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Council District Two Update



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

Our U.S. Military Service Heroes were honored just in time for Independence Day. I helped sponsor Military Banners that were unveiled on Friday morning, July 1, in Sunland-Tujunga, along with an array of veterans and families of soldiers. This was our city’s first-ever military banner program. As we head into the Independence Day weekend, I officially launched the Hometown Heroes program that included a series of 28 banners posted along Foothill Boulevard to honor veterans and those fighting abroad.

The banners were posted from Wyngate Street to Newhome Avenue on light posts along Foothill Boulevard to honor sacrifices made during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam War, the Gulf War, and also spotlights individuals now fighting in current conflicts. The Hometown Heroes program honors the tremendous sacrifice made by the men and women of our armed forces and our neighbors who have chosen to defend this country when it is most in need. The 28 banners placed on top of light posts are a small token of our appreciation and an important message that our communities honor those who continue to honor the United States through their commitment to their country. I’m proud that the Sunland-Tujunga community has taken the lead in launching this tribute, and I hope other communities throughout our city will be inspired by this example. Sunland-Tujunga residents Wendell and Deanna Bowers, whose son John serves in the U.S. Air Force, who helped create the program, said, “Today is a great day for Sunland-Tujunga and the city of Los Angeles.” Wendell Bowers also said, “Today I am proud to say that we are the first community in the city to honor the men and women in the military [with street banners], our home town heroes. We need to remember that they are away from home making sacrifices for each of us. Some have paid the supreme price for us. The banner program is just one way for us to say Thank You for all you have done for your country and for all that you continue to do.”

I want to thank everyone who participated in the program and I wish everyone a happy and safe Independence Day. I look forward to seeing you at my inauguration picnic celebration;

Editor’s note: Councilmember Paul Krekorian represents Los Angeles’ Second Council District, which includes much of the east and northeast San Fernando Valley. Visit: cd2.lacity.org for more information, or follow him on Twitter and Facebook.

Sunland-Tujunga Hometown Heroes List

- Army Sergeant **Danny Alcala**
Army First Sergeant **Michael S. Ardizone**
Air Force Major **Greg Baldwin**
Air Force Senior Airman **John Bowers**
Marine Gunnery Sergeant **Daniel Cortes**
Army Staff Sergeant **Derek Dennis**
Coast Guard Petty Officer Second Class **Joshua Esparza**
Marine Corporal **Christopher Falzone**
Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer **Chester V. Gorriceta** *(Recipient of a Purple Heart)*
Marine Private First Class **David Gouger**
Army Sergeant **Richard J. Hall**
Marine Corporal **Shawn E. Hallford**
National Guard Private First Class **Joe Hill**
Marine Lance Corporal **Derek Leiphardt**
Air Force Petty Officer Second Class **Allison Lulham**
Navy Petty Officer Second Class **Daniel Nichols**
Navy Master at Arms Petty Officer Second Class **Glenn Pearson**
Air Force Airman First Class **Michael Pollard**
Army Airborne Staff Sergeant **Michael Puma**
Air Force Senior Airman **Daniel B. Stevens**
Marine Corporal **Brendon Terry**
Air Force Lieutenant Colonel **Michael Whalen**
Army Sergeant **Christopher Wheaton**

*This list will continue to be updated. Opportunities for banners are still available. Please contact Hrag Yedalian, Director of Special Projects at CD2, 213-473-7002 or e-mail hrag.yedalian@lacity.org



Communities Fretting About Stalled Ordinance

By Katharine Russ

On June 1, the Los Angeles City Council voted to pass the Community Care Facilities Ordinance (CCFO) that would bring the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) into conformance with the California Community Care Facilities Act and state law regarding Alcohol/Drug Recovery or Treatment Facilities. The ordinance that was sent back to the City Attorney to prepare and present is similar to the proposed ordinance submitted by the City Planning Commission.

According the sponsor of the Ordinance, Councilmember Greig Smith, this law was based on similar laws of many California cities. Smith said, “Its’ purpose is to regulate community homes with a standard by which they must operate.” He believes that legitimate operators of these homes will benefit by the rules because it will discourage those that are unscrupulous and do not believe in following any type of rules.

At the eleventh hour, Councilmember Ed Reyes said he did not think the Council had the type of review that would give them a sense of balance. He called on Tom Rothmann from the Planning Department plus the city attorneys, and the Housing Department Attorney who administers the funds, to the table for discussion.

Rothmann said, “the CCFO addresses two main points. The first is to regulate and codify state guidelines regarding Community Care Facilities (CCF). State law preempts the city from regulating smaller licensed facilities of six or fewer (homes) but allows us some leeway for the largest ones, the ones that are seven (persons) or more. CCF facilities of six or less cannot be treated any different than single family homes. They can open up without any restrictions, any discretionary review or anything else required to build a single family home. The licensed seven or more, we have a little more latitude to regulate. We are going allow them as a ‘public benefit’ in our R1-R2 zones like state laws requires us do, but we are

going to put some performance standards on them. They have to meet certain regulations about neighborhood character, noise, parking and density. If they meet all those requirements they can go in by-right” The ordinance defines the difference between a “single family” and a “Boarding House” which will not be allowed in Zones R1 and R2. If there is more than one lease in a six and under house, it will be considered a boarding house.

Previously, the zoning code did not allow for those facilities. According to Rothmann, they are being more permissible regarding group homes in the above referenced zones but with restrictions. This ordinance will hopefully cover those types of facilities that do not fall under any type of regulations.

The Housing Department declared that they had seen the ordinance for the first time only two weeks prior to the hearing and just started looking into how it impacts housing that the department manages. They were notified by Councilmember Alarcon just days before that the hearing was taking place and suggested they attend the council meeting. The Attorney for the Housing Department said he had only found out about it that morning. Councilmember Smith hotly asked them why they didn’t bother to attend any of the 26 other public hearings that they had been invited to and only showed upon Alarcon’s invitation and indirectly questioned Alarcon’s motive. Alarcon replied that many people from other organizations had approved him about the ordinance. He said he didn’t ask any organization to participate, they are doing it on their own because they are negatively impacted. He was the only councilmember who voted against the Ordinance.

Now there are concerns that this ordinance may be ‘stalled. Maria Fisk, a member of the Old Granada Hills Residents’ Group and the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council said, “This was discussed at our Neighborhood Watch. Amy Brothers, City Attorney, apparently has just completed the final draft and no significant changes have been made.”

Deputy City Attorney Brothers did not respond to a request for comment. For years, the communities of Granada Hills, North Hills, Pacific Palisades, Melody Acres, Reseda, Westwood, Mar Vista, Van Nuys, Sunland -Tujunga, Northridge, Chatsworth, Encino, Woodland Hills, Tarzana, San Pedro and Sylmar have seen a proliferation of Sober Living Facilities (SLF) in several of their neighborhoods, often housing as many as 30 to 40 people in 3 to 4 bedroom homes, most without any supervision. 33 Neighborhood Councils along with other organizations voiced their support for the ordinance, citing hundreds of complaints to LAPD by those living in close proximity to these SLF’s.

In her March 17, 2011 letter to the Los Angeles City Councilmember, Rebecca Lobl, President of LA Coalition for Neighborhoods, spelled out the basis for these complaints. To name a few, they were: public urination and indecent exposure, public drunkenness, drug use, late night noise, frequent calls to police for assistance, increased calls for ambulances, rat infestations, speeding cars, children exposed to adults having sex in back yards, increased trash, parking, excessive cigarette smoke, and foul language.

In August 2010, police had stepped up enforcement using Nuisance Abatement ordinances through a Task Force set up by the LAPD and Mitch Englander from Council District 12. Only a few were successfully shut down, but owners of SLF’s could easily lease another property and move their tenants in.

Since these SLF’s aren’t licensed by the State, as are alcohol/drug treatment centers or group homes for seniors and disabled, it was difficult for the City to keep “tabs” on them. Currently, there is no local, state or federal laws dictating occupancy, how SLF’s are run or where they can locate.

Since there appears to be no significant changes to the proposed ordinance by the City Attorney, community leaders are perplexed as to why the long delay.

Katharine.russ@charter.net

COMMUNITY NEWS

Beware of Intended Consequences



By Dick Platkin

After 18 years, LA’s Department of City Planning unveiled a draft update for the Hollywood Community Plan, including 105 pages of detailed amendments to increase permitted building densities in Hollywood, as well as a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR). *This plan is important because, if or when this update is adopted, it will become a template for updating LA’s other 34 community plans and will set a precedent throughout the entire city.* The plan has been carefully scrutinized, especially its DEIR by many analysts who examined this document and recently submitted their statements to the Department of City Planning. Among their many comments, one stands out: The Draft Environmental Impact Report does not present a credible planning rationale for the proposed Community Plan update.

The following six points summarize much of this DEIR testimony:

1. Infrastructure and Services: LA’s public infrastructure, which has not been monitored in over 11 years, some categories not planned in over 40 years, cannot handle the needs of the city’s existing and projected population and commuters. In the case of the DEIR, there is no analysis to demonstrate that local services and infrastructure in Hollywood are capable of meeting the demands of the larger population which could result from the update’s extensive up-planning and up-zoning. Without demonstrated unused infrastructure capacity in the DEIR, there should be no increases in permitted densities in Hollywood according to the General Plan’s Framework Element.

Also, there is no proposal in the DEIR or the draft Community Plan itself to monitor local infrastructure conditions, including changing demographics and user demand, as well as the effectiveness of the updated Plan’s infrastructure-related policies and programs. The proposed plan also fails to identify any threatened infrastructure systems in Hollywood and offers no mitigation process to address these likely infrastructure breakdowns.

This is a plan that will dramatically reduce the quality of life in Hollywood. The hope that increases in densities will spur increased investment in real estate is unfounded. Who will want to live, work, visit, or invest in a Hollywood which has inadequate, deteriorating, unplanned, and unmonitored infrastructure and public services?

2. Conflicts with the General Plan: The city’s outdated, still official, and legally required, General Plan is "growth neutral." According to the 1996 General Plan Framework Element, Los Angeles has enormous untapped potential for population and housing expansion based on adopted plan designations and zones. In fact, the Framework notes that Los Angeles could double its population without need to change its underlying zoning or plan designations.

To exceed local densities in Hollywood, City Hall must present a clear rationale based on documented increases in population growth and housing demand which have outstripped locally permitted densities, but still retain sufficient public services and infrastructure capacity. Yet, in the case of the proposed update of the Hollywood Community Plan there is no analysis of the remaining build-out potential for the privately zoned parcels in Hollywood or the area’s remaining infrastructure capacity based on projected deterioration and increases in user demand. Likewise, there is no evidence that if these parcels were fully built out, they still could not meet the housing and employment needs of Hollywood’s current or future residents.

3. Census Data: The update of the Hollywood Community Plan is based on outdated census data. California State planning laws and guidelines require each city’s General Plan, including its Land Use element, such as the Hollywood Community Plan, to be current and internally consistent among its required and optional elements. In this case the General Plan Framework Element is based on 1990 census data which was extended to the Plan’s 2010 horizon year. The update of the Hollywood Community Plan, which is supposed to apply the General Plan Framework Element to a local community is, however, based on year 2000 census data, augmented by 2005 estimates, and then extrapolated to the year 2030.

The two plans are not only inconsistent with each other, but neither is current because the new 2010 census data is now available and should be used for monitoring, reviewing, and updating all components of a city’s General Plan.

4. Population Decline: If the new 2010 census data had been used for the Hollywood Community Plan’s DEIR, it would demonstrate that Hollywood had a serious population decline from 2000 to 2010 of about 15,000 people, on top of a totally static population for the 1990-2000 decade. This means that the DEIR’s population projections, obtained from the Department of City Planning and from the Southern California Association of Governments, are highly inflated, inaccurate, and therefore not acceptable for the DEIR. Therefore, the update’s planning rationale for substantially ramping up zoning densities in Hollywood is bogus.

5. Framework Turned on its Head: The Hollywood Community Plan’s implementation program of up-zoning and up-planning is being proposed to encourage growth to promote secondary Framework planning goals, such as transit use. This is an approach which turn LA’s growth neutral General Plan Framework Element on its head. It also conflicts with Los Angeles City Charter Sections 556 and 558, which require consistency with the intent and purposes of the General Plan. The role of transit is to serve the public’s growing need for mobility, while the update’s call to increase density in Hollywood as a planning tool to boost transit use absolutely conflicts with the intent and purposes of the General Plan.

6. The General Plan should be up dated prior to Community Plans: To properly plan Los Angeles, the General Plan Framework Element should be totally revised based on new demographic and infrastructure data. Once this process is completed, only then should the 35 local community plans, including Hollywood, be updated. But, at this point, to implement an outdated General Plan at the local level, much less with different base and horizon years, defies both common sense and State of California planning codes and guidelines.

Editor’s Note: Dick Platkin is a planning consultant and board member of the Beverly Wilshire Homeowners Assoc. He can be reached at: rhplatkin@yahoo.com.

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SVANC Gen Meet 10631 Vinedale Ave., SV 6:30 pm	LAPD Foothill CPAB Japanese American Com.Ctr 12953 Branford, Pac . 6:00 pm 818-756-8866	Bolton Hall Museum Presents “On the Home Front and on the Front” 10110 Commerce Ave., S-T, Docent Tours 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm 818-352-3420	Thursday, Aug. 18 FTDNC Gen. Meeting www.ftdnc.org for location 7:00 pm	GHNNC Land Use Comm 11139 Woodley Ave., GH, 7:00 pm	Saturday, Aug. 27 CPR-1st Aid Training Elks Lodge 11037 Commerce Ave., S-T \$30 818-951-7411
SNC Outreach Com. Sylmar Park 13109 Bordon Ave., Syl 6:30 pm	Aug. 12, 13, 14 Watermelon Festival Sunland Park 8651 Foothills Blvd, S-T lionswatermelonfesti- val.com	S-T Neighborhood Watch 7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T 6:30 PM	Neighborhood Watch Block Captains Mtng. Sylmar High School 13050 Borden Ave., Syl 6:30 pm	STNC Land Use Comm NV City Hall 7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T 7:00 pm	Sunday, Aug. 28 Bolton Hall Museum Presents “On the Home Front and on the Front” 10110 Commerce Ave., S-T Docent Tours 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm 818-352-3420
Wednesday, Aug. 10 STNC Gen Meet. NV City Hall 7747 Foothill, S-T Refresh. 6:30 pm 7:00 pm 818-951-7411	Friday, Aug. 12 GHNNC Policy & Rules Comm 11139 Woodley Ave., GH 4:00 pm	Sylmar NC Green Comm. Sylmar Park & Rec. Cent. Susan B. Anthony Bldg. Polk & Bordon Ave. Syl 7:00 pm	Northridge East NC Northridge Academy 9601 Zelzah Ave., Nrdge	Tuesday, Aug. 23 1 st Class of 7 weeks CERT training Elks Lodge 10137 Commerce Ave, S-T Free-6:30 pm 818-951-7411	Open Poetry Reading The Village Poets Bolton Hall Museum 10110 Commerce, S-T 818-352-3420 4:30 pm dskiles@ca.rr.com
FTDNC Exec. Board 9747 Wheatland Ave., SH 7:00 pm	Saturday, Aug. 13 Plan Check NC Hist. Downtown Center 114 W. Fifth St., L.A. 10:00 am -1:00 pm	Wednesday, Aug. 17 LAPD-CPAB Mission Division 11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH 6:30 pm	NHNE NC Board Meet Arminata Elem. School 11530 Arminata St., No Ho 7:00 pm	Bolton Hall Museum Presents “On the Home Front and on the Front” 10110 Commerce Ave., S-T Docent Tours	Monday, Aug. 29 GHNNC Gen. Meeting St. Euphrasia School Hall 11766 Shoshone Ave. GH, 6:30 pm
Sun Valley Beautiful 9081 Tujunga Ave., SV 11:30 am	Sunday, Aug. 14 Bolton Hall Museum Presents “On the Home Front and on the Front” 10110 Commerce Ave., S-T Docent Tours 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm 818-35-3420	Rotary Club Coco’s Restaurant 10521 Sunland Blvd., S-T 7:00 pm 818-951-5299	Sunday, Aug. 21 Bolton Hall Museum Presents “On the Home Front and on the Front” 10110 Commerce Ave., S-T Docent Tours	Hansen Dam Park Advisory Board Lake View Terr Rec. Ctr 11075 Foothills, LVT 7:00 pm	
No Hollywd.Nh’brh’d Watch Pentecostal Church 6800 Radford St., No Ho 6:30 pm 818-331-1398	Monday, Aug.15 MHNC LAPD Mission Station 16161 Sepulveda Blvd., MH 7:00 pm 818-892-2414	Pacoima NC 6:30 pm -Gen. Meeting Pacoima Comm. Center 11243 Glenoaks Blvd., Pac	Monday, Aug. 22 Valley Vote Galpin Ford 15555 Roscoe Blvd., NH 6:30 pm	Thursday, Aug. 26 Public Hearing Proposed Sale Mjission Community Hospital 14860 Roscoe Blvd, PC 6:00 pm	
FTDNC Equestrian Meet. 9747 Wheatland Ave., SH 7:00 pm	PCNC Outreach PCNC Office (4th Floor) 14500 Roscoe Blvd., PC 6:30 pm 818-714-2133	Northridge East NC Northridge Academy HS 9601 Zelzah Ave., Nrdge 7:00 pm			
Pan. City Neighborhood Watch 9261 Wakefield, PC 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm	GHNNC Safety Comm 11139 Woodley Ave., GH 2:00 pm	Bingo Night S-T Elks Lodge 10137 Ave., S-T 6:30 pm 818-352-2098			
Thursday, Aug. 11 Valley Alliance of NC’s Sherman Oaks Hospital 4929 Van Nuys Blvd., S.O. 6:30 pm	Tuesday, Aug. 16 Arleta NC Gen. Meeting Beachy Elem. School 9757 Beachy, Arl. 6:30 pm	North Hills West NC New Horizons 15725 Parthenia St., NH 7:00 pm			
FTDNC Equestrian Comm 9747 Wheatland Ave., SH 7:00 pm		Strathern Nh’brh’d. Watch Church of the Nazarene 12120 Strathern St., NoHo 6:30 pm			
GHSNC Gen. Meeting Granada Hills Pavillian 11128 Balboa Blvd., GH 7:30 pm					

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COMMENTARY

We Lose, He Wins! Are You Really Surprised?



By Ron Kaye

Let’s play “Heads I win, tails you lose” or, as AEG’s Tim Leiweke calls it, “You borrow, I profit.” That is what is at the heart of the proposal for a downtown NFL stadium that has city officials scrambling to come up with an acceptable story for public consumption by Leiweke’s July 31 deadline.

For his part, Leiweke is running all over town holding meetings with community groups in an effort to drum up support that will drown out all the questions being asked about why the public gives away its land, pays for the infrastructure needed for a stadium, nearly doubles its enormous debt on the white elephant Convention Center and gets nothing in return for allowing AEG to potentially reap billions of dollars in profits from bringing football back to Los Angeles for a third time.

The question has been framed in terms of whether the city is at risk borrowing up to \$350 million to tear down and rebuild half of the Convention Center to

make room for AEG’s football stadium. The City still owes \$450 million on the Convention Center -- which bleeds the general fund of nearly \$50 million a year for debt service on the Convention Center, money that otherwise could be used for police and fire services and keeping parks and libraries open. This has been a losing proposition for decades despite promise after promise that if we only invest more money people from all over the world will flock to downtown L.A.

Leiweke says this time is different. Luxury hotels will sprout up all over downtown and L.A. will jump from one of the least desirable cities to hold a convention to No. 1. Thousands of jobs will be created and the city treasury will be overflowing with new tourist revenue. You can take his word for it – or you can ask the really tough questions about what the city gets if that doesn’t happen.

The answer is simple: The city gets the bills and whether the Convention Center suddenly becomes a great success story or not AEG reaps billions in profits. That’s because whatever tax revenue is generated by having one, or more likely two, teams playing at

the new stadium, won’t go to provide money for public services. It will just go to cover the city’s debt.

What is on the table is that the tens of millions of dollars in revenue from digital billboards that will cover the stadium and Convention Center will all go to AEG, nothing to the city. The same is true of all the other direct revenue associated with this deal like the \$300 million in naming rights being paid by Farmers Insurance. Even the Convention Center itself is certain to fall into AEG’s hands with the city still paying off the debt and the operational profits going to the Denver billionaire Phil Anschutz who owns AEG.

People all over the city are beginning to wake up to what is wrong with this deal and ask the right question, “What’s in it for me?” The answer is nothing but the bills and the right to pay a hefty price for a ticket to a football game.

Editor’s Note: Ron Kaye, former Editor of the Daily News, also writes the Sunday column for the Glendale Newspress, Burbank Leader, and blogs at ronkayela.com

Democracy Doesn’t Work Without You



By Doug Epperhart

On a hot July day in Philadelphia, 235 years ago, a group of men representing 13 independent colonies of Britain adopted a resolution declaring independence from the mother country. Although many of them had served in government as legislators or judges, they were not career politicians. That came later.

Even as America split into two—the “us” versus “them” of standard politics—men like Jackson, Lincoln, and Roosevelt understood that “United States” means just that. One nation. And our nation has endured.

Today, pollsters and pundits tell us that our country is more polarized than it has been since the Civil War. Republican versus Democrat, deficit reduction versus economic stimulus, pro-choice versus pro-life—you name it, we’ll fight about it.

But, that’s the way it’s always been in America. From the time of the Revolution to the Civil War the great divide was between those favoring slavery and those opposing it. During the next eight decades, from the Civil War to World War II, it was about rich versus poor. The Knights of Labor in the cities and the Grange in rural areas pitted themselves against Standard Oil, J.P. Morgan, and the railroads.

Since World War II, the separation has been between the right, which thinks government’s purpose is to tell us what to think, and the left, which thinks government’s purpose is to tell us what to do. The Cold War, Korean War, Vietnam War, communists, hippies, the Moral Majority, and Teabaggers—the points of contention and ideological divide are legion.

So why is division, disagreement, and debate good for us? Because it’s how democracies work. It’s how you get the best answer. Maybe not immediately, or even in a hundred years, but eventually most of us figure it out.

It only works, though, if people are well educated and well informed. America is successful because our people have been given access to free and universal public education. Governments all over the country and their taxpayers understand that schools benefit society as much as it does individuals.

In the early decades of the United States, local officials advocated for public elementary education. After the Civil War, the federal government encouraged states to establish low-cost “agricultural and mechanical” colleges and “normal” schools to train teachers. Most states passed laws compelling parents to send their children to school.

We can argue about how best to provide education, but we can never say that access for all children is too expensive. Every dollar spent on schools is ten

times better for our nation’s future than every dollar spent on prisons.

It’s no accident that the first amendment to the Constitution guarantees freedom of speech. Despite efforts of government to silence its critics, the right to speak out has prevailed. Within a decade of the adoption of the Bill of Rights, the administration of John Adams was arresting those who spoke against his policies. It didn’t work then and, as evidenced by recent rulings of the Supreme Court, it doesn’t work now.

Don’t be discouraged. Americans are not victims unless they choose to be. Ignore the political hot air and refuse to engage in the “us versus them” rhetoric. In this electronic age, it doesn’t take much to search the world for a variety of news, commentary, and hard facts. Be an informed citizen and make wise choices. Volunteer at your child’s school. Work for a candidate. Write letters to the editor or comment on a blog. Run for office (neighborhood councils are a good place to start). Vote every time the opportunity arises. Whatever you do, don’t pretend that our nation’s future is someone else’s responsibility.

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

College Students



By Robert J. Barbera

After high school, the formative period of a student continues. It has been said college students are at an impressionable age. They have moved past the terrible teens and moved into adult life.

Because of their age and the college setting, they see new-found privileges. They have come out of the nest ready to fly to different concepts. A sense of self-esteem drives them to wider horizons. Their need for being rebellious tugs on their new-found freedom from family.

For many years college students have led the way for protests and outright rebellion. In some situations, their reactions have benefited society and in some not. A leading influence is the college’s and the professors’ inclinations. Their influence weighs considerably on the students’ thinking. For this reason selecting a college is very important.

Choosing a college for its sport activities or for its fraternities and sororities does little for the purpose of obtaining a comprehensive education. Schools, which develop an abundance of classes, based on the latest social issues or popular trendy courses are not providing a well-developed education. Narrow perspective is not education but propaganda.

A better education will make for a better society. The educational system is everyone’s concern. When students select a course of study, it is important to choose the college which has the courses they are interested in and for what the college is noted. Professors are evaluated by their compassion for teaching and for their extra curricular activity including published books and articles.

Some famous colleges have lost their founding mission. Established teaching of the great masters and religious values are not in their curriculum. Traditional morals and ethics have given way to relativism.

Political correctness has taken over honesty. Admission requirements have been reduced.

The investment in our children is too valuable to be granted to just any college. We are awash with institutions that promote changes in America’s way of life. Colleges are often the hot beds for nurturing un-American history and culture.

America’s traditions have resulted in making us a leading nation and have served us well. Core values of our freedom and liberty promote our expectations and made us self-reliant. Our ingenuity with limited rules and regulation has made America the most productive nation the world has ever seen. Our children must be protected from ivory tower progressive colleges. If our children leave college with the wrong impressions, it will have a lasting effect on our way of life.

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

SOUND OFF

Thank You
Community Members!

After more than 60 community meetings and nearly two years of extensive dialogue with stakeholders, we (Department of Sanitation) believe we have now reached a workable ordinance that addresses the major issues and concerns raised by our communities while complying with the state’s regulatory water quality mandates and protecting public health and the environment.

I want to personally thank you, our community members and leaders across the City, especially in the North Valley, for sharing our Department of Sanitation’s commitment to public health and the environment, and for your willingness to work with us on developing an Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) ordinance that is sensitive to the community, while also complying with the state’s water quality mandates.

We appreciate your time and energy used while working with us to review our proposed septic system ordinance and providing us with great input and feedback. The Bureau of Sanitation takes pride in being transparent and also listening to and serving our communities. Please feel free to contact me at: 213-485-2210 Or email:ahhsgeka@san.lacity.org

Adel H. Hagekhaulil, P.E.
Assistant Director
L.A. Bureau of Sanitation

City Council Election 2013

I’m Ricardo Benitez and I am planning to run for City Council, District Seven in 2013. I am currently involved with outreach, public safety, and equestrian concerns, as I represent stakeholders on the Sylmar Neighborhood Council. My current goal is to win the next city election and represent all our communities in District Seven.

I have a long history of working with activist in these communities. I plan to continue to be involved with the Neighborhood Council as well as support other organizations. However, I want to represent our entire District in order to work along side our city officials to improve the quality of life that our communities rightfully deserve. I will fight to protect hard working families, morals, principles, educational opportunities, a safe living environment and also help to provide a better business climate.

I have received awards from the State Assembly, State Senate, Congress, and Council District Seven for service to our community. I am now looking forward to moving up to serve our entire city as well.

For more information, I can be reached at: Richharvest1@verizon.net or call 818-381-6214.

Ricard Benitez
Sylmar

You Should Know...

A Golf Tournament to support the Foothill area LAPD, with all proceeds going toward programs to improve their service to the community, is being sponsored by the Foothill Area Booster Assoc. (FABA). The organization, made up of businesses and residents in the area, will be holding its fifth annual tournament at Angeles National Golf Course in Sunland-Tujunga for the first time, Wednesday, September 21, 2011. If you would like to be a sponsor and/or participate, contact the Foothill Community Relations Office at 818-756-8866.

Redistricting for the State and the County in progress. Every stakeholder has a voice as to what U.S. Congress, State Senate, State Assembly and County Supervisor District their community will be in. The Redistricting Commissioners are asking for input from each community. They are relying on the

active participation of citizens across California as well as the County to weigh in on how their districts should be drawn.

“Communities of Interest”, though not collected in the Census, will be heavily weighted and will assist the Commission in evaluating citizen input in exercising responsible judgment about what districts should look like. It does not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or Political Candidates. It is a contiguous population that shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation. Some examples of shared interests include those common to an urban, rural, industrial, or agricultural area, and those where people share similar living standards, transportation

facilities, work opportunities, etc.

For more information and to comment *[NOTE: It is important for you to submit comments.]* regarding the State Redistricting Commission visit: <http://we-drawthelines.ca.gov/>

For more information and to comment regarding the L.A. County Redistricting Commission visit: <http://redistricting.lacounty.gov/index.php/public-access-plan/> (www.redistricting.lacounty.gov), and will be discussed at the Committee’s final meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, July 13, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 381B of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. The reports are links to Item No. 7 on the Committee agenda (http://redistricting.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/071311_BRC-Final-Agenda.pdf).

Continued from cover – SANITATION

to nitrogen and bacteria, or within 900 feet of active drinking water wells. As a number of residents have requested, we have carefully reviewed these designated areas and verified that these were accurate except for one area in La Tuna Canyon. In collaboration with the community, the La Tuna Canyon area has been removed from the high risk list since data did not support that designation, and this removal was confirmed by the State Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). The Bureau will continue to work with the community and the RWQCB to ensure the accuracy of high-risk designations. The RWQCB conducts a biannual review process to review data and monitoring results.

A process will be established to allow property owners to appeal designations and determinations associated with the implementation of the proposed ordinance.

Editors Note: Adel Hagekhalil is Assistant Director, LA Bureau of Sanitation.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, September 24, 2011

7:45am - 4:00pm

Neighborhood Council Congress

“Increasing Public Participation in Government”

City Hall

Info: Cindy Cleghorn (818) 429-6699

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Thieves Targeting Third Row Car Seats in the Valley



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

In 2009, the theft of third row seats from high-end General Motors sport utility vehicles (SUVs) such as Cadillac Escalades, GMC Yukons, and Chevrolet Suburbans, was somewhat unnoticeable as compared to other crimes in the San Fernando Valley. However, in 2010, the theft of third row seats from these vehicles rose to over 200. As of May 2011, over 110 seats have been stolen. It is clear that there is a demand for parts from these vehicles to include in-dash navigation systems and air bags.

In response to these crimes, Operations-Valley Bureau, Valley Crime Task Force has been conducting a variety of surveillance operations throughout the San Fernando Valley in the highest crime locations.

On the night of June 8, 2011, officers from the Task Force were monitoring parking lots. Their attention was drawn to a van matching a suspect vehicle description, circling a parking lot while repeatedly passing vacant parking spots. The van was observed slowing as it passed General Motors SUVs. Eventually, the van attempted to depart the area. At that point, the police stopped the van and discovered the occupants were in possession of three third row seats. The driver and passenger were detained and further investigation determined that the seats belonged to three recently burglarized General Motors SUVs at a nearby restaurant.

Search warrants were prepared which led to the recovery of additional third row seats and other personal belongings from other victims.

Based upon the outstanding follow-up work completed by the officers, officers assigned to the Task Force obtained four felony filings and one misdemeanor filing on the suspects. The suspects in this

case had extensive criminal histories related to automobile thefts and burglaries from automobiles.

The Los Angeles Police Department is seeking assistance from the community in taking steps to secure their third row seats and to deter the possibility of becoming victims. Specifically, owners of General Motors SUVs should consider engraving the vehicle identification number (VIN) on the metal frame and/or using a small bicycle lock to lock the seat into the vehicle. These two steps will provide better protection for their personal property by deterring the thief if the seat is locked into the vehicle. The application of the VIN to the seat will assist the police in locating a victim if the seat is recovered at a later time after the crime. Also, consideration should be given to taking the seat out if it is not used on a regular basis.

The effectiveness of the Los Angeles Police Department is magnified when the community works with the police to protect property and identify would-be thieves

LAPD Wants YOU to...



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

Be Prepared!!!! Although this is the motto of scouting organizations, it should be the motto for each and every resident who resides in Foothill Area. The lives of your families will benefit greatly in the event of a real emergency when everyone is properly prepared.

The City of Los Angeles has had its share of natural disasters over the past 40 years. We have experienced fires, floods, and earthquakes, each of which has changed everyone's life in one way or another. Another potential disaster that is somewhat new to our City, is

a terrorist attack. This is a very real likelihood since the question has arisen on more than one occasion: It's not where it may occur, but when? In an effort to ensure that everyone is prepared for the next disaster:

- Attend a Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.) Class held by the Los Angeles City Fire Department.
- Ensure that the water heater is strapped to the wall.
- Know where to shut off the water, power and gas and have pre-placed tools at each location.
- Make sure items are secured to walls where appropriate.
- Know the unsafe locations in the house.
- Know which neighbors have medical experience.
- Talk with neighbors about emergency preparedness.
- Conduct a home evacuation drill.

- Teach children how to get help from neighbors and 9-1-1.
- Have stored emergency items to use as shelter.
- Have a first aid kit.
- Have stored emergency lighting equipment.
- Have stored miscellaneous supplies including money for emergency use.
- Make it a point to keep the tank full in your car.

This is only a partial list of what needs to be done in disasters. Please teach all of your family members the importance of preparedness. I urge all of you to contact your local Community-Police Advisory Board (C-PAB) member or phone your Senior Lead Officer at (818) 756-8866. Foothill Area is attempting to prepare all residents who live and work in our area. Please take the time to PREPARE yourself!!! Have a wonderful summer and be safe.

DWP Solar Programs

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power is re-launching its Solar Incentive Program and proposed design of a Local Renewable Energy Program, commonly referred to as Feed-in-Tariff. The workshop opportunities arrived too late to notice in this issue of NVR. Even after the use of tax credits and subsidies, could solar be more expensive than other forms of energy? Look for a follow-up article in next month's issue. In the meantime visit the LADWP News site at: <http://www.ladwpnews.com>

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THIS N THAT

HERE'S MY CARD



Carrick's Journey
—Part Thirty Two
The Bunker

By Tomi Lyn Bowling

Fanella brought the ship slowly to a stop on a kind of cliff within the cave. There were many such cliffs. Drake was reeling from the vision before him. This was a huge underground cave and there were people milling around everywhere. Drake had moved up to the front sitting at the window staring out into the vast cave. Sebastian simply debarked and went on ahead of them.

Fanella began to explain, “Most of these people are the villagers of Tibor. Tibor is the largest village with around 10,000 people. They arrived ahead of our village a few days ago, and there are a few other villages as well. This is a familiar place to us all and everyone knows to come here in any emergency.”

Drake had so many questions he found it hard to formulate just one, but fumbled and mumbled as he tried to say one word, giving up and trying another until he finally produced an audible sentence, “How?” Fanella giggled as she instinctively knew most of his questions and could see he was having difficulty communicating them. She grabbed his arm, “Let’s go, I’ll introduce you to Sarge. You met him briefly up in our village before the attack. He’s one of our greatest leaders and Sebastian will be meeting with him first thing. We’ve got to find out how many we’ve lost in that trap.”

Drake tried to focus on the words coming from her lips but he could not stop looking around in awe. His eyes were tugged to the right and then to the left. Fanella’s attempts to put her face directly in front of him finally paid off. “It’s huge! How is there air? It’s so light! Where is the light coming from? Is this a natural cave, or made this way?”

Each question posed his vision at another direction. And, then rather than pursue any answers, he simply looked at Fanella, grabbed her arms, and this time made her look him in the eyes and he said “Wow!” and almost giggled himself in utter disbelief. Fanella giggled with him, “Come ON!” she exclaimed, now pulling him along, “Sebastian will be waiting for us”.

As they walked ahead, to Fanella’s great surprise, there was Justine, the high counsel, and sole survivor, of Arantior. Fanella and Justine hugged. “How are you? Are you really up to being here?” Fanella said. Justine replied “I’m fine. It’s important that Sebastian knows every detail of the attack on my village. We were not prepared for that.” Fanella invited Justine to walk along with them, and introduced her to Drake. “Drake, this is Justine, High Counsel of Arantior. Justine, this is Drake the eldest son of Maddie Carrick, our visitor.” To be continued...

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War

By Marlene & Lloyd Hitt

“The personnel carrier lurches to a stop. The sound of rocks and shrapnel hitting the metal sides is deafening as is the sound of the machine gun in the corner turret opening up to cover our escape into this world of chaos.

The closest cover is a blown up bunker of heavy beams and sandbags next to the road. I run for cover as an F-86 Sabre screams overhead and drops a load of napalm on the hill over looking us on our right. As I land on the ground inside the bunker I realize a small stream courses its way under me. A rivulet of bright red flows slowly under my chest mixing with the muddy water as if to return home.

Looking up the hillside I can see a figure draped over the barbed wire, a hole through his chest. His eyes are open and have a look of surprise and at the same time they seem to be staring at me. Oh God I wished I could close them. I don’t want him to see how scared I am. If he could close his eyes I could hide from Hell for a few more minutes. His blood soaks into my flak-vest and I know I must take his place.”

If you are this soldier, you would have come alone to boot camp, away from home, family, and everything familiar. Man does not like to be alone, so you would have bonded closely with your fellow recruits. As the time came when you belonged to a unit and were sent out to risk your life, your companions were all you had in a world in which death chased close behind. Then when your closest buddy was ripped to pieces you were crazy with grief. That is war. You want to tell Mom, Dad, your sweetheart but you can’t because no words were made for such an experience.

You want to remember him, your closest friend. It seems to be a universal impulse of man to erect memorials to the persons, and sometimes places, that have meant so much to him and are now lost to him. If you had just a moment you would place a stone, a flower, a monument to him then and there. Your mon-

ument though must stay in your head forever.

The list of mankind’s memorials is huge; pyramids, the Arch of Triumph in Paris, Mount Vernon, Lenin’s Tomb, the crosses on graves.

One day, many years ago “Tinker belle” the Chihuahua died. The children had a service for her. She was buried and a wooden cross placed on the grave. At another time a blue belly lizard was found frozen in a pail of water. Once the beauty of its belly was discovered, the children realized that a treasured creature was gone. Again – a service and a cross.

Long ago, as a memorial to their beloved dead, Southern women sprinkled spring flowers on the graves of soldiers during the War between the States. They honored the Northern dead as well as their own in this way.

After the war (1868), May 30 was named as a special day for honoring the graves of the Union soldiers. At some point the day was named Decoration Day and became the day to place tribute upon the graves of all who fought and died in wars. That day is now officially, in most states, known, on every May 30 as Memorial Day.

However, Independence Day is now upon us. And many a fine patriot made the ultimate sacrifice so that this day, too, could be celebrated by so many generations of free Americans. So, perhaps it is a good time to again place a flag on the grave of each soldier and thank him and her for their immense and supreme sacrifice. We might, again, all celebrate their lives with services, flags flying, parades, barbecues, fireworks, and with getting together with those we love as we celebrate our memories of loved ones and our own aliveness. Let’s not ever forget.

Editor’s Note: Marline Hitt is a former Sunland-Tujunga Poet Laurete and is the Docent Director of Little Landers Historical Society. Lloyd Hitt, their recently retired President, served in Korea as a Sergeant in the U.S. Army.

SAVE
THE
DATE

50th Anniversary of the Lions Club
Watermelon Festival
August 12, 13, 14 ~ \$5 Admission

Sunland - Tujunga
Neighborhood
Council

Meets 2nd Wednesday
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1st & 3rd Monday
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Memorial Day & Flag Day

Sunland-Tujunga Memorial Day Service

Commander Pat O’Brien began the service at the Veterans Memorial in Sunland Park by welcoming Boy Scout Troop 315 who presented the colors. O’Brien led the Pledge of Allegiance, and his daughter, Kelly O’Brien, sang the Star Spangled Banner and America the Beautiful. Evie Calvin read a Memorial Day poem, and Art Otten did the MIA Remembrance, after which he read the names of those Sunland-Tujunga area service men and women who gave their lives for our country. During the reading of names, the Commander placed wreaths before the Memorial and rang the bell as each war was remembered. Ms. O’Brien closed the service by playing Taps on her Trumpet.



Sylmar

A large number of community members came out to honor members of our armed forces at a ceremony held at Pioneer Cemetery in Sylmar. They joined with the Sylmar High School Singers singing the Star Spangled Banner and Pastor James W. Page lead a prayer for our troops. Re-enactors portrayed Civil War Veterans and others. As special tribute was made to honor a local hero, U.S. Marine Corporal Julio Vargas, 23, by Council District Seven Deputy Dan Rosales, Julio was killed July 20, 2010 in Afghanistan. As native of Sylmar, Julio spent his young life as a member of the LDS Church, Boy Scouts of America, and the San Fernando Police Explorers.

Community members were invited to share in a BBQ hosted by the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Sylmar after the ceremony

4TH OF JULY

Parade and Fireworks Festival Celebrate Independence Day

By Eric Owens

The Annual 4th of July Parade, sponsored by the Sunland-Tujunga/Shadow Hills Rotary Club, helped to celebrate USA’s 235th birthday in Sunland-Tujunga on a sizzling but beautiful summer day.

This year’s parade theme, “Making Friends – Building Memories”, began with an LAPD flyover, followed by the Rotary’s banner, held by members of the Verdugo Hills High School (VHHS) Interact club. It also included a tribute to parade founder, Ted Mertz, who just recently passed away at the age of 95.

They were followed by Grand Marshall and Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council President, Dan McManus; Rotary District Governor, Drew Froehlich;

Honorary Sheriff, Tawnya Gartside; U.S. Marine Core Corps. Megan Morse, from the office of Congressman Brad Sherman; Lloyd Hitt, from Little Landers Historical Society; Boy Scout Troop #307; Subway’s Subman; 12 Step Sober Living; Verdugo YMCA; United Self Defense Academy; Hillrose Motor Group; Crescenta Young Musicians; Crescenta Valley Sierra Club; Verdugo Hills High School Marching Band; All-City Champion Drum Line; ROTC, with Sam Al-Thakafi; and Boosters Club, with Julie Cudihey; Sunland-Tujunga Chamber and Savethegolfcourse.org

Hollywood stars, such as Samantha Bailey from the television soap, “The Young and the Restless”, made an appearance and also young actor Bailey Garcia. Beginning in the afternoon, the Sunland-Tujunga

Shadow Hills Community Fund held the Family Fireworks Festival on the football field of Verdugo Hills High School . The proceeds from the festival go to support student programs at the local schools. Councilmember Paul Krekorian and his family also attended and enjoyed everything from food truck, “Tacos Y Mariscos Pena” and bounce houses, to amazing live music from the mainstage by musical groups Deby Ray’s Revue, the Garage Band, Living in July, Marcus Lane and Working Stiffz. The event concluded with a fantastic fireworks display.

The Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council is the Title Sponsor for this spectacular display of the community.

Photos courtesy of Cindy Cleghorn

