

# City Approved Truck Driving School Ignoring Strong Opposition



Councilmember Richard testifying at the hearing on behalf of the School

By Katharine Russ

Pursuant to Charter Section 562 and Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 12.27-B, Linn K. Watt, Associate Zoning Administrator (AZA), approved the variance necessary for the Truck Driver Training School in Lopez Canyon. In a thirty- two page report, Watt found, among other things, that there was no substantial evidence that the project would have a sig-

nificant effect on the environment or the surrounding residents. The grant term is to be limited to a five-year period seeking further review should the Teamsters seek to maintain the use for a longer period of time.

Case Number ZA-2009-3619-ZV filed on October 28, 2009, by Robert Lamishaw of JPL Zoning Services, Inc. at the behest of the City asked for a Zone Variance for the Truck Training Academy at Lopez Canyon Landfill. The landfill is zoned OS-1XL, designated as "Open Space" and was to, eventually, become a recreation area.

AZA Watt's report said, "Over 200 written letters including form letters and petitions were received from agencies, organizations, community stakeholders and individuals in regards to the request. Approximately 80% of these letters were in opposition to the request."

Nancy Woodruff, Land Use Chairman- Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council said, "It appeared that the only people who spoke in support of this project were special interest groups, representatives of both Alarcon and the Mayor and the Bureau of Sanitation."

The vast majority cited air quality, the wildlife corridor adjacent to the Angeles Forest, high fire danger area, hazardous waste, land use planning, water qual-

ity, noise, transportation and traffic and called for an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

In February 2008, a spokesperson for Alarcon promised that, within a year, any trucks used at the landfill would be retrofitted to LNG use yet Watt's report said the "dirty diesels" must comply within one year of initiating the operation. More than two years later, no one is certain if this will be honored and certainly no one knows who will oversee these conversions.

Over 50 residents spoke in opposition during the ZA's Public Hearing in December 2009. Councilman Richard Alarcon, visibly, angered by the opposition called attendees "selfish, subservient liars". After the meeting, one resident remarked that the concept of "by the people, for the people" was unarguably dead in Los Angeles. Alarcon's office did not respond to requests for comment.

In a scathing letter to the Zoning Administrator (ZA), Supervisor Michael Antonovich called the project specious and said that there were no substantive arguments in support of making the finding and that ALL criteria must be met. Among his many concerns Antonovich cited noise, air quality, traffic and the

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# Budget Deficit Critical for Angelenos

*Neighborhood Councils want a seat at the table*

By Katharine Russ

Over 80 Neighborhood Council leaders assembled at the Hollywood Community Center on January 10 to address the City's budget crisis and to offer up their strategies on the staggering deficit that, ultimately, has the City of Los Angeles teetering on the brink of bankruptcy. The Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils Coalition (LANCC) wanted to ensure the voice of the people is heard as critical services are almost certain to be impacted amidst rising costs and decreasing revenues. They are also considering asking that the city have a Neighborhood Council representative present at future Budget negotiations.

Jack Humphreyville, Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council and Neighborhood Council's Budget Advisory Committee projected, "Over the next four years, the projected deficit exceeds \$3 billion. The City has an unfunded pension liability of \$11.5 billion and needs \$10 billion to fix our crumbling infrastructure."

Aside from the early retirement of 2,400 city employees, Humphreyville estimates another 3,500 positions will have to be eliminated or the city will run out of money.

Councilmember Paul Koretz (District 5) was the only Councilmember in attendance. He said, "I asked to be Chair of the Audits and Governmental Efficiency committee because we need to root out waste, abuse and fraud. I'm convinced we can find many millions of dollars in savings, so I'm looking at utilizing old audits that were never implemented, and also working with City Controller Wendy Greuel to move new audits forward. I've also called for her office's investigative unit to be strengthened."

Why has there been so little action by the City Council in the past, evidenced by the great number of audit recommendations still pending in Koretz's committee? What kind of hope should the people have that anything meaningful will happen now?

Stephen Box, Community organizer and Founder of [www.budgetla.org](http://www.budgetla.org), a tool to support the Budget Committee and all interested persons, said, "Attacking waste, abuse and fraud is not a sustainable vision. We need to evaluate our funding paradigm and aggressively pursue outside funding sources, rather than simply riding on the backs of the people of L.A. We need to look at efficiency. We need to evaluate every agreement, every single contract and every deal we've ever made. We are spending more than we've taken in and we're getting less than what we



"Budget Committee Meetings" drew capacity crowds Feb. 1 & 2 at City Hall.

*Photo courtesy of Budget LA*

should be getting for what we are spending."

A report from Miguel A. Santana, City Administrative Officer (CAO) says, "The LAPD has expended its entire adopted 2009-10 hiring allocation. Future classes, regardless of class size or class starting date, will increase the Department's existing \$80.3 million deficit."

The Second Financial Status Report (2nd FSR) for fiscal year (FY) 2009-10 provides "recommendations for budget adjustments totaling \$90.8 million" and "that at this time the projected 2009-10 deficit is estimated to be \$98.1 million, which includes both implemented and pending budget-balancing measures." Many of these recommendations appeared to be transfers and reappropriations from one account to another or one department to another. The CAO estimates a \$410 million budget shortfall for FY 2010-11.

*Continued on Page 2*

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## ACLU Wins Vindication for Our Veterans



By Katharine Russ

Several citations issued by VA police officers against U.S. Army veteran Robert Rosebrock, Director, The Veterans Revolution, Co-Director of We the Veterans and Chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee, were dismissed just days after the U.S. Attorney’s office was apprised that the ACLU of Southern California was representing Rosebrock in defense of his right to free speech.

Rosebrock said, “My First Amendment case was based on our turning the American Flag upside down, which was to send out the ‘Distress’ message that our Veteran’s property is in extreme danger and so are the lives of 20,000 homeless Veterans who should be safely sheltered at their rightful ‘Home.’ We did not violate any laws or desecrate the American Flag. We were in full compliance with the U.S. Flag Code.”

Specifically, U.S. Flag Code, Sec. 176 states, “Respect for flag; a) The flag should never be displayed with the union down, except as a signal of dire distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property.”

Rosebrock was issued six citations. The first was for "unauthorized demonstration" issued July 26, 2009 and dismissed in U.S. Court on October 21, 2009. Rosebrock left the Court at 10:30 AM, and by 1:00 PM the U.S. attorney had issued a warrant for his arrest on the dismissed citation. The other five charges for "Display of placard or material on VA property" were dismissed in early December.

“The government had no business telling Mr. Rosebrock that it is OK to hang the flag one way because it is fine with the message expressed, but that he cannot hang the flag another way because it expresses a different message that the government does not approve of,” said Peter Eliasberg, Manheim, family attorney for First Amendment Rights and managing attorney for the ACLU/SC. Eliasberg further added, “Protecting the right of Americans to criticize government officials or their decisions is one of the key goals of the First Amendment of the Constitution.”

Every Sunday since March 2008, Rosebrock, along with fellow veterans, many of them elderly and/or disabled, have been protesting the siphoning off of veteran’s land to several private interests, in particular the planned transfer of VA land for use as a public park. For over a year, veterans displayed the flag on the fence outside the Veteran Administration’s West L.A. campus at the corner of Wilshire and San Vicente with no incident. In June, 2009, they began hanging the flag upside down and asserting that the transfer of veteran’s land would endanger veterans. Rosebrock received citations throughout August and September 2009.

Peggy Burgess, of North Hills West Neighborhood Council’s Land Use Committee and Coalition of Opponents- Sepulveda, voiced her frustration over Rosebrock’s plight. “This is a ‘Home’ for Veterans to heal from war; it is not a public park, private school playground, dog park, open or green space, used car storage lot or anything else that the public wants to use it for. There are 20,000 homeless Veterans in Los Angeles County. The West LA VA is their rightful ‘Home,’ so deeded on March 3, 1888, proceeded and reinforced by an Act of Congress dated March 2, 1887. Equally important, the Sepulveda VA is deeded as a hospital and healthcare center, not a low-cost public housing project.”

Roebrock said the VA police have since accused the protestors of loitering and trespassing and have ordered the removal of the flag. Rosebrock is not alone in his protests against the Veterans Administration’s blatant divestitures of land. Similarly, the Sepulveda VA is still in danger of being turned into 147 apartments that may or may not be for veterans. Burgess says that over two million supporters and stakeholders of Veteran’s Service Organizations, Neighborhood Councils and Civic Organizations stand in opposition to the conversions of buildings 4 and 5 at Sepulveda. In addition to the denial of the variance to build these apartments, there must be approval from Neighborhood Councils and Veteran Service Organizations.

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### Truck — Continued from Cover

health and safety of residents. He indicated that there needed to be an EIR rather than a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) to comply with CEQA.

He also said, “The request is a use variance- that is, the request is to allow a use that is not allowed by the underlying General Plan and zoning designations. In so doing, the City Council and the Mayor are, in essence, abdicating their legislative authority to City Staff. This important decision is being ‘delegated’ to an un-elected City employee rather than being made by the elected officials responsible to the voters. The proposed use is not an allowed use in the zone. It is not a use allowed with a Conditional Use Permit. It is a use which is not permitted in the zone in which it is proposed.”

The site of the Truck School is located specifically in Council District Seven, but directly affects residents in Kagel Canyon and the mobile home park at the foot Lopez Canyon Road and Paxton. Residents in those areas were not given a voice in the matter because they reside in an unincorporated and strictly residential neighborhood just outside the City’s limit.

Woodruff also mentioned, “The trucks have to drive somewhere and we were told they would be using rural two lane roads, but there has never been a determination as to what roads would be used. There are children and schools and people riding horses. It is a tremendous safety issue.”

Tony Bell, spokesperson for Antonovich, reaffirmed the County’s position. He said, “The Supervisors office will support any and all residents in their appeal.”

Watts letter indicated that the ZA’s determination would become effective after February 8, 2010 unless an appeal is filed with the City Planning Department. Visit <http://planning.lacity.org> for more information and to obtain appeal forms.

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### Budget — Continued from Cover

Humphreyville is not optimistic about the City’s ability to initiate real reform. He said, “City Hall does not have the guts or political will to restructure its finances, operations, and organization in a manner that is consistent with the new reality. A restructuring will not be easy, especially given the political and financial muscle of the municipal unions' leadership. Unfortunately, our hard working City employees are going to be put in the meat grinder as the City is going to be forced to provide fewer services with a fewer employees.”

Agnes Aquino, Executive Administrative Assistant to the CAO, anticipated the Mid-Year Financial Status Report to be released during the week of January 25. It will include the report on the Revenue. For those interested in the City’s financial reports, they can be accessed at: [http://cao.lacity.org/fin\\_rpts/index.htm](http://cao.lacity.org/fin_rpts/index.htm).

Also visit [www.budgetla.org](http://www.budgetla.org) for meeting dates and information

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## Arleta

By Al Piantanida

**The Arleta Neighborhood Council is gearing up for their Election on Saturday, March 27.** The Candidate filing deadline was Tuesday, January 26. However, if you missed it, there is still an opportunity to run as a write-in Candidate. Forms must be filed by Thursday, February 25. Arleta is in Region B which includes nine other neighborhood council. Our elections are all held on the same day on March 27. For more information call 818-897-4908 or the Los Angeles City Clerk at 213-978-0444

**Pastor Dan Maynard and the congregation of the Liberty Temple Church of Arleta provided care for sick and homeless people on Skid Row on December 20.** They donated \$500 and purchased Hygiene Kits along with other items for those in need. Gene Poleno and Steve Zipp, of Affordable Housing Providers of America, along with Arleta Community Watch Dogs, donated U.S. Army issued wool blankets, hats, scarves, socks, belts, jackets, shoes and assorted items for adults and children.

## Pacoima

By Leroy Geter

**Black History Celebration Month** -The Pacoima Community Youth Culture Center (PCYCC) in collaboration with the Pacoima Neighborhood Council (PNC) will host a month-long Black History Month Community Festival and Observance throughout the month of February. This joint venture, spearheaded by the Leader-to-Leader African American Community Empowerment Think Tank, aka LLAACETT, is planning and coordinating this inaugural event. It is scheduled to coincide with the national recognition month that has been set aside to showcase and illuminate the educational, social, religious, political, and cultural contributions and achievements that have been made by Black Americans in this country and throughout the world, starting from slavery until this present day. The theme for the month is “Paths to Progress”. Events which will focus on music, education, health, politics, and economic empowerment will be held at various locations throughout the month. The public is encouraged to participate in as many events as possible as we salute one of America’s richest cultural contributions – the genius of a people with sensitivity and insight. For additional information call (818) 896-8878, or email: [Lacet@earthlink.net](mailto:Lacet@earthlink.net).

*Editor’s Note: Mr. Geter is a Community Activist and Senior Associate of LLAACETT Group and PCYCC*

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## New CD2 Councilmember Sworn In



*Councilmember Paul Krekorian  
L.A. City Council District Two*

On Jan. 17, I had the pleasure of taking the ceremonial oath of office in front of more than 300 friends, family and colleagues in Van Nuys City Hall. It was a special moment for me during an especially important time in Los Angeles, when families are hurting and businesses are fleeing. Because not everyone was able to share in our moment, I am pleased to present selected portions of my speech below

“Thank you all for being here to share in this historic moment of new beginnings and renewed hope. Our communities face immense challenges right now. The global economic crisis has taken a terrible toll on our people and also businesses of the San Fernando Valley, with life-changing consequences for countless families.

Our city’s budget is badly broken, which will force us to make decisions that will have ramifications for generations to come. In my view, the most critical and perhaps most difficult crisis we face is the shaken confidence of the people. Our success in every other area is dependent on our coming together in common purpose and relying on the extraordinary strength and collective wisdom of the people of our communities.

Today, let’s pledge to one another to have the courage to face our challenge head on. Let’s embark together on a mission to restore confidence in our government, inspire and trust the public’s involvement and

empower and create a very real hope and vision for the kind of community we know we should have.

I’m humbled and in a sense, even awestruck, by the magnitude of the responsibility that you’ve entrusted me with. But, at the same time, I am confident that together we will overcome the challenges before us. The future doesn’t belong to the idle romantic dreamer, nor does it belong to those who are apathetic or cynical. The future belongs to those of us who choose to take command of our destiny with imagination and courage and grit and passion.

We all can read the statistics about unemployment and recession in our region. But statistics don’t begin to describe the impact on a father who has to tell his family that he’s lost his job, the single mom who’s teetering on the edge of homelessness, or the entrepreneur who fears losing not only his or her life savings, but their life’s dream as well. Creating jobs needs to be Job Number One for our Council.

Many of you worked incredibly hard to give me this treasured responsibility to serve and represent our neighborhoods, and I thank you for entrusting me with this responsibility. I also extend my thanks for your passionate interest in the future of our city. Those of you who did not support me, I want to extend my hand to you also, in the hopes that together we will now begin the difficult work of building the foundation of our neighborhoods for the future.

No election is a completed act. An oath of office is not a goal or a destination – it is a beginning of a string

of daily challenges and opportunities to make a positive difference for the people we represent. At the beginning of each day let us each commit ourselves to being those ripples of hope, that together will create a mighty torrent for the people in our neighborhoods."

Thank you to those who were able to attend. As we all settle in to our offices, please know that my staff and I are here to serve you. Together, we can make a difference. Please feel free to contact my office with your issues and concerns: Sunland-Tujunga: 818-352-3297; North Hollywood: 818-755-7676; City Hall: 213-473-7002



*The Honor Guard from Verdugo Hills High School opened the Ceremony for Paul Krekorian's installation at Van Nuys City Hall.*

## You Should Know...

By Nina Royal

**Free Income Tax Service for Seniors** - by AARP volunteers in the Northeast Valley at Sunland Park will not be offered this year due to no available funding. The service will still be available at the MONTROSE LIBRARY, 2465 Honolulu Ave., Montrose, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm beginning February 3 through April 15. Call 818-548-2048 for an appointment. According to Selina Daniels, Coordinator of Publicity for District 9, AARP Tax Aide Program, they realize the need in the northeast area and hope to be back next year.

**Foreclosure Prevention Fair** - free and confidential, hosted by LA Neighborhood Housing Services. Homeowners, you have the opportunity to meet one-on-one with a HUD certified counselor and their servicer to assist you with your mortgage difficulties, all at no cost. Bring you documents, income verification and monthly budget to Cal State Northridge, 18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge, Saturday, February 6, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm. You can register several ways: Call 213-381-2862, email [counseling@lanhs.org](mailto:counseling@lanhs.org), or visit [www.LANHS.org](http://www.LANHS.org).

**Fire in the Sky: The History of Radio** - will be presented by the Little Landers Historical Society, Bolton Hall Museum, Tujunga, Saturday, February 13, 2010 at 1:00 pm. Guest speaker, Jimmy Weldon, who has a long notable career in radio and television, takes you on a historic and nostalgic tour of radio in the United States from 125 years ago through the end of radio’s “Golden Days”. Additional information is available from Lynn Lowry or Marlene Hitt at the Little Landers Historical Society, (818) 352-3420, or [littlelanders@verizon.net](mailto:littlelanders@verizon.net).

**United We Serve Planning Meeting** (Community Service) - will hold their third of series of planning meetings to prepare for the “United We Serve Fair”, for President Obama’s service initiative, “United We Serve One Nation, One People,” Thursday, February 25. Meetings are held in Exposition Park, 700 State Dr., L.A., Rooms 1 and 2 in the Administration West Bldg., 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm. “Operation Confidence, The Fair”, is Saturday, July 31, on the South Lawn of Exposition Park, same address. Free Parking for volunteers can be

found off Figueroa and 39th St. (Check in at guard kiosk for directions). Community leaders are encouraged to get involved. The Fair will focus on volunteerism, community resources, health/fitness, employment opportunities and jobs for people with disabilities. It will also focus on Go Green technologies, arts, international cuisine, and much more. The goal is to bring diverse ethnic and cultural communities together for the benefit of their communities. For more information visit: <http://my.barackobama.com/page/event/detail/gpkvj8>.

**2010 Census has begun** - If a U.S. Census worker knocks on your door, he or she will have a badge, a hand held device, a Census Bureau canvas bag, and a confidentiality notice. Ask to see an appropriate I.D. Do not invite a stranger into you residence. The only question you need to answer is how many persons are living in the residence. Workers are only knocking on doors to verify address information. They will eventually contact you by phone or in person, but never contact by email. Beware of scams.

**The Gas Company is offering help** - with post holiday utility bills for families struggling financially. They are encouraging them to take advantage of their programs that can help reduce winter heating bills and increase energy efficiency. Customers should call the Gas Company before their bill is overdue and set up a plan to meet their needs. Ask about eligibility for the following programs: California Alternate Rate for Energy (CARE) program, Direct Assistance Program, Base Allowance Program, and the Gas Assistance Fund.

**Model United Nations for youth** - The YMCA is sponsoring the California YMCA Youth & Government Model United Nations Program that is a simulation of the “real life” United Nations. Delegates in this state wide program will do the following: research, debate, establish policies, treaties and resolutions focusing on international issues; including disputes between countries, peace-keeping responsibilities, stabilizing financial markets, dealing with hunger, disease and poverty.

This program has just begun and is a very valuable experience for our youth that will last them a lifetime. For further information contact Kim Beattie, Director of Communications and Public Relations, YMCA of the Foothills, 818-790-0123 x 266

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Sunland-Tujunga

By Cindy Cleghorn

Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council (STNC) - The STNC Board election is set for Saturday, March 27, for all NC's in Region B by LA's City Clerk. The terms for all 21-board members are expiring and are up for grabs. This is a great opportunity to get involved in our community and make a difference on behalf of our neighbors.

The City Clerk set the timeline for the election process: Candidate filing ended January 25, however, the Write-In Candidate filing deadline ends February 25. Candidate Statements are due no later than February 25. Election Day: for all Neighborhood Council in Region B is Saturday, March 27, Additional information for candidates and the forms needed to file for office are available at: <http://cityclerk.lacity.org/election/nc-docs/website.pdf>

The 18 Candidates who filed by the January 25th deadline will be on the official ballot for 2010 STNC Board Elections verified as of January 27, by the L.A. City Clerk are as follows: (see Mixer and Public Forum scheduled below for opportunities to meet them)

- Nina Royal (Antoinette) - President
- Dan R. McManus - President
- Steven J. Vanover - President
- Tomi L. Bowling – First Vice President
- David G. Cain – Second Vice President
- Mark Seigel - Treasurer
- Cindy E. Cleghorn - Secretary
- Barbara D. Johnson - Region 3 Representative
- Janet Linsalato - Region 1 Representative
- John P. Laue - Region 1 Representative
- Belinda J. Woodruff – Region 4 Representative
- Edmund Novy - Region 4 Representative
- Cara M. Decaro – Stakeholder Group Representative - Youth
- Lydia Grant – Stakeholder Group Representative - Parent
- Nanci K. Caillouet – Stakeholder Group Representative – Historical Societies
- Olina F. R. Lowe – Stakeholder Group Representative - Seniors
- Richard V. Stewart – Stakeholder Group Representative – Service Clubs
- Thomas J. Macauley – Stakeholder Group Representative - Youth

Save the following dates to learn about these candidates, the office they are seeking and how they plan to serve our community:

STNC Candidate Forum - Wednesday, March 10, --6:30-8:00 p.m.

Townhall Candidate Mixer - Wednesday, March 24, -- 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Election Day! - Saturday, March 27, 2010 -- 1:00 - 7:00 p.m.

**\*\* Important ... Come out to Vote and tell the City of Los Angeles that we care about our community.**

All events will be held at North Valley Neighborhood City Hall, 7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga

For more information, visit: [www.stnc.org](http://www.stnc.org) or call 818-951-7411. Follow the STNC on Facebook and Twitter.

*Editor's Note: Ms. Cleghorn is Secretary of the STNC and was honored as 2009 Best Small Business by State Assemblyman Cameron Smyth and Best Community Supporter at the STNC's January meeting.*

## Parents Have Right to Vote

By Anjuli Kronheim

A “Public School Choice Resolution” passed through the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) in August, 2009, declaring that every “new” school built within LAUSD can have different operators such as charter schools, non-profit organizations, other operators and parents, as well as the LAUSD, who can bid to run the new schools. All parents, staff, and community members who live in the vicinity of the new schools, will have an advisory vote on the plans. Their advisory votes will be taken into consideration before LAUSD Superintendent Cortines makes his recommendations regarding the schools to the LAUSD board members on February 23.

This type of reform is the first to be implemented anywhere within the country. Los Angeles is leading the nation. It is a very special and important opportunity for parents who want to be involved because LA needs drastic improvements. Community members want to advocate for their children and their communities by participating and by exercising their vote.

If voters missed the February 2 voting date, it's not too late; the next one is Saturday, February 6, 9:00 am –12:00 pm. Affected schools in the North Valley Schools are:

**Valley Region Elementary School #6 (Panorama City):** VOTING LOCATION--Sepulveda Middle School. Relieved schools: Parks LC, Plummer ES, Primary Academy PC; Applicants: LAUSD (Local District 1), Magnolia Charter Schools, Youth Policy Institute (I-Design)



School issues bring a packed house at North Valley City Hall in Tujunga

**Valley Region Elementary School #8 (Sylmar):** VOTING LOCATION--Gridley Elementary School Relieved schools: Gridley ES, Morningside ES; Applicants: LAUSD (Local District 2), Magnolia Charter Schools, Youth Policy Institute (I-Design)

**San Fernando Middle School:** VOTING LOCATION--San Fernando Middle School (No schools being relieved, just different bids for the school), Applicants: San Fernando Middle School, Youth Policy Institute

If you are a community member or parent in one of these areas, vote at your specified voting location in order to give your input for the best plan for your new school! For more information contact: [akronheim@parentsunion.org](mailto:akronheim@parentsunion.org), call 484-213-4811.or visit: <http://www.parentrevolution.org>

*Editor's Note: Anjuli Kronheim is a Los Angeles Parents Union Community Organizer.*

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Sunland-Tujunga's well known entertainer, Frannie Farmer, engages the audience in singing carols during the Little Landers Historical Society's annual Christmas Party in December.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Lake View Terrace



Mikki Edwards, Cile Borman, Chris Hughes, Cia Slater, Controller Wendy Greuel, and Shirley McKissack. Photo courtesy of Chris Hughes

call the Los Angeles City Clerk at 213-978-0444. Remember to vote, every vote counts

**Dr. Martin Luther King honored** -An inspirational concert, celebrating the life of. Dr. Martin Luther King was free to the public, was attended by Lake View Terrace Residents and members of the Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council (FTDNC). The event was hosted by Forest Lawn in their Hall of Liberty Auditorium, which was filled to capacity with 1500 in attendance. Guests were welcomed by Scott Dorlet senior Vice President, Forest Lawn rolled. The program featured the South-east Symphony and Chorus along with world famous Baritone, Bradley Baker.

KNBC-TV News Anchor Chris Schauble served as Master of Ceremonies. L.A. City Controller Wendy Greuel, former . Council Reprsentative for District 2 greeted Lake View Terrace residents Chris Hughes and Cile Borman.

**Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council (FTDNC)** - Board Members Chris Hughes and Cile Borman, are reminding all stakeholders that the FTDNC will be holding Board Member Elections on Saturday, March 27, along with 10 other Neighborhood Council in Region B. For more election information contact 818-353-2000, or visit the following websites: [www.ftdnc.org](http://www.ftdnc.org) or

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## Community Festival & Observance

### New Paths To Progress

"Using the Best of the Past to Build Bridges for Future Generations"

**Pathway - Religion**  
Opening Convocation - Black History Month Community Festival and Observance.  
Sunday, January 31, 2010 - 3:00 P.M.

**Pathway - Film & Media**  
Selected Film/ Panel Discussion (A critique) "The Spook Who Sat By The Door."  
"A War For you Soul." - Video  
Thursday, February 4, 2010 - 5:30 P.M.

**Pathway - Music Extravaganza**  
"The Sounds of Black Music In the Air"  
Saturday, February 6, 2010 - 4:00 P.M.  
(Featuring Art & Fine Art Exhibits/Vendors)

**Pathway - Politics and Race Consciousness**  
Town Hall Meeting - Issues and Answers  
Thursday, February 11 2010 - 5:30 P.M.

**Pathway - Science & History**  
"Discovering the Possibility and Power of Knowledge." Children & Youth on Parade  
Scienc & Education Fair  
Black History Knowledge Bowl  
Essay Contest  
Saturday, February 13, 2010 - 10:00 A.M. until

**Pathway - Economic Empowerment**  
"Beyond Mere Survival - A New Day A Comin'."  
Economic Pathways to Progress - A Forum:  
Dreams, Possibilities, and Realities. Tapping Into Available Resources  
Thursday, February 18, 2010 - 5:30 P.M.

**Pathway - Health & Wellness**  
"Rejuvenating the Mind,Body,& Human Spirit"  
Intergenerational Perspectives on Wellness for The Black American Family  
Saturday, February 20, 2010 - 10:00 A.M.

**Pathway - Trailblazers: The Triumphant March"Senior Moments - Telling Their Stories"**  
A Tribute Luncheon Honoring Our Elders.  
Wednesday, February 24, 2010 - 12:00 P.M.

**Pathway - Artistic Expression & Historical Recognition/Closing Ceremony**  
PCYCC 1st Annual Legends "CHIOKE" Awards  
Saturday, February 27, 2010 - 5:00 P.M.

**Featured Event:**  
**Top-of-the-Line Fashion Review**  
"CHIOKE" = God's Gift to Pacoima. The Awards will honor past, present, promising future Black American contributors to Pacoima's legacy. The term chioke is of African origin, in Nigerian it means "Gods gift."

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# FOOTHILL TRAILS DISTRICT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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818.353.2000

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Help FTDNC help you by bringing your concerns to the General meetings, which are the perfect place for networking and getting to know your local government and issues. General meetings are held at 7:00pm on the third Thursday of the month. Please check the "Coming Events" Calendar at [www.ftdnc.org](http://www.ftdnc.org) for location of the upcoming meetings or join the FTDNC's email list. Email [vpcomm@ftdnc.org](mailto:vpcomm@ftdnc.org) and place "ADD ME" in the subject line.

## NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS 2010 ELECTION

The Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council (FTDNC) Election Day is scheduled for Saturday, March 27, 2010, from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church, 10158 Johanna Avenue, Sunland, CA, 91040 .

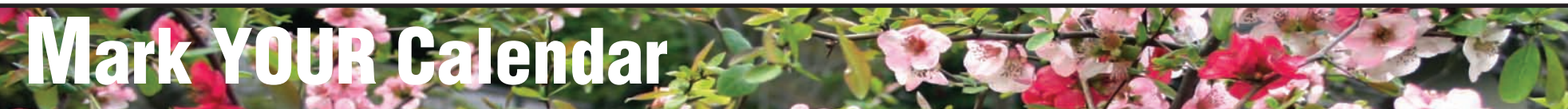
Become a FTDNC Board Member candidate for the upcoming 2010 election by requesting the candidate's filling packet from the City Clerk. The deadline for "Write-in Candidate filing is February 25, 2010.

For more information contact Sandra Mendoza, Project Coordinator, Neighborhood Council Election Unit at 213.978.0444 | Fax: 213.978.0376 or visit [www.cityclerk.lacity.org/election](http://www.cityclerk.lacity.org/election).

Type of Meeting	Date	Location	Address	Time
Budget & Finance	02.09.10	FTDNC Office	9747 Wheatland Ave., Shadow Hills	7 p.m.
Equestrian	02.11.10	FTDNC Office	9747 Wheatland Ave., Shadow Hills	7 p.m.
Executive Committee	02.10.10	FTDNC Office	9747 Wheatland Ave., Shadow Hills	7 p.m.
General Board	02.18.10	LVT Rec. Center	11075 Foothill Blvd., L V T , CA	7 p.m.
Land Use	02.02.10	FTDNC Office	9747 Wheatland Ave., Shadow Hills	7 p.m.
Outreach	02.25.10	FTDNC Office	9747 Wheatland Ave., Shadow Hills	6 p.m.
Rules & Elections	02.03.10	FTDNC Office	9747 Wheatland Ave., Shadow Hills	6:30 p.m.

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February

Black History Month

Tuesday, Feb 2

Bolton Hall Museum

Presents "Rainy Day Games"

10110 Commerce, S-T

Docent Tours

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm 818-52-3420

MHNC Budget & Finance

LAPD Mission Station

16161 Sepulveda, MH

7:00 pm 818-892-2414

FTDNC Land Use

9747 Wheatland, SH

7:00 pm

Wednesday, Feb 3

Rotary Club

Coco's Restaurant

10521 Sunland, S-T

7:00 pm 818-951-5299

NHNWC Gen. Meeting

Holy Martyrs Armenian School

1667 Parthenia St., NH

7:00 pm

Bingo

S-T Elks Lodge

11037 Commerce S-T

6:30 pm 818-352-5504

Thursday, Feb 4

PCNC Land Use

Mission Community Hospital

14860 Roscoe Blvd., PC

6:30 pm 818-894-7841

S.V. Rotary

Mandarin Terrace

8815 Sunland, SV

12:00 pm -1:30 pm 818-768-9888

PCNC-Commerce Com

Wells Fargo Bank

8548 Van Nuys Blvd., PC

2:00 pm

Sylmar Woman's Club

Odyssey Restaurant

15600 Odyssey Drive, GH

11:30 am

Sunshine Cyn. Advisory Comm

Knollwood Country Club, GH

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

S-T League of Women Voters

North Valley City Hall

7747 Foothill, S-T

1:30 pm 818-782-4236

Saturday Feb 6

DWP Advocacy Comm.

LANNC- By-Laws

Hollywood Comm. Center

6501 Fountain, Holly.

8:45 am

Friends of GH Library

10640 Petit St., GH

10:30 am

Monday, Feb 8

PCNC Outreach

PCNC Office (4th Floor)

14500 Roscoe Blvd., PC

6:30 pm 818-714-2133

STNC/Land Use Comm

North Valley City Hall

7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T

7:00 pm 818-51-7411

Info: stnc.org

SNC Land Use Com

Sylmar Park

13109 Borden, Syl.

6:30 pm

GHNNC, Rules & Policy Comm.

11139 Woodly Ave., GH

4:00 pm

Tuesday, Feb 9

Candidate Forum

& General Meeting

Northridge West NC

9401 Reseda Blvd., Nrth.

6:30 pm – 7:00 pm

Bolton Hall Museum

Presents "Rainy Day Games"

10110 Commerce, S-T

Docent Tours

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm 818-52-3420

PCNC Commerce

Wells Fargo Bank

8548 Van Nuys Blvd., PC

2:30 pm 818-714-2133

SVANC Gen. Meet

10631 Vinedale, SV

6:30 pm

SNC Outreach Com.

Sylmar Park

13109 Bordon Ave., Syl.

6:30 pm

PNC – House/Econon.

& Land Use Comm.

11243 Glenoaks Blvd., Pac.

5:30 pm 818 890-1563

S.H.P.O.A. Gen. Meeting

Tierra del Sol

9919 Sunland Blvd.,SH

7:00 pm

MHNC Gen. Meeting

Guest: Wendy Greuel

Mission Police Station

11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH

6:30 pm

Northridge West NC

Beckford Elem School

19130 Tulsa St., Nrth.

7:00 pm

SVANC Gen. Meeting

Villa Scalabrini Ret. Center

10631 Vinedale Ave, SV

6:30 pm

Wednesday, Feb 10

FTDNC Exec Board

9747 Wheatland Ave., SH

7:00 pm

STNC Gen. Meeting

N.V. City Hall

7747 Foothill Blvd, S-T

7:00 pm 818-951-7411

Sun Valley Beautiful

9081 Tujunga Ave., SV

11:30 am

Northridge East NC

Education Forum

Northridge Academy H.S.

9601 Zelzah St., Nrth

6:00 pm

Thursday, Feb 11

FTDNC Equestrian Comm.

9747 Wheatland Ave., SH

7:00 pm

Candidate Forum & Gen. Meeting

GHSNC Gen. Meeting

Granada Pavilion

16916 S.F. Mssn. Blvd., GH

7:30 pm 818-668-5969

Friday, Feb 12

Lincoln's Birthday

Saturday, Feb 13

Fire in the Sky- Hist. of Radio

Bolton Hall Museum

Speaker: Jimmy Weldon

10110 Commerce St., S-T

1:00 pm

Budget LA, 9:00 am

Save LA Project ,12:00 pm

Hollywood Comm. Center

6501 Fountain Ave., Hlywd.

Plan Check NC

Hist. Downtown O.R. Center

114 W. Fifth, L.A.

10:00 am-1:00 pm

Bolton Hall Museum

Presents "Rainy Day Games"

10110 Commerce, S-T

Docent Tours

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm 818-52-3420

Book Sale

Mid Valley Regional Library

16244 Nordhoff St., N. Hills

10:00 am – 2:00 pm 818-895-3650

Sunday, Feb 14

VALENTINES DAY

Monday, Feb 15

PRESIDENTS DAY

MHNC Beautification Commit

LAPD Mission Station

11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH

7:00 pm

Tuesday, Feb 16

GHSNC Outreach Comm.

Du-Pars Restaurant

17921 Chatsworth St., GH

L.A. County Probation

Resource Fair

Church on the Way

Lamb's Chapel

14300 Sherman Way, VN

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

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www.GHSNC.org, www.GHNNC.org,

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Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council

\* ELECTION DAY \*

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

2pm to 8pm

GHNNC Office

11139 Woodley Ave.

Granada Hills, CA 91344

(In the Albertson's shopping center)

MEET THE CANDIDATES

GHNNC Candidate Forum: Feb. 22

Board Meeting at 6pm, Forum at 7pm

Van Gogh Elementary School Auditorium

17160 Van Gogh St., Granada Hills, CA 91344

More info can be found online at our website.

www.GHNNC.org

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**Wednesday, Feb 17**  
**Community Police Advisory Board** (CPAB)  
11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH  
8:30 pm

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

**Pacoima NC**  
4:00 pm -Senior Advocate  
5:00 pm -Comm. Outreach  
6:30 pm -Gen. Meeting  
Pacoima Comm. Center  
11243 Glenoaks Blvd., Pac.

**North Hills West NC**  
New Horizons,  
15725 Parthenia St., NH.  
7:00 pm 818 893-8613

**GHNNC Outreach &**  
Publicity Meet.  
11139 Woodley Ave., GH  
7:00 pm

**MHNC Beautification Comm.**  
Mission Police Station  
11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MS  
7:00 pm

**Northridge East NC**  
Andasol Elem School  
10126 Encino Ave., Nrth.  
7:00 pm

**Bingo Night**  
S-T Elks Lodge  
10137 Ave., S-T  
6:30 pm 352-2098

**Thursday, Feb 18**  
**STNC Safety Comm**  
NV City Hall  
7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T  
6:00 pm – 6:45 pm

**S-T SERVS**  
NV City Hall  
7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T  
6:45 pm - 7:30 pm

**STNC Outreach Comm**  
NV City  
7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T  
7:30 pm

**FTDNC Gen. Meeting**  
www.ftdnc.org for location  
7:00 pm

**SNC Gen. Meeting**  
Hubbard St. Elementary  
13325 Hubbard St., Syl.  
6:30 pm – 9:30 pm

**Saturday, Feb 20**  
**Bolton Hall Museum**  
Presents "Rainy Day Games"  
10110 Commerce St., S-T  
Docent Tours  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm 818-52-3420

**Sunday, Feb 21**  
**Elks Famous Omelete Bar**  
S-T Elks Lodge #2098  
10137 Commerce St., S-T  
9:00 am-12:00 pm  
818-352-2098

**Open House & Tour/**  
Beautification Day  
Pioneer Mem. Cemetery  
Foothill & Bledsoe, Syl.  
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

**Monday, Feb 22**  
**Washington's Birthday**  
**Bolton Hall Museum**  
Presents "Rainy Day Games"  
10110 Commerce St., S-T  
Docent Tours  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm 818-352-3420

**PCNC Rules & Finance**  
PCNC Office (4th Floor)  
14500 Roscoe Blvd., PC  
5:30 pm & 6:45 pm 818-714-2133

**Neighborhood Watch**  
NV City Hall  
7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T  
7:00 pm 818-756-7766

**Candidate Forum &**  
GHNNC Gen. Meeting  
Van Gogh Elem. School  
17160 Van Gogh St., GH  
6:30 pm

**PCNC Public Safety**  
PCNC Office (4th Floor)  
14500 Roscoe Blvd., PC  
6:30 pm 818-984-2133

**Valley Vote Meeting**  
Galpin Ford  
15555 Roscoe Blvd, NH  
6:30 pm (No phone)

**STNC/Land Use Comm**  
North Valley City Hall  
7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T  
7:00 pm 818-951-7411

**Thursday, Feb 25**  
**Northridge South NC**  
Northridge Middle School  
17960 Chase St., Nrth.  
Northridge, CA 91325  
7:00 pm  
**SNC Gen. Meeting**  
Sylmar Rec. Center  
13109 Borden St., Syl.  
6:30 pm

**Granada Hills Chamber Installation**  
Odyssey Restaurant–Athena Room  
15600 Odyssey Drive  
Granada Hills, CA 91344  
6:00 pm 818-368-8646 for info

**STNC Budget Comm.**  
North Valley City Hall  
7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T  
6:30 pm

**Tuesday, Mar 2**  
**ELECTION DAY**  
**GHNNC**  
11139 Woodyly , GH  
2 pm-8 pm

**Bolton Hall Museum**  
Presents "Rainy Day Games"  
10110 Commerce, S-T  
Docent Tours  
1-4 pm 818-52-3420

**MHNC Budget & Finance**  
LAPD Mission Station  
16161 Sepulveda, MH  
7 pm 818-892-2414

**FTDNC Land Use**  
9747 Wheatland SH  
7:00 pm

**Wednesday, Mar 3**  
**Rotary Club**  
Coco's Restaurant  
10521 Sunland, S-T  
7 pm 818-951-5299

**NHWNC Gen Meet.**  
Holy Martyrs Armenian Sch.  
1667 Parthenia, NH  
7 pm

**Bingo**  
S-T Elks Lodge  
11037 Commerce S-T  
6:30 pm 818-352-5504

**Thursday, Mar 4**  
**PCNC Land Use**  
Mission Community Hospital  
14860 Roscoe Blvd., PC  
6:30 pm 818-894-7841

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

**PCNC-Commerce Comm.**  
Wells Fargo Bank  
8548 Van Nuys, PC  
2:00: pm

**Sylmar Woman's Club**  
Odyssey Restaurant  
15600 Odyssey, GH  
11:30 am

**Sunshine Cyn Advis. Comm**  
Knollwood Country Club,GH  
3:00-5:00pm

**S-T League of Women Voters**  
North Valley City Hall  
7747 Foothill, S-T  
1:30 pm 818-782-4236



**Saturday Mar 6**  
**Friends of GH Library**  
10640 Petit, GH  
10:30 am 368-5686

**Bolton Hall Museum**  
Presents "Rainy Day Games"  
10110 Commerce, S-T  
Docent Tours  
1:00-4:00 pm 818-52-3420

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## Krekorian’s Challenge



By Ron Kaye

The most dangerous thing a politician can do is to raise the people’s expectations – just ask Antonio Villaraigosa what happens when you promise voters a dream come true and deliver a nightmare.

Paul Krekorian won election as the Council member for District 2 in the East San Fernando by convincing voters from Sunland-Tujunga to Sherman Oaks he would be a true public servant and meet their needs within the region and carry their values and interests into City Hall.

His first days in office were marked by a whirlwind of activity, immediately wading into the controversy over the Magnolia Project in Valley Village in search of a compromise, saving the McGroarty Oaks in Sunland-Tujunga from being destroyed for an unwanted road project, and reopening a park in North Hollywood.

Constituent services and local issues are the bread-and-butter of elective office. The tougher task is being able to affect the course of broader citywide issues – the budget, DWP policy, planning – in a City Hall political system that has run amok.

The City Council demands unanimity these days on almost all things of importance and those who get out of line usually find it is difficult, if not impossible, to get support for the needs of the people in their districts.

That’s the challenge Krekorian faces: Can he stand up for his ideals and fulfill his promises when all around him are men and women who have succumbed to back room deals and sold their consciences to special interests?

The battle for the soul of Paul Krekorian was very much in evidence at his ceremonial swearing-in at Van Nuys City Hall on Jan. 17. Hundreds of people were there: Family and friends, community activists and supporters and a large gathering of politicians from the state, county and, most of all, the city – few of whom backed Krekorian in the election against Chris Essel.

The mayor, of course, took center stage recalling how he owed a debt of gratitude to Krekorian for the critical support he gave him at the start of his own political career – without mentioning that he and his team led the campaign to defeat Krekorian in the Council race. He reduced Krekorian to being nothing more than a political progressive, his way of suggesting he would be a faithful and obedient member of the team that has pushed the city to near bankruptcy and wrecked the economy and now is begging, borrowing and stealing in a desperate effort to pull the city out of its nosedive. Garcetti, Smith, Zine, Rosendahl, Hahn, Greuel – they all had their arms around the newest Council member now that’s he one of them, hoping he will become just another cog in a failing political machine, just as they are.

Krekorian’s words betrayed their hopes. He talked about City Hall’s failure and the need to make hard decisions that will determine the city’s fate for “generations still to come.”

Of all the crises LA faces, he said, “the most critical, urgent and difficult ... is the crisis of confidence that our people have in whether their government can serve their needs.

“Our success is dependent on our coming together in common purpose,” he said. “Too often the people feel their aspirations are denied... (by) the influence of the wealth and power...the people are our bosses.”

Spoken like a true leader, the leader LA needs.

It isn’t going to be easy to live up to those words. The problems are great and the mayor and Council have made them far worse by the actions and inactions of the last year. We’ll find out soon enough whether Krekorian can live up to expectations that he has created. He can’t do it alone. It will take the community in his district, and citywide, to come together to give him the courage and strength to stand up for the aspirations of the people – and create the political pressure on his Council colleagues to fall into line. Politics at its best is a dance, a balancing of competing interests, in the service of all the people.

That isn’t the case now at City Hall where all too often it’s nothing but a sellout to the highest bidder.

With a brash and independent City Attorney in Carmen Trutanich and an ambitious and earnest new Council member in Krekorian, there is hope for real change if the people rally and organize behind them.

*Editor’s Note: Ron Kaye is the former editor of the “Daily News”, and is Chairman of Saving LA Project (SLAP), [www.wourla.org](http://www.wourla.org), or, [www.ronkayela.com](http://www.ronkayela.com)*

## Is Los Angeles Ready to Die?



By Doug Epperhardt

An old proverb says, “Hope dies last.” When it comes to the city’s finances, hope is on life support and fading fast.

As long as a decade ago, L.A.’s mayor and council were resorting to gimmicks such as deferred maintenance, shuffling money from place to place, and raising taxes and fees to balance the budget. But, thanks to an ever-escalating stock market and easy credit terms, governments got away with not having to make hard choices about wages and pensions.

And then the storm hit. What’s going on worldwide is not a “Great Recession”. It’s more like “Son of Depression”. Fully one-third of the planet’s wealth is gone—and it’s not coming back real soon.

Revenues have plummeted, demands for service are increasing. So what are the mayor and council doing?

Some employees have been furloughed. Fire stations are being closed on a rotating basis. About eight percent of the city’s civilian workforce are being given early retirement to get them off the payroll. That isn’t working out too well, however, because it merely transfers costs to the already-underfunded pension system.

How bad is it? Numbers provided by the city’s chief administrative officer indicate total revenue shortfall over the next four years is about \$3.5 billion. The pension plans need at least \$11.5 billion to be fully funded. Another \$1 billion or so is required to maintain and upgrade infrastructure. The fiscal year ends June 30 and the city’s deficit now stands at \$175 million and the reserve fund is only about \$122 million, less than half what it should be.

City Controller Wendy Greuel has warned that, by 2014, fully 50 percent of the general fund will have to be set aside for pension contributions. Right now, the city pays 30 cents into the pension fund for every dol-

lar it pays a police officer or firefighter. In five years, it will be 70 cents for every dollar.

Already, some are advocating that Los Angeles prepare for bankruptcy. Known as a Chapter 9, this route has been taken by the Bay-area city of Vallejo. Many local governments have watched with keen interest as Vallejo has renegotiated contracts with its employee unions to get affordable terms. The one union that refused to work with the city was told by a federal judge that its contract was void because of the bankruptcy, leaving them no choice but to deal or appeal.

I don’t think Los Angeles is there yet, but the deficit is getting worse and there aren’t many hopeful signs. Perhaps the city will have to get to the point of not being able to make payroll before the mayor and council realizes the time to act was a year ago.

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# PUBLIC SAFETY

## Meet Foothills New Commanding Officer



*Captain Joseph M. Hiltner  
Commanding Officer  
Foothill Area Station  
Los Angeles Police Department*

I'm Captain Joseph M. Hiltner, your new LAPD Foothill Area Commanding Officer. I was born and raised in the San Fernando Valley where I attended private and public schools. After graduating from high school I obtained my Associate of Arts Degree in Administration of Justice from L.A. Valley College and went on to obtain a Bachelor of Arts Degree from California State University Northridge in May, 1990. I'm also a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy.

After graduating from the Los Angeles Police Academy, as a Recruit Officer, in April 1978, I

worked a variety of assignments, including Foothill Patrol. I went on to serve the Communications Division and Southeast Patrol and also worked assignments in West Valley as a Detective Trainee and the Office of Operations as a staff researcher. I promoted to Sergeant and worked Patrol in West Los Angeles and Rampart Areas in September 1985. I was then assigned as the Adjutant to the Commanding Officer in Rampart Area and also as a staff researcher and Officer in Charge in the Office of Operations.

I went on to promote to Lieutenant in February 1994, and was re-assigned back to the Foothill Area as a Watch Commander through April 1998. In December 2005, I promoted to Captain and was assigned as the Commanding Officer of the Devonshire Patrol Division. I promoted to Captain II in May 2007, and served as Commanding Officer of L.A. Airport Field Services Div. I was promoted to Captain III in July

2007 and took the position of Commanding Officer in the Pacific area station before coming back to the Foothill Station again this month, as your Commanding Officer.

So, as you have already read, I am not a stranger and I am very familiar with our Foothill area. I chose this assignment because I want to serve our foothill communities. I truly believe in maintaining strong communication between our communities and our police department, which is the basis of community policing. If you have local concerns that need to be addressed please contact the Senior Lead Officer in your area, or our Community Relations Officer, Sgt. Herrold Egger at 818-756-8862. For more information about our department visit [www.lapdon.org](http://www.lapdon.org)

I also believe in being accessible and I am looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible in the near future.

## Be Proactive and Get Prepared



*Captain Stacy Gerlich  
CERT Commander  
Los Angeles City Fire Department*

So, here we are trying to deal with the heavy rains, the mud and debris that is freely flowing down our streets and yet we still have our beds to sleep in!! In light of what is happening in Haiti, we are much more fortunate. But don't be fooled or become even more complacent than many of us are.

We will have our earthquake one-day when we least expect it and are not quite as prepared as we may wish we were. So, what are you doing about it? When you went to buy plastic to cover and protect your windows or valuables, when you drove to your nearest fire station to fill sand bags and then painstakingly placed them around

your home, did you also think to check your survival supplies like food, water, batteries for the flashlights, etc.

During the past weeks, you have probably noticed your first responders out there in the rain trying to mitigate further problems and save lives. Are you contributing to the grand plan by being prepared to sustain yourself and your family during difficult times? These times will occur when you are least expecting them--either do to Mother Nature or some other unforeseen disaster. Don't waste another day just thinking about what you need to do. Get out and do it!! Think about those unfortunate neighbors in Haiti who are walking around in dirty clothes, no shoes, a great lack of food and water, needing medical attention and yet surviving on next to nothing. Please... remember that we must take responsibility for ourselves and prepare for the worst. If you need some assistance, talk with your loved ones, neighbors,

clergy or anyone who can give you a little push.

In these economics times, it is no secret that people don't want to spend money on items that aren't readily needed. But make no mistake, if you do not do something now, you will be wishing you had when you are without that bottle of water, a warmer piece of clothing, better shoes, etc. Even if we do one thing everyday to prepare, we will be better off as each day passes.

I will close by giving a big thank you to all the citizens who volunteer their time and effort to make others who are in need, more comfortable. Without these gestures, we would surely crumble. I want to especially thank all the CERT volunteers who make themselves available, not only to the Los Angeles Fire Department, but to the citizens of Los Angeles on a daily basis. Just because you don't see them, it doesn't mean they aren't their just waiting for an opportunity to serve.

## Community Police Academy II Offered

By Al Piantanida

The Los Angeles Police Department's Detective Bureau and Operations Valley Bureau held their first Community Police Academy II, Detective Training class on January 21, at Davis Training Facility in Granada Hills.

The seven class training sessions are one evening a week for seven weeks, totaling 21-1/2 hours, and cover subjects such as Crime Scene Processing, Human Trafficking, New Technologies Unit, Major Crimes, Terrorism, etc.

Community members from all LAPD Divisions in the San Fernando Valley are participating. Presentation of Graduation Certificates to students will take place on March 11, and will be presented by Deputy Chief Albanese, head of the Valley Bureau, and Captains of each Division at the Mission Station in Mission Hills.

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# SOUND OFF

## Mountain Bike Article – NVR 11/09

I am submitting a correction regarding my article “Local Activists Kick Consultants to the Curb” in the November issue of the North Valley Reporter. Please accept my apology with an explanation in order to clear up information regarding CORBA’s participation at Mandeville Canyon Park.

First, the focus of the article is about the lack of quality and care in the work product provided to the City of Los Angeles by a Consultant (Alta) to update the City’s Bicycle Master Plan (BMP) for \$450,000. Secondly, I also questioned the neutrality of Colorado-based Osprey Consultants. A needs assessment already conducted by LA City’s own Department of Recreation and Parks concluded mountain biking was not a priority. Finally, we need a good bike transportation plan with more lanes, transit access, bike racks, safety lighting and recognition that cyclists have a right to ride safely on the streets.

In my comments about Mandeville Canyon I wrote: *“Five million taxpayer dollars purchased Mandeville Canyon Park in the year 2000 for a mountain bike park as a “pilot program” to be reviewed in a year. A decade later, Mandeville Canyon Park is still a pilot program without a Youth Adventures Trails Program, and an Environmental Assessment under a CEQA categorical exemption as promised by the Concerned Off-Road Bike Association (CORBA). According to an official CORBA representative in 2007, only one Adventure took place in 2003. No bikes were purchased and CORBA quit after one try, even though they promised such a pro-*

*gram in the Grant Award adopted by the City Council. They obviously failed to honor their commitment.”*

I was incorrect on the responsibility for the environmental documentation - it was not CORBA’s responsibility. I apologize for that inadvertent error. In my article I did not allege CORBA received money nor did I write that CORBA was signatory to the Grant Agreement. However, the Prop K grant money was made available, and the property purchased, based on the terms in the Grant Agreement. The article says CORBA failed to live up to its commitment and I stand by that because the signed Prop K Grant Agreement spells out specific programming for several activities, the first two being:

- No. 1. Provide and maintain mountain biking trails; and
- No. 2. Adventure Trails Program, a mountain biking program for youth in concert with Hollywood YMCA and CORBA

This public record states: “Since this program is modeled after an existing established and well-functioning program there are no costs associated with the actual development of the program. Further the program will be staffed by volunteers who will lead the bicycle tours for at-risk youth. And since all necessary equipment will be donated, there will be no on-going expenses associated with Adventure Trails.”

A second public record source is the approved December 13, 2000, Department of Recreation and Parks General Manager Report No. 00-483. This report de-

scribes “the establishment of a one-year pilot program to allow mountain biking to continue on existing trails in the 139.1 acre portion of the Mandeville Canyon area soon to be acquired by the City and hereinafter known as Mandeville Canyon Park.” The key program upon which the Commissioners made their decision is identified: “As a part of the Proposition K grant application .... the main recreational program.... will be the Adventure Trails Program in partnership with the Hollywood YMCA and the Concerned Off-Road Bicycle Association (CORBA).” The record also indicates that CORBA was present at the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners’ meeting on December 13 and spoke in support.

The 2000 acquisition still has unresolved issues. I stand by the remainder of the article, with the CEQA correction. The following documentation:

2 Ibid., Exhibit E, Request for Proposal, Executive Summary, p.12

3 Report of the General Manager, December 13, 2000, Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners, “Approval of Pilot Program Allowing Mountain Biking on Existing Trails at Mandeville Canyon Park,” p. 2

4 Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners, December 13, 2000, Minutes, p. 21

Mary Benson  
Foothill Trails Project  
Editor’s Note: The NVR is a family newspaper. Please remember only respectful comments regarding this issue will be accepted.

## In Memory of Those We Have Lost



**Charles Walter Beachman III**  
Jan. 24, 1962 – Dec. 5, 2009  
Tujunga, California

Charles, who was known to family and friends as “Chuck”, passed away at home after a long battle with cancer. Chuck, a native of Norfolk, NE, graduated from Tujunga’s Verdugo Hills High School in 1980. During his professional career he worked in computer technology at various companies, including IBM, apparel manufacturer Karen Kane, and IHOP.

Chuck was the husband of Victoria (Vicki) Printup, and father of Charles Walter (Chip), age eight. It was because of Chip that he fought the toughest battle of his life.

He is survived by his mother, Audrey Ridley, stepfather Ralph Ridley, sister, Jeanette and husband Ken Hill, sister Chettie and husband Matt Cole, along with 14 nieces and nephews. He predeceased by his father Charles Walter Beachman Jr.

Chuck had great compassion for people and was a connector of friends, creating long time relationships. He enjoyed all types of sports including NASCAR, horse racing, and golf, while faithfully supported the S.F. 49ers for many years. He loved the outdoors and enjoyed camping with family and friends. Chuck enjoyed the desert, riding with his wife, son and friends and was fond of airplanes and air shows. He is remembered for his sense of humor, which was always evident, even throughout his fight with cancer.

Services were held at the Community Christian Church of the Foothills in Tujunga, Saturday, December 12, 2009. Donations in memory of Chuck can be made to Cedars Sinai Comprehensive Cancer either by email at: [www.discoveringforlife.org](http://www.discoveringforlife.org). (Click on “Make a Gift” in the upper right corner,) or, by mail: Cedars Sinai, 8700 Beverly Blvd., #2416, Los Angeles, CA 90048. Memo line: Chuck Beachman or SOCCI.



**Marie Harris**  
Oct. 1922 – Dec. 2009  
Pacoima, California

Marie Willams Harris was born in Houston, TX. and was a resident of Pacoima since 1960, where she became a along time activist for the betterment of her community. She is remembered for her dedication and hard work on behalf of the community as a founder of the Pacoima Property Owners Assoc., served on the Board of Economic Alliance of the San Fernando Valley, a member of Valley Vote, a

group who supported making the Valley its own city, the Pacoima Chamber of Commerce, Pacoima Senior Citizens Multipurpose Center, and the Hansen Dam Twin Lakes Steering Committee. She also used her experience as a Fashion Designer in her professional career to organize and host fashion shows as fundraisers for charity.

Marie’s passion was her faith in God and her family. She is predeceased by her husband, Alvin. Harris and is survived by her children, Sidney, Rolene, Naveja, and Alton, five grandchildren, and many great-grandchildren.

Services were held at Lake View Terrace American Baptist Church and she is interned at Riverside National Cemetery. Donations in her memory can be sent to Heroes of Live, Inc., 11249 Glenoaks Blvd, Suite 7, Pacoima, CA 91331. Note Marie Harris in the memo section of your check.



**Louis “Doc” Larsen, DVM**  
January 1920 – November 2009  
Sunland, California

“Doc” Larsen as he was fondly known throughout the foothills, received his doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from Washington State University in 1947. After several years he went on open his Pacoima Veterinary Clinic in Pacoima from 1958 to 1987. He was also an avid horseman. He is renowned for his work on many trails

throughout the state, but especially for one known as the “Doc Larsen Trail in the Angeles National Forest. It is one for which he received honors from the State of California, City of Los Angeles, Dept. of Agriculture, and the Forest Service. He was an avid horseman and completed the 100-mile Tevis Cup three times.

He is survived by his wife, Shirley Gertrude “Sammy”, daughter Linda Shirely Warnekros and husband Richard, daughter Sandra Rae Hall and husband William, and granddaughter Shirley Jeanne Hall. He is predeceased by his son, James Lous Larsen.

Over 100 people attended the memorial service, held at Middle Ranch in Lake View Terrace. Donations in Doc’s honor may be made to ETI for trail maintenance, which he did himself for many years, or to the Backcountry Horseman, or the American Cancer Society.

**Services are scheduled for Community Leader**  
Myron “Joe” Cohen, who was active in many Sunland-Tujunga organizations, passed away peacefully on January 2. A memorial gathering to celebrate his life will be held at the Sunland-Tujunga Elks Lodge, 10137 Commerce Ave., Tujunga, Saturday afternoon, March 7. Call 818-352-2098 for more information. In lieu of flowers, anyone wishing to do so, may make a donation to the Scholarship Fund of the S-T Coordinating Council, of which Joe was a long time supporter.



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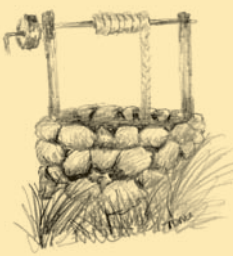
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Third Wednesdays at 7 pm Board Meeting  
(New Horizons, 15725 Parthenia St, NH)*

THIS N THAT

HERE'S MY CARD



*Carrick's Journey*  
—Part Twenty Four  
By Tomi Lyn Bowling

As he feverishly threw pieces of rubble, trying to get to the bottom of the pile, Drake suddenly noticed out of the corner of his eye that Sebastian was no longer helping at all. Drake was half bent over when he turned his gaze to see this. He rose sharply, turning his body towards Sebastian. The noise of the others throwing shards of metal, clanging on the concrete, the smell of the fumes, the intense heat and light, had all seemed to disappear as Drake watched Sebastian. Suddenly Drake lost all fear, lost all worry and he felt total comfort in knowing that everything was fine. He could not explain the calmness that had overcome him. As Drake looked on, Sebastian was standing tall, his face pointed to the sky, completely still. Sebastian's silence broke as he burst into a snicker, grabbed Drake and ran for the stairwell. Drake didn't ask. He didn't need to.

As the pair approached the doorway to the stairwell, Sebastian's snicker turned to a laugh. The door swung open before they reached it. There was so much smoke and dust that all went black and they could see nothing. Sight was a perception that was not required at that moment. Sebastian never let go of Drake and walked him right into the arms of his mother. As the smoke began to clear Drake could now see what he felt seconds earlier, the arms of his mother. The two embraced for quite some time. Sebastian hugged his daughter and asked her what he'd already known, "Are you both okay?" Fanella never took her eyes off of Drake. The whole time Sebastian spoke, Fanella watched Drake. Drake finished his reunion with Maddie and turned to her. He picked up her hand. Drake shook Fanella's hand thanking her for keeping his mother safe.

The two women walked and chattered so fast it was like two hummingbirds fluttering. Drake and Sebastian walked along and tried to listen. Suddenly both men looked at each other and a roaring belly laugh could be heard throughout the hall. The women both stopped talking and looked at the men in a sort of disappointed surprise. Both women realized what the two men were laughing at and they too started to laugh. It was a nice relief from the reality they were all confronted with. The laughter died out just as quickly as it had started as they walked on. The smoke began to clear more and more. Silence took over as the group walked on. Each of them looking left, then looking right, stepping over pieces of debris and burning embers. Now that the air had cleared they could see they were also stepping over ligaments and bodies. Smiles had turned to frowns as they started to take in the true depth of destruction and loss. Tears began to swell in Fanella's eyes, though she never let anyone see. As they approached the center of the hall, each one instinctively began to take on jobs. Sebastian and Drake resumed the task of looking for any survivors amid the rubble. Fanella and Maddie were caring for the wounded.

....to be continued

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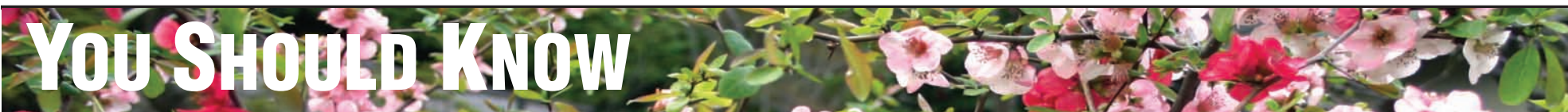
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# You Should Know

## Time of Love and Beauty

By Marlene Hitt

At the Bolton Hall Museum we confer daily with the past. Some of the practices of the settlers have merit even today. From an autograph book dated December 25, 1929 comes a group of loving entries to share in this month of valentines.

A young woman wrote: “Dear Friends, I want you to write in my album something both bright and true, so that in the misty future my thoughts will come back to you.”

Her father wrote: “Though life’s troubles are many and its pleasures are few, yield not to temptation and always prove true.”

Then her mother: “Wherever you are, be noble, whatever you do, do well, wherever you speak, speak kindly, give joy wherever you dwell.”

Arnold wrote: If scribbling in albums friendship secures, with the greatest of pleasure I’ll scribble in yours.”

This teen-aged girl had five sisters and six brothers. The school held just a few students of several grades from around the prairie homesteads. Her brother Addie wrote:

“Dear Emily, The buds may blow and the fruit may grow and the autumn leaves drop crisp and sere, but whether the rain or the sun or the snow, there is ever a song somewhere my dear.”

Then there is the old familiar (at least familiar to some of us) “I wish you health, I wish you joy, I wish you first a baby boy. And when his hair begins to curl I wish you then a baby girl.”

I think Henry was just jesting: “Remember me early, remember me late. Remember the time we kissed at the gate.”

“May you live as long as you want and never want as long as you live. Your sister, Fern.”

Then Geraldine wrote: “My Dearest sister, May you ever be like a piano, strong, grand, and upright.” Loving sister. Geraldine and Emily kept their close attachment for their lifetimes and talked nightly on the phone when they were in their nineties.

Brother Billy was a terror right to his end and how I loved him. “Dear sister, I auto smile, I auto laugh, but in this book I autograph.”

His friend, Ernie - “This world we’re living in is mighty hard to beat. There’s a thorn with every rose, but ain’t the roses sweet?”

On a 1920s prairie farm life was harsh but it seems the young ones hadn’t noticed. May all of us see hearts and flowers this season of 2010.

*Editor’s Note: Marlene Hitt is Director of Bolton Hall Museum, a former Sunland-Tujunga Poet Laureate, and writes for the NVR.*



### North Valley Neighborhood Councils 2010 Election Dates

**Region A**  
**Election Day: March 6, 2010**

Canoga Park  
Chatsworth  
Granada Hills North  
Granada Hills South  
North Hills West  
Northridge East  
Northridge West  
Porter Ranch  
West Hills  
Winnetka  
Woodland Hills - Warner Center

**Region B**  
**Election Day: March 27, 2010**

Arleta  
Foothill Trails District  
Mission Hills  
North Hills East  
North Hollywood Northeast  
Pacoima  
Panorama City  
Sun Valley  
Sunland - Tujunga  
Sylmar

Get Involved. Run For Office. Make a Difference in Your Community...and VOTE on Neighborhood Council Election Day (see above dates).

For further information please contact the City Clerk Election Division office at (213) 978-0444 or visit the Neighborhood Council 2010 Election Blog at [www.nc2010elections.blogspot.com](http://www.nc2010elections.blogspot.com)

## HIRAZDAN MARKET

7518 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga, CA 91042 (818) 352-6677

- Fresh Produce • Fresh Meat • Fresh Fish • Beers
- Wine • Cigarettes • Beverages • Sandwiches •
- Tacos • Burritos ..... and much, much more



Grilled Salmon Salad -OR- Grilled Chicken Salad  
**\$5.95**



Grilled Salmon Tacos - Grilled Chicken Tacos - Grilled Asada Tacos  
**\$3.95**



Chicken Kabob - Beef Kabob - Pork Kabob  
Chicken Luleh Kabob - Beef Luleh Kabob  
**\$6.45**



Grilled Salmon Burrito - Grilled Chicken Burrito  
Grilled Asada Burrito  
**\$3.95**



Salmon Burger - Cheeseburger  
Hamburger  
**\$3.95**



Fried Calamari  
**\$5.95**



Beef Luleh Kabob Sandwich-- OR -- Chicken Luleh Kabob Sandwich  
**BUY 5 GET 1 FREE**

### Royal Mid-Eastern Feast

- 2 Skewers Beef Kabob
  - 2 Skewers Chicken Kabob
  - 2 Skewers Pork Kabob
  - 3 Skewers Beef Luleh Kabob
  - 3 Skewers Chicken Luleh Kabob
  - Pita Bread
  - Rice
  - Salad
  - Hummos
  - Eggplant Dip
  - Yogurt & Cucumber Dip
- (Serves 10 - 12 Persons)

**\$99<sup>99</sup> + TAX**



Fish Soup  
Yogurt Soup  
Ashe-Reshte (Noodle Soup)  
Chicken Soup

**We Do Catering**



**Free Delivery** within 3 mile radius..... minimum \$20 order