilege or to permit a use substantially inconsistent with the limitations upon other properties in the same zone and vicinity.”

Marlene Rader, Chair of CAFOS, said, “We have fought for almost four years against the City that was intent on breaking its own laws. We invested our own time and hard earned money towards this and are elated with the Court’s decision. The sole motivation of Mayor Villaraigosa and Alarcon was to give special

*Continued on page 4*





# COMMUNITY NEWS



Photo by P. Vincent DiNova

## We will Never Forget

### 9/11 Commemorations in the North Valley

The united organizations in Sunland-Tujunga are sponsoring a short ceremony in remembrance of the 10th anniversary of those who lost their lives during the September 11, 2001 tragedy. Police and Fire Department representatives and their Chaplains, along with public officials, will meet in front of North Valley City Hall, 7747 Foothill Blvd., on Sunday, September 11, from 1:00 pm - 1:45 pm

Also, Military Families and Veterans are invited to a reception and a tour of Bolton Hall Museum on September 11, from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm at 10110 Commerce Ave., Tujunga, to thank you for your service. Email: [littlelanders@verizon.net](mailto:littlelanders@verizon.net), or call 818-342-3420 for further information.

## Mission Hills

**Mission Hills Neighborhood Watch** volunteers spent many hours making their 6th Annual National Night Out a success. Volunteers included: Coordinator Betty Ley, Co-Coordinator-Yolanda Anguiano, Rachel Baroth, Dave Brown, Charlie Conrad, Joe & Chris Means, Elizabeth Marx, Sue Milne, Jim Read, Miguel Gomez, Pat & Richard Bardin, Donna Ford, Ray Aguilar, Johnny Johnson, Bev Parker, Brenda Mau, Bella Lopez, Rosa Marie Anguiano, Ivett Villapudva, Daria Rodriguez, Aracel Rodriguez, Gracida Rodriguez, Sandra Barahona, Kim Frias, Mission Area LAPD Youth Cadets, Bobby Arias from Communities in Schools. and Basic Car 19A43 Senior Lead Officer Phil Ruiz.

**The Mission Community Police Advisory Board** Event Committee is seeking Las Vegas Stars “look-alikes” who are willing to donate their time to entertain and mingle on and off with Officers for “Officers Appreciation Day” Las Vegas style. The event takes place from 1 pm and 6 pm on Wednesday, October 12th at LAPD’s Mission station, 11121 Sepulveda Blvd., Mission Hills. They would like entertainers who do acts such as Blue Man, Frank Sinatra, Elton John, Celine Dion, Dolly Pardon, Las Vegas Show Girl, Eddie Murphy, Cher, Whoopi Goldberg, Dean Martin, etc.... just to name a few. The Board will be serving the Officers breakfast, lunch and dinner to music from a jukebox from 6 am to 7pm. For further information email: [nolleyblondeangel@yahoo.com](mailto:nolleyblondeangel@yahoo.com)

**Mission Hills Plaza** - A proposed redevelopment of the Mission Hills Plaza at Sepulveda and Devonshire (see map) owned by Primestor Developer will be addressed by the Mission Hills Neighborhood during their meeting on Tuesday, August 23, 7 pm, at the Mission Community Police Station, 11121 Sepulveda Blvd in the Timothy M. Falco Community Room. Parking is available in the Facey parking lot next door. This is an opportunity for community involvement by giving input to the developer.



### Rise-N-Shine Cafe



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Shadow Hills









# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Council District 2



Paul Krekorian  
Councilmember, District 2  
Los Angeles City Council

The City Council on, August 16, unanimously approved my four motions aimed at increasing neighborhood council accountability and effectiveness, establishing a path to greater self-governance and improving grassroots participation.

The approval was an important step forward in our continued effort to help strengthen and reform the neigh-

borhood council system - a task I take very seriously as your councilmember and Chairman of the Education and Neighborhoods Committee.

These reforms are by no means limited to my personal vision but are rather the product of tremendous collaboration of stakeholders throughout the city and will advance our on going conversation about enhancing grassroots governance.

The four motions deal with (i) improved training for neighborhood council board members, (ii) reforms in the neighborhood council funding program, (iii) a restructuring of managerial responsibilities from the Depart-

ment of Neighborhood Empowerment to regional collaborations of neighborhood councils, and (iv) a streamlined process to handle grievances in order to maintain the integrity of the system.

This is by no means a stopping point. Going forward, I will continue working with the city's Neighborhood Councils and the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment to improve local Democracy throughout our communities

As always, I look forward to your thoughts and welcome your comments. E-mail me at councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, or call us at (818) 352-3287.

### Continued from pg. 1 — STRIP MINING

Sylmar residents in the “sphere of influence” have formed an organization, Citizens Against Strip Mining in the San Fernando Valley (CASM-SFV) and are reaching out to other communities such as Pasadena, Malibu and Long Beach as well as the entire San Fernando Valley in order to make them aware that a strip mine with it's environmental time bombs has no place this close to mass people.

Ellie Brooks, Chair of CASM-SFV, said, "Our concern is, if one owner gets an okay to strip mine, it will set

a precedent for other sites across the northern edge of valley. We are in a high fire hazard area and we worry about fire protection. There is only one Los Angeles City Fire Department house in all of Sylmar with 90,000 plus residents, as densification will continue to be approved by the city. One of our concerns about the Environmental Impact Review (EIR) process is that endangered species, like birds, carry more weight and consideration than children, or residents, who may suffer from asthma or respiratory disease will be impacted by air pollution. Who knows what type of debris in the mountain will be brought down,

or the amount of exposure to diesel particles. This project is just much too close to our residential area; it surely will negatively impact our health and our quality of life.”

The Notice of Preparation claims, after 7 years, the site will be used as a nursery. One resident remarked, “A similar project by the same owner didn't last long as a nursery before he filed paperwork to convert it into a subdivision. Historically, gravel quarries like this also have a high probability of being expanded.”

For more information can visit [www.casm-sfv.org](http://www.casm-sfv.org)  
[Katharine.russ@charter.net](mailto:Katharine.russ@charter.net)

### Continued from pg. 1 — TRUCK DRIVER

privileges to Transportation Opportunities Program (TOPS) to operate a truck driving school on land designated as open space. This has NEVER been an issue of jobs or the training of truck drivers; it has always been an issue of land use (period). This ruling sets a precedent to protect open space.”

Alarcon told sources that he hoped the Court would have allowed them to do a “few fixes” to the MND and expressed his regret that those who desired training would not get it now. Alarcon’s office, however, did not respond to the North Valley Reporter’s requests for comments.

While the truck driving school is “dead on arrival”, the Bureau of Sanitation (BoS) will continue to submit ideas on how to utilize Lopez Canyon. One idea that gained a little traction was the adding of food waste into compost piles. Residents who attended that BoS meeting called Cal Recycle with concerns of seagulls, vermin and noxious odors that would result if BoS were to implement such a plan.

At the Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council (FTDNC) general meeting in July, The group expressed concerned regarding the removal of the doublewide trailer for school from the landfill. Also, the Board voted

unanimously to strongly recommend that Alarcon submit a Motion to use the Amenities Fund to install hiking and equestrian trails, as originally promised, for the Lopez Canyon Landfill because BoS had already said there were no funds to pay for the trails project at the landfill.

A meeting for the Lopez Canyon Restoration Project is scheduled for Wednesday September 7, 2011 at the Lopez Canyon Landfill 11950 Lopez Canyon Rd. Lakeview Terrace. RSVP must be made by September 2, 2011 to Reva Fabricant toll free at 1-866-950-7382.

[Katharine.russ@charter.net](mailto:Katharine.russ@charter.net)

## Sylmar Farmers’ Market at Mission College

By Liz Thompson

The ever-growing gorgeous campus at Los Angeles Mission College in Sylmar has added a certified farmers’ market to its list of “new” things. The market was created to provide the local community with access to fresh, high quality produce, breads, and prepared foods. The market accepts WIC, EBT and SNAP to increase low-income consumer access to neighborhood farmers’ markets.

There is a huge selection of fresh fruits and produce, and a variety of food vendors, such as Kettlestones Hummus; Go Green Nopal, known for its tortillas and salsas made from nopal; and Homeboy Industries with the best ever baguette, to name a few. Want sweets? Buy a gourmet candy apple from Candylicious, or freshly baked cookies from Cookie Jones, including my favorite peanut butter chocolate chip. Coming to eat? Grab a ‘cue brisket sandwich from The Q Spot BBQ of Santa Clarita...it’ll satisfy your appetite.

A big draw to the market is the weekly healthy cooking demonstrations featuring several renowned chefs, such as Chef Jesse Sanchez of the Culinary Arts Insti-

tute at Los Angeles Mission College, whose primary focus is on raw and super-foods; Nancy Kennedy, a nutritionist, celebrity trainer, and author of “The Hollywood Wrap,”; and Marva Marrow, of 7th Heaven Gourmet, who prepares a variety of preserves with produce purchased from the farmers.

Want to find out more about some of our vendors? Visit the following websites: [www.cookiejonescookies.com](http://www.cookiejonescookies.com); [www.gogreennopal.com](http://www.gogreennopal.com); [www.kettlestoneshummus.com](http://www.kettlestoneshummus.com); [www.nancyfkennedy.com](http://www.nancyfkennedy.com); [www.homeboy-industries.com](http://www.homeboy-industries.com); [www.7thheaven-gourmet.com](http://www.7thheaven-gourmet.com); [www.mariahcountrysoaps.com](http://www.mariahcountrysoaps.com); and [www.theqspotbbq.com](http://www.theqspotbbq.com)

Want entertainment? There is live music each week, including “The Expats” from Australia, who played last weekend. Check the market’s web-site for the schedule, or just come and check out the market...period!

Sylmar Farmers Market is located at 13356 El-dridge Avenue, Sylmar, every Saturday, from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. For more



Chef Jesse Sanchez

information contact [farmersmarket@lamission.edu](mailto:farmersmarket@lamission.edu): or visit: [www.sylmarfarmersmarket.com](http://www.sylmarfarmersmarket.com): and also become a friend Sylmar Farmers Market on Facebook for the latest news.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Lake View Terrace

The New “Heaven on Earth” Ranch (NHOER), a non profit organization, will begin a major fundraising campaign to match the monies they have raised for construction of the “Johny Carpenter” Arena. Johny was dedicated to helping physically and mentally challenged children and young adults learn how to ride. The general appeal campaign will begin September 1, 2011 and conclude December 31, 2011.

NHOER hopes to begin final construction of the arena in November 2011 and see its grand opening by November 19, 2011, however, they are confident that with community support, the arena and riding program will become a reality and available to the public for 2012.

NHOER will be participating in the Ride for a Cure event at Gibson Ranch on Saturday October 1st, 2011 with a Cowboy Beanbag Toss game booth. They also will be asking for nominations and choosing the 2011 “Spirit of Johny Carpenter” Award recipients end of September.

To learn more about NHOER, “Spirit” awards and how you can help, call 818 470-5235 or email lamikec@yahoo.com or visit [www.NHOER.org](http://www.NHOER.org).



The photo is from the Watermelon Festival 8-13-11 of board members Bob Cupples, Joel Druckman, Katherine Carpenter and Randy Horton.



Sun Valley

A former landfill in Sun Valley at Branford and San Fernando Rd awaits new life. A recent ground braking ceremony took place for FedEx Corporation’s new LEED certified distribution center that is expected be completed in 2013. The 236,000 sq. ft. project is the result of Treammell Crow, representing FedEx, Councilmember Tony Cardenas and city officials working together to make it happen. This is only one of FedEx’s many distribution hubs across the country and this new facility means many additional jobs for local residents.

Sunland - Tujunga and Pacoima  
National Night Out



**Certified Farmers Market**  
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**~Live Music Every Weekend**

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**[www.sylmarfarmersmarket.com](http://www.sylmarfarmersmarket.com)**  
Email Us: [farmersmarket@lamission.edu](mailto:farmersmarket@lamission.edu)  
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Sunday, Aug. 28

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

**Village Poets of Sunland-Tujunga**  
Bolton Hall Museum  
10110 Commerce, S-T  
4:30 pm-6:30 pm

Tuesday, Aug. 30

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

Thursday, Sep. 1

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

Saturday, Sep. 3

**LADWP MOU Comm.**  
Hollywood Com. Center  
6501 Fountain Ave.,  
Hillywd 8:45 am

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

Sunday, Sep. 4

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

Sept. thru Sept 5

**Annual LADP Family Carnival**  
Glenoaks Blvd between  
Van Nuys & Paxton St;  
See "You Should Know..."for information  
or call CRO Office  
818-756-8866

Monday, Sept. 5

**Labor Day**  
**FTDNC Outreach Com**  
9747 Wheatland Ave, SH  
7:00 pm

Tuesday Sep. 6

**Bolton Hall Museum**  
Presents “On the Home 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, Sep 7

**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

**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

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

MHNC Board & Gen Meet.

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

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

Wednesday, Sept. 7

**Lopez Canyon Restoration Project**  
Lopez Canyon Landfill  
11950 Lopez Canyon Rd,  
LVT 7:10 pm-8:30 pm  
866-950-7382

Saturday, Sep. 10

**“History of the City of Eagle Rock”**  
Bolton Hall Museum  
10110 Commerce, S-T  
1:00 pm 818-352-3420

Sunday, Sep. 11

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

Monday, Sep. 12

**FTDNC Budget Comm**  
9797 Wheatland Ave.,  
SH 7:00 pm

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

**STNC Land Use**  
7727 Foothill Blvd., S-T  
7:00 pm

Tuesday, Sep. 13

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

Wednesday, Sep. 14

**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, Sep. 15

**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

Saturday, Sept. 17

**SFV Childrens Day**  
Childrens Parade  
9:00 am WoodleyPark  
www.childrensday20ll.com

Sunday, Sep. 18

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

**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

Monday, Sep. 19

**Valley Vote**  
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, Sep. 20

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

**Bolton Hall Museum**  
Presents “On the Home Front  
10110 Commerce Ave.,  
S-T—Docent Tours  
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

818-352-3420  
**S-T Neighborhood Watch**  
7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T  
6:30 PM

Wednesday, Sep. 21

**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

**Sun Valley Chamber Mixer**  
John Wells Driving  
Range  
11501 Strathern St.,  
No Ho 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Friday, Sep. 23 - 25

**Feast of San Gennaro**  
1651 No. Highland,  
Holly.  
11:00 am – 11:00 pm  
www.feastofla.org\fea  
st.html

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<b>Saturday, Sept. 24</b> <b>Congress of Neighbor- hood Councils</b> Los Angeles City Hall 200 N. Spring St. LA 7:45 am – 4:00 pm	<b>Monday, Oct. 3</b> <b>STNC Land Use</b> 7727 Foothill Blvd., S-T 7:00 pm <b>FTDNC Outreach Com</b> 9747 Wheatland Ave, SH 7:00 pm	<b>MHNC Board &amp; Gen Meet.</b> Mission Police Station 11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH 6:30 pm	<b>Pan. City Neighborhood Watch</b> 9261 Wakefield, PC 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm	<b>Sunday, Oct. 16</b> <b>Bolton Hall Museum</b> Presents “On the Home Front 10110 Commerce Ave., S-T—Docent Tours 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm 818-352-3420	<b>Sun Valley Chamber Meet</b> Villa Scalabrini 10631 Vindale Ave., SV 12:00 pm
<b>Sunday, Sep. 25</b> <b>Bolton Hall Museum</b> Presents “On the Home Front 10110 Commerce Ave., S-T—Docent Tours 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm 818-352-3420	<b>Tuesday Oct. 4</b> <b>Bolton Hall Museum</b> Presents “On the Home Front 10110 Commerce Ave., S-T—Docent Tours 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm 818-352-3420	<b>Thursday, Oct. 6</b> <b>PCNC Land Use</b> Mission Comm. Hospital 14860 Roscoe Blvd., PC 6:30 pm 818-894-7841	<b>Thursday, Oct. 13</b> <b>FTDNC Gen. Meeting</b> www.ftdnc.org for location 7:00 pm	<b>SNC Outreach Com.</b> Sylmar Park 13109 Bordon Ave., Syl 6:30 pm	<b>Monday, Oct. 17</b> <b>Valley Vote</b> Galpin Ford 15555 Roscoe Blvd., NH 6:30 pm
<b>Open Poetry Reading</b> The Village Poets Bolton Hall Museum 10110 Commerce, S-T 818-352-3420 4:30 pm dskiles@ca.rr.com	<b>FTDNC Land Use</b> 9747 Wheatland Ave., SH 7:00 pm	<b>Thursday, Oct. 6</b> <b>PCNC Land Use</b> Mission Comm. Hospital 14860 Roscoe Blvd., PC 6:30 pm 818-894-7841	<b>Northridge East NC</b> Northridge Academy 9601 Zelzah Ave., Nrdge	<b>SVANC Gen Meet</b> 10631 Vinedale Ave., SV 6:30 pm	<b>GHNNC Land Use Comm</b> 11139 Woodley Ave., GH 7:00 pm
<b>Monday, Sep. 26</b> <b>GHNNC Gen. Meeting</b> Rinaldi Adult Center, 17450 Rinadli St., GH 6:30 pm	<b>MHNC Zoning &amp; Land Use</b> LAPD Mission Station 11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MHT	<b>Saturday, Oct. 8</b> <b>Plan Check NC</b> Hist. Downtown O.R. Center 114 W. Fifth St., L.A. 10:00 am -1:00 pm	<b>Neighborhood Watch</b> Block Captains’ Mtng. Sylmar High School 13050 Borden Ave., Syl 6:30 pm	<b>Northridge West NC</b> Beckford Elem. School 19130 Tulsa St., Nrdge 7:00 pm	<b>STNC Land Use Comm</b> NV City Hall 7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T 7:00 pm
<b>Tuesday, Sep. 27</b> <b>Bolton Hall Museum</b> Presents “On the Home Front 10110 Commerce Ave., S-T—Docent Tours 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm 818-352-3420	<b>LAPD Community Coffee</b> Albertsons Starbucks 6240 Foothill, S-T 8:00 am 818-756-8866	<b>Sunday, Oct. 9</b> <b>Bolton Hall Museum</b> Presents “On the Home Front 10110 Commerce Ave., S-T—Docent Tours 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm 818-352-3420	<b>Northridge NC Board Meet</b> Arminta Elem. School 11530 Arminta St., No Ho 7:00 pm	<b>SNC Outreach Com.</b> Sylmar Park 13109 Bordon Ave., Syl 6:30 pm	<b>Tuesday, Oct. 18</b> <b>Arleta NC Gen. Meeting</b> Beachy Elem. School 9757 Beachy, Arl. 6:30 pm
<b>Bolton Hall Museum</b> Presents “On the Home Front 10110 Commerce Ave., S-T—Docent Tours 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm 818-352-3420	<b>Wednesday, Oct. 5</b> <b>Rotary Club</b> Coco’s Restaurant 10521 Sunland Blvd., S-T 7:00 pm 818-951-5299	<b>Monday, Oct. 10</b> <b>FTDNC Budget Comm</b> 9797 Wheatland Ave., SH 7:00 pm	<b>Friday, Oct. 14</b> <b>GHNNC Polic &amp; Rules Comm</b> 11139 Woodley Ave., GH 4:00 pm	<b>PCNC Outreach</b> PCNC Office (4th Floor) 14500 Roscoe Blvd., PC 6:30 pm 818-714-2133	<b>Bolton Hall Museum</b> Presents “On the Home Front 10110 Commerce Ave., S-T—Docent Tours 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm 818-352-3420
<b>Hansen Dam Park</b> Advisory Board Lake View Terr Rec. Ctr. 11075 Foothills, LVT 7:00 pm	<b>NHWNC Comm. Forum</b> Holy Martyrs Armenian School 1667 Parthenia St., NH 7:00 pm	<b>Sunday, Oct. 9</b> <b>Bolton Hall Museum</b> Presents “On the Home Front 10110 Commerce Ave., S-T—Docent Tours 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm 818-352-3420	<b>Fall Festival</b> Tierra Del Sol Foundation 9919 Sunland Blvd. 10 am - 3 pm 818-352-1419	<b>MHNC Budget &amp; Finance</b> LAPD Mission Station 16161 Sepulveda Blvd., MH 7:00 pm 818-892-2414	<b>S-T Neighborhood Watch</b> 7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T 6:30 PM
<b>Saturday, Oct. 1</b> <b>LADWP MOU Comm.</b> Hollywood Com. Center 6501 Fountain Ave., Hillywd 8:45 am	<b>Bingo</b> S-T Elks Lodge 11037 Commerce Ave., S-T 6:30 pm 818-352- 2098	<b>Tuesday, Oct. 11</b> <b>Bolton Hall Museum</b> Presents “On the Home Front 10110 Commerce Ave., S-T—Docent Tours 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm 818-352-3420	<b>GHNNC Safety Comm</b> 11139 Woodley Ave., GH 2:00 pm	<b>PCNC Commerce</b> Wells Fargo Bank 8548 Van Nuys Blvd., PC 2:30 pm 818-714-2133	
<b>LANCC Meet.</b> Hollywood Comm. Center 6501 Fountain, Holly. 10:00 am	<b>MHNC Safety Com</b> Mission Police Station 11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH 6:30 pm	<b>Wednesday, Oct. 12</b> <b>STNC Gen Meet.</b> NV City Hall 7747 Foothill, S-T Refresh. 6:30 pm 7:00 pm 818-951-7411			
<b>Highlander Tea &amp; Fashion Show</b> Granada Hills High School 10535 Zelza, GH 1:00 pm	<b>S. V. Rotary</b> Mandarin Terrace 8815 Sunland Blvd., SV 12:00 pm -1:30 pm 818-768-9888	<b>FTDNC Exec. Board</b> 9747 Wheatland Ave., SH 7:00 pm Sun Valley Beautiful 9081 Tujunga Ave., SV 11:30 am			
<b>Sunday, Oct. 2</b> <b>Bolton Hall Museum</b> Presents “On the Home Front 10110 Commerce Ave., S-T—Docent Tours 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm 818-352-3420	<b>PCNC-Commerce Com</b> Wells Fargo Bank 8548 Van Nuys Blvd., PC 2:00 pm	<b>No. Hollywd.Nh’brh’d Watch</b> Pentecostal Church 6800 Radford St., No Ho 6:30 pm 818-331-1398			
	<b>S-T League of Women Voters</b> North Valley City Hall 7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T 1:30 pm 818-782-4236	<b>FTDNC Equestrian Meet.</b> 9747 Wheatland Ave., SH 7:00 pm			
	<b>Kagel Cyn Civic Assoc.</b> Dexter Park, KC 11053 No. Trail Rd., KC				



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### Carrick's Journey —Part Thirty Three The Bunker

By Tomi Lyn Bowling

Justine was a young woman in her mid twenties. She was tall, slender, a little worn, as any leader often is, but not to the point of losing her very feminine drapery. She was very pretty, and was a quick thinker and fearless. The latter traits brought her to an early role as a leader. Justine had long hair but all of it was twirled up on the top of her head in an effort to keep her free from the dungeons of the imaginations of young men who often sought to court her or just fantasized from afar.

Justine looked Drake in the eyes and walked over to shake his hand. As she grabbed the right hand and firmly held it in a business like shake, she simultaneously spoke out: “You’re very handsome, Drake. Don’t let Fanella take up all of your time leaving the rest of us only hoping.” Drake’s face turned bright red, as did Fanella’s, but each for a completely different reason. Fanella grabbed Drake’s arm and gently reminded him to focus on the reason for the brisk walk—to meet with Sarge and Sebastian. Justine just watched as Fanella and Drake walked on ahead. Her eyes blazed up and down sizing up young Drake like a predator evaluating their plan of attack on the prey of a long overdue dinner.

Fanella turned back and looked at Justine, surprised by her actions, and gave a kind of disapproving glance while Drake looked ahead taking in more and more with each step. Justine ignored the disapproving glance and walked behind the pair with a sly smile on her face. Fanella continued talking to Drake as they went along. But every few minutes she would glance back at Justine and was clearly keeping an eye on her.

Drake had noticed but never let on that he’d seen the fiery friction in the air between them for a split second. As they approached the tunnel Fanella explained that Sebastian would be very keen to talk to Justine and would probably address her first. “We’ll step aside and I will introduce you to Sarge while Justine talks to Sebastian.”

As they walked in the room Sebastian stopped his ongoing discussion with others and walked over to Justine, putting his arm around her, and asking her how she was doing. Sarge was over to the side so Fanella and Drake walked over for a brief and quiet introduction before tuning in to the brief by Justine. Fanella kept watching Justine and it soon became apparent it was not just because of her flirtation with Drake. Her head tilted slightly as she listened to Justine’s tale. Drake leaned over and whispered to her, “What do you see?” In complete surprise at his height of perception, Fanella turned to him and said, “There is something very different about her.”...to be continued.

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## What to Do During an Excessive Heat Watch:

Excessive heat is when a prolonged period of hot temperatures are expected. The combination of hot temperatures and high humidity can create dangerous heat related illnesses

The City of Los Angeles facilities are utilized as cooling centers. A list of these facilities is available at [emergency.lacity.org](http://emergency.lacity.org). Click on the banner that says “Cooling Facilities to beat the heat.”

These facilities include Senior Citizen Centers, Recreation and Parks facilities, and Libraries. Hours vary by facility, and you can check with the facility for their current hours of operation. During excessive heat there is an increased risk of unhealthy air quality, heat exhaustion, heat cramps and sunstroke. People should take the necessary precautions and limit outdoor activities.

Residents who require power to run medical or other life saving equipment - contact DWP’s Customer Service Line at 1-800-DIALDWP for more information about their Lifeline Services Program, or visit the Public Health Department: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/>. The following tips to use during excessive heat are offered by the DWP:

- 1) Turn off lights when not in use.
- 2) Adjust thermostat to 78 degrees to reduce energy usage.
- 3) Limit the use of appliances during peak hours of the day—use washing machines, dishwashers, vacuum cleaners and other heavy appliances during evening hours.
- 4) Avoid cooking during peak hours of the day.
- 5) Ventilate your home at night, opening windows and doors to clear out the heat and allow cooler air to circulate.

During those periods, there is an increased risk of heat exhaustion, heat cramps and sunstroke. Note the following tips:

- 1) Stay indoors as much as possible and limit exposure to the sun.
- 2) Stay on the lowest floor out of the sunshine if air conditioning is not available.
- 3) Spend the warmest part of the day in public buildings such as libraries, schools, movie theaters, shopping malls, and other community facilities. Circulating air can cool the body by increasing the perspiration rate of evaporation.
- 4) Eat well-balanced, light, and regular meals. Avoid using salt tablets unless directed to do so by a physician.
- 5) Drink plenty of water. Persons who have epilepsy or heart, kidney, or liver disease; are on fluid-restricted diets; or have a problem with fluid retention should consult a doctor before increasing liquid intake.
- 6) Limit intake of alcoholic beverages.
- 7) Dress in loose-fitting, lightweight, and light-colored clothes that cover as much skin as possible.
- 8) Protect face and head by wearing a wide-brimmed hat.
- 9) Check on family, seniors, friends, and neighbors who do not have air conditioning and who spend much of their time alone.
- 10) Never leave children or pets alone in closed vehicles.
- 11) Avoid strenuous work during the warmest part of the day.
- 11) Use a buddy system when working in extreme heat, and take frequent breaks.

**Never leave children, the elderly or pets in enclosed automobiles, even for a short period of time. Even if the windows are partially open, temperatures can quickly rise to life-threatening levels.** For updates visit City of Los Angeles websites: <http://emergency.lacity.org>, ReadyLA <http://www.readyla.org/>, Twitter <http://twitter.com/readyla> Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/readyla>, or call the Emergency Management Department Information Helpline (800) 439-2909, DWP [www.ladwp.com](http://www.ladwp.com) or call 1-800-DIAL DWP for more energy efficiency programs, and tips to reduce energy use or call City of Los Angeles Information Helpline: 1-800-439-2909

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## Neighborhood Councils Need to Take the Lead



By Ron Kaye

Scorned at every turn by a City Hall political machine that fears community empowerment, Neighborhood Councils still remain the only real hope to bring about reform and a balance of interests to Los Angeles.

NCs were created as part of Charter reform more than a decade ago as a means of heading off San Fernando Valley secession – a powerless sop to the beleaguered middle class that had been fleeing the city for suburbs with better schools, safer streets, and more economic opportunity.

Still, with Greg Nelson, former chief of staff to Councilman Joel Wachs, who had fought power sharing as the first head of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, dozens of NCs were established. Hundreds of people got their first taste of civic engagement and what City Hall was up to.

Resistance from elected officials was unrelenting from the outset and has never let up, with DONE now drastically downsized and funding sharply reduced.

“The city establishment has no use for the NCs or any other meaningful source of public input,” Nelson is quoted as saying in an article in the quarterly City Journal by Joel Kotkin, social critic and urban issues expert. [http://www.city-journal.org/2011/21\\_3\\_los-angeles.html](http://www.city-journal.org/2011/21_3_los-angeles.html)

The article is a scathing indictment of L.A.’s leadership in recent decades, carrying the headline “Lost Angeles: The City of Angels goes to hell.”

As discouraging as the city’s plight is, Kotkin holds out hope for a “Sunshine Revolution” that will bring down the City Hall political machine and free “this diverse and dynamic region (to) resume its ascent toward greatness.”

For his part, Greg Nelson says: “If just one leader comes along, NCs could emerge into a major force.”

The bizarre end to Al Abrams role as a leading – if conflicted -- voice in the Neighborhood Council movement creates an opportunity for the thousands of people who have gotten involved in NCs in the last decade to seize the day and begin the process of real reform.

Abrams, a public relations and political consultant appointed by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa to be president of the board overseeing the Department of Neighborhood

Empowerment, was forced to resign after the FBI seized computers and other material from his Tarzana home as part of a child pornography investigation.

For starters, the NCs need to demand that the open seat on the DONE Commission be filled by their appointee and then the various NC alliances need to hold a summit to nominate their candidate and articulate an agenda that will give life to the idea of neighborhood empowerment.

City officials understand ultimatums as they showed in delivering AEG’s Tim Leiweke everything he demanded for the football stadium proposal.

If NCs ever want to be more than talking societies, they need to step up now and become a force to be reckoned with.

City Hall and the special interests that control it will not give up power out of the goodness of their hearts. Power must be taken and NCs could do it if they band together and find the courage to fight for what is good for the neighborhoods and the city as a whole.

**Editor’s Note: Ron Kaye, former Editor of the Daily News, blogs at [ronkayela.com](http://ronkayela.com)**

## Heart versus Brain



By Robert J. Barbera

Our personal decisions along with our political leaders' decisions can be characterized as choices from the brain or the heart. The brain is the logical, analytical use of our thinking, and the heart is the sympathetic use of our thinking.

Most of us are influenced and conduct our choices by blending both. It is in the improper blending that can cause an imbalance.

Our country is facing a sea of problems by trying to appeal to the heart and then have the brain solve the problems. This is acerbated when the country promoted "guns and butter." By continuing unsustainable entitlements, the country has yet to come off this high.

For many years, we have focused on being sympathetic. The entitlement programs include such things as extended unemployment insurance, food stamps, food give-a-ways, refunds on income taxes not paid called "unearned income tax", rent subsidies, loose housing

qualification, health care, legal services, environmental programs, loan guarantees, and a variety of business and corporate subsidies.

The Robin Hood syndrome, "robbing benefits from one group and giving them to another", has become socially and politically acceptable. Our entire house of cards is tumbling down because of the many entitlements. Special interest groups and lobbyists have influence. Government and union employees have a strong hold on politicians, and an enormous government infrastructure regulates many activities in our daily life. Businesses "too big to fail" and money centers of power have special dispensation. Taxation is used for social engineering.

By creating "there ought to be a law" to protect us has emancipated our responsibility and increased our dependency. Oversized government impedes progress, innovation is stifled, investment opportunities are neglected, and challenges are abandoned.

The spirit of America needs to focus on the analytical approach to our problems. We became world lead-

ers by demanding freedom. Our Founding Fathers fought British tyranny in the revolution to maintain our freedom. We must not allow controls, interventions, and irrational regulations to abrogate our freedoms. Our greatest successes have come from producers not consumers. Our greatest rewards come from our own accomplishments.

Equal status provides equal opportunity. It is logical for us to consider personal self-interest to aspire to higher levels. Progress requires freedom of thought and movement. Success should be rewarded for achievement and should not be overly taxed. Balancing choices from the heart and those from the mind must have predictable outcomes.

We need to usher in a sense of discipline, which comes from the mind, and we need to reevaluate things given from the heart.

*Mr. Barbera is Chairman of the Americanism Educational League. To contact him visit: <http://www.americanism.org>.*

## This Wrinkled World

By Heidi Buzzetti

Is it not the soil I have walked upon that molds me? Endearing foothills and ridged mountains captivate, yet still the squalor of the journey I may soon embark on repels me. The eternal twisting coastline, the seemingly insignificant lone gray cloud all take their places. Is it not the knowledge of what lies below and ahead that comforts us? Or is the knowledge of our murky waters too much to bear, to see, to endure? Deep northern cur-

rents clash with warm turquoise seas, swaying pine forests hug whispering rivers, wisps form overhead in a timeless battle with biting winds, yet still we blindly fly on. Is it not what we create that will be our demise? For we are all pilgrims, for we will walk here.

Have we not wrinkled the skin of our world? Left her face pockmarked and scarred. The folds of humanity, whose morals whisked away in a wintry gust, whose ethics dwindled with the changing seasons, turn a blind

eye to snow covered lakes, to the dancing lupines. Have we not trampled the land’s ageless face, now freckled with civilization? The mountain’s veins stretching toward the valley floor, the steady oak’s fingers yearning toward the core, both severed by innovation, by fascination, by collaboration, by us. For we are all pilgrims, for we have all walked.

*Editor’s Note: Ms. Buzzetti is a 16 year old student who attends Atascadero High School in Northern California.*

## L.A.’s City Bus Bench Program & New Retaining Wall Ordinance

By Cindy Cleghorn

The LA City Council voted to approve a Bus Bench Program August 19, 2011 that includes amending language proposed by Councilmember Bill Rosendahl. The amendment incorporates zoning restrictions into the proposed Bus Bench contract with Martin Outdoor Media, a Florida company. It reads: “the proposed contract to require that new bus benches with advertising be installed in a manner that is consistent with all local zoning codes, including restrictions on off-site advertising set forth in the General Plan, Community Plans, Specific Plans as enacted by ordinance, the California Coastal Act, and all other applicable law.”

The Bus Bench Program authorizes the placement of thousands of new benches with commercial advertising throughout the City. The City Council passed the Bus Bench Ordinance with the Rosendahl Amendment by a vote of 11-1 and represents an important first step in controlling the proliferation of Bus Bench advertising in scenic and historic areas.

Look for an effort to reach out to communities throughout the City for areas subject to zoning prohibitions and restrictions on advertising signage, including Scenic Highways, Corridors and Parkways, Specific Plan protected areas, Coastal Zones, Streetscapes, and other areas protected under the law. This Bus Bench Program is far from the only advertising-related ordinance on the City's agenda.

The proposed City-Wide Sign Ordinance and the Sign Banner Program could threaten our scenic and historic areas, despite zoning prohibitions on such signage. The next hearing regarding the City-Wide Sign Ordinance will be on Tuesday, October 18, 2011 at 2 p.m. with the City Council's Planning and Land Use Management Committee.

Retaining Walls - David Olivo from the LA City Planning Department held a meeting On August 23, with neighbors in the North Valley, regarding an upcoming revision to the City of L.A. Retaining Wall Ordinance. The planner was very impressed with the feedback he received from the North Valley. Some of

the comments included: The ordinance needs to show accurate measuring guide and that the planners should know how to measure a footing and wall. Example: If a garden wall needs a 24" footing then the wall will only be one foot above the ground. What defines a retaining wall? What is the maximum retaining wall height? Include standards for walls that don't have a public view vs. street view. Define discretionary, terraced walls, aesthetically pleasing, enforcement, and compliance. What is finish grade vs. natural grade? What will be the length and height of the walls, types of walls, open or crib walls, contiguous walls? For more information on upcoming meetings around the City and to stay involved on this issue contact: David Olivo at (213) 473-9769 or [david.olivo@lacity.org](mailto:david.olivo@lacity.org).

*Editor’s Note: Cindy Cleghorn serves on the board of the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council and Chairs the upcoming Citywide Congress of Neighborhood Councils on Saturday, Sept. 24 - all day. Visit [nccongressla.com](http://nccongressla.com) for more information.*



# PUBLIC SAFETY

## Meet Captain Malinowski



Sean Malinowski, Captain  
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Foothill Patrol Division  
Los Angeles Police Department

Hello neighbors, I want to introduce myself. I'm Sean Malinowski, the new Commanding Officer of the Patrol Division for your Foothill Community Station.

Prior to being promoted to Captain, I served as the Assistant Commanding Officer of LAPD's Real-time Analysis and Critical Response (RACR) Division. During that time, I was also tasked by Police Chief Charlie Beck to act as the Commanding Officer of COMPSTAT (computer statistics) where I conducted a comprehensive needs assessment of the Department's Command Accountability system and au-

thored a final report with recommendations designed to take COMPSTAT to the next level.

I joined the Los Angeles Police Department in 1994 and have worked patrol assignments in South Central Los Angeles, San Fernando Valley, and in the west-side beach community of Venice. As a sergeant, I worked Patrol, Internal Affairs, and Training Division, and as the Executive Officer for former LAPD Police Chief William J. Bratton.

I graduated from Boston University in 1986 with a Bachelor of Science in Public Relations and worked as a marketing Account Executive for BBDO Worldwide, and for Lever Brothers Foods in New York and in Chicago, where I expanded product lines for Chrysler, Kmart, Jim Beam, and Country Crock brands.




I left the private sector in 1991 to pursue a master's degree in Criminal Justice and to fill a university appointment as the Director of Development for the Office of International Criminal Justice (OICJ) at the

University of Illinois at Chicago. While at OICJ, I developed and implemented training and technical assistance programs for the United States Department of State and other federal and state agencies.

I earned my Ph.D. in Public Administration from the University of Illinois in 2003. During my graduate studies, I was named a Fulbright Scholar and studied counter-terrorism at the Egyptian National Police Academy in Cairo. I am a Senior Fellow at the Homeland Security Management Institute at Long Island University. I am also the former Director of the Mayor's Commission on Police Integrity for Chicago Mayor Richard Daley, and the Founder of the U.S. State Department Cop to Cop Police Exchange program. I am married with three children and my wife is also a Los Angeles Police Officer.

I am extremely happy to be part of the Foothill Community. I hope to meet as many of you as possible in the next few months.

### Don't Be a Victim of an Auto - Related Property Crime



**Lock It** - a reminder to always lock your vehicle

**Hide It** - if you have to leave your valuables in the vehicle, hide them from plain sight

**Keep It** - a positive reminder that personal responsibility and prevention can safeguard your valuables from theft.

Top 3 items Stolen from Vehicles

*Radios*  
*Money*  
*Documents, Mail, Check books*

For more Crime Prevention Information or to get involved in Neighborhood Watch, contact your local Los Angeles Police Station or visit our Web Site at [WWW.LAPDONLINE.ORG](http://WWW.LAPDONLINE.ORG)

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## Sunland - Tujunga Neighborhood Council

Meets 2nd Wednesday  
of Each Month, 7pm  
at  
7747 Foothill, Tujunga

Land Use meetings  
1st & 3rd Monday

Info: [www.stnc.org](http://www.stnc.org)  
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## COMING SOON

LA City Redistricting Commission Meetings  
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# 2011 LA Congress of Neighborhoods



**Sat, Sept 24, 2011 - 7:45am - 4:00pm**  
**LA City Hall - 200 N. Spring St., LA, 90012**  
**[www.NCCongressLA.com](http://www.NCCongressLA.com)**

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# S-T LIONS WATERMELON FESTIVAL—50 YEARS



## Tis the Season!

By Marlene Hitt

“Honey, don’t spit those seeds! We’ll have watermelons growing in the dichondra.” “Darlin’ don’t swallow those seeds, they’ll grow in your tummy and you’ll have a watermelon growin’ in there.”

Oh, watermelons and all their wonderfulness! This delicacy has been around a long, long time. The first known melon harvest was roughly 5,000 years ago in Egypt, according to Internet Fun Facts, and is seen in Egyptian hieroglyphics. Seeds were also found in the tomb of king Tut. The Vietnamese people eat the seeds for New Years festival. The name was entered in the English dictionary in 1615.

The watermelon is 92% water and that very good for us. It is cousin to the squash, pumpkin, and cu-

cumber. Early explorers used the watermelon as canteens. Fans of the Saskatchewan Roughriders started a tradition of hollowing out a watermelon and wearing it as a makeshift football helmet.

Watermelon is very nutritious as a food and may be a helpful addition to Viagra. No kidding! Look it up!

A piece of watermelon was also famous as a sweet juicy treat at the Watermelon Festival again this year. Who could imagine that a little, irritating black seed could turn into something so magnificent! In a rich sandy soil it will burst, send out a root, a leaf then more and grow into a giant vine 6-8 feet across offering a big ripe fruit three months later, just at the thirsty time of the year. To produce, the plant needs plenty of honeybees for pollination.

Also on the Internet are recipes for watermelon. This one we gotta’ try is grilled slab of melon. Get the fire nice and hot, sear each side, and there you have something so altered that it tastes like charcoal-broiled meat, some say the steak is like seared raw tuna. The rind is full of nourishment too and maybe that is why our ancestors made watermelon pickles from it.

I hope you had fun at the festival last weekend. They still had the eating and seed spitting contests again. You may think eating and seed spitting are easy but they are NOT.

*Editor’s Note: Marlene Hitt is a former Poet Laureate of Sunland-Tujunga, and is the Docent Director for Little Landers Historical Society.*



LA Mission College Culinary School show their skills at the Watermelon Festival that has been designated a State destination.



Las Vegas Headliner Andy DiMino volunteered his Dean Martin talent.



KRLA 870 Radio Talk Show Host Kevin James with Cindy Cleghorn, STNC Board Member & Chair NC Congress



Neighbors wait in line for a chance to win.

Photo credit: Ricky Grubb, Naturalist and Photographer