



CHRISTMAS SPIRIT IS DISCOVERED

by Marlene Hitt

This month many stress the concepts of peace, love, and good will to all mankind, as well to appreciate the births and values of children. We are used to the combinations of traditions which is so American – the Santa Claus of the Dutch, the tree of the Germans, Las Posadas of Mexico and many others. Most celebrate the season as the Christian holy day commemorating the birth of the Christ Child. At this time we all incorporate the spirit of giving.

One story having to do with gifting conveys this principle of the season, and that is the story of the Margil Vine. It seems that a poor and devout Indian boy was to attend a Christmas pageant in the mission church at Velero in Texas. All the people were taking gifts to the Christ child but the boy, Shavano, who had nothing at all to give. He wandered around, then sat for a while in his favorite poplar tree.

Padre Margil, after finding the boy with tears in his eyes, assured Shavano that a gift is only a token that we give to show our love. Shavano wasn’t convinced, and wanted to give gifts of gold and objects of wealth as the other villagers had done.

He once again retreated to his poplar tree. After a while, he looked down to see an unusual bright wisp of green on the ground below. He climbed down to inspect the place and found a small plant, one so tiny that it could have been trampled without notice. The boy dug up the small plant, placed in it one of his mother’s earthenware jugs and shyly hid it beneath the expensive and colorful gifts near the manger in the mission chapel.

Early the next morning the Christmas pageant was begun. Shavano worried that the Christ child would be displeased with his insignificant gift. As the pageant procession began, and the shepherds in the play approached the doorway, they gasped in surprise, then cried, “Milagro, Milagro!” Miracle!

Shavano wormed his way to the front of the group wondering what blessing the Christ child may have bestowed on the people. Before the door he stopped, his whole being quivered with ecstasy and his eyes filled with tears of joy. His little vine had grown mysteriously, had twined itself about and over the manger where the Jesus babe lay and had poured over the scene an abundance of bright green leaves and brilliant scarlet berries. The vine had become the most beautiful gift of all, even more beautiful than the gold and gifts of wealth. The Margil vine still grows in that Texas area and is enjoyed as Christmas decoration by Mexicans today.

Whether our memories are of Posadas, fiestas, prayers, decorations, lavish gifting, a military outpost, a prison cell, or a lonely room, Christmas season means much to all faiths and those of all beliefs. Let us once more petition for the gift of love, pray once again, and again, for the gifts of peace and good will toward one another in honor of The True Spirit of Christmas.



“BUON ANNO”
“JOYEUX NOEL”
“VESELE VANOCE”
“MELE KALIKIMAKA”
“NODLAG SONA DHUIT”
“BLWYDDYN NEWYDD DDA”
“GOD JUL”
“FELIZ NATAL”
“BOAS FESTAS”
“FELIZ NAVIDAD”
“MERRY CHRISTMAS”
“KALA CHRISTOUGENA”
“VROLIJK KERSTFEEST”
“FROHLICHE WEIHNACHTEN”
“BUON NATALE-GODT NYTAR”
“HUAN YING SHENG TAN CHIEH”
“WESOLYCH SWIAT-SRETAN BOZIC”
“MOADIM LESIMHA-LINKSMU KALEDU”
“HAUSKAA JOULUA-AID SAID MOUBARK”
“’N PRETTIG KERSTMIS”
“ONNZLLISTA UUTTA VUOTTA”
“Z ROZHDESTYOM KHRYSTOVYM”
“NADOLIG LLAWEN-GOTT NYTTSAR”
“FELIC NADAL-GOJAN KRISTNASKON”
“S NOVYM GODOM-FELIZ ANO NUEVO”
“GLEDILEG JOL-NOELINIZ KUTLU OLSUM”
“EEN GELUKKIG NIEUWJAAR-SRETAN BOSIC”
“KRIHSTLINDJA GEZUAR-KALA CHRISTOUGENA”
“SELAMAT HARI NATAL - LAHINGU NAJU METU”
“SARBATORI FERICITE-BUON ANNO”
“ZORIONEKO GABON-HRISTOS SE RODI”
“MERRY CHRISTMAS - HAPPY NEW YEAR”
“BOLDOG KARACSONNY-VESELE VIANOCE “
“FELICES PASUAS-EIN GLUCKICHES NEWJAHR”
“SHENORAAVOR NOR DARI YEV PARI GAGHAND”
“ROOMSAID JOULU PUHI - KUNG HO SHENG TEN”
“PRIECIGUS ZIEMAN SVETKUS SARBATORI VESLLE”
“BONNE ANNEBLWYDDYN NEWYDD DDADRFELIZ NATAL”

COMMUNITY NEWS

You Should Know...

The County of Los Angeles has hosted two of three community meetings regarding the **Olive View UCLA Medical Center Campus** (OVMC Campus). This Master Plan will be a guideline for future construction and growth for the OVMC Campus.

The County presented two options for a Master Plan including the “Boulevard” option, and the “Nature’s Edge” option at two previous meetings. Both options focus on creating a more sustainable open green campus, taking into consideration the expanding health needs of the public.

If you have additional input, they would appreciate receiving your feedback no later than Friday, November 28, 2014. The final community meeting for this process is anticipated to be held in early 2015. Email Clarice Nash at cnash@dpw.lacounty.gov, for further information.

The **High Speed Rail Authority** is holding an important update meeting about the High Speed Rail Project on Wednesday, December 3 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Stonehurst Recreation Center, 9901 Dronfield Ave., in Stonehurst/Shadow Hills. There will be presentations and displays by High Speed Rail officials at the meeting, but this is NOT a Q&A format, nor public comment. For this reason the Shadow Hills Property Owners Assn will host their own meeting on Tuesday, January 13 at All Nations Church on Foothill Blvd. across the 210 Freeway near Angeles National Golf Course. More info, email: shpoa@shpoa.us

The annual **Holiday Boutique & Chili Bowl Sale** is being held at McGroarty Arts Center, 7570 McGroarty Terrace, Tujunga, Saturday, December 6, 10 am - 5 pm and Sunday, December 7, 11 am-4 pm. The day’s events include shopping, live music, Chili Bowl Sale,

Visit from Santa and Fire Station Visit. Visit their Facebook page for more information.

The annual **Las Posadas** will be hosted by the San Fernando Valley Historical on Saturday, December 6 at 5:30 p.m. at the Andres Pico Adobe, 10940 Sepulveda Blvd. in Mission Hills. The festival re-enacts the search for shelter by Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem before the birth of Jesus. SFVHS will also have a piñata, Mexican sweetbreads, hot chocolate, and a visit by Santa. It is free to the public (donations are gratefully accepted). Gates open at 5 p.m. If it rains, the event will be moved to Saturday, December 13 at 5:30 p.m.

The public is invited to **Winterfest: Snow, Santa Claus, Holiday Entertainment, Kids Kraft Faire and Music**, to be held at Little Landers Park/Bolton Hall, 10110 Commerce Ave., Tujunga on Saturday, December 6, 3-8 p.m.

Annual Holiday Mixer & Toy Drive is being co-hosted by the Sunland-Tujunga Chamber of Commerce and Elks Lodge 2098 on Tuesday, December 9, 6 pm-8 pm. RSVP STChamber@gmail.com or 818-352-4433.

A **Holiday Party** is being hosted by the Little Landers Historical Society at Bolton Hall Museum, 10110 Commerce Ave., Tujunga on Saturday, December 13, beginning at 1 pm. Entertainment features Franny McCarthy, Master of Ceremonies and the Randy Van Horne Singers. Free Parking available at the Elks Lodge across the street on Commerce Ave.

U.S. Rep. Tony Cárdenas relocated his offices in both Washington, D.C. and the San Fernando. His San Fernando Valley office is now located at 8134 Van Nuys Blvd., Suite 206, Panorama City, CA 91402. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 9 am - 5 pm.

Notice of Preparation and Scoping Meeting regarding proposed 242 home Canyon Park Homes,

12400 Big Tujunga Canyon in Sunland-Tujunga, Thursday, December 11, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm, to solicit public comments regarding issues to be addressed in the Draft EIR at North Valley City Hall., 7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga. City Planning welcomes all public comments regarding all impacts of the project. Submit comments by 5:00 pm, December 22, to: Nick Hendricks, 6262 Van Nuys Blvd. Suite 351, Van Nuys, CA 91401, nick.hendricks@lacity.org. There are efforts to move the venue and change the date. Check the STNC website at stnc.org for updates.

Contributions are welcome during the Holiday Season for children who do not have the good fortune of a stable family environment and must find refuge in **Foster Care Family Programs** such as Penny Lane, a world renowned children’s foster care facility. Brad Klimovich, CAMF/BF, of Mission Hills, is helping to fill the needs of the less fortunate foster care children at Penny Lane in North Hills, during this Holiday Season. Penny Lane is a 501(3) (c) nonprofit organization, Tax ID 95-2633765, Brad will be maintaining a collection center for contributions through Monday, December 22, or you can visit the Penny Lane website at www.pennylane.org/index.php for contributions.

The **Citizens Redistricting Teleconference** for November has been cancelled. The Commission is currently selecting dates for a teleconference to be held in January, 2015. An announcement will be made when the new date is selected. For more information on Commission meetings, visit www.wedrawthelines.com.

DWP Customer Service Day is Saturday, December 13, from 9:00 am-1:00 pm, at 1550 Van Nuys Blvd., Van Nuys., to resolve billing issues, place service requests, and make payments.

Arleta 30-Year Dream Comes True

Al Piantanida, founder of the Arleta Watch Dogs, moved to Arleta in the summer of 1984. The first thing he noticed was all the blight in the northeast San Fernando Valley. He made a pact with himself that he would do everything he could to make Arleta the center piece of the northeast San Fernando Valley.

Over the past decades, he has been involved in many improvements that have taken place in Arleta, such as: the closing of many bars with the problems that they caused; supporting many new sewer projects; working with the LAPD, forcing gangs to leave the area; and helping with community support in the building of Arleta High School.

Al has also involved himself with supporting improvements in the Los Angeles City Service Departments, such as street sweeping, adding more streets each year, more street and alley lighting for a safer community, miles of roadway resurfacing, sidewalk repair and replacement. He is involved in many Community Clean-Ups for Green, Clean & Save Community.

Al’s dream for many years has been to upgrade and see new parks and walking paths built here and in the surrounding area for the healthcare of their children and their families.

Then-Councilmember, Tony Cardenas, (CD-6), asked him to become a committee member of PropkLAforkids Project, which funds projects for five city council districts in the San Fernando Valley.

He did represent Council District 6, which received project funding for major refurbishing of Branford Park, walking paths, total remake of all baseball diamonds and sports fields. Also included was a new skate board park serving the Sun Valley-Arleta area, with the most modern design available, and is the largest in the City of Los Angeles.



Now, after 30 years of waiting, the final piece is in place for Al’s dream to finally come true. Just two blocks from his home, the large vacant lot on Arleta Ave. where it meets Devonshire, which has been designated for a park for so many years, is a vacant lot no more.

The Grand Opening of the new, “Devonshire/Arleta Park” finally took place in May of this year.

Sunland-Tujunga Local Grass-Roots Organization Fighting Canyon Homes Development Project

by Mark Legassie

In response to a 242-home development project being proposed next to the Angeles National Forest, a group of local residents and stakeholders have banded together to fight it. “Save Our Canyon,” a grassroots organization comprised of 250+ members and growing, has launched a campaign called “Stop the Canyon Park Development” on Facebook and YouTube. The group, just four months old, has already received support from the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council and its Land Use Committee (LUC) to comment on anticipated re-zoning application for the property at 12400 Big Tujunga Canyon Rd. The LUC also decided to submit a Community Impact Statement and request that a full scope Environmental Impact Report (EIR) be required. The up-zoning application, if approved, would reverse a 2007 General Plan Amendment which down-zoned the property and surrounding area to Minimum Residential, the lowest density possible.

Save Our Canyon’s mission is to protect Big Tujunga Canyon from big development and to preserve its

rural character. Also worried about the loss of critical habitat for at least four endangered wildlife species, the organization is comprised of a broad cross-section of North East Valley stakeholders, including residents of Big Tujunga Canyon and bordering neighborhoods, Alpine Village HOA, Verdugo Hills Archery Club, environmentalists, and equestrians worried about the potential loss of trails.

If approved, Save Our Canyon believes this large-scale development project, slated for construction in an environmentally sensitive watershed, would forever change the pastoral character and tranquility of our **Gateway to the Angeles National Forest**.

For more information about Save Our Canyon activities or how to get involved, interested parties can visit

their Facebook page (facebook.com/groups/StopCPD) or Youtube channel (SaveOurCanyon). Or call 323-895-6275 for more information.

Editor’s Note: Mr. Lagassie is a local resident and Community Activist and co-founder of Save Our Canyon.





COMMUNITY NEWS

San Fernando Valley’s First Science Museum Opens

By Glenn Bailey

After more than a decade of delays and financial uncertainty, the Valley’s first science museum finally opened to the public on November 13th.

Located in Lake View Terrace on 2.5 acres of land in the Hansen Dam Recreation Area, the two-story Discovery Cube Los Angeles is a \$56 million project featuring 71,000 square feet of hands-on science-based exhibits, displays and learning spaces.

The grand opening was an impressive hour-long ceremony with congratulatory speeches by those involved with making the museum dream a reality. Afterwards, the dignitaries gathered on the stage at their assigned power stations and a group photo was taken of the entire audience. And then on queue, they began pushing levers, turning wheels, and pulling ropes to “power up” the centerpiece needle which moved from “inspire” to “educate” and finally to “impact,” setting off fireworks and confetti. And with that, the facility was opened and hundreds of science fans of all ages streamed into the museum for the first time.

Visitors explored distant galaxies and dinosaurs, took a helicopter tour of Southern California, shopped for sustainable groceries in a miniature market, and descended deep below the earth’s crust to help save water and protect the aquifer without ever leaving the San Fernando Valley.

The museum was inspired by the 25-year success of Discovery Cube Orange, formerly the Discovery Science Center, which is undergoing its own expansion under the newly formed Discovery Science Foundation (DSF).

The two Discovery Cubes are part of an ongoing commitment by the DSF to expand STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) proficiency, early childhood learning, healthy living and environmental stewardship in Southern California through engaging science-based programs, and exhibits that create a meaningful impact on the communities they serve.

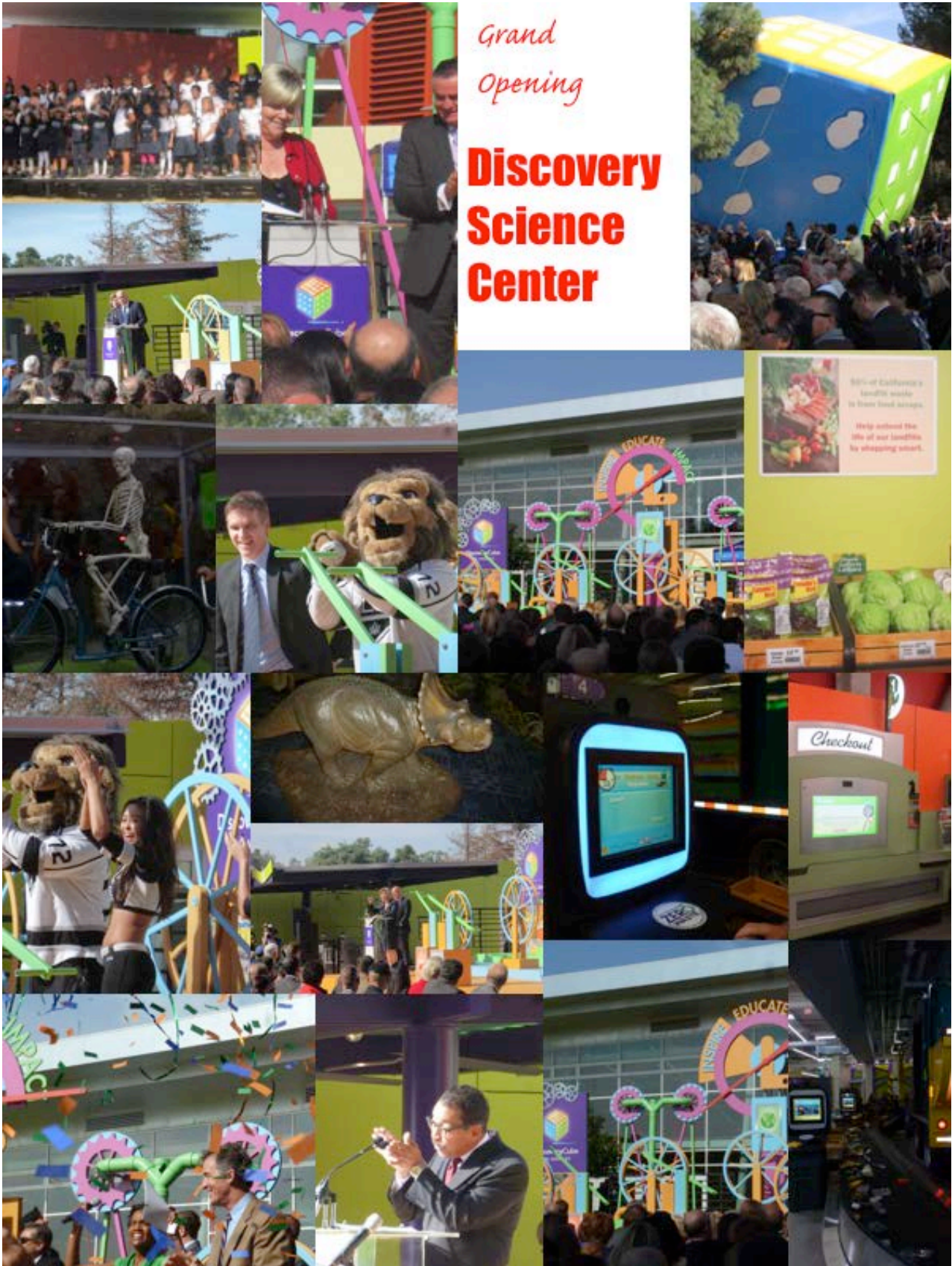
Permanent, hands-on exhibits spotlight the work of the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation and the Department of Water and Power as part of both groups’ larger strategic partnerships with the museum. LADWP sponsored and co-sponsored exhibits are dedicated to education on sustainable housing and preserving California’s valuable natural resources. The exhibits included are the Inspector Training Course, a simulated Helicopter Tour, and the first-ever “Aquavator” – a virtual elevator that takes guests down into earth’s crust to learn about aquifers and how to protect these fragile, underground reservoirs. Visitors learn about the different types of aquifers, how aquifers are beneficial, and why they are important to the local environment.

“Education is critical to the success of our efforts to transform Los Angeles’ water and power supplies and create a more sustainable future,” said LADWP General Manager Marcie Edwards. “LADWP is proud to sponsor exhibits at DCLA that creatively illustrate what it takes to get water and power to Los Angeles. Through this, we can engage Angelenos of all ages in protecting and conserving LA’s water and energy resources.”

The Bureau of Sanitation (LA SAN) is represented by sponsored and co-sponsored exhibits dedicated to teaching visitors about waste reduction and resource conservation. These exhibits include the Discovery Market, Planetary Research Station, Inspector Training Course, Aquavator, and the “Race to Zero Waste” – a thrilling, game-based adventure that challenges participants to sort trash and divert materials from landfills. Players learn what items can be recycled, qualify as green yard trimmings, and what should be disposed at S.A.F.E. (solvents, automotive, flammables, electronics) Centers.

“L.A. Sanitation is proud to partner with Discovery Cube Los Angeles to inspire, educate and impact sustainable practices to promote quality of life and protect public health and the environment,” said Enrique C. Zaldivar, director, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation. “These state-of-the-art interactive exhibits will send DCLA visitors home with the tools to get involved and be environmental stewards in their own neighborhoods.”

Discovery Cube Los Angeles features the following permanent offerings: multi-video adventure. Guests will follow the 300 mile journey water travels



Photos by Lydia Grant & David Barron.

from Mt. Whitney through the Los Angeles Aqueduct system and into the L.A. basin, while learning about the scarcity of water and how conservation can protect this precious natural resource. Then, a second video explores the process of water sanitation and reclamation with an underground view of local sewer systems and the Tillman Water Reclamation Plant. Guests will learn what happens to water after it’s been drained, flushed, and used, and how treated water can be repurposed in the community.

- **Helicopter Adventure** – Step into a one-of-a-kind helicopter theater and lift-off on this multi-video adventure. with an underground view of local sewer systems and the Tillman Water Reclamation Plant. Guests will learn what happens to water after it’s been drained, flushed, and used and how treated water can be repurposed in the community.
- **Discovery Market** – An immersive grocery store that uses game-based technology to teach kids and their parents the importance of purchasing and packaging decisions as well as labels, nutrition facts, and making healthy shopping choices. Based on one of the most popular exhibits in Orange County, DCLA’s version will be updated and customized to Los Angeles.
- **Sun Stage** – DCLA staff lead live, hands-on science demonstrations that use fun games, audience participation, and guest interaction to educate and entertain.
- **Planetary Research Station** – Examine Earth like never before using a suspended, animated globe. Visitors will have a unique view to observe visuals related to the atmosphere, oceans, and land.

With a focus on climate change, visitors can explore weather patterns and watch historic storms, observe the impact of catastrophic earthquakes and human activities, and gain an understanding of global warming along with flight patterns, and all from an out-of-this-world perspective.

- **Making the Grade Gallery** – A customized gallery that brings grade-specific lessons to life through hands-on exhibits to help students throughout Los Angeles County better understand the Next Generation Science Standards.
- **Inspector Training Course** – Visitors will master their skills in resource efficiency and sustainable housing choices when they become eco-friendly home inspectors during the Inspector Training Course. Touch screen tablets will teach ways to employ the four R’s – reduce, reuse, recycle, recover; conserve water, energy, waste; and even offer tips for earthquake preparedness.
- **Park Science** – Learn about the environment surrounding the Hansen Dam area and the importance of exercise with rock climbing and mountain biking. Take a lesson in meteorology and learn about the Santa Ana winds, the L.A. River, local habitats, and tree science.
- **School Readiness Gallery** - It’s never too early to start preparing for kindergarten. Early learners will find activities to help build skills necessary for reading, understanding language, understanding the concept of numbers, and to succeed in school. Other museum highlights include the Teacher Resource Center, a customized

(cont. on page 10)



'Tis the Season...: Sunland-Tujunga Community Marketing Initiative Highlights Its Journey, Celebrates Success

In May of 2013, Sunland-Tujunga began a branding initiative, leveraging our proximity to the Angeles National Forest, the national icon’s growing importance nation-wide, and its presence in digital media. “Gateway to the Angeles National Forest®” gave birth to a brand with the potential to maximize our return with minimal effort and resources. Those “returns” for Sunland-Tujunga include:

- Making us a “must-have” on short-lists when quality businesses are searching to open up a new store, a restaurant, an entertainment center, a bed and breakfast, and so much more;
- Building our town’s awareness – who we are and what we have to offer – more quickly, given we don’t have to explain or constantly answer the question, “So where is Sunland-Tujunga...?”; our brand immediately identifies our location;
- Declaring for everyone what we value and most affiliate ourselves with, that being nature, the environment, and our rural community, and in doing so, drawing like-minded individuals and families and visitors to us;
- Allowing us to tap into the benefits of being a “gateway”: increased funding options specific to “gateways” to benefit Sunland-Tujunga, as well as, search engine optimization opportunities to increase online positive presence;
- Empowering us with voice and choice, instead of just having to take whatever we can get...
- Some said it couldn’t be done. Some questioned why we would even want to do it. Some accused of wrongdoings, fanning flames of doubt and fear. Some have purposely stood in its way, not for the good of the town, but for their own personal agendas. Some have even made statements about how it’s been tried before and failed...saying that they “looked forward to saying ‘told ya so’”; thus, eagerly wanting to celebrate yet another failure.

On the flip side, several more people have applauded the effort, cheered it on, participated in its movement, and are a part of where we find ourselves today. So I’m happy to report that in the 17 months since having embarked on this journey, we have succeeded in a great many ways and for a great many reasons. And in this year-end issue of the North Valley Reporter, we’re grateful for the opportunity to look back and to see just how far we’ve come, and to look to the future and to how much more we hope to do. So in “’Tis the Season...” style...

'Tis the Season...to REFLECT

In the late 1970s, Sunland-Tujunga first saw wisdom to claiming “Gateway to the Angeles National Forest®” as its brand. Our historical records also show a long line of volunteers who tried to make a difference for the better, either as individuals or by forming committees and councils and a variety of organizations. The Sunland-Tujunga Community Marketing Initiative (STCMI) that is currently spearheading the branding initiative and whose mission is to market, promote, and publicize all that Sunland-Tujunga is and has to offer is not the first of its kind. As a matter of fact, throughout our history, we’ve been able to tackle issues with volunteers coming together for a variety of reasons. Here are just a few of our groups from days gone by:

- **1957 – Sunland-Tujunga Public Relations Council**
- **1969 – Sunland-Tujunga “Big T” Beautification Association**
- **1974 – Sunland-Tujunga Improvement Committee**
- **1986 – Commerce Avenue Business Association**
- **1989 – Sunland-Tujunga Association of Residents**

Cleaning up the wash, getting rid of graffiti, reviving Commerce Avenue, publicizing Sunland-Tujunga...each organization had its mission, and none of it is new.

And none of what we want is new either. Our wishes for the kind of Sunland-Tujunga we all want to see is the same today as it has been for more than half a century.

Unfortunately, while so many of us continue to try, of a total population of nearly 60,000, it’s too few. And so, even when organizations and efforts are started, each one loses steam OR, sadly, seems to find itself fighting against another in a state of “either/or” instead of “all together.”

To get us to where we want to be, there’s A LOT to do. And we can no longer be okay with being “slikers” (people who sit behind their computers, ‘liking’ efforts as a show of support but not doing anything to actually support) OR with being “trolls” (people who sit behind their computers, bashing and disagreeing with efforts but not doing anything positive or proactive as an alternative).

Every volunteer organization in Sunland-Tujunga needs people. We invite you to join one.

Main Street Sunland-Tujunga



Show Your Pride

Support Our Town! Sponsor a Banner!

- \$500 for TWO local light-pole banners featuring your logo
- \$1000 buys FOUR banners with your logo—*plus* preferred light-pole placement
- *Full-color - 3’ x 8’, visible for 3 months*



Your Logo Here

Proceeds from Your Banner Sponsorship Go Right Back into Marketing S-T

Benefits

Brand Awareness – YOURS – 3-5 million people annually visit the Angeles National Forest, and millions traverse Foothill Blvd – let them know you’re here and near

Tap into household median incomes in S-T of \$62,499 – approximately \$12,500 above median income levels of those in the City of LA

Limited Banners Still Available. Email: stbranding@yahoo.com with your interest.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Join the Sunland-Tujunga Community Marketing Initiative

Interested in helping to get Sunland-Tujunga on the “short list” of desirable businesses and other quality of life opportunities to benefit our community? Want to help promote and market the best of who we are and what we have to offer? Come join us! Find out more at: www.my-sunland-tujunga.com



Sunland-Tujunga

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

Nov. 29, 9am–2pm

www.stchamber.com

Downtown Commerce

(between Foothill & Valmont)

RAFFLES – FREE GIFTS – FOOD SAMPLES

\$20 from your test drive will be donated to benefit our communities



Learn More
www.my-sunland-tujunga.com

Facebook.com/
SunlandTujungaGateway

Fundraising Site:
youcaring.com/mysunlandtujunga

November 30: Last Chance

Test Drive ANY vehicle at our favorite neighborhood auto dealer during the LA Auto Show week (Nov. 21-30) & Help Raise Funds to Benefit VHHS & Our Town

TOYOTA FT-1 Concept



TOYOTA Highlander Hybrid



Bob Smith TOYOTA

Take this ad to Bob Smith Toyota (3333 Foothill Blvd in La Crescenta) during the LA Auto Show Nov. 21-30, take a test drive of ANY vehicle, and our favorite neighborhood auto dealer will donate \$20 to the Sunland-Tujunga Community Marketing Initiative (STCMI) to continue marketing S-T and to help get us on the “short list” when it comes to attracting the kinds of businesses we want. In turn, STCMI will donate half of all monies received to the Verdugo Hills High School Alumni Fund for Excellence to help further teaching excellence at our schools.

'Tis the Season...to DREAM

Sunland-Tujunga has suffered from a brand awareness problem: Either we have no brand recognition OR what people know about us, they are getting from whatever they see online. As a result, people within the Sunland-Tujunga community as well as those outside have no clear idea of our identity or that we even exist...

“Never knew this was here...”

~ LAPD Officer at the Flapjack Fundraiser at McGroarty Arts Center

“I’ve lived here for years, but we just sleep here and shop elsewhere...”

~ Long-time Tujunga resident

“Where are you located...? I never knew you were so close to the ANF...”

~ Representative for ‘Gateway to the Grand Canyon’ hotel

The next milestone for the branding initiative addresses the awareness issue with light pole banners going up around town beginning November 20, 2014. Each banner shows off our new brand and logo, along with a slogan that currently serves us well in letting passersby quickly digest WHY we’re worth a second look and their investment. Each banner is sponsored by a company, a small business, a community movement; here’s a look at those among the first few to go up along Foothill Boulevard between Lowell and Commerce.



'Tis the Season...to SHOP



Sunland-Tujunga Community Marketing Initiative raises funds to promote all our town has to offer through its events and the sale of branded merchandise. The holidays are a great time to show your pride with swag – great to buy for yourself or to give as gifts. And all profits go right back into our marketing efforts.

These items and more available for purchase at www.youcaring.com/mysunlandtujunga



Advertisement



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
Share your events with your neighbors through:
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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
Please support your NVR Advertisers so we can support you.

Tuesday, Nov 25
Arleta NC
Commu. Imprvmnt Cmttee.
13306 Branford St., Arl
6:30 pm
Bolton Hall Museum
Docent Tours
10110 Commerce Ave., Tuj
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
818-3523420

Thursday, Nov 27
THANKSGIVING
Friday, Nov 28
“Black Friday”
HAPPY SHOPPING!

Saturday, November 29
SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY
Downtown Commerce, S-T
9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Monday, Dec 1
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, Dec 2
Bolton Hall Museum
Docent Tours
10110 Commerce Ave., Tuj
818-352-3
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
FTDNC LUC
9747 Wheatland Ave., SH
7:00 pm

GHNNC
Emerg. Prepared.
Sub-Comtee Mtng.
11139 Woodley Ave., GH
7: 00 pm

Wednesday, Dec 3
FTDNC Equest. Cmttee. 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
Rotary Club
Coco’s Restaurant
10521 Sunland Blvd., Slnd
818-951-5299
7:00 pm

Thursday, Dec 4
Kiwanis Club of Nrdg. East
CSUN Orange Grove Bistro
Zalzah & 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
6:30 pm

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
15305 Rayen St., NH
The Rainbow Room
6:30 pm

FTDNC Budget Cmttee. Mtng.
9797 Wheatland Ave., SH
7:00 pm

PNC Outreach Mtng.
Pacoima Library
13505 Van Nuys Blvd., Pac.
5:00 pm-6:00 pm

Kagel Cyn Civic Assoc.
Dexter Park
11053 No. Trail Rd., KC
7:00 pm

Saturday, Dec 6
LADWP MOU Comttee.
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, Dec 7
Pearl Harbor Day
Bolton Hall Museum
Docent Tours
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
818-352-3420
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Winterfest
Little Landers Park
3:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Monday, Dec 8
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

Tuesday, Dec 9
SVANC Gen. Mtng.
10631 Vinedale Ave., SV
6:30 pm
SNC Outreach Cmttee. 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
Docent Tours
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
818-352-3420

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

SVANC
Board Mtng.
10631 Vinedale Ave, SV
6:30 pm
LAPD-CPAB
Mission Division
11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH
6:15 pm

GHNNC
Citywide Issues Mtng.
11139 Woodley Ave., GH
6:30 pm

Wednesday, Dec 10
Rotary Club
Coco’s Restaurant
10521 Sunland Blvd., S-T
7:00 pm
818-951-5299

STNC Gen. Mtng.
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T
818-951-7411
7:00 pm

Sun Valley Beautiful
9081 Tujunga Ave., SV
11:30 am

Thursday, Dec 11
VANC Planning Meeting
CBS Studios
6:30 pm

Saturday, Dec 13
GHNNC
PlanCK CSUN
Juniper Hall, # 2206
1811 Nordhoff St., Nrdge
10:00 am - 1:00 pm
www.plancheckncla.com
www.csun.edu

Sunday, Dec 14
Bolton Hall Museum
Docent Tours
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
818-352-3420

VANC Gen. Mtng.
10631 Vinedale Ave., SV
6:30 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, Dec 15
PCNC
Mission Commu. Hosp.
Med. Office Bldg., 2nd fl
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, Dec 16
Bolton Hall Museum
Docent Tours
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

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

S-T Neighborhood Watch
NVCH
7747 Foothill Blvd. S-T
6:30 pm

Wednesday, Dec 17
LAPD-CPAB
Mission Division
11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH
6:15 pm

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

PNC Mtng.
Pacoima City Hall
13520 Van Nuys Blvd., Pac
818-624-4242
6:30 pm

Strathern Nh’brh’d. 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 Wed.)
Coco’s Restaurant
10521 Sunland Blvd., Slnd
7:00 pm
818-951-5299

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

Thursday, Dec 18
North Hills West NC
New Horizons
15725 Parthenia St., N. Hills
7:00 pm

Sylmar NC Equest. Cmttee.
Sylmar Rec. Cntr.
13109 Bordon Ave.,Syl
7:30 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., No.
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

Sunday, Dec 21
Bolton Hall Museum
Docent Tours
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
818-352-3420

Monday, Dec 22
FTDNC
Rules & Elec Cmttee.
9747 Wheatland Ave., SH
7:00 pm

GHNNC Gen. Mtng
1227 Balboa Blvd., GH
6:30 pm

Arleta NC
Commu. Improvement
Cmttee.
13306 Branford St., Arl
6:30 pm

Tuesday, Dec 23
Arleta NC
Commu. Imprvmnt Cmttee.
13306 Branford St., Arl
6:30 pm

Bolton Hall Museum
Docent Tours
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
818-3523420

Thursday, Dec 25
MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Saturday, Dec 27
Friends of Granada Hills Library
10640 Petit Ave., GH
10:30 am

Sunday, Dec 28
Bolton Hall Museum
Docent Tours
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
818-352-3420

Wednesday, Dec 31
NEW YEARS EVE
Celebrate Responsibly
Thursday, Jan 1
HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Be Safe!

Saturday, Jan 3
LADWP MOU Comttee.
Hollywd. Com. Cntr.
6501 Fountain Ave. ,Hlywd
8:45 am
LANCC Mtng.
Hollywd Com. Center
6501 Fountain Ave., Holly,
8:45 am

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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, Jan. 4

Bolton Hall Museum

Docent Tours
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
818-352-3420
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Monday, Jan. 5

STNC LUC

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

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, Jan. 6

Bolton Hall Museum

Docent Tours
10110 Commerce Ave., Tuj
818-352-3
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

FTDNC LUC

9747 Wheatland Ave., SH
7:00 pm

GHNNC

Emerg. Prepared.
Sub-Comtee Mtng.
11139 Woodley Ave., GH
7:00 pm

Wednesday, Jan 7

FTDNC Equest. Cmttee. 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

Rotary Club

Coco's Restaurant
10521 Sunland Blvd., Slnd
818-951-5299
7:00 pm

Thursday, Jan 8

VANC Meeting

(Valley Alliance of NCs)
Sherman Oaks Hospital
4929 Van Nuys Blvd., SO
6:30 pm
Saturday, Jan 10

GHNNC

PlanCK CSUN
Juniper Hall, # 2206
1811 Nordhoff St., Nrdge
10:00-1:00 pm
www.plancheckncla.com
www.csun.edu

Sunday, Jan. 11

Bolton Hall Museum

Docent Tours
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
818-352-3420

VANC Gen. Mtng.

10631 Vinedale Ave., SV
6:30 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, Jan 12

FTDNC

Bldg. & Outreach Mtng.
LVT Rec. Cntr.
11076 Fooothill 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

Tuesday, Jan 13

SVANC Gen. Mtng.

10631 Vinedale Ave., SV
6:30 pm

SNC Outreach Cmttee. 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

Docent Tours
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
818-352-3420

GHNNC

Public Safety Cmttee. 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, Jan 14

Rotary Club

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

STNC Gen. Mtng.

NV City Hall
7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T
818-951-7411
7:00 pm

Sun Valley Beautiful

9081 Tujunga Ave., SV
11:30 am

Thursday, Jan 15

North Hills West NC

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

Sylmar NC Equest. Cmttee..

Sylmar Rec. Cntr.
13109 Bordon Ave.,Syl
7:30 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., No. 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

Sunday, Jan 18

Bolton Hall Museum

Docent Tours
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
818-352-3420

Monday, Jan 19

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

Federal Holiday

Govt. offices, banks, schools
closed

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, Jan 20

Bolton Hall Museum

Docent Tours
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Sylmar Block Captains
& Neighborhood Watch
LAPD Mission Station
11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH
6:30 pm-7:45 pm

Wednesday, Jan 21

LAPD-CPAB

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

Devonshire CPAB Mtng.

17037 Plummer St., Nrdge
7:00 pm

PNC Mtng.

Pacoima City Hall
13520 Van Nuys Blvd., Pac
818-624-4242
6:30 pm

Strathern Nh'brh'd. 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 Wed.)

Coco's Restaurant
10521 Sunland Blvd., Slnd
7:00 pm
818-951-5299

Northridge East NC

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

Sunday, Jan. 25

Bolton Hall Museum

Docent Tours
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
818-352-3420

Monday, Jan. 26

FTDNC

Rules & Elec Cmttee.
9747 Wheatland Ave., SH7:00 pm

GHNNC Gen. Mtng

1227 Balboa Blvd., GH
6:30 pm

Arleta NC

Commu. Improvement Cmttee.
13306 Branford St., Arl
6:30 pm

Tuesday, Jan. 27

Arleta NC

Commu. Imprvmnt Cmttee.
13306 Branford St., Arl
6:30pm

Bolton Hall Museum

Docent Tours
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
818-3523420

Thursday, Jan. 29

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
Transport. & Public Works-5:15
pm
Budget and Finance-5:30 pm
Planning & Land Use-5:45 pm

Saturday, Jan 31

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

Happy New Year

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Legislators Think Silence is Golden

By David Barron



Ladies and gentlemen, the following are reasons why I supported candidate Patty Lopez for our Assembly in Sacramento: For many years we have been deceived by a coalition of elected officials who are supposed to represent our best interests in our communities. But, apparently, their ideas are instead focused on first, being re-elected, placing their political party ahead of their constituents needs, growing their support base by giving taxpayer grants to selected nonprofit organizations, and promoting slogans with catchy names that often just raise our taxes and fees, which really only benefit their special interests groups who contribute thousands, tens of thousands, and even millions of dollars to their campaigns in exchange for favors.

To the rest of us, including the record high number of unemployed residents, it seems that we only see our elected officials for ribbon cutting ceremonies, group photo opportunities when officials appear for a Saturday morning cleanup day, parades, and occasionally an appearance at a community meeting to promote a new program that ends up increasing our taxes or fees.

But, when we want to express our concerns about neglected city services that we've paid into, or ask

for funding for education or the arts or express our opposition to increased taxes, officials do not seem to hear us.

An example of silence from elected officials is the \$40 million ratepayer dollars, transferred over the years into two secret DWP union accounts, and the effort of our City Controller, who is demanding answers from the DWP union leader by using subpoenas to determine if any wrong doing is involved in these two secret accounts.

Our city council, which sets policy for multiple city departments, is being silent about this matter, when Councilman Felipe Fuentes, who chairs the Energy and Environment committee, should be leading the charge, the investigation, and taking control of the situation on behalf of DWP ratepayer customers.

Another example of silence is Senate Bill 1, (SB1), Sustainable Community Investment Authority, which is on hold. It was authored by former Senator Darrell Steinberg and signed and supported by Assemblyman, Raul Bocanegra. Our past elected officials and Ms. Patty Lopez's opponent, Assemblyman Bocanegra, apparently have made no attempt to inform their constituents that they signed and voted for a law that would eliminate public comments and eliminate the voters' ability to vote on bonds being issued by SB1.

Remember, we are the Government, for and by the people. However, Sacramento legislators want to eliminate our participation in government by cre-

ating a new government agency in each county or city to grab our property taxes and by other taxes (e.g. sales tax) to finance "sustainable communities" in California. This law would allow cities, special districts and counties to create a Sustainable Community Investment Authority with no voter oversight that would drastically change our way of life. SB 1 can issue bonds without voter approval. It can declare rural and suburban areas blight without cause. It will lead to government abuse of eminent domain over private property rights. Like solar panel farms in residential neighborhoods on open space, it would lead to increase of city and county taxes. A venture like this should be left for professional private investors, not the taxpayer who will not receive any earned interest or dividends in return. It promises one thing: If we keep re-electing the same legislators who serve themselves first, instead of their constituency, then Proposition 13 will be under attack and our taxes are sure to increase at a high rate of speed.

Sacramento legislators are planning to scrape away at our Liberty and Freedom. It is very important that we oppose this kind of ideology and protect our property rights by electing those who listen to their constituents. This is why I supported and voted for Patty Lopez for the Assembly.

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

A Personal Letter To All Political Parties: We, The People, Are Not Stupid!

By Jesse Torrero



Part 1 of 2

In The Winter of 1974 I went to my first public school, L.A.U.S.D. Byrd Jr. High School in Sun Valley. The previous school I attended was a private school, Village Christian School, also in Sun Valley. The only differences in the schools were sports, dress code, religion, and population. I went to Byrd because I wanted to go to Poly High School, which was a powerhouse of sporting activity and a history of excellence at the time.

Back to Byrd in '74 in 9th grade in homeroom, the teacher gave us all a card to fill out with some very basic questions. What are you, and where did you come from?

I said I was American, and I came from Chicago, Il., which is all true.

A few days later, I was the only person in the class who got the card back all marked up in red ink, with a note, "Please give correct answers." This was perplexing. I was also given a fresh card to fill out to hand in immediately. So, I wrote again in the other section to the questions, "What are you, and where did you come from?" I am a citizen of the United States of America, and I came from my mom and dad, which is all true. I gave it to the teacher.

Sure enough, a few days later I got that card back with even more red ink on it, and another card. And the teacher just looked at me like I was some smart

alec, teenage criminal nut job. and she added a few words to it: "Stop being a smart-ass!" Again, I filled out the new card in the other section and put these answers to the questions: "What are you, and where did you come from?" I'm a Torrero, and came from God, which is all true.

Can you imagine now the stink I caused? It was like I was on the FBI's most wanted list holding down the #1 SPOT. The next day I didn't get past the front gate as I was redirected, like water flowing through a flood channel, right into the principal's office. He sat me down, looked at all my cards and said to me, "Jesse, we like you a lot here at Byrd. I know you came from Village Christian. You're a good athlete, and get good grades. You do question everything, which does drive your teachers nuts, but I don't think you are a smart mouthed kid. What we want here is what is your ethnic race" (a bewilderment reaction on my face), and where is your family from (a stare back that takes place in your eyes when something does not make sense in your head.) He continued, "I don't think you understand exactly what your answers should be. So, take all of these cards and this new one home to your mom and she will help you fill it out correctly." And that's what I did.

I told mom the story. She said, "Lets fill it out." She told me that all my answers were correct, but the school was looking for other answers for other reasons that later on in my life I will understand. Mom began to tell me I am Spanish-Italian-Mexican-Scottish-Irish-German-French. I responded, "Really? All those things? WOW!" You see, that never came up

in my home or with anyone I knew. We were just all Americans. Mom, with her infinite wisdom said to me, "Well, we cannot lie. So, which one will benefit you in the future? Hmmmm. Yes. There it is. You are Mexican. Your dads mother came from Mexico of Spanish heritage, and his dad came from Spain with Italian heritage and a Spanish surname. The next day I handed the card to the principal saying, "I am Mexican with Spanish-Italian-Scottish-Irish-German-French heritage, I'm an American mutt!" That was the end of that...or was it? All of a sudden the next year, (In the late 70's), at Poly High School, I was asked if I needed ESL (English Second Language) class.

Then the 80s hit and Reagan gave amnesty to millions of illegal aliens. I thought it was a real "slap in the face" to all those who came to this country the right way--legally. Then, this bi-ethnic concept started popping up everywhere. Gangs swelled. This concept of political correctness was created with a whole separate language and thinking. Homes in every neighborhood in the S.F. Valley started getting walled in with sharp tipped wrought iron fences and vicious barking dogs, (houses behind prison walls I called them). Fewer kids were playing in their neighborhoods out front. People lived on streets and knew no one, and that was ok. After all, nobody had to become an American and learn English anymore. The criminals started getting more rights than law-abiding folks. Graffiti exploded. And massive amounts of corruption in government at all levels became visible while the multi-international corporations gutted this country's manufacturing base for low wage slave workers in China, and other places for profit. All the while, they were screwing the American worker, and they knew it, (so did their government paid off paties), but lied to each and every one of us.

In the early 1970s our baby boomer generation was lead to believe that our country was not good enough...our country needed an overhaul...our country needed more fairness...our country needed to be fixed, that government needed to know everything thing. We were told that we had to represent to the government our ethnic blood line, not knowing we were putting a target on our backs for government's future use, or someone's use! We were lead to believe that greed is good, and hedonistic ways were fun, along with drugs, and alcohol, free sex, and, as long as I am ok then you're ok. What a great illusion and deception to hide what they were really up to, robbing and stealing the life, money, and future from all of us. Yes America was changing and it all was so very odd to me, even in my youth.

Editor's Note: Jesse Torrero is a Community Activist, a Commentator for the NVR and can be reached at (818) 800-1343, winwinwininc@yahoo.com or www.facebook.com/JesseTorreroBroker



High Speed Rail Authority Holds Open House

The California High Speed Rail Authority is proposing a statewide rail plan that will affect the North San Fernando Valley area with suggested routes to go through the Angeles National Forest. Their proposal is to connect the Antelope Valley from Palmdale to Burbank. They will be holding meetings in the following communities in the North Valley:

Shadow Hills, Lake View Terrace – Wednesday, Dec. 3. 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Stonehurst Recreation Center., 9901 Dronfield Ave., Sun Valley

Burbank – Monday, Dec. 8, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Buena Vista Branch Library, 300 No. Buena Vista St., Burbank

San Fernando – Tuesday, Dec. 9, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Las Palmas Community Center, 505 So. Huntington St., San Fernando

Sylmar – Wednesday, Dec. 10, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Olive Vista Middle School, 14600 Tyler St., Sylmar

For more information visit: palmdale_burbank@hsr.ca.gov. Also see info in You Should Know (page 2)



What are the Most Urgent Issues Facing Los Angeles City Government?



By Dick Platkin*

I recently went through this exercise at a presentation by the Department of City Planning on the proposed Master Planned Development (MPD) zone, (CPC-2010-3315-CA). This is a new land use category for Los Angeles that would expedite permits for mixed use, campus-type projects. If you are not sure what that means, imagine scaled down versions of The Grove that are at least three acres in size.

And, if you are not sure what this new zone has to do with the urgency question, it is because this the reason why this new zone is being stampeded through the city’s legal adoption process and not folded into the five-year re-Code LA program. There is a backlog of 41 potential MPD projects, and – presumably – their investors want their projects to be quickly approved before market conditions change.

My first response was to review the hundreds of community meetings I have either run or attended as a city planner in Los Angeles over the past 30 plus years. I can remember many meetings where local residents expressed an interest in a supermarket, a Trader Joe’s grocery store, a Target, or a Starbucks. But other than requests for public improvements, such as better street lighting and schools, this was it. Furthermore, none of these public improvements or small commercial uses requires a special new zone to be quickly pushed through the City Planning Commission and the City Council.

My second response was my own list of urgent planning-related issues. I initially included the topic I have often written about on CityWatch, the mansionization of Los Angeles, or less politely, the construction of McMansions in older neighborhoods by sleazy, profiteering real estate speculators.

But, I then realized the McMansion problem is trivial compared to the truly serious planning and planning-related issues facing Los Angeles. This is my list, and I am sure City Watch readers could add other issues that strike them as more urgent than the quick approval of MPD projects.

Outdated General Plan. By professional planning practice, common sense, and State of California law, every California city requires a timely and internally consistent General Plan to guide local government.

Unfortunately, most of LA’s General Plan is in need of an immediate and total update. Its backbone, the General Plan Framework Element, is based on 1990 census data, was prepared in the early 1990’s, and was adopted in 1996. Of the other mandatory and discretionary planning elements, only the Housing and Transportation Elements have been properly updated. Everything else is old, and some General Plan elements, like Infrastructure, are downright ancient. The City Council adopted them in the 1960’s, and they have not been updated in nearly a half-century!

Monitoring. No General Plan element can be relied on if it is not regularly monitored. This monitoring process and program was built into the framework, but it has been ignored for the past 14 years. In fact, there is no functioning plan monitoring program in Los Angeles. This means that elected officials and city staff do not have current statistics for population, employment, and housing. They also have no way to know which proposed and mandated programs have been implemented and if they are effective. They have no way to know if the demand for municipal services and infrastructure has kept up with capacity. And, these just scratch the surface of what a useful General Plan monitoring program should encompass.

Traffic Congestion and Air Quality. LA’s fledgling efforts at mass transit and bicycle lanes are a step in the right direction to address the country’s worst traffic congestion and air quality, but just a step. To tackle these momentous problems, it is urgent that LA not just have a transportation plan, (the new Mobility Element), but well-funded implementation programs to get residents, employees, and visitors out of their cars. The means much more money for mass transit, for bicycle infrastructure, and for pedestrian improvements, especially sidewalk repairs. These projects are expensive, but they are of the highest priority, and to be truly effective they must be partnered with better land use policies. Once the transportation infrastructure is qualitatively improved, along with comparable improvements in other municipal services, the city can transition to higher densities. If higher density is encouraged—as is the current practice—without adequate transportation capacity, recreation and parks, schools, libraries, public safety, animal regulation, and a host of other categories, Los Angeles will experience a relentless downward spiral of urban decay. Shiny new luxury apartments, office buildings,

McBoxes, and shopping malls – even if rapidly approved as MPD projects – are hardly enough.

Seismic Safety. We live in earthquake country, and the “Big One,” an earthquake much larger than the 6.7 Northridge earthquake, (1994), is certain. Yet, the active earthquake faults have not been properly identified, and the list of extremely vulnerable older buildings UC Berkeley engineers predict will fail in a large earthquake has not been made public. Furthermore, unlike San Francisco, Los Angeles does not yet have an actual program to retrofit these structures so they can withstand a massive earthquake. As a result thousands of preventable deaths and major injuries are a certainty.

Urban Beautification. For lack of a better word, hundreds of miles of LA’s commercial, industrial, and residential streets are insufferably ugly. Drivers, passengers, bicyclists, and pedestrians must endure relentless visual pollution defined by a lack of trees, billboards, super-graphics, pole and roof signs, overhead wires, and ragged heights and building lines. Most surrounding cities, such as Culver City, Beverly Hills, Santa Monica, West Hollywood, Glendale, and Pasadena, have shown how the same climate and geography can look wonderful. This means the model is literally in front of our eyes.

Urban Forest. Of all the low hanging fruit to address many of LA’s most urgent issues, planting and maintaining a vibrant urban forest, is the most obvious. True, Mayors Bradley, Villaraigosa, and Garcetti have had Million Tree campaigns, but these were largely public relations shows. They depend on volunteers, not the expertise and professional resources of the City’s Urban Forestry Division. This is obviously the easiest way to literally green Los Angeles, and then reap a wide range of benefits, including carbon sequestration, recreation, habitat and water supply protection, improved pedestrian paths, passive solar heating and cooling, removing air pollutants, including Green House Gases, and neighborhood beautification. While trees may not have the same team of City Hall lobbyists promoting new shopping centers, can there be any doubt which category will most benefit Angelenos?

Dick Platkin teaches, writes, and consults on community planning issues in Los Angeles. Please submit any questions about this article to rhplatkin@gmail.com.

“Core Values”: Redefined? Part II

By Jay L. Stern

Common Core is like gluten: Lots of people say they want to avoid it, but they don’t even know what it is. For the record, gluten is protein in grains historically used to make bread. It forms cross-links which trap carbon dioxide and that causes bread to rise. The only people who should avoid gluten are those with celiac disease.

Common Core is an educational approach to learning. It should be avoided if you are not able to think for yourself. Though some have labeled Common Core as a fad, to be sure, but nevertheless it is an attempt to correct the problems ushered in by the prior fad, “No Child Left Behind.” That misguided effort did leave children behind . . . and was a great reason to keep the federal government out of education.

The impetus behind Common Core had been in progress since 1996 when the National Governors’ Association and several high-profile business leaders, such as the chairman of IBM Corporation, formed a company named Achieve, Inc. The stated purpose of Achieve was to develop means to assure that a high school diploma represented a meaningful accomplishment by a young person.

By 2007, Janet Napolitano, Governor of Arizona, was chair of the National Governors’ Association. She wrote an “initiative” that focused on improvement of public education in the United States. To do this, Napolitano assembled a task force of educational experts, leading business people, and governors to develop a plan. The product of the task force was the 2008 report titled “Benchmarking for Success: Ensuring U.S. Students Receive a World-Class Education.” Achieve, Inc., was brought in as developer to accomplish this ambition. That is when people started taking notice of Common Core.

Backing by the Governors’ Association was a logical method of promoting nationwide educational standards without the stigma that would otherwise be attached had they been developed by the federal government. It is a way of assuring that a student in Mississippi, for example, is exposed to the same topics in the same depth, at the same point in their academic career, as would a student in New York. It is a means of not only leveling the playing field, but also elevating that field to world-class loftiness. Financial backing for developing the standards came from non-government sources, notably, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. And Bill Gates, of course, is the billionaire dropout entrepreneur who founded Microsoft Corporation.

The educational standards being developed focused on mathematics and English. Science curricula had its own set of movers and shakers in parallel to the Common Core proponents. Social studies teachers felt left out and complained. Eventually, they also will have standards.

“No Child Left Behind” needed to be replaced. The students were constantly being tested to gather “data.” Tied to the testing was the threat that schools which did not achieve high scores on the tests, would suffer by losing operating funds, risk being taken over by other entities, and teachers being fired. So, teachers “taught to the test.” If a student expected the question, “How much is 2 plus 2?” Then the teacher would teach the answer, “4,” in every way possible. But if the actual test question was, “What is 3 plus 3?” The student would be lost because s/he had not been taught HOW to add in the first place! This is the problem that Common Core seeks to overcome: Students are to be taught “critical thinking” skills. How the individual states that signed on to Common Core, (45 at last count), school districts, even individual schools

teach those critical thinking skills, are up to them. The point is that they be taught. This sounds like manna from heaven, What could possibly go wrong?

The answer to that question lies in the standards themselves developed for Common Core. While it is true that Common Core requires testing, and is data-driven as was, “No Child Left Behind,” there is a difference. The testing focuses on understanding... but understanding as permitted by the standards. It is good that students must develop a hypothesis (called a “claim” in teacher-speak), search for evidence to support the claim, and develop a conclusion based on the evidence that validates the claim. This forces students to write, thereby improving their vocabulary, their grammar, and logical thinking skills, including structured argumentation. This is its method. But there is another part to it: The CONTENT.

Content is something that is most valued by textbook publishers. All the prior books need to be replaced with texts that follow Common Core standards, and emphasize information at the expense of classical prose. Publishers see dollar signs and they rush to pump out texts to support this “new” learning style. Electronic media is emphasized requiring that students use computers to take exams as well as to complete class assignments. Some of this “how to” knowledge is valuable and is not to be condemned. But using electronic tools is not education. It is a means to access information and obtain an education.

So, who develops the content that the students see on their tablets and laptops and smart phones? This is where many believe the core of Common Core is little more than an empty shell with minimal “core value.” Critics of Common Core do not appear to differentiate between “Standards,” “Method,” and “Con-

(cont. on page 10)



Officers Appreciation Day 2014 for L.A.P.D. Foothill Division

By Jesse Torrero

On a beautiful day in the sunny San Fernando Valley in Pacoima, CA, at the Foothill Division of the L.A.P.D., the troops of C.P.A.B., community members, and activists descended on the officers to show their appreciation for all the relentless dedication, service, and protection against the bad guys and dangerous work they provide for our community. All day long the officers were served with wonderful home cooked chicken, pig, roast beef, vegetables, cake, pastries, and cookies to mark this day of acknowledgment for a job well done. The local barbeque King, Phil Tabi and his son, handled the mastery of the barbeque pit like no other, cooking up the most succulent roast, chicken, and pig for the whole division to feast on.

On this day of thanks, a sad goodbye was heralded to Captain Malinowski, (now Commander Malinowski) as he departed for his new assignment securing the Special Olympics to be held in Los Angeles. He proudly handed over his post to new Foothill Division leader, Captain III, Ernest Eskridge, and his new team. including Captain II Choi.

Commander Malinowski received from his fellow officers two custom engraved swords and a sharp L.A.P.D. Equestrian Western Hat with proper designa-

tions. All were mounted on a large wooden plaque with two large emblems on each side along with a certificate given to him for his service from the City Of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Police Department.

Many people from C.P.A.B. and the community showed up during the day to help out, serve, eat, and build lasting relationships with their beloved Foothill Division that will last forever and be passed down to the next generations. These bonds between the communities of the North and Northeast San Fernando Valley and the Los Angeles Police Department have proven to be very positive and fruitful in the reduction of all types of crime.

Crime statistics in the Foothill Division are consistently the lowest in all of Los Angeles. Such impressive results are related to these connections made between homeowners, business owners, C.P.A.B., (Community Policing Advisory Board, an organization anyone can join who wants to make a difference, that is within in the Foothill Division parameters), L.A.P.D., local City Council representatives, community activists, and leaders.



Commander Malinowski and Jesse Torrero.
Photo by David Barron.

Editor's Note: Jesse Torrero is a Community Activist, a Commentator for the NVR and can be reached at (818) 800-1343, winwinwininc@yahoo.com or www.facebook.com/JesseTorreroBroker

There's a New Sheriff in Town!



Jim McDonnell, Sheriff-Elect of Los Angeles County, is set take the Oath of Office in Downtown L.A. on Monday, December 1st. Sheriff-Elect McDonnell held the position of Chief of the Long Beach Police Department where he served for 4 years before the election. He had previously retired from the Los Angeles Police Department where he served for 29 years, rising to Assistant Chief under Chief Bill Bratton. His qualifications give him give him the ability to reach his stated goals of rebuilding the department to include accountability, transparency and Inline image 1trust within the department and the community.



Thank You!

Congressman
Adam Schiff
28th Congressional District

"I'm very grateful to you, the voters of the 28th Congressional District, for the opportunity to continue serving you. In the upcoming session, I will again focus on restoring our economy, creating jobs, and helping small businesses succeed. Clearly, voters are deeply dissatisfied with the paralyzing dysfunction in Congress and I will do all I can to find common ground with my colleagues from both parties, not only in fixing our economy, but, also in the key national security challenges facing our country."

Valley's First Science Museum Opens (cont. from page 3)

space allowing Southern California educators to check-out DCLA science kits and lesson plans and discuss school topics and content related issues with trained DCLA staff and other teachers; and the 70-seat "Discovery" 4D Theater that will host an ongoing program of films and live presentations, many produced specifically for Los Angeles.

Using the Orange County center as a model, museum officials will supplement the permanent exhibits in Los Angeles with a continuing mix of traveling exhibits and programs to encourage repeat visits and keep the offerings relevant and consistent with in-classroom lesson plans and real-world science applications.

Discovery Cube LA's first traveling exhibit, "Dinosaurs – Fire and Ice," allows guests to travel back in

time and come face-to-face with dinosaurs in their prehistoric environment. Put on an insect costume, meet touchable dinosaurs, and dig for fossils in this fun and engaging exhibit which will be featured until January 4, 2015.

Additional exhibits and installations, including potential partnerships with Los Angeles-based organizations, are planned.

"To borrow a phrase from another Southern California visionary, Discovery Cube Los Angeles will never be completed since we'll constantly be updating our offerings to reflect new advances in science – and to give Angelenos exciting new reasons to visit," added Adams.

Daily hours of operation are 10:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m., with the facility closed on Thanksgiving and Christ-

mas Day. General admission is \$16.95 for adults, and \$12.95 for children. However, as a grand opening promotional offer, admission for everyone is \$10.00. Family memberships that are good at both Discovery Cube campuses are available for \$99.00 for a family of six, and for a limited time, guests can add a second year for just \$25.00.

The Discovery Cube Los Angeles is located at 11800 Foothill Blvd. in Lake View Terrace. For more information, call (866) 552-CUBE (2823) or visit <http://www.discoverycube.org/la/>

Editor's Note: Mr. Bailey is 1st. V.P. Northridge East NC, and Exec. Committee Member of Valley Alliance of Neighborhoods Councils (VANC).



"Core Values": Redefined? (cont. from page 9)

tent." They look at the content and label the whole pedagogical technique as evil. The more suspicious do dive more deeply into the inner workings of Common Core, but there they see collusion between Microsoft Corporation, Pearson Publishing Co., and the federal government. Since Common Core was ostensibly developed by private interests under the eye of the National Governors' Association, the federal connection is unclear. Unless government money is dangled in front of the state schools, "Adopt Common Core and you get the goodies!"

And with that connection, comes content written to warm a progressive bureaucrat's heart. The so-called "informational" readings would have students accept as truth various tracts written from a decidedly biased angle. There is a word for such readings –"propaganda." And that is what has conservative critics up in arms. They are not placated by bland statements of how the states are not "forced" to accept Common Core, or that they can opt out. It is all about money and control. Further, there are questions about how confidential student records really are. Since testing for Common Core is conducted online, there is significant opportunity for student information to come under scrutiny of public agencies or even hackers. We have recently read or heard of

scandals involving the Internal Revenue Service targeting conservative organizations, or of government wiretapping, and of retail companies where millions of customer records were illegally accessed.

The concept behind Common Core is admirable. Idealism has to take a back seat to reality, however. And the reality is that Common Core must be monitored carefully in every state, in every school district, and by every person concerned with the quality of education, as well as what our young people are being taught. If you are alarmed, here is what you can do:

Read more about Common Core, what it is and what it promises to do.

If you agree that Common Core will benefit students across America, do nothing. If you feel that your constitutional rights are being eroded by its implementation in your school district, you need to find and join organizations fighting against Common Core.

If you have school-age children, examine their lessons very carefully. Challenge the school over materials that you believe are inappropriate or unsuitable.

Pay attention to developments involving Common Core. Do so frequently. Complacency is a luxury that just costs too much.

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Don't Leave Me!



By Gail J. Carlson

As I lock the door and walk down the steps to my car, I see him looking at me out the window. His eyes look so sad, and I really don't want to leave but I have to."Will you ever come back for me?" his eyes say. And I drove off feeling a bit of guilt.

Sound familiar to anyone? Our world today requires that most of us go to a job, the market, the gym, etc., and leave our pets behind at home. Even though our dogs are our family we cannot take them everywhere we go, especially big dogs. As a result, some dogs get overly nervous when they are left all alone.

Dogs are social animals that form strong bonds with people, so it is not surprising that they may feel somewhat anxious when separated from their social group, meaning their human family. Most dogs adapt well to the typical daily separation from their owners. However, each dog is as unique as their paw print. Dogs act like us, learn from us, and they pick up on our personality. Are you making your dog anxious?

It is important to realize that dogs with separation anxiety are not doing these things to get even with the owner for leaving, acting this way out of boredom, or exhibiting this behavior due to lack of training. These dogs are not being destructive because they are bored. We must work each day to train our

dogs to be able to entertain themselves whether we are with or without them.

The dog with separation anxiety shows signs of distress when left alone and over-attachment when the owner is present. What can you do if your dog suffers from these problems?

Do not make a big deal out of arriving or departing from home. Dogs live in the present. Although making an overly dramatic reunion with your pet may be what you want to do, it is not what will help them to cope with your absence best in the future.

Try to break the cycle of anxiety your pet experiences. Do this first with short absences. Upon returning to a "normal" home, you reward your pet with praise and affection, again after ignoring them initially for 3-5 minutes. They will probably not understand this in the beginning stages, but will learn to calm down in order to be rewarded and praised by you. Repeat this several times, and they should begin to learn and expect that being "good" at home will earn its just reward.

Give your dog a chew toy like a long lasting food treat when you go out. They will associate this special treat with your departure. Your dog will have to work at removing the entire treat, so it will pleasantly occupy his/her time. Take the time to think of their needs and both of you will benefit together in the long run. If all else fails, call me or another licensed, bonded, and insured pet sitting professional.

Auntie Gail is a certified veterinarian assistant and has a pet sitting and dog walking service in the area. She can be reached for a free meet/greet at: auntiegailspets@yahoo.com, or at her website: www.auntiegailshappytails.com



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SOUND OFF
Solar Panels on Roof Tops Instead of Solar Farms

It's obvious that developers of the ground-based, urban solar farms are choosing to install solar on land because they DON'T HAVE ACCESS to rooftops across Southern California (and the U.S.).

There are millions and millions of rooftops across the country that are unused; they are the ideal place to install solar arrays. You should already know that the rest of the world installs solar on rooftops as they preserve their precious natural resources.

The Wall Street investors behind these urban solar farm projects can easily and quickly buy open land and quickly and easily (thanks to little to NO REGULATIONS - because of the legislature and the DWP) install solar panels on these parcels of land.

Unfortunately, there are many who don't understand the issues involved in urban solar farms.

There are millions of rooftops available and ready for solar panel installations. These rooftops are by

and large (the vast majority of them) are unused for this purpose.

These solar farm investors get sweetheart deals paying them significantly higher rates for solar power produced than what homeowners can get when we install solar on our rooftops.

Solar farm investors don't have access to rooftops. The only place they can invest their money is in buying up open/green space and installing urban solar farms.

Solar farm projects are exempt from CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) which was put in place to protect the environment from unchecked projects.

There is a very limited amount of green and open space here in Los Angeles City/County. Open space is finite while the number of rooftops is exponentially greater.

We need to save our green and open space and make it a priority to FIRST install solar panel systems on rooftops of buildings, houses, and car covers/car ports.

We need to let logic be our guide to using renewable energy while protecting our environment, our communities and our precious open/green space. Don't let investment companies located in remote areas, far outside of our communities, tell us how they will use our green and open space!

I hope we can somehow convince you that the DWP's plans must be changed. The public wants renewable energy. But we want it on ROOFTOPS not in urban solar farms!

Dan Feinberg, President
CASM SFV Inc. ("CASM")
DanF@CASM-SFV.org • 818-415-1261 mobile
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Mobile Home Owners in Crisis

I am Chuck Loring, a US Army vet. I hold many local titles as an advocate of the American system. I support the idea of community. In that regard I have become involved in the manufactured home industry in California. It has come to the attention of most of the 5394 MHP's, (Mobile Home Parks), with HCD (Housing and Community Development) that the Mobile Home Residency Law has no enforcement. It has been the idea in California that the mobile home owner in an MHP has the same rights as a regular home owner's rights. There must be an enforcement agency that can protect the mobile home owner. This is the last chance most of the residents of these communities will have to enjoy home ownership and the pride that comes with that title. Can our country really afford to let these civ-

ily active and taxpaying citizens suffer at the hands of a hand full of greedy and heartless property owners and management companies? In the MRL 798.2 the term "Management" is defined and no where does it say they have the right to have absolute control of that community. It is meant to be a partnership ie the term "community."

I represent the HOA 13837 and the GSMOL, Golden State Manufactured-home Owners League, chapter 1486This community has been ravaged by this behavior. We invite you to visit this and other mobile or manufactured home communities to witness this treatment of millions of our neighbors and home owners. Consider that a person comes to your home, pitches a tent on your lawn, and then controls how you

live. When you call the police that person is removed as a trespasser. In the MHP, community the management company is that tent pitcher and we can't call the police. We must hire a lawyer to fight a civil case in a court system that has little knowledge of these laws. Please help us to continue to contribute to our community by protecting our rights as home owners. Thank you for your time.

Chuck Loring is Pres. HOA 13837, Pres. GSMOL, Chapter 1486, Board member NHNENC, Board member LAHDMHTF (mobile home task force), Grad LAPD Community Police Academy, Host of Fire Safety Video for kids, SAG award winner and Sergeant at Arms. He can be reached at: <http://oag.ca.gov/contact/general-comment-question-or-complaint-form>

Civil Servant and Private Sector Employee
Legal? Yes. Ethical? No.

I read the LA Times article about Bob Hertzberg taking a job with a law firm. I do not see any way of posting a comment about this article directly to the LA Times so I am writing to you, Mr. Patrick McGreevy, the author of the article:

Hertzberg is a polished politician. He has experience, education, contacts, and is a popular Democrat in a heavily Democratic district. Running against

Ricardo Benitez was no contest. Ricardo speaks halting English. He has not held political office before and he is nowhere nearly as educated as is Hertzberg. But Ricardo is honest and has integrity. It appears that Hertzberg has neither of those attributes. Ricardo Benitez would never enter into a second employment agreement that has even a shadow of "conflict of interest." Clearly, this opportunity for Hertzberg was in the works for some time. He just kept it secret only to make it public ONE DAY after the election,

since it clearly would otherwise turn voters off. What a despicable, sleazy—not to mention, brazen move. And it is indicative of the behavior he is likely to exhibit as a state senator. Hertzberg needs to give up one or the other of these jobs: Either he stays at the law firm, or he remains as state senator, but not both. Should Hertzberg elect to retain this second job, I'm ready to mount a recall campaign against him!

Jay L. Stern, North Hills, CA



**Annual
“Honor Our
Heroes” Event
held on
Veterans Day**

U.S. Representative for the 29th District, Tony Cardenas, hosted a Veterans Program on Tuesday, November 11, at Byrd Middle School in Sun Valley. Major Lynette L. Jones, U.S. Army Reserve, was the Keynote Speaker and Captain Olivia Chavez, U.S. Reserve served as Mistress of ceremonies. Music was provided by Valor Academy Glee Club. Color Guard duties were performed by North Valley Military Institute. The Valor Academy Glee Club led the room singing America the Beautiful and God Bless America. At the conclusion of the gathering, Congressman Cardenas presented each of the Veterans with a remembrance coin from the White House.

San Fernando Valley Commemorates its Veterans!

The 11th Annual San Fernando Valley Veterans Days Parade was held on its traditional day of November 11, at 11:11 am. The Veterans Day Parade Committee, honoring those who served, was headed by Los Angeles Veterans Commissioner Fred Flores. The only parade of its kind in the city of Los Angeles to honor Veterans started at San Fernando Blvd and Laurel Canyon Blvd. in Mission Hills and ended at Richie Valens Park in Pacoima. Bobby Arias and Stephanie Valencia served as Masters of Ceremonies and Captain Dale A.Dye, U.S.Marine Corps. was the Grand Marshal. Some of the Dignitaries in attendance included Congressman Tony Cardenas, Los Angeles Councilmembers Bob Blumenfield, Felipe Fuentes, LAPD Operations Valley Bureau Deputy Chief Jorge Villegas and LAPD Captains Ernie Eskridge and Scott Chamberlain.



DAILY SPECIALS

MONDAY

Baked Meatloaf topped with Grilled Onions served with choice of Potato and Vegetables
\$9.99

TUESDAY

Chicken Pot Pie served with side of Fruit
\$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
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Monday-Friday
4-7 PM**

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