



Mansionization In Los Angeles

By Dick Platkin

If your Los Angeles neighborhood is now suffering from mansionization, and you want to know why this is happening and what can be done about it, then this article is for you.

On paper the fight against the mansionization of Los Angeles’s neighborhoods has already been won. After a decade of tough skirmishes at City Hall and in local neighborhoods, the City of Los Angeles now has legally adopted anti- mansionization planning policies and two city-wide ordinances. At the policy level, the Los Angeles General Plan, its Land Use Element, the 35 Community Plans, and the City Planning Commission’s “Do Real Planning” policy declaration all support restrictions on mansionization--the process of real estate speculators demolishing older single-family homes and then replacing them with over-sized, out-of-character suburban-style spec houses.

Another important victory was in 2008, when the City Council adopted the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance (BMO) and, several years later, the Baseline Hillside Mansionization Ordinance.

But, as anyone who drives through vast swaths of Los Angeles can plainly see, the mansionization process never stopped, and it is now in overdrive. Based on these simple, observable facts, the City Council’s and City Planning Commission’s adopted mansionization policies and their



implementing ordinances are strictly ornamental. To, therefore, uncover exactly how the City of Los Angeles still manages to approve McMansions, anti-mansionization advocates initially determined that the culprit was the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance itself. After all, this ordinance was sabotaged by last minute exemptions and bonuses unsuccessfully opposed by the former President of the City Planning Commission, Jane Usher, and by the former Director of City Planning, Gail Goldberg.

We have since learned, however, that there are two other, lesser-known governmental processes that also promote

the construction of McMansions. The first one is Building and Safety’s publicly inaccessible procedures for reviewing McMansion building permits. This is the critical moment when Building and Safety dishes out the bonuses and exemptions that allow the construction of McMansions. The second process is the Department of Building and Safety’s totally deficient—and outright scary—oversight of house demolitions.

While we have little doubt that the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance (BMO) is only effective until that moment when local real estate economics reach a mansionization tipping point, we now understand the full process is more complex. This is why amendments to eliminate those fatal, last minute BMO loopholes, are only the first step. While these amendments are critical, they are still not enough to stop mansionization.

The second step is also essential, making the internal review and enforcement processes of the Los Angeles Department of Building Safety transparent to the public.

Finally, the third step to stop mansionization is major revisions in the Department of Building and Safety’s procedures for permitting and inspecting house demolitions.

Let us look at these three steps in more detail.

Step 1: Eliminating most or all of the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance’s exemptions and bonuses. The exemptions are straightforward. Incredibly, the size of a house does not include attached

(cont. on page 11)

L.A. City Firefighter Shortage is Critical

by Elektra Kruger

We urgently need to hire more firefighters because there is currently a major imbalance between firefighter hiring and attrition within the Los Angeles City Fire Department (LAFD).

The LAFD has not hired a single firefighter in over five years. The last recruit training class graduated in February, 2009. The limited number of firefighters and paramedics available fail to adequately staff existing fire companies and rescue ambulances.

In fiscal year (FY) 2008–2009, the LAFD had roughly 3,600 sworn members. By late 2013, through attrition, that number dropped to around 3,100. To deal with ongoing attrition, the LAFD recently resorted to using a Recall System to fill daily staffing vacancies at the 106 fire stations when there are not enough members to keep an existing fire company or rescue ambulance in service.

A “Recall” is generally reserved for a major emergency, such as an earthquake or major fire, and need to pull in a larger deployable field force. Having to depend on the Recall System to fill daily field vacancies suggests that the LAFD is facing a severe staffing crisis.

In the 2013-2014 FY, the LAFD is scheduled to hire one recruit class of 70 firefighters which, based on a historic 20% attrition rate, will result in approximately 55 actual recruits who will continue on to become members of the LAFD. These will not enter the field until June, 2014. At the same time, 60 current sworn members must exit the Deferred Retirement Option Plan, (DROP), before June 30, 2014. That plan was initiated to retain as many existing firefighters as possible beyond standard retirement age. This will leave us with even fewer firefighters on the payroll than we have today.

Mandatory retirements via the DROP program will continue with 120 anticipated during FY 2014-2015 and 178 during FY 2015-2016. Shockingly, it would take the LAFD academy up to April of 2018 to hire enough firefighters and paramedics to meet minimum capacity.

Due to this crisis, in mid-October, Councilmember Mike Bonin submitted a Motion to City Council asking that they instruct the LAFD, the LA City Administrative Officer, and the City’s Personnel Department to report on:

- How the Fire Department ended up in this situation in the first place, and what processes should have been in place to catch this staffing imbalance

- Options for pushing up the start date of the first reopened Drill Tower (academy), or increasing the number of Drill Tower (academy) classes.
- Staffing needs of the Recruit Training Section to possibly open a second Drill Tower (academy)
- Staffing needs of the Public Safety Division of the Personnel
- Department to assist with potentially processing additional firefighter applicants

The Motion was referred to both the City Council’s Public Safety Committee and Personnel Committee for their review and recommendations.

In late January 2014, James Featherstone, the Interim Fire Chief, and Margaret Whelan, the General Manager of the City’s Personnel Department, submitted a joint report to the City Council in response to these points. The report stated that, as a result of the economic downturn, among other programs, in FY 2011–2012, a revised staffing plan

(cont. on page 9)



Mobile Home Nightmare

By Chuck Loring

Tax paying citizens deserve protection. The state of California has created laws called the Mobile Home Residency Law (MHRL) and Title 2.5 in the city code.

The Agencies that have been charged with that protection have failed in this mission. When a homeowner files a complaint with the ombudsman, it is forwarded to the Housing and Community Development (HCD) Department, which should be the first line of communication and defense.

In the cases of lot lines in the Valley Village Mobile Home Park, resident rights are being blatantly violated. Martin Ford, the HCD Inspector for Southern Ca., has failed to make public the ten hours of measuring the spaces in that park and then failed to notify the residences of his visit, even though the complaints were not filed by the park manager. The residents filed them when the managers moved lot

markers without due process. Title 2.5 lists only three ways a lot marker can be moved. This means that property is being stolen when management ignores these laws.

These illegal actions by some management companies affect several dozen Mobil Home Parks in the Valley and must be stopped. Some of those cases have gone to court only to have the Judge and Commissioners completely disregard the law. Failure to apply the law ends up costing the homeowners their life savings in order to protect their homes.

Another problem with the system is that the management companies continue harassment until the homeowners have exhausted their funds. The managers have financial resources from the rentals of the spaces, which can be used to force people out of their homes.

Mobil Homes are the only true affordable residential housing left and most are owned by senior citizens It is time

for the city and state officials recognize this problem and step up to aid our powerless and low income families.

If you find yourself in an abusive situation, please call your local representatives and let them know your problem. This is the only way these homeowners will get justice. Mobil Home owners deserve the same protections that the government gave to homeowners when the banks did the similar things during the mortgage crash. Go on line to www.ZIMAS.org, enter your address and find out a host of information on the property. 311 can point you in the right direction.

Editor’s Note: Chuck Loring is President GSMOL, Chapter 1486, Assoc. Manager, Region 3, GSMOL (Golden State Mobile Home Owners League), LAHD Mobile Home Task Force, and Board Member, North Hollywood North East Neighborhood Council, Land Use Committee.
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COMMUNITY NEWS

I am Honored to Serve You



Tony Cardenas
Congressman,
29th District

When I raised my hand to take the oath of office last January, to serve as the Congressman for the San Fernando Valley, I did so in Washington. Then I returned home, to the Valley, where I held a Community Swearing-In at L.A. Mission College.

I was proud, not because I was becoming a Congressman, but because it showed my commitment to the Valley. For me, serving the people of Southern California is job one, and it is important that you know what that means.

My District Office is in Arleta and is fully staffed with representatives who can help anyone in the 29th District with issues they have with the federal government. Constituents can come into the office with a number of requests:

Help with Social Security and Medicare. Whether ensuring eligibility for benefits, making sure that a check is in

the mail or getting an explanation why benefits were denied, we are ready to work and advocate on your behalf.

Assistance for Veterans. For those who need help with the VA or other military matters, including the GI Bill and disability benefits, or in obtaining military medals and commendations, I can work with the VA and the Department of Defense to expedite solving problems for the Veterans to whom we owe so much.

Help with immigration and naturalization. Whether it's getting a work permit or green card for a loved one, or making sure that a passport application is dealt with properly, my staff are fully trained to help.

Foreclosure and other homeowner issues. California was the epicenter of the foreclosure and housing crash during the great recession. Because of this, homeowners in Southern California may have questions about their mortgages and potential problems. My office can help you get the answers you need and work with your lender to make sure you keep your house.

There are literally thousands of issues that my staff can help settle. If you don't know whether your issue qualifies, just call my office at 818-504-0090.

We do not just solve problems though. I am in awe of the young men and women who applied, through my office, for admission to one of our nation's military academies this past year. It is the privilege of every Representative to nominate students for these academies, and I cannot wait to name the next class from the Valley in 2014.

Local students have other opportunities as well. Currently, my office is looking for the best artist in the 29th District, whose work will be recognized in the U.S. Capitol. There is also a Congressional App Contest taking place and challenging young to create the best possible mobile phone App. Information about these opportunities is available on my website.

So to those I represent, I look forward to hearing from you. More importantly, I hope you will take advantage of the services offered by my office. If I can ever be of help, please call, email or stop by my office in Arleta.

You Should Know...

By Nina Royal

The City Administrative Officer/Chief Legislative Analyst has released their joint report on the "Development Services Reform," Council File #13-0046 and the City's Planning and Land Use Management Committee is recommending the City Council instruct the General Managers of LA Dept. of Building and Safety, Dept. of City Planning, Public Works, Bureau of Engineering to develop "Memoranda of Agreement" that will establish a division of authority, roles, and responsibilities between LADBS and DCP for zoning and land use compliance and review. LADBS should continue to work collaboratively with DCP on a transition plan to shift zoning compliance review to DCP and establish the division of authority for discretionary approval condition compliance and enforcement based upon the issuance of the certificate of occupancy or final inspection. DCP should continue to oversee and monitor compliance of conditions of approval, but should not dedicate full time staff to enforcement after the certificate of occupancy is issued. For the remaining recommendations please see PLUM report on the Council File Management System at <http://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&ncfms=&cfnumber=13-0046>

reCodeLA has released their Zoning Code Evaluation Report which covers the following sections: Distinct Neighborhoods, Housing, Affordability and Diversity, Centers

and Corridors, Transportation Choice, Jobs and Innovation, A Strong Core, A Healthy City, Code Delivery, Summary of Recommendations. Visit the recode.la website to get involved.

North Valley Military Institute College Preparatory Academy, the 1st military school in the LAUSD, is a free public co-ed charter school in Granada Hills, 6-12 grades, and serves students throughout the San Fernando Valley. They have a military framework, challenging curriculum, with emphasis on physical fitness. They provide students with the academic and leadership skills necessary for college and career success and a foundation for lifelong health and well being.

The Elaine Whittington Scholarship Program fundraiser, sponsored by the San Fernando Valley National Association of Purchasing Management (NAPM-SFV), an affiliate of the Institute of Supply Management, is offering companies the opportunity to show and demonstrate their products and services, and network with purchasing and supply chain professionals during their annual dinner on Wednesday evening, May 14, at the Odyssey Restaurant in Granada Hills. Call 818-878-4706 for more information and/or reservations.

Elaine Whittington, C.P.M., A.P.P., was one of the first female buyers in aerospace, winner of the prestigious Shipmen Gold Medal and president of the Institute for Supply

Management. This Scholarship Program was her baby. She passed away in September 2013, as a result of injuries from a car accident. She and her husband, Gary, were residents of Sunland-Tujunga.

Income Tax Payment Day, Tuesday, April 15th is coming up fast. The IRS publishes FREE Information Booklets. It is a very valuable resource whether you prepare your own taxes or have it done by a professional. The most popular and most useful booklet is Publication 17, called "Your Federal Income Tax Guide for 2013." It is approximately 300 pages and will answer 95% of your questions on the tax rules. It can be obtained by calling the IRS at 800-829-3676 and will be mailed to you as soon as it is published. It is also on line and sent PDF to your computer from www.irs.gov/publications/index.html. Bob Castle Tax Service, via the Old Granada Hills Residents Group, provided this important information.

LAFD CERT Boot Camp, is a 2 day Free CERT Training—8 hours per day commitment being held Saturday and Sunday, April 12-13 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm at CA National Guard Armory, 17330 Victory Blvd., Van Nuys. There is a free breakfast and lunch each day. There are some options: dinner or Ham Radio test prep class, which have a cost involved. For more information and to register, visit: <http://www.cd3-psc.com/>

Foothill Trails Solar Might be Coming to Your Neighborhood

By Nancy Woodruff

A neighbor in Lake View Terrace filed an Appeal regarding the proposed Solar Farm next to All Nations Church, located at 10000 Foothill Blvd., which will be a solar electrical generating business selling electricity to LADWP. This enterprise is being allowed by the City of L.A. with no discretionary action to allow a business within the RA1K and RE401K zones. There is no code in place to regulate his activity in any zone.

The vehicle to create these "by right" projects is the LADWP FiT (Feed-in-Tariff) program. The appeal includes sites already accepted in the 2nd tier (one tier every six months). You will probably see these farms within your area soon, particularly if you are in the North East Valley.

This case exists because this venue is within a Specific Plan that addresses landscaping and fencing and assumes that the use is allowable within the zone. Otherwise, there would be no basis for the appeal.

For further information visit the L.A. City Planning website and refer to Cases No. DIR 2013-2972-SPP and ENV 2013-2071-CE. You can mail comments to Los Angeles, Planning Dept. Zoning Admin. 6262 Van Nuys Blvd., Rm 430, Van Nuys, 91041. Or, you can email: Priva.mehendale@lacity.org with copies to councilmember.fuentes@lacity.org and Amazrey@aol.com

Editor's Note: Ms Woodruff serves on the Foothills Trails District Neighborhood Council and Chair of the Land Use Committee.

Los Angeles County Air Show - "Night at the Hangar"

U.S. Navy Blue Angels will be among the air show performers attending and addressing the crowd at the Los Angeles County Air Show Night at The Hangar (home field for the Lancaster JetHawks, Class A Minor League team for the Houston Astros), The Flight Test Historical Foundation benefit is open to the public beginning at 6:00 pm, March 21, 2014, as a continued celebration of the inaugural Los Angeles County Air Show. Tickets are currently on sale and festivities will include a performance by the Jacob Nelson Band and conclude with a JetHawks fireworks display.

"The LA County Air Show is a community partnership with the City of Lancaster, the Flight Test Historical Foundation, and the Lancaster JetHawks, immediately following the Air Show the public will have the opportunity to meet some of the performers and help support the mission of the Flight Test Historical Foundation."

Flight Test Historical Foundation and the Los Angeles County Air Show is hosting Air Show Night at The Hangar," said JetHawks General Manager, William Thornhill. The Lancaster JetHawks will provide one (1) free ticket to each attendee for any game during the Opening Home Stand, Thursday April 3rd through Wednesday, April 9th, which includes Opening Night, the JetHawks Team Poster Giveaway, JetHawks Pint Glass Giveaway, Autism Awareness Night, and others. Please visit www.JetHawks.com to view the entire 2014 promotional schedule.

General admission tickets are available for purchase and are \$10.00 each and traditional ballpark food and beer will be available for purchase throughout the evening.

For more information, visit: www.lacountyairshow.com

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council News

By Mark Seigel, President

The Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council (STNC) has been advocating for the people of Sunland-Tujunga since before its creation. And we are always advocating on a continuous basis. Sometimes, getting the city to do something can take years. There are motions, procedures, committees, rules, commissions, forms, wording, votes, red tape, etc. But I'm glad to report that we do have progress on some long-standing issues in the community. Have you seen the repaired streets at Tujunga Cyn. and Foothill? Or all of the resurfacing that's been done east of Commerce and North of Foothill? Councilman Fuentes' office staff have told me they are going to start repairing Hillhaven at Tujunga Cyn. Soon. The city is going to start work on the Oro Vista Passive Park (at Big Tujunga Cyn.) in July. We have over 35 homeless people that have been placed in long term housing and are off our streets. The Sunland Park Director reports that the numbers of homeless in the park has dropped from 20-30 a day to 2 or 3 a day. Children are coming back to the playground. We have advocated for, and brought Starbucks, Panda Express, and Fresh and Easy, and other stores. We fought for Weatherwolde Castle and won! Our Land Use Committee created a very fair and equitable

Floor Area Ratio (FAR, now called RFA), plan with the city to halt over-mansionization of our community but still allow enough space for a large family. Many other communities in the City of LA liked it so much they adopted it. It has become the ex-facto standard. We are continually working to find an acceptable development for the K-Mart site. We are a driving force in the city. Our annual budget has always been well maintained. We had 14 audits this past year, and came through with flying colors.

Your Neighborhood Council members are the SAME AS YOU. They are neighbors, business owners, home owners, renters, and/or attend meetings of local organizations or churches. They are 100% volunteers. They want a better community for their kids, family, and neighbors. The only difference is they have stepped up to be voted for to represent YOU and our community to the city. Please step up to volunteer a little time on a committee of something that interests you. The more people helping the better.

Editor's Note: Mark Seigel is the president-elect of the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council and a local locksmith. You can reach him at 818-430-5244 or email: mark.seigel@gmail.com



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Region 1 Election Results

The North Valley Neighborhood Council elections are completed for both Region 1 and Region 2. All Neighborhood Councils had outstanding candidate participation and (in most cases) twice the voter turnout. Following are the winners. Results from EmpowerLA.org

Arlleta NC Home/Condo Reps Jaime Gallo Maria Diaz-Tran Raymond Duran	Area 6 Rep Nancy Woodruff Sherry Ann Jackson Community Interest Rep Donna Lauber Total Voters = 127
Renters Reps Sergio Ibarra David Sandoval	Mission Hills NC At Large Director Borzou Rahimi Residential Homeowner Director Jose L. Arevalo Richard B. Tocher Maribel Carrillo Residential Renter Director Richard Flores Business Owner Brad Klimovitch Total Voters = 142
Business Rep Cyndee Riding Community Based Org. Julian Ramirez Veronica Delara Faith Based Sammy Vazquez	North Hills East NC Homeowner Margarita Diaz Renter Venancio Lopez Business Owner Silvia Lopez Employee Marisol Lopez Organizational Board Member Maria Estevez Youth Community Board Member Jocelyn Zamora Senior Citizen Punam Gohel Region 2 Perla Lagunas
At-Large Max Foster Luis Sencion John Hernandez Seniors Jim Kallas Youth Daniel Orozco Maria Mejia Total Voters = 232	
Foothill Trails District NC At-Large Reps Lauralee Eulaue Thoms Fritz Bronner Area 1 Rep Kevin Davis Linda Hornick Area 3 Rep Josie Zarate Area 4 Rep Terry Kaiser Michael Neal Carpenter Area 5 Rep Robert (Bob) Bell	

Region 3 Steven Martinez Region 4 Margarita Lopez At Large Stakeholder Tony Wilkinson Italia L. Abundez Olivia Diaz Eulalia Hernandez Total Voters = 181 Pacoima NC Youth Representatives Jessica Urquiza Rebeca Lopez-Viramontes David Rodriguez Seniors Representatives Imelda Foley Fannie Arlecia Long Renters Representatives Alex Morales Martha Martinez Vanessa Serrano Raquel Cedillo Home/Condo Owner Representatives Ruth Martinez Juan Salas Jaime Lazo Rosa Rubalcava Retail Business Rep's Reuben Garcia John Hernandez Community Based Organization Rep David Milian School Representative Michael Gonzales
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At-Large Representative Rebecca Long Levi Ponce Total Voters = 172 Panorama City NC Resident-Homeowner North Director Pamela Gibberman Resident-Homeowner-Center-West Director Dianabel Gonzalez Business Directors Martin Geisler Jakelin Campos Susan Herrell At-Large Directors Tony Wilkinson Chelsea Hopson Unlimited At-Large Director Gregory Wilkinson Total Voters = 47 Sunland-Tujunga NC President Mark Seigel First Vice President Tomi Lyn Bowling Second Vice President Brenda Fortune Secretary Sandra Baugus Treasurer Nina Royal Region 1 Jorge Martinez Pat Kramer Region 2 Arno Akobyan Auntie Gail J. Carlson

REGION 1

ELECTION RESULTS

2014

Region 3 Jim Moore David Barron Region 4 Maureen O'Byrne Charlie Bradley Stakeholder Group Reps Patrick O'Brien Sergio Soto Dana Stangel John Laue Julie Cuddihy Krystee Clark Cindy Cleghorn Marlene Hitt Total Voters = 671 Sun Valley Area NC Residential Stakeholder Directors Wendy Thum Debbie Lyn Boyd Elizabeth Bille Lysander Cuevas Business/Property Owner Mark B. Allen Daniel Salazar Maurice Vanegas Sam Khalaf At-Large Stakeholder Directors Mike O'Gara Jonathan David Leeper Mylo Koenig Total Voters = 83	Sylmar NC Youth Rep Brenda Resendis Senior Rep Ann Job Recreation/Open Spaces Kathy Grubert Equestrian Representative Cheri Blose Retail Rep Laurie Fadness Jeh Meher Silverio Pelayo Industrial Rep Lucille Floresta Home/Condo Owner Jackie Mata Derek Martin Roy Smith Judith Neal Renter Reps Chris Shows Carlos Lara Community Based Org. Diane Valencia Patricia Rau Educational Institution Maria Silva At-Large Reps Wally Aguilar Kathy Bloom Christian Alfredo Rubalcava Total Voters = 653 Total Voters Region 1 = 2,308
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Sun Valley Area

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to pre-approve your application. For more information call: 818-504-0090 or 818-504-3911

Thursday, March 20 from 4-7 p.m. – Panorama Recreation Center, 8600 Hazeltine Ave., Panorama City

Saturday, March 22 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. – Vaughn International Studies Academy, 11505 Herrick Avenue, Pacoima

Saturday, March 29 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. – Delano Recreation Center, 15100 Erwin St., Van Nuys

Lake View Terrace



2014 Emergency Preparedness Expo at Hansen Dam co-sponsored by LAPD, LA County Sheriff, LA City Fire and Search & Rescue. The event included the Shakey Quakey Schoolhouse, Boy Scout First Aid exhibits, Family Emergency Communication Plans and more held on March 8, 2014.



Mission Hills

Officer Needs Help!

Friends and family, I need your help to assist a fellow LAPD Officer who was assigned to Mission Area. He was diagnosed with cancer last month and has since had his foot amputated due to this terrible disease. Marcial is the sole provider in his household, caring for his wife and two young children. We feel that it is our duty to help a fellow officer, but we can't do it alone.

We are respectfully requesting any assistance you can provide via a donation.

Let me know if and how you can help. I would love to hear from you. THANKS!

SGT Adrian Torres
LAPD Mission Area Station
11121 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Mission Hills
818-838-9856



LAPD Officer
Marcial Cruz

SOUND OFF Municipal Codes Must Be Enforced

By Morris Pichon, Pacoima

I am referring to the tragic loss of the Estrada family of four who had just moved into a rental home, which had been converted from a metal clad barn, in Sylmar. They had only been living there six weeks prior to their home being consumed by fire in January that unfortunately claimed the lives of the entire family.

How many more families will perish before the city authorities enforce the Los Angeles Municipal Code, which are laws that define construction requirements and residential modifications. CD7 is plagued with makeshift modifications and building conversions.

Building & Safety is not insuring that CD 7 is SAFE when it comes to single family rental residences because they are not inspected by the Housing Department or Building and Safety and this needs to be corrected. They too, should come under periodic inspection by the Code Enforcement Bureau. They should not be treated any differently than multi-units because rentals are usually not kept up well and create blight in our neighborhoods. This community is loaded with illegal garage conversions, backyard trailer parks, and campers being used as condos and rentals. Many are utilizing illegal electrical and plumbing connections.

I am a long time community activist and I believe that in order to resolve this problem, we need to have a consolidated Code Enforcement Bureau made up of Inspectors that cover all the city departments that require inspections. There would be no questions as to what department to call. This would also resolve jurisdiction issues and provide more inspectors who can be assigned by the triage method since they are all supposed to be fully trained.

**Mr. Pichon is former treasurer of the Pacoima Neighborhood Council and Community Activist.*

“Nice Guys Finish Last”...(or not)

Dear Mr. Torrero,

Regarding your commentary in the December 2013 issue of the North Valley Reporter I was intrigued by your reference to Leo Durocher's often mis-quoted line about "nice guys." I say "mis-quoted" because after years of hearing people say: "Nice guys finish last" and attributing that quote to Leo Durocher, I was stunned to hear Mr. Durocher, himself, correct the misquotes while being interviewed on the radio.

At the end of the interview, the host said: "Well, as you once said...nice guys finish last!" My having heard that

quote attributed to Leo for years, I couldn't believe it when he said: "I never said that." He explained that in a past interview about a particular team losing a game, he simply said: "It's too bad. They're nice guys...they finished last." And I was impressed by his quiet correction after many years of being misquoted.

Ironically, your statement that "We all must believe that good guys do win" is what has kept me correcting those who misquoted Leo because I, too, believe what you do.

The irony is that after he denied having said it the way it was being repeated...no one ever quoted his denial. Interesting...no?

Sadly, like you, I was never satisfied with what I heard each time someone repeated what Leo actually never said. And I was so happy to finally hear the man himself refute it. I also believe that he would be very grateful for your contradiction to what he never said.

Patty Tossy
No. Hollywood



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Calendar Policy: IMPORTANT changes to NVR Calendar policy: Some organizations' meeting's, dates, days, places, and times have changed without the knowledge of the NVR. Due to an all volunteer staff, the NVR has very limited resources and does not have the time to research every organization's web site for meetings/events/updates. Therefore: 1) Please carefully review the Calendar Section in our current issue. If any corrections are needed, please e-mail those corrections to northvalleyreporter@gmail.com, Attn: P. Vincent DiNova, Calendar Editor. (No phone calls PLEASE!) Those corrections will appear in following issues. Please note that if it is a "one-time only" event, or a limited time event, it will also be your responsibility to notify us to not include it in future issues. 2) If you do not see a meeting/event/activity you would like to have posted, please send the information via e-mail and also a HARD COPY to us as well to: NVR, P.O. Box 674, Tujunga, CA, 91403. Attn: P. Vincent DiNova, Calendar Editor. New inclusions should contain name of your organization, committee name, if applicable, day of the week for the meeting. Also, add phone no. when applicable. Though the NVR is pleased to provide its Calendar Section as a free service to the community, and has done so for many years, it has now become necessary for your organization to notify the NVR with regards to changes in status of any of your meetings. Unless we are notified otherwise, all postings in our current Calendar Section will remain, as printed, in future issues unless we receive notification from the listed parties to remove or change them. Your cooperation is much appreciated—and needed.. Thanking you in advance ! Your friends at The North Valley Reporter.

We now accept:



COMMUNITY NEWS

UCLA Report Highlight S-T Stability, Education & Affluence

By Paolina Milana

The results from the Neighborhood Analysis “*The State of Sunland Tujunga*” were recently released in a public presentation to community stakeholders during the March 12, 2014 Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council. The report, prepared and presented by the UCLA student team of AK Munaim, Jamie Poster, and Dan Huynh, as part of their semester coursework under the tutelage of UCLA Professor of Urban Planning Paul Ong, provided the community with a benchmark, the results from which served to highlight Sunland Tujunga’s elevated status in key categories, when compared with others in Los Angeles.

The report reviewed and analyzed Sunland-Tujunga’s demographics, socioeconomic characteristics, housing and transportation characteristics, and the economic base. From the analysis, findings indicated the following determinations about Sunland-Tujunga:

Stable: Family households represent the majority of household types in Sunland-Tujunga where 70 percent of households are families, compared to only 61 percent in the City of Los Angeles. Additionally, 74 percent of family households in Sunland-Tujunga are occupied by married couple families, compared to only 64 percent in the City of LA. And when view in combination with age of residents, stability is further demonstrated by the more established media age of 38 for Sunland Tujunga residents, compared to age 34 in LA.

Educated: A larger percentage of the Sunland Tujunga population has an advanced education—33 percent in comparison to only 24 percent among those living in LA. In addition, the majority—85 percent—of Sunland Tujunga community members hold high school diplomas, compared to only 73 percent in the City of LA.

Affluent: The household median income in Sunland Tujunga is \$62,499—approximately \$12,500 above median income levels of those in the City of Los Angeles. In addition,

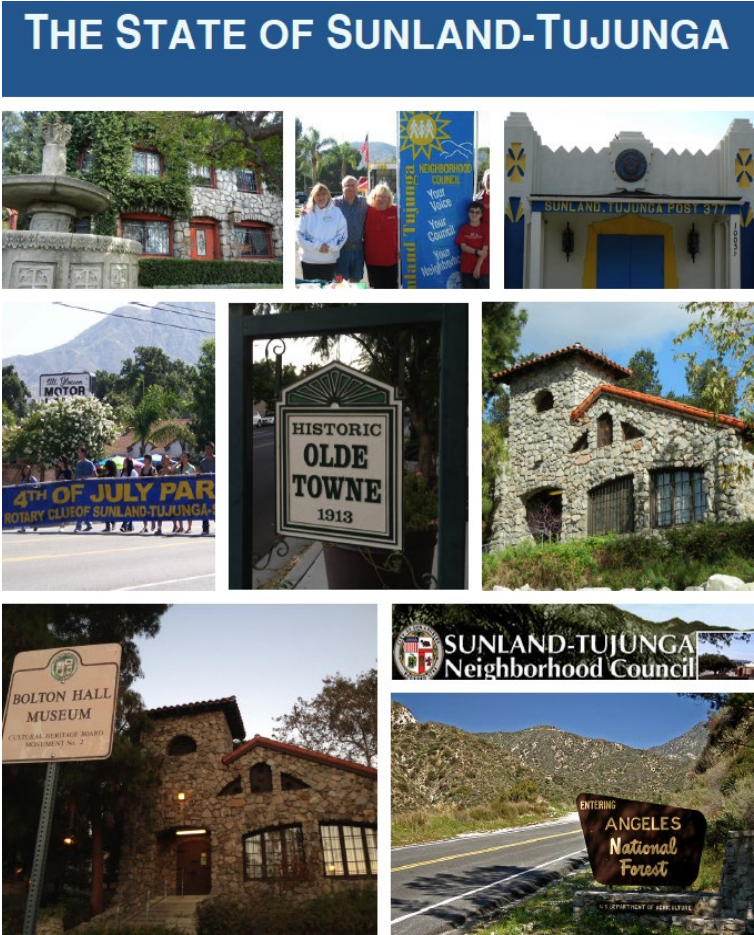
whereas the City of LA reflects a high level of income inequality, Sunland Tujunga community households enjoy a much more equal standard of living. Only 12 percent of Sunland Tujunga earns an annual income below the poverty line; this is relatively low compared to the City of Los Angeles where 20 percent of residents live below the poverty line threshold.

“The results from this independent study really reflect who we are as a community,” said Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council President Mark Seigel. “We are a great place to live, and we’re a community that still offers people the American dream of being able to actually afford your own home in a safe and beautiful place you actually want to call home. Where else can you live at the foot of the Angeles National Forest, the majestic mountains as your backdrop, and still be close enough to the city? And feel as if you’re in the best of Mayberry U.S.A.? I’ve lived her for 15 years, and I tell you, Sunland Tujunga is the best of all worlds. We welcome more people to come visit, enjoy what we have to offer, put down roots here as homeowners or even set up shop. We have prime locations and the right demographics for stores like Target and REI and others. Come check us out.”

Sunland Tujunga expects to use the UCLA Neighborhood Analysis to guide decisions about where to concentrate resources and efforts next. The findings from the report come at an opportune time, with Sunland Tujunga having claimed itself “The Gateway to The Angeles National Forest™” in preparation for a Branding Initiative, plans for which are being rolled out.

For more information and/or to download the report, visit www.stnc.org.

Editors Note: Paolina Milana is a former journalist turned marketing, PR & media pro. She is a partner in Acre of Diamonds Entertainment, developing original content & programming. She also is part of the Women Media Pros training team, and is currently serving as Content Strategist for YP. Find Paolina at PaolinaMilana.com and <http://www.themuse.com/author/paolina-milana/>



Commentary Taxpayers Need to Review City’s Proposed Programs

By David Barron



I assume the majority of our elected officials past and present have college degrees. But, those college degrees appear not to be relevant.

According to the recent 2020 Commission Report, ordered by L.A. City Council member Herb Wesson on the state of L.A., the report reveals that our city has been in a decline mode. In other words, we have failed leadership. Instead of our city leaders using what they’ve learned in college for our city’s benefit, they seem to believe that focus groups, platitudes and slogans are more effective if they want to woo the taxpayer into voting for their programs. Programs with slogans such as, Gateway 2 Green, LA River Revitalization, Healthy Los Angeles, earthquake resilience strategies for Los Angeles, re:code LA, Sustainable Communities, and Transit-Oriented Consolidated Plan are presently in the works. It appears these programs are to patronize us at our expense, as they produce ever increasing taxes on L.A. residents, instead of soliciting professional investors to take the risk.

I’m skeptical of the above programs like re:codeLA as proposed, because city leaders have contracted with outside

consultants, who live in other states, to rewrite our zoning codes...who benefits? If our city leaders truly want our participation and input to create “safe livable communities and foster an economic vitality” as their brochure states, then they should allow residents who know the needs in their neighborhoods through daily experience, the right to plan and zone the way they want and submit their amended specifications for their community’s Specific Plan.

There is a difference between amending a Specific Plan and completely opening up a the Plan. Not long ago, residents fought hard to get a Specific Plan for neighborhoods in their communities. Residents learned that it was important that they protect their Specific Plan by not allowing anyone to reopen their Plan completely, and to only open it to allow amendments. Otherwise, developers and other special interest groups from outside their community could make drastic changes and destroy their quality of life in their entire neighborhoods. Another reason to be concerned about these above mentioned programs as presented to the public is, they provide no insight to the fine print of the ordinance as written or proposed. Also, equal time is not given for opposing viewpoints that would give the public and taxpayer

additional information about the risk and cost that their elected officials are proposing to involve them in.

Apparently there is no referee here to insure the game between elected officials and taxpayers is played fairly, because my observation is that City Council and the government in Sacramento appear to be one in the same. For instance, we have some elected officials who seem to play musical chairs. They get elected and reelected back and forth between Sacramento and L.A. City Council, changing seats and changing titles. So, how can we expect any outcome to be fair for the taxpayer? It seems almost like a conflict of interest when the elected official votes on issues. You would think they should recuse themselves from voting on laws they passed while holding a previous public office positions.

Congratulations to newly appointed DWP General Manager, Ms Marcie Edwards. Hopefully, Mayor Garcetti and Ms Edwards working together, will help rein in cost and bring bring more transparency to the our city’s out of control giant utility

Editor’s note: Mr. Barron is a Civil Servant, local community activist and a Commentator for the NVR.

Support for the Samoa Project Stuns Community Members

By Nina Royal

The Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council (STNC) along with community members have been opposing the SB 1818 Samoa Ave. affordable housing project, located at 10046-56 Samoa Avenue since it’s inception. They have learned by accident, that the City Council voted to approve the motion presented by Paul Krekorian, their then Sunland-Tujunga Council Representative, to support Milare Housing Investments, Inc. request for TEFRA funds, which is tax-exempt bond financing. Using allowances from SB1818, sixty four three and four bedroom units would be eligible for exemption from the Foothill Blvd Corridor Specific Plan Ordinance and given a menu of five variances to select from. The motion was approved without prior knowledge or approval from the community.

The community immediately began opposing the Samoa Project because of its massive size and location. The area is already extremely dense and lacks sufficient parking,

The apartment complex, if approved would have no yard for children and the four story building which would actually become five stories after they add the solar panels, was too high for a two story building street. It had the appearance of a boxy penitentiary and did not fit the character of the neighborhood. The neighbors took their concerns and objections to the project to the STNC and the developers were invited to make their presentation to their Land Use Committee. After neighbors filed an appeal, the STNC STNC community members went to Sacramento to protest the funding in order to stop it. The commission members commented that they would not have approved the funds had they known the characteristics of the neighborhood and that the community did not support it.

Milare then came back to the Land Use Committee with new plans showing that they had cut out the top floor reducing the project to 48 units, but they still did not increase

their parking spaces. They also said that they had secured private funding and it was now a “by right” project. They asked the community to support the project because they actually had no other choice. They did make some small concession to the design.

The STNC was shocked when they received a copy of a letter from Councilmember Felipe Fuentes to the Housing Department supporting Milare’s application for the TEFRA funds again. He also did not consult with the community before supporting the developers’ application. They were particularly surprised and upset because he knew of the community’s opposition to the project which was a big issue brought up to him during his campaign for election last June.

The STNC Land Use Committee sent a letter to the Los Angeles Housing and Community Investment Department and they are awaiting a reply.

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Arl - Arleta, G.H. - Granada Hills, K.C. - Kagel Canyon, LA - Los Angeles, LVT - Lake View Terrace, LTC - La Tuna Canyon, M.H. - Mission Hills, NR - Northridge, NVCH - North Valley City Hall, Pac - Pacoima, S-T - Sunland-Tujunga, S.V. - Sun Valley, Syl - Sylmar, V.N. - Van Nuys, PC -Panorama City
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Monday, Mar 17
PCNC
Mission Community Hosp.
Med. Office Bldg., 2nd floor
14850 Roscoe Blvd., PC
Committee Meetings:
Public Safety-6:00 pm
Finance- 7:00 pm
Social Media-8:00 pm
Valley Vote
Galpin Ford
15555 Roscoe Blvd., VN
6:30 pm
GHNNC Land Use Mtg.
11139 Woodley Ave., GH
7:00 pm
Tuesday, Mar 18
Bolton Hall Museum
Presents “Time Exposure”
Docent Tours
10110 Commerce Ave., Tuj
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
818-352-3420
Poetry Workshop
McGroarty Art Center
7570 McGroarty Terr., S-T
\$10 1:00-3:00 pm 818-352-5285
Sylmar Block Captains
& Neighborhood Watch
LAPD Mission Station
11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH
6:30 pm-7:45 pm
S-T Neighborhood Watch
7747 Foothill – Tuj
6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Mar 19
LAPD-CPAB
Mission Division
11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH
6:15 pm
Devonshire CPAB Mtng.
17037 Plummer St.,
Northridge
7:00 pm
Pacoima NC Mtg.
818-624-4242
6:30 pm
Strathern Neighborhood Watch
Church of the Nazarene
12120 Strathern St., NoHo
6:30 pm

Hansen Dam Advisory Board
Lake View Terr. Rec. Cntr.
11075 Foothill Blvd., LVT
7:00 pm
Rotary Club (every Tuesday)
Joselito’s Restaurant
7308 Foothill - Tujunga
7:00 pm
Northridge East NC
Northridge Women’s Club
18401 Lassen St. , Nrdge.
7:00 pm-9:00 pm
Thursday, Mar 20
North Hills West NC
New Horizons
15725 Parthenia St., No Hills
7:00 pm
Sylmar NC Equestrian Cmte.
Sylmar Rec. Cntr.
13109 Bordon Ave.,Syl
7:30 pm
Arleta NC Gen. Mtg.
Beachy Elem. School
9757 Beachy Ave., Arl
6:30 pm
Monica Ratliff’s
LAUSD Budget Priorities
Town Hall
Verdugo Hills High School
10625 Plainview S-T
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
North Hills West NC
Sam’s Café
15725 Parthenia St., No. Hills
6:30 pm
FTDNC Gen. Mtg.
LVT Rec. Cntr.
11076 Foothill Blvd., LVT
7:00 pm
NHNE NC Board Mtng.
L.A. Fire Station 89
7063 Laurel Cyn., No Ho
6:40 pm
Saturday, Mar 22,
Friends of Granada Hills Library
10640 Petit Ave., GH
10:30 am

Sunday, Mar 23
Bolton Hall Museum
Presents “Time Exposure”
Docent Tours
10110 Commerce Ave., Tuj
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
818-352-3420
Monday, Mar 24
FTDNC
Rules & Elec. Cmte.
9747 Wheatland Ave., SH
7:00 pm
GHNNC Gen. Mtg.
12227 Balboa Blvd., GH
6:30 PM
SVANC LUC
9040 Sunland Blvd., SV
6:30 pm-8:30 pm
Tuesday, Mar 25
Arleta NC
Commu. Imprvmnt Cmte.
13306 Branford St., Arl
6:30pm
Bolton Hall Museum
Presents “Time Exposure”
Docent Tours
10110 Commerce Ave., Tuj
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
818-3523420
Thursday, Mar 27
Dedication
New Ranger Station
Hansen Dam
10:00 am
PCNC
Brd. of Dir. Mtng.
Mission Commu. Hosp.
14860 Roscoe Blvd., MH
2nd Fl, Rm. 208
6:30 pm
SNC Brd. Mtng.
13109 Borden Ave., Syl
6:30 pm
Northridge South NC
Northridge Middle School
17960 Chase St. North
Committee Meetings:
Executive 5:00 pm
Transp. & Public Works
5:15 pm
Budget and Finance 5:30 pm
Planning & Land Use 5:45 pm
Friday, Mar 28
Senator Roth’s
Mobile Home Conference,
Patriot High School
4355 Camino Real – Riv-
erside
9:00 am-12:00 pm

Tuesday, Apr 1
Bolton Hall Museum
Presents “Time Exposure”
Docent Tours
10110 Commerce Ave., Tuj
818-352-3420
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
FTDNC LUC
9747 Wheatland Ave., SH
7:00 pm
Rotary Club
Joselito’s
7308 Foothill – Tuj
7:00 pm
GHNNC
Emerg. Prepared.
Sub-Comtee Mtng.
11139 Woodley Ave., GH
7: 00 pm
Wednesday, Apr 2
FTDNC Equest. Cmtee. Mtng.
9747 Wheatland Ave. SH
7:00 pm
PCNC LUC
8700 Van Nuys Blvd., P.C.
Plaza Del Valle
Bldg G, Rm 62
6:30 pm
818-894-7841
Thursday, Apr 3
Kiwanis Club of Nrdg. East
CSUN Orange Grove Bistro
Zelzah & Nordhoff St.,
Nrdge.
12:00 pm
Northridge East NC
Northridge Academy HS
9601 Zelzah Ave., Nrdge
7:00 pm
GHSNC Gen. Mtng.
Granada Hills H.S.,
Rawley Hall
10535 Zelzah Ave., GH
6:30pm
GH Womens’ Club Mtng.
10666 White Oak Ave., GH
10:00 am
Kagel Cyn. Civic Assoc.
Dexter Park,
11053 No. Trail Rd., KC
7:00 pm
NHENC Brd. Mtng
15435 Rayen St., NH
6:30 pm
North Hills East NC
15314 Rayen St., No Hills
FTDNC Budget Cmtee.
Mtnge.
9797 Wheatland Ave., SH
7:00 pm

PNC Outreach Mtng.
Pacoima Library
13505 Van Nuys Blvd., Pac.
5:00 pm-6:00 pm
Saturday, Apr 5
LADWP MOU Comtee.
Hollywd. Com. Cntr.
6501 Fountain Ave. ,Hlywd
8:45 am
LANCC Mtng.
Hollywd Com. Center
6501 Fountain Ave., Holly
8:45 am
PCNC Comtee Mtngs.
US. Bank
PCNC Office (4th Floor)
14500 Roscoe Blvd., PC
Commerce: 9:00 am
Outreach: 5:00 pm
City Life: 5:30 pm
Rule: 6:00 pm
Education: 6:40 pm
Sunday, Apr 6
Bolton Hall Museum
Presents “Time Exposure”
Docent Tours
10110 Commerce Ave., Tuj
818-352-3420
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Monday, Apr 7
STNC Land Use Cmte
7727 Foothill Blvd., S-T
7:00 pm
info: stnc.org
or 818-951-7411
Mission Hills NC
Gen. Mtng
Mission Police Station
11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH
6:45 pm
Exec. Brd. Mtng, follows
STNC Land Use Comm
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T
7:00 pm
Tuesday, Apr 8
SVANC Gen. Mtng.
10631 Vinedale Ave., SV
6:30 pm
SNC Outreach Cmtee. Mtng.
Sylmar Park
13109 Bordon Ave., Syl
6:30 pm
Northridge West NC
Beckford Elem. School
19130 Tulsa St., Nrdge
7:00 pm
Bolton Hall Museum
Presents: “Time Exposure”
Docent Tours
10110 Commerce Ave., Tuj
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
818-352-3420

Rotary Club
Joselito’s
7308 Foothill – Tuj
7:00 pm
GHNNC
Public Safety Cmtee. Mtng.
11139 Woodley Ave., GH
2:00 pm
SVANC
Board Mtng.
10631 Vinedale Ave, SV
6:30PM
LAPD-CPAB
Mission Division
11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH
6:15 pm
GHNNC
Citywide Issues Mtng.
11139 Woodley Ave., GH
6:30 pm
Wednesday, Apr 9
STNC Gen. Mtng.
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill Blvd., SlnD
818-951-7411
Info: stnc.org
7:00 pm
Sun Valley Beautiful
9081 Tujunga Ave., SV
11:30 am
Thursday, Apr 10
**Valley Alliance of Neighbor-
hood Councils**
11th Anniversary Mixer
CBS Studios
Reservations Required
6:00 pm
Info: vanc@empowerla.org
Friday, Apr 11
Kagel Cyn Civic Assoc.
Dexter Park
11053 No. Trail Rd., KC
7:00 pm
GSMOL 2014 Convention
by The Golden State Mobile
Home Owners League
Crown Plaza Hotel
3131 S Bristol St., Costa
Mesa
GSMOL 800-888-1727
Hotel 714-557-3000
Saturday, Apr 12
PlanCheckNC
Topic: reCodeLA
Hollenbeck Police Stn
2111 E. 1st – Boyle Hts
Info: plancheckncla.com
GHN NC
CSUN
Juniper Hall, # 2206
1811 Nordhoff St., Nrdge
10:00-1:00 pm
www.plancheckncla.com
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Sunday, Apr 13

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Time Exposure"
Docent Tours
10110 Commerce Ave., Tuj
818-352-3420
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

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

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

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

Monday, Apr 14

FTDNC
Bldg. & Outreach Mtng.
LVT Rec. Cntr.
11076 Foothill Blvd., LVT
7:00 pm

FTDNC Budget Comm.
9797 Wheatland Ave., S.H.
7:00 pm

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

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

SVANC
Villa Scalabrini
10631 Vindale Ave., SV
6:30 pm-8:30 pm

Sylmar LUC Mtng.
13109 Borden Ave., Syl
6:30 pm

Tuesday, Apr 15

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Time Exposure"
Docent Tours
10110 Commerce Ave., Tuj
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
818-352-3420

Rotary Club
Joselito's
7308 Foothill – Tuj
7:00 pm

Sylmar Block Captains
& Neighborhood Watch
LAPD Mission Station
11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH
6:30 pm-7:45 pm

S-T Neighborhood Watch
7747 Foothill – Tuj
6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Apr 16

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

Devonshire CPAB Mtng.
17037 Plummer St., Nrdge
7:00 pm

PNC Mtng.
818-624-4242
6:30 pm

Strathern Neighborhood Watch
Church of the Nazarene
12120 Strathern St., NoHo
6:30 pm

Hansen Dam Advisory Board
Lake View Terr. Rec. Cntr.
11075 Foothill Blvd., LVT
7:00 pm

Northridge East NC
Northridge Women's Club
18401 Lassen St. , Nrdge.
7:00 pm-9:00 pm

Thursday, Apr 17

North Hills West NC
New Horizons
15725 Parthenia St., No Hills
7:00 pm

Sylmar NC Equestrian Cmte
Sylmar Rec. Cntr.
13109 Bordon Ave.,Syl
7:30 pm

Sunday, Apr 20

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Time Exposure"
Docent Tours
10110 Commerce Ave., Tuj
818-352-3420
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Monday, Apr 21

PCNC
Mission Commu. Hosp.
Med. Office Bldg., 2nd floor
14850 Roscoe Blvd., PC
Committee Meetings:
Public Safety-6:00 pm
Finance- 7:00 pm
Social Media-8:00 pm

Valley Vote
Galpin Ford
15555 Roscoe Blvd., VN
6:30 pm

GHNNC LUC Mtng.
11139 Woodley Ave., GH
7:00 pm

Tuesday, Apr 22

Arleta NC
Community Impvmt Cmte
13306 Branford St., Arleta
6:30pm

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Time Exposure"
Docent Tours
10110 Commerce Ave., Tuj
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
818-3523420

Thursday, Apr 24

PCNC
BOD Mtg.
Mission Commu. Hosp.
14860 Roscoe Blvd., MH
2nd Fl, Rm. 208
6:30 pm

SNC Brd. Mtng.
13109 Borden Ave., Syl
6:30 pm

Northridge South NC
Northridge Middle School
17960 Chase St. North
Committee Meetings:
Executive 5:00 pm
Transport. & Public Works 5:15 pm
Budget and Finance 5:30 pm
Planning & Land Use 5:45 pm

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

North Hills West NC
Sam's Café
15725 Parthenia St., North Hills
6:30 pm.

FTDNC Gen. Mtng.
LVT Rec. Cntr.
11076 Foothill Blvd., LVT
7:00 pm

NHNE NC Board Mtng.
L.A. Fire Station 89
7063 Laurel Cyn., No Ho
6:40 pm

Saturday, Apr 26

Friends of Granada Hills Library
10640 Petit Ave., GH
10:30 am

Sunday, Apr 27

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents "Time Exposure"
Docent Tours
10110 Commerce Ave., Tuj
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
818-352-3420

Monday, Apr 28

FTDNC
Rules & Elec. Cmttee.
9747 Wheatland Ave., SH
7:00 pm

GHNNC Gen. Mtng.
12227 Balboa Blvd., GH
6:30 pm

SVANC LUC
9040 Sunland Blvd., SV
6:30 pm-8:30 pm



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COMMENTARY

What is the Future of the 210 Freeway?

By Susan Bolan

No doubt, if you have lived along the Foothills for some time you have seen many changes with our freeways in the northeast. I can remember clearly as a kid, driving down to Glendale via the college route of Cañada or Verdugo Blvds. It was a beautiful drive. There were no I-210 or SR-2 at that time. In 1972, the 210 Freeway cut through our valley and many homes were taken—some that weren’t even needed for the roadway. Later, when the segment of the 210 that runs from Lowell to Sunland Blvd. was constructed, my friend and I tried out the “new freeway.” I remember thinking that the hills of La Tuna Canyon looked pretty cool from that vantage point but I doubted I would ever use that stretch for travel; Foothill Blvd. worked just fine.

For the next twenty-five years, I grew to depend on the 210 Freeway, taking me to school in the San Fernando Valley via the 118 and to work. I didn’t really notice how the Crescenta Valley was starting to change. The freeway “gap closure” in Claremont in 2002, and the building boom in Valencia and Santa Clarita had forever altered the traffic patterns and thrown a substantial number of new cars and trucks onto the 210 Freeway. The area near Lopez Canyon became more industrialized and trucks soon lined the edges of our rolling hills above Sylmar. We had traffic for the first time.

The soft hum that at first sounded like a gentle river had turned to a loud “whoosh” at all hours of the day and night with intermittent “da-da-da-da” of Jake brakes from trucks. This noise was echoed loudly by our bowl-shaped valley between the San Gabriel and Verdugo mountains. The communities started to notice deterioration of the freeway surfaces from the heavy traffic and more big rig accidents than ever before. In 2008, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) installed 1,000 meters at all onramps and nine freeway-to-freeway connectors on the 210 from the San Bernardino county line to Sylmar. They called it the I-210 “Congestion Relief” project, but residents all along the corridor saw a worsening of traffic from this effort. At that point, I realized that we have a problem.

On the horizon for the 210 Freeway, are three projects that will affect our lives for years to come. The first, which has already begun, is the work on the 210 in La Cañada Flintridge, La Crescenta, Sunland-Tujunga, and Lake View Terrace. Caltrans is resurfacing the roadway pavement and some walls; the much needed work is expected to be completed in the spring of 2016. In addition, is the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (DPW) project for sediment removal just north of the Devil’s Gate Reservoir, in the Hahamongna Watershed Park. The proposed plan could move up to four million cubic yards of debris by truck for five years. That would amount to 425 truck trips a day,

eastbound on the 210 during the excavation season from April to December. And finally, the single-most destructive project to the region, being studied right now, is the SR-710 Tunnel. This massive project is projected to bring 180,000 vehicles each day to the 210 Freeway by way of two 4.9-mile tunnels. The tunnel project would be the longest roadway tunnel in the U.S. and the widest, equal to the new Alaskan Way Tunnel in Seattle. And, it will be tolled. Construction is projected to take a full decade with five million cubic yards, or 294,000 truckloads of dirt being excavated and trucked out, then back in via the 210 and 10 Freeways. The draft environmental impact report (DEIR) is scheduled to be released this spring. I encourage everyone who has concerns about this project to address them during the DEIR comment period. More information and the petition against the tunnel can be found at no710.com.

So what exactly is the future of the 210 Freeway? Unfortunately, only time will tell. Keep informed and tell your elected officials that the quality of life in the 210 corridor is important to you.

Editor’s Note: Susan Bolan is a member of the No 710 Action Committee and a La Crescenta resident.



About Obamacare

By Joe Panzarello, Tujunga

In the March 3, 2014 issue of *The New American* magazine, an article pointed out the numbers behind a recent report that was issued by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO). The report that was released on Feb. 4, stated that it now believes that the Affordable Care Act (ACA), will cost the equivalent of 2.5 million jobs by 2024— “a historically high number of people...locked out of the workforce” as CNBC put it. What’s more, the CBO’s estimate of ACA-related job losses by 2021, 2.3 million, is almost triple its 2011 forecast of 800,000.

The CBO report makes it abundantly clear that the main reason for this is that the law’s subsidies and taxes “discourage work.” In the old employer-sponsored system people

had to stay at their jobs, like it or not, because they needed the health insurance coverage. In the new Obamacare system, people may be encouraged to stay out of jobs in order to maximize their subsidies. The expansion of Medicaid will also discourage work because its benefits decrease as income rises. This is all in addition to the employer mandate that encourages businesses to downsize and remain under 50 employees in order to avoid having to provide health care.

So, not only was Obama lying to the American people when he stated that we can keep our existing plans or our doctors, now the video is being circulated of Kathleen Sebelius stating that Obamacare will not affect the job market whatsoever, and no jobs would be lost as a result of this system. What a disaster! Apparently this administration feels

that it can literally get away with anything it wants. And besides, we as Americans now know that Obamacare was not intended to insure 47 million people and to reduce health care premiums as was originally stated. Rather, the truth is that it was created for the sole purpose of growing big government and controlling the well being of Americans. Did you know that the ACA created 160 new agencies and departments in the federal government? And did you also know that it creates 21 brand new forms of taxation that weren’t in existence before? These, among other things, in the 2,400 pages of the bill were intended to destroy this great nation in more ways than one and believe me...Obamacare is nothing that we want to live with!

The “Great American Melting Pot” or “A Pile Of Bananas”

By Jesse Torrero



My family, on my fathers’ side, came to America at the turn of the 20th century from Spain, Italy and Mexico. They fought in WWII and Korea serving in the Navy. My family on my mother’s side came to America in 1752 from Scotland and Ireland and fought in the Revolutionary War and every war since that time, mostly in the Army. My family assimilated and became American citizens, learned the language of the land (English), worship God. Jesus, and the Holy Trinity, made a pledge of allegiance to this country’s flag, became educated, worked hard, stood up for right in the face of evil, prospered overall, and most importantly fell, in love with this country we call the good Ole USA, “The Great American Melting Pot.”

I am a Real Estate Broker and I was in the parking lot at Home Depot today, waiting to meet with one of my clients to go over some very important escrow papers. While I was parked under a shady tree, eating my homemade lunch, I watched the frenzy of activity at the three entrance points to the massive parking lot. “Wow!” I said to myself, as I watched those would-be workers attack every car coming into the lot. I noted that they looked like a flock of seagulls and pigeons dropping bombs on parked cars, signs and trees. It was like a giant pack of scavenger hyenas.

Of course, this is nothing new for anyone. We all have experienced this at one time or another. This time though, as I sat there eating my egg salad sandwich, that image hit

me like one of those pigeon bombs. I yelled to myself, “This is no way for civilized people, living in a civilized society to act! You do not act like that, using every tree as a personal restroom, throwing trash on the ground, fighting, pushing, spitting, grabbing yourselves in you private places, and acting just like garbage rats!”

Then it really dawned on me...for the last 35 years, illegal, un-controlled immigration has manifested itself into chaos. The [illegals] bring crime, degenerate behavior, disgusting foreign ways of acting that is not indigenous to the Greatness of the American DNA, that many men and women have sacrificed their lives for. They are lawless, mannerless, and courteous-less (I just made that word up) society that just seems to be getting much worse everywhere...not better.

Here’s the problem with un-controlled illegal immigration: Any society on the planet will cease to be the society it is, due to un-controlled illegal immigration, or legal over-immigration.

As an example: At home you are making a stew that is in a 20 gallon pot filled with steak, chicken, carrots, peas, onions, potatoes, and what ever else you like. Add a little water, seasoning, etc., and let it cook. Magic happens and it becomes something terrific to eat, share, and be proud off. Now that is success! Then along comes a person who decides, in the dead of night while you are sleeping, to open your pot of stew and add 3,000 pounds of bananas then sneaks away. When you get up in the morning to check out your wonderful pot of stew, you find a giant pile of banana “stuff” three feet high. It is so thick you cannot even see your original 20-gallon pot of perfect stew.

It sits there for a few days and it rots, smells, and maggots begin to appear. All you have left is a pile of disgusting dump yard trash. This is what happens with un-controlled illegal immigration, or legal over-immigration. {This is best represented on You Tube. Go there and put in the search box ‘Gumball Immigration, by Roy Beck. Watch part 1 & part 2.}

I implore everyone not get angry with immigrants who have come to our wonderful North East Valley. As time goes on, the world changes and remember our forefathers were immigrants. Accept our Native Brothers and Sisters. We must adapt, but we must adapt with logic and common sense or we will destroy ourselves. Get angry with those that have allowed this to happen for greed, power, and political gain. There are manipulators in politics, multi-international companies, and heads of corporations who use our government for their selfish desires. The answer is so very simple. Let’s go back to the 1965 Immigration numbers, or at least pre-1970, and maybe we can stop the train wreck that has started coming at us full speed, which is making “America The Beautiful” becoming a 3rd world nation!

Leaving that parking lot that day I said to myself, “Hey, I like bananas, but not 3000 pounds of them in my 20 gallon stew. However, I’d like to have The Great American Melting Pot, and add a few bananas at a time. That just might taste good!”

Editor’s Note: Mr. Torrero is a long time community activist and member of Foothill CPAB who is instrumental in cleaning up problematic San Fernando Road Corridor.

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THIS 'N THAT

Helpful Hints for Saving Maintenance and Repair Costs

By David Barron

Roof coatings can protect our environment, help our homeowner’s budget, as well as help maintain operating costs for building owners.

The future of roof protection and wall painting from the roof to the foundation is now. The painting industry and their manufactures have

improved and developed roof coatings to be more durable, long lasting and energy efficient. Also, as a way of protecting, sustaining and even insulating your home or commercial building from the outside elements of the cold and ultraviolet radiation from the sun

These coatings can be applied with the same equipment painter’s use. Roof coatings are seamless membranes and can fix roof leaks permanently. Chemist and manufactures in the painting industry, through research and development, have developed products to improve the beauty and protec-

tion of our homes and commercial buildings while conserving both money and environmental resources.

Most roofs will benefit from a coating system, especially on any flat roof. The reason for this is that all flat roofs should be coated with reflective white to maximize energy conservation. These applications will keep the heat out into the atmosphere and will eliminate the radiant heat from being absorbed into and through the walls.

The sustainability of a roof coating is directly related to the specified thickness. The manufacture warranty of any coating is from 5–15 years depending on the thickness of the application and type of roof. All coatings are sustainable when properly maintained and can simply be recoated to extend the life of your roof even further and don’t need to be scraped off the roof when the time comes.

A roof coating job is a fraction of the cost of replacement and there are no disruptions associated with roof replacement. They are considered a maintenance expense and do

not need to be depreciated. However, almost every roof can benefit from sustainable coatings which are available in any color such as terracotta tile, barn red sheet metal, charcoal cement tile, rich brown sloped asphalt shingle, to name a few. Any known roof leaks should be repaired prior to application of roof protection painting. If your roof is not leaking you should immediately apply and maintain a protective coating and you will never need to re-roof again.

Whether it’s traditional painting, roof coating to provide energy efficiency, or reflective energy efficient coatings, a protective application to your roof will extend its’ useful life and will reflect up to 90% of the sun’s heat. Also, your air conditioner will not need to work as hard to keep you cool. When your Roof stays cool it will last longer.

Acknowledgement: Information was provided by Don Freed of Foothills Painting Company Co., Inc. whose company is experienced in the use of this product at: www.roof-coatingcontractor.com.

Nikki’s Neighborhood

By Nikki Pelley



Here we are in a Brand New Year and staring at a new housing market.

As a Realtor®, I am one of the first ones to welcome this change in market direction.

I have noticed that a lot of home owners are jumping into the market to sell. So we will have a little more inventory as we move closer to a par market, where sellers

and buyers have to be equally agreeable as to the price they will agree on to meet their needs.

Although the prices have risen here in California, they still have a way to go for some home owners who are still upside down. For these home owners, this doesn’t seem like much of a recovery.

We will all be keeping an eye on the interest rates this year as they have been predicted to go up. Typically, when interest rates go up, home prices go down. But that may not particularly happen this year, as there are still a lot of cash investors and a growing number of international buyers coming into our market. This makes it tough for the first time home buyer, as well as making it very difficult for the FHA buyer to win an offer at the bargaining table.

Ideally, the residential real estate market in relation to the American Dream is that families can own a home. The FHA loan was set up to provide the family unit the ability to enter into home ownership. There are a few government regulations out there working, such as the bidding process for HUD homes, that don’t allow an investor to purchase for the first so many days on the market. There is a program called Homepath that provides that only home owners can buy that particular home.

No matter what type of loan a buyer is applying for, money is king. A substantial down payment is needed for an FHA loan along with enough money to cover closing costs.

With so many challenges, the first time home buyer is going to need a lot more help than in previous generations. With lower paying jobs and having to live at parents’ homes longer, additional incentives will needed to be implemented to bridge the gap.

All in all, the future of the real estate economy will depend on what happens in Washington with our legislators and leaders. Hopefully, they will send back to our communities some great home purchase assistance programs such as some that we have seen in the past.

The market is great right now. So jump on in. It’s good for both sellers and buyers. Till next time, Nikki.

Health Effects from Wireless

By Kevin Mottus

The World Health Organization, (WHO), has classified the microwaves transmitted by wifi and wireless tablets as a Class 2B Carcinogen. Yet LAUSD feels comfortable exposing our children to these microwaves all day long in their new wireless classrooms.

National Educators Association, (NEA), and United Teachers Los Angeles Union, (UTLA), have passed resolutions identifying electromagnetic radiation used by wireless as an environmental hazard and insist that all employees and parents be warned of changes in electromagnetic RF radiation exposure due to the installation of WIFI and use of wireless tablets. See bioinitiative.org, saferemr.com, or safeinschools.org, for more information regarding the biological health effects of microwave radiation exposure used by wireless. For expert testimony regarding LAUSD’s use of wifi and wireless tablets see: <http://wifiinschools.com/lausd-testimony.html>.

If your children have experienced symptoms of electro sensitivity, or EHS, since the installation of wifi or use of wireless tablets in your school, or if you do in the future, please e-mail UTLA Violence Prevention and School Safety and Health and Human Service Committee member Kevin Mottus, who is collecting data on the issue, at stopwirelessradiationnow@gmail.com. Symptoms of EHS may include: headaches, tinnitus, difficulty sleeping, tingling in extremities, difficulty concentrating, nausea, dizziness, depression, anxiety, irritability, skin problems, fatigue, feelings of pressure in the head, racing or fluttering heart, reproductive difficulty, cancerous tumors, and leukemias.

If you have noticed a change in neurological symptoms, cardiac problems including arrhythmias or cardiac arrest, or an increase in cancer amongst students or teachers in your school since the installation of wifi and/or the use of

wireless tablets now, or in the future with its installation, please e-mail school safety and HHS committee member Kevin Mottus, at stopwirelessradiationnow@gmail.com.

In an effort to keep wireless cell towers off school campuses, in June of 2000, the LAUSD School Board passed a resolution noting that the “National Institutes of Health, (NIH), recently concluded that enough evidence exists to support the classification of electromagnetic fields as a possible human carcinogen.” In May, 2009, LAUSD School Board passed another resolution recommending “responsible deployment of fiber optic broadband technology, which is superior to wireless technology in speed, reliability, security, durability and protections it affords people and the environment from the potential hazards of exposure to radio-frequency radiation.”

After fighting to keep cell towers and other microwave emitting devices at least 200 feet from schools, now the board has taken a drastic change in direction by moving those microwave emitting devices inside our schools, in close proximity to our staff and children, with the installation of wireless classrooms. The Board has chosen to do this even though in their 2009 resolution, they state that “there continues to be considerable debate as to the adequacy of existing public exposure standards including those promulgated by the federal communications commission.”

The fact is the FCC guidelines, which are suppose to ensure the safety of wireless, are not safety standards at all but are simply guidelines. The FCC is not a health and safety agency and has no one qualified to set safety standards, yet compliance with FCC guidelines is how organizations like LAUSD try to convince us wireless is safe. Current FCC guidelines only take into account thermal effects due to microwave exposure; that is, whether your wifi router, tablet, or cell burns you or not. They do not take into account

non-thermal or sub-thermal effects, even though thousands of studies have shown harmful biological effects including cancer, cardiac and immune system disease at levels below heating.

Current FCC guidelines explicitly exclude children, pregnant women, and the elderly, yet LAUSD feels comfortable thoroughly exposing these groups to RF radiation in our schools. Women absorb more microwave radiation than men and thus are more negatively affected, as are children, due to their developing neurological systems and smaller stature. The FCC guidelines were designed for a 220lb, 6ft male not the small children who will be exposed by LAUSD,

What can you do? Organize at your school. Go to each school board member and demand that they connect to the Internet thru wired connections and use wires to connect to tablets or more versatile laptops. The solution is simple: wired vs. wireless; a wired connection eliminates the microwave exposure issue and corresponding health effects. Insist each school board member put the health and well being of students and staff over all other considerations. As it is now, they are using a cost-benefit analysis where the health of your children is an expendable cost. It is time to change their thinking.

The Council of Europe has recommended a ban on wifi in the classroom to protect their children due to health concerns. Why can’t we? Please share this article with everyone you know. They need to be informed.

Editor’s Note: Kevin Mottus is a UTLA member, Violence Prevention and School Safety Committee and Health and Human Services Committee Member. He can be reached at Stopwirelessradiationnow@gmail.com or call 310-780-2186 for more information.

Sunland - Form A New Municipality?

By Marlene Hitt

Record Ledger, 11/27/1924: “Fear of Domination by Tujunga Turned Them Against the Plan for Valley-Wide Incorporation.”

The worst of it was that Sunland was to be included in the district plan to incorporate Sunland and Tujunga into one town under the name of Verdugo Hills without the knowledge of the people. This attempt by Los Angeles County and the town of Tujunga shook the people’s sense of security at this seemingly secret government maneuver.

At first, Sunland was pleased until they realized that they would be dictated to by Tujunga. The issues presented

themselves to the detriment of Sunland businesses. Citizens were also fearful of the raising of taxes. At that time road tax was 30 cents, the street lighting tax.16 cents, and fire district tax of .50 cents, for a total of 96 cents. Tujunga, then, was a city of the sixth class (size).

Of more importance, new zoning ordinances would prohibit construction or operation of canneries, gravel pits, lumber yards, machine shops, motion picture studios, and other industrial concerns anywhere in the Sunland territory. That would, of course, have eliminate almost all job and business opportunities for residents.

Considered also was the county’s plan to enact a building ordinance, a sanitary district, (\$12,500,000 for county sewer bonds), and a fire protection district. Though nothing was presented in legal form and boundary lines had not been set, residents fears were ever escalating. All this would be happening to them without the knowledge or consent of the Sunland citizenry. Comment: What would we be like if Sunland was still a town by itself without the ordinances and regulations?

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

Mansionization (cont. from page 1)

garages, vaulted entranceways, and semi-enclosed breezeways and balconies. Together, these exemptions allow a house to increase its size by 750 square feet. For example, on a 6000 square foot lot, by-right development begins at 50 percent of lot area (Floor Area Ratio or FAR = .5) or 3000 square feet. These exemptions add 750 square feet without any public knowledge, and this inflates the FAR of a house from .5 to .625.

The mansionization bonuses, however, are trickier. A McMansion contractor has three alternative methods to increase the Floor Area Ratio (FAR) of a house by 20 percent or about 600 square feet on a standard 6000 square foot R1-1 lot. This bonus then raises the real square footage of a house to 4,350 sf, for an actual FAR of .725 or nearly 50 percent larger than what is by-right.

Voila! The municipal ordinance that was supposed to stop mansionization lays out a red carpet to the mansionizers. By now this red carpet has been used so many times, it is covered with construction mud!

The first bonus option is stepping back the second story of a house by 25 percent. Mansionization activists have never observed a new McMansion with this design feature, but that does not mean anything. *Building and Safety could grant this bonus again and again, and no one outside that agency would ever know.*

The second bonus option requires contractors to recess 20 percent of the front façade of a house for 20 percent of the structure’s depth.

From what neighbors can observe, a few supersized houses might qualify for this bonus, but this is conjecture since on-line building permit data does not reveal which FAR bonus LADBS granted to a McMansion contractor.

The third and most suspect option is the “green” bonus. From June 2008 through January 2011, a contractor could claim he complied with LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) at the certified level and then expand the square footage of a proposed house by 20 percent. From January 2011 to date, the path to this green bonus changed to compliance with Tier 1 of the new Los Angeles Green Building Ordinance.

The first problem with the green bonus is that Building and Safety does not verify any energy savings through LEED or the Green Building Ordinance. This McMansion bonus is entirely based on untested and unconfirmed claims. This is because of a second problem. There is no evidence that a large, LEED or Tier One house is energy efficient. In fact, the actual data reveals the opposite; all McMansions are energy hogs. They minimally use twice the energy as the smaller houses they replaced, which means they produce twice the pollution. All those flat roofs, 24/7 heating and air conditioning units, pools, spas, restaurant-sized appliances, and SUV’s idling in the driveway assure enormous electricity, natural gas, and gasoline bills.

The third problem is the secrecy of these green reviews. Because nearly all McMansions are boxes, they do not appear to have utilized either design option to bulk up. By a process of elimination, this only leaves the green .2 FAR bonus option. But, City Planning, which was in charge of reviewing and granting these LEED bonuses between 2008-2011, reports that Building and Safety only referred a “handful” of such cases to them. In other words, Building and Safety must have issued hundreds of .2 LEED-based FAR bonuses between June 2008 through January 2011 -- without sending more than a few of these applications to the Department of City Planning for their legally required review and approval.

Furthermore, since January 2011 a special Green Code group at the Department of Building and Safety has internally reviewed BMO green bonus requests. Judging by the number of McMansions Building and Safety permitted over the past three years, this Green Code unit should have approved hundreds of such applications. But, this unit reports they only receive about 10 green bonus applications per year. When approved, each of these McMansions would require contractors to comply with Tier 1 of the Green Building ordinance and, therefore, carefully separate demolition building materials when old houses are hand-dismantled. The contractor would also be required to cover dirt and protect trees and plants. While this may have happened somewhere in Los Angeles, McMansion neighbors have never observed it. Never, ever.

Step 2: Creating a transparent permit review process. There is no way for the public to know how Building and Safety permits a specific McMansion. Furthermore, there is no way to know how Building and Safety interprets and applies the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance’s exemptions and bonuses. Are there guidelines, formal or informal, that are used to determine if an application meets

the requirements for the three FAR bonuses? Are there Building and Safety employees who have devised their own lenient interpretations of the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance? Do McMansion contractors go permit shopping—as we assume—at different Building and Safety offices to get their projects quickly approved by specific plan checkers? No one outside LADBS can answer these questions, and this is why the full permitting process must become open and transparent to the public.

Step 3: Establishing careful oversight over demolitions to assure that contractors adhere to all public health requirements. The mansionization story only gets worse when it comes to demolitions, which is why we say, “The more you stir it, the more it stinks.” In addition to contractors never complying with Tier 1 of the Green Building Ordinance, nearly all contractors fail to post their legally required demolition permits. In addition they typically fail to disconnect gas lines, fail to remediate asbestos and lead paint before and during demolitions (required by the South Coast Air Quality Management District/SCAQMD and LA County’s Department of Public Health’s Environmental Affairs Division), and fail to properly remove demolition rubble according to the official regulations of the Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation.

These slipshod practices apply to nearly every demolition, and it takes multiple public complaints to try to ensure that a house is legally and safely demolished to protect the health of workers and neighbors.

As for Building and Safety, their on-line demolition permits do not indicate if a contractor has been in contact with the SCAQMD regarding asbestos remediation, LA County Public Health regarding lead paint, or the Bureau of Sanitation regarding the proper sorting and removing of rubble. It also appears that the only action that LADBS takes for these public health concerns is to note that contractors signed a written declaration stating they would follow the regulations of other agencies. Since there is no LADBS follow-up, this seldom happens.

This is why diligent residents are forced to file code violation complaints directly with these other agencies. In response, these outside agencies report they do not make routine field inspections of demolition sites in Los Angeles. Instead, they only make a site visit when they receive a public complaint. As a result, several unsafe demolitions have been temporarily halted, but only after multiple public complaints. Meanwhile, nearly all demolitions continue unhindered by these public health requirements, exposing construction workers and neighbors to toxic pollutants. For example, in the Beverly Grove neighborhood one of the worse demolitions was close to the Hancock Park Elementary School, a few feet from a sidewalk where many kids walked to school.

Like the demolition permits that contractors are legally required to post (but seldom do), compliance with these public health requirements should be plainly visible on all on-line and posted permits. LADBS inspectors should immediately shut down any demolition site that does not post permits, disconnect gas lines, remediate asbestos and lead paint, or properly sort and remove demolition rubble. After all, the Department of Building and Safety still has the word Safety in its official name. It should keep workers, neighbors, and students safe, not force neighbors to make endless phone calls in the hope that federal, state and local laws and regulations are properly followed at projects that Building and Safety permits and presumably inspects.

Like those nested Ukrainian dolls, we expect to discover still more skullduggery in the mansionization process. After all, each time we think we have finally figured out how LA’s neighborhoods are being mansionized, we uncover more slipshod and dangerous practices that are tucked away outside public view and scrutiny.

If you want further details, including support of a city-wide coalition campaigning for amendments to the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance, you can “like” the following Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/No-More-Mcmansions-in-Los-Angeles/1471705846388435>

(Note: CityWatchLA recently published an earlier version of this article.)

Editor’s Note: Dick Platkin teaches a course of sustainable city planning at USC and is on the board of the Beverly Wilshire Homes Association. He welcomes questions and comments on this article at rhplatkin@yahoo.com.

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\$8.99

WEDNESDAY

Beef Stew served with a side of Cornbread
\$8.99

THURSDAY

Yankee Pot Roast served with Noodles and Vegetables
\$9.99

FRIDAY

BBQ Baby Back Ribs served with Coleslaw and French Fries
\$10.99

SATURDAY

Baked Chicken served with choice of Potato and Vegetables
\$10.99

SUNDAY

Beef Lasagna served with side of Fruit
\$9.99

Add a Cup of Soup or Salad for only \$1.00 more

Taco Tuesday
\$1.50 Tacos
\$2.50 Margaritas

Senior Discounts
65 and older

Kidz Meals

Monday Night Football

Full Service Bar Happy Hour
Monday-Friday
4-7 PM

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at the #5 Freeway
(818) 768-7373
Hours 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.



Sunland-Tujunga Chamber of Commerce presents

Spring Carnival

Easter Weekend at Sunland Park

Fri. 5 p.m.-10 p.m. - Sat. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. - Sun. 12 noon-8 p.m.
Free Admission



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