

Pacoima Spreading Grounds 2.0 Begins Summer 2016

By Elizabeth Marx

After 82 years, the 169-acre Pacoima Spreading Grounds (PSG) in Mission Hills and Arleta is scheduled for an upgrade.

As one of four spreading grounds in the San Fernando Valley, this unassuming sea of dry dusty basins in the middle of a quiet residential area plays an important role in replenishing our city's groundwater supply.

The LA County Flood Control District (LACFCD) manages the PSG Improvement Project scheduled to begin in the summer of 2016 funded by a \$3 million grant from Prop 84 with the rest of the construction costs split 50/50 by the LA County Department of Public Works and the LA Department of Water and Power.

After the \$35 million PSG Improvement Project is completed it should have double the water storage capacity and almost double the water percolation rate. When the storms finally do arrive this extra capture capacity will add a much needed bonus as 11% of the city's total water supply over the last ten years has come from groundwater.

It comes at a higher price than just the \$35 million. Those who live next to and

near the spreading grounds, use the adjacent parks, walk the Nature Parkway on Devonshire St or attend Telfair Elementary will experience in some degree or another two years of very unhealthy diesel exhaust, dangerous dust particulates, noise, vibrations and likely traffic congestion.

The project will be in two stages: One, replacing the radial gate that lets storm water into the spreading grounds, with a rubber dam and replacing the open channel with two reinforced concrete pipes opening up an area to use as a possible green space.

Two, excavating up to 30 feet down, sifting out clay and sediment and then placing the remaining more permeable sandy soil back into six newly combined

basins at a depth of around 12 feet leaving about 1.24 million cubic yards of material to be trucked out of the PSG.

The current plan is to use up to 240 diesel trucks a day to transport the material to gravel pits in Sun Valley. They would exit onto Devonshire following a route via the 5 freeway at Paxton St or 40% of the time continue down Paxton turning right on San Fernando Rd.

The Initial Study on the Pacoima Spreading Grounds Improvement Project is due out October 2014. Check the PSGProject.info site for more in-depth information on the project and a link to the study when posted. Initial Studies are open for a minimum 45-day commenting period.

Other Los Angeles County Flood Control District managed projects in the North Valley include the Pacoima Reservoir Sediment Removal Project and the Tujunga Spreading Grounds Enhancement Project.

Editors' Note: Elizabeth Marx is a member of the Mission Hills Community Action Group, "Making a difference one project at a time" as well as Editor of missionhills91345.com a blog with occasional tidbits of local news. She believes a connected community is an empowered community.



Pacoima Spreading Grounds is a Los Angeles County Flood Control District Water Conservation Facility and has 12 shallow spreading basins with a 550 acre feet spreading capacity at a 65 cfs percolation rate. The source of its water comes from the Pacoima Reservoir, the Lopez Flood Control Basin, East Canyon, the Pacoima Wash and untreated imported water. In the not too distant future the LADWP plans to pipe reclaimed, Title 22 water from an as yet to be built facility at Ronald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant to recharge at the Pacoima Spreading Grounds. The Initial Study on the project was in September 2013.

The War Against Teachers - On the Firing Line

By Jay L. Stern

“I’m going to get you FIRED!” The kid spat the words at his teacher, his face contorted into an angry snarl.

What did the teacher do to provoke such a violent outburst? Usually, it is called “teaching.” Perhaps the teacher asked the student to put away distracting items like their cell phone, or an electronic music device. It could have been a request to stop applying make-up or not to eat in class. Almost as often it would be to sit up and pay attention, not to sleep in class. And don’t forget about working on an assignment! Maybe the teacher committed the cardinal sin of asking the student to read a passage from the text, or work a math problem.

These are the main types of problems that get a teacher into trouble. All the student has to do is lodge a complaint that the teacher is “picking on them.” Too often, the teacher is of one ethnicity and the student of another. Then, it is “The teacher is racist.” In fact, racism is imbued in the teaching culture. Part of the curriculum for earning a teaching credential includes a course such as “Equity and Diversity in Education.” What does that mean? It is, as a professor who taught the course said with a straight face, “... to keep white teachers from feeling guilty about being white when teaching minority children.”

Governor Jerry Brown signed assembly Bill 215 (AB215), "Teacher Discipline and Dismissal," into law on June 25, 2014. It takes effect on January 1, 2015. It has been cited as a fair way to expedite dismissal of bad teachers from the profession. As it is now, firing a bad public school teacher is said to be a very time-consuming and expensive process. The Bill's stated intent is to shorten the time it takes, as well to specify categories for which dismissal is an appropriate response.

AB215, authored by Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan (D), focused on two points:

- Streamlining the dismissal appeal process
- Keeping students safe

The law is intended as a response to dealing with teachers accused of “egregious misconduct.” In fact, it does not address other issues that might lead to the dismissal of a teacher, such as incompetence. Such concerns are still dealt with by the current system. Under AB215, “immoral conduct” is defined as egregious misconduct, which encompasses acts that can be criminally charged as sexual abuse, child abuse and specific drug crimes. It establishes what is called a separate, streamlined hearing process for teachers (“employees”) accused of egregious misconduct. An administrative law judge, not a 3-person panel, can then conduct the hearings.

When a teacher is accused of “egregious misconduct,” they can be immediately removed from the classroom and placed on leave of absence while the accusation is investigated or criminal charges filed. This is no different from the way teachers are currently treated. Such leave may be paid, as during investigation, or unpaid as after a hearing has been held. This is where the point about “student safety” is emphasized, but the guidelines are so loose that virtually everything can be construed as a “safety issue.”

Did the teacher silently look at noisy pupils to prompt them to be quiet? Using “the look” was a well-established and encouraged part of teaching practice. Today though, a pupil can file a complaint that the teacher is “scary.” That makes it a safety issue and under the new law the teacher can be immediately removed from the classroom!

The time span for investigating allegations is not defined. It can be months, during which time the teacher is “housed” in a location away from the



school where they taught. In the event the teacher is charged, his or her hearing is to commence within six months and the entire appeal process be completed within seven months. This part of the Bill is unclear: it appears to mean that a teacher can languish in "teacher jail," or a "rubber room" for a year or even longer without being charged with anything, and with an uncertain limbo continuing for another seven months following a demand for hearing.

It is not obvious that this procedure is more “streamlined” than the dismissal process as it currently exists. This was one of the objections voiced by the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) in opposition to AB215, in a September 12 letter to its members. In fact, ACSA pointed out that if the educator is targeted for dismissal for any reason other than “egregious misconduct,” the provisions of AB215 do not address it. Where, really, is the improvement?

(cont. on page 11)

(cont. on page 11)

COMMUNITY NEWS

Sunland-Tujunga Celebrates American Express' Small Biz Saturday: "Shop Local" Comes to Town November 29

In 2010, American Express founded Small Business Saturday. Its intent in doing so has been to help small businesses get what they really need: more customers. Sunland-Tujunga's small businesses are no different than every other business nationwide. So on this year's Small Business Saturday, November 29, our Chamber of Commerce is encouraging each of us to "shop local" and "shop small" and to that end, it has come up with a few reasons for you to come on out to the downtown area on Commerce to experience what we have to offer.

American Express has FREE tools for small businesses to tap into. AND perks for shoppers, including:

Up to 3-\$10 statement credits per eligible American Express Card when registered and used at a participating small business. (Terms and Conditions apply – see ShopSmall.com)

Signage and other marketing materials for small business use.

Go to www.americanexpress.com/us/small-business/shop-small/ to find out what might help you bring in more customers to your own shop.



Did You Know?: Results of Neighborhood Analysis Elevate Sunland Tujunga:

In March of 2014, the results from the Neighborhood Analysis "*The State of Sunland Tujunga*" (available at www.stnc.org) were released. The report, prepared and presented by students under the tutelage of UCLA Professor of Urban Planning Paul Ong, provided the community with the following findings:

- **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 S-T are occupied by married couple families, compared to only 64 percent in the City of 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, relatively low compared to the City of LA where 20 percent of residents live below the poverty line threshold.

Small Business Saturday Shop Local

November 29, 2014
9 am to 2 pm

Sunland-Tujunga
Commerce Avenue
(between Foothill and Valmont)

Stop by the Chamber of Commerce table during Small Business Saturday and find out how you can get a fully-functional website for your small business for just \$99

Plans are underway for Sunland and Tujunga's own Shop Local event. Spearheaded by the Chamber of Commerce, the community is invited to enjoy:

- Food – local restaurants and bakeries, including EURO FUSION, will be sharing samples and offering their good eats to shoppers
- Fun – children and adults can share laughs at the indoor playground at KIDZ PARTYTIME (10033 Commerce)
- Raffle Prizes – local shops such as Serenity Tax and Financial Services will be offering a chance to win in random drawings for everything from store credits to a Kindle
- Sidewalk Tables – set up by local artists to show off and sell their creative items as well as by our local organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce whose newly installed board will be on hand for meet and greets
- **Much More!** – More details to come! Check back at www.stchamber.com

Need A Website?: Tap into Chamber of Commerce \$99 Offer

Today, a majority of shoppers go online before they buy products in a store or choose to dine at a restaurant. You probably do, too. Several studies support this fact. A recent study by GE Capital Retail Bank <http://www.retailingtoday.com/article/study-81-research-online-making-big-purchases> found that 81 percent of people look at products online before making a purchase in a store. That's an increase of 20 percent over last year.

Another by BIA/Kelsey and ConStat <http://www.biakelsey.com/company/press-releases/100310-nearly-all-consumers-now-use-online-media-to-shop-locally.asp> found that nearly all consumers (97 percent) now use online media to shop locally. As a matter of fact,

58 percent of respondents report using an online coupon when shopping for products or services in their local area in the past year.

19 percent of respondents report making an appointment online in the past six months for a service other than a restaurant reservation (e.g., business appointment, healthcare appointment, auto service or personal service such as a beauty shop).

What the earlier-mentioned surveys mean for you and your business is quite simple: to connect with today's buyer, even local shoppers, you need to get your business online. Yes, that may mean getting a website, but there are a few things you can do pretty quickly and easily while you work toward getting your website.

- First and foremost, for FREE, you can get your business listing on the Top Five sites. Make sure you fill out the forms completely and add as much information as possible. If you're already on any one of these sites, make sure your information is accurate. I just recently checked online for the hours of a local breakfast spot that listed their hours as 7 a.m. opening. When we arrived at 8 a.m., the restaurant had yet to open. The information about them online was inaccurate and created a bit of a frustrating first impression. So get online for **free** and/or check to make sure what is online about you is accurate:

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- YP.com**—<http://adsolutions.yp.com/free-listing-benefits>
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Voice & Choice

“71% of capital investment deals do not involve an initial contact with any development organization until a short list of potential location options for investment have been created.”
(Development Counselors International (DCI))

That means that 71% of the time, our community’s reputation (brand) is what gets us on a shortlist for the very things we all say we want or don’t want - and have said that we’ve wanted or haven’t wanted for decades. Lack of a brand translates into:

- Lack of voice (ahead of the curve) on things like “development” (i.e., Stop the Canyon Development, Verdugo Hills Golf Course, California High-Speed Rail through ANF, etc.);
- Lack of choice for possible educational facilities, restaurants, entertainment centers, cultural entities, quality shops & much more.

Flapjack Fundraiser: Paying It Forward

The Back Door Bakery’s Deborah Goodale hosted a Flapjack Fundraiser at McGroarty Arts Center on Sunday, October 12. Organized by the **Sunland-Tujunga Community Marketing Initiative (STCMI)**, the event proved successful with 150 pancake-eating participants (all of whom have missed Deb’s pancakes and other good eats and were thrilled to hear she plans to return to the community sometime this Spring) in attendance. As a result, the STCMI was able to donate a \$125 mini-scholarship to McGroarty and give them a free (\$250 value) brand community awareness banner featuring their logo that will be displayed along Foothill for three months beginning in November.



During the Flapjack Fundraiser, a random drawing for a gift basket of Sunland-Tujunga swag was held. A pound of coffee donated by Starbuck’s plus two Sunland-Tujunga mugs and the new apron featuring the color logo were won by 13-year old Abby Schwartz who attends Delphi Academy in Lake View Terrace. Abby is planning on paying it forward by generously donating her raffle win to the Women’s Auxillary in Sunland for their November 8 event to raise money for charity. Way to go, Abby!

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Wanna Go for a Ride?

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 SCION

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.

Branding Is Bulls**t!: Not

By Andrew DalGLISH

“Branding is marketing bulls**t. Only FMCG [fast moving consumer goods] firms who need to build aspirations and desire worry about stuff like that. B2B is different. The relationship is with me – the sales guy – not the corporate brand. Even if it wasn’t, buyers are rational and put emotions to one side.

And anyway our brand is just fine, the logo is great.”

Sound familiar?

As a marketer you no doubt recognize the value of a strong brand. 77% of the 100 B2B marketing leaders we recently surveyed for the B2B Leaders Forum went so far as to describe branding as critical to their company’s future growth.

So you might be convinced, but how do you persuade others whose see branding as ‘marketing bullshit’? First explain that, like it or lump it, they have a brand. Your brand is your reputation – the thoughts and feelings triggered in a customer or prospect’s mind when they think of you. And because a brand is a perception held about you, you have no choice about whether that perception exists. Your only choice is whether or not you actively manage that perception.

And let’s ditch the term ‘branding.’ It’s too loaded and instantly raises barriers to acceptance. Instead, let’s call it ‘reputation’ instead because that’s a term everyone can relate to.

Then outline the benefits of having a great reputation (not brand, remember):

- It makes you a must-have on short-lists
- It makes you the safe choice in riskier buying situations
- It simplifies the decision for buyers, making you the easy choice
- It is a point of differentiation, especially in commodity markets
- It builds preference and loyalty
- It allows you to charge a premium

Dwell on that last point to convert any remaining non-believers. A strong reputation has financial benefits. For example, Interbrand (Inter-reputation?) estimates that IBM’s brand is worth \$78,808 million.

Go forth and spread the word!

About Andrew DalGLISH

Andrew has specialized in B2B research for over a decade and co-founded Circle Research in 2006. Circle has since won various accolades such as the 2012 RAR Award and the 2011 MiAward. Andrew is a columnist for B2B Marketing Magazine, a frequent speaker at leading B2B events such as Horizont B2B and teaches the MRS B2B research course.

The above article reprinted with permission from Circle Research - <http://www.circle-research.com/> - Feb. 18, 2014.

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

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Monumental Step for the San Gabriels and Open Space Preservation



Congressman
Adam Schiff
28th Congressional District

As Californians, we're used to Presidents of both parties coming to town—especially Los Angeles—to raise campaign funds, but rarely do they make large policy announcements. They save those for the coveted swing states.

But something special happened this month. President Obama came to town, and used the authority granted to him by Congress through the Antiquities Act of 1906 to designate a large portion of the San Gabriel Mountains as a National Monument.

That relatively-unknown Act of Congress was designed to give the President power to designate certain areas of historically significant land as worthy of special protection when the Congress lacked the will to act. Frustrated by a lack of progress made by Congress, President Theodore Roosevelt signed the legislation and quickly designated eighteen areas as national monuments, establishing that President's reputation as the Father of Conservation.

Roosevelt got it right when he said that he recognized the "right and duty of this generation to develop and use the natural resources of our land; but I do not recognize the right to waste them, or to rob, by wasteful use, the generations that come after us."

There's no question this Congress has moved too slowly on the preservation of open space, and many of our national and local priorities. As a result of the President's declaration this week, however, the Forest Service will be better equipped to protect the 346,000 acres of national forest land that make up the San Gabriels and better serve the surrounding communities.

For more than a decade now, I have been working to protect and conserve open space in the San Gabriel mountains and the Rim of the Valley, and I am pleased that this monument designation is such a strong step towards achieving this goal—but there is so much more to be done.

In 2008, President Bush signed into law a bill I wrote called the "Rim of the Valley Corridor Study Act," which authorized the National Park Service (NPS) to study the possibility of providing federal protection to the Rim of the Valley, an area stretching from the existing Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA) through the Simi Hills and Santa Susannas, the Verdugos, and on to the San Gabriel Mountains.

Last year, as a result of the National Park Service study, the NPS released its four preliminary "Alternatives," or suggestions on how to best utilize the land in the Rim of the Valley study area.

I joined several members of the Los Angeles delegation in recommending that when the NPS issues

its final report to Congress on the Rim of the Valley, it propose boundaries of a National Recreation Area that would both include critical habitat and biodiversity protection, as well as increase access to the recreation area for urban communities. I believe that it is important to ensure that future generations of Southern Californians are able to make recreational use of our region's beautiful Mediterranean landscape, obtaining an understanding of the rich tableau of animals and plants that populate the area, and preserving rare ecosystems and wildlife corridors.

This Fall, the Park Service is expected to release its draft report to Congress, which will incorporate feedback it has received from the community and stakeholders. When this is published, I encourage my constituents to review the draft report, and share their thoughts and comments. Extensive input from the public will be the key to drafting the legislation that would create the best National Recreation Area possible for all to enjoy.

While the National Park Service has been leading the charge to determine what is feasible, it will ultimately be up to Congress to enact legislation to protect the open space in the region and to achieve the shared vision that was the inspiration for our legislation more than a decade ago.

I hope you will help me in crafting that legislation, and offer your insights. Phone 818-450-2900 / web-site: schiff.house.gov

You Should Know...

The Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council's Animal Issues Committee will meet Tues. Oct. 28 at 6:30 p.m. with speakers from the Mountain Lion Foundation and Cougarmagic. They will discuss recent local mountain lion behavior and 911 calls.

The Sylmar Chamber of Commerce lunch meeting will feature a speaker regarding the **California High Speed Rail** on Wed. Oct. 29 at 11:30 a.m.

Election Day is Tuesday, November 4. If you are registered, your polling place is on your booklet that you should have received in the mail. If not, check lavote.net for polling location or go to any polling location near you.

The annual San Fernando Valley Veterans Day Parade will be held on **Tuesday, November 11, at**

11 am. The parade route will begin at Brand Blvd, in Mission Hills and continue along Laurel Canyon Blvd. and end at Richie Valens Park in Pacoima. It will be followed by an Annual Forum for Veterans hosted by Congress member Tony Cardenas at Byrd Middle School, 8501 Arleta Ave., Sun Valley, 4:30-7:00 pm.

The Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council and the Sunland-Tujunga Chamber of Commerce will co-host a **Town Hall with City Attorney Mike Feuer** at North Valley City Hall, 7747 Foothill Bl., Tujunga. This will also be an opportunity to meet the new Neighborhood Prosecutor.

The former **Children's Museum**, which will become known as "Discovery Cube Los Angeles," will finally be open to the public on Thursday, November 13. Located on the corner of Osborne and Foothill

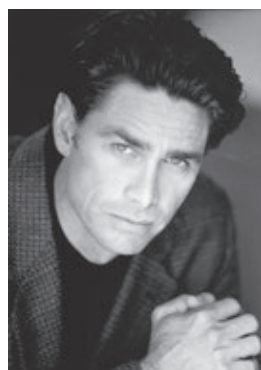
Blvd., next to the Library in Lake View Terrace, the new science museum is under the operation of the Orange County Discovery Science Center. geared for students from kindergarten students on up, Museum it will feature a simulated helicopter flyover of California's natural resources, planetary research station, interactive park science exhibits and immersive grocery story experience.

The **Sunland-Tujunga Chamber of Commerce** will install new officers on Friday, Nov. 14 at the Elks Lodge in Tujunga. Info: 818-352-4433 or stchamber.com.

Sylmar Relay For Life 2015 is kicking off with Monday evening committee meetings: Check www.relayforlife.org/sylmarca and Sylmar Relay For Life on Facebook for info.

Johnny Higginson Honored as a Fernando Finalist

By Michael Carpenter



Johnny Higginson

Johnny Higginson was selected as one of the five finalists for the 56th Annual Fernando Awards, held Saturday October 19th, 2014 at the Globe Theater in Universal Studios. The award is given to those from the San Fernando Valley, whose volunteering is for the purpose of making this a better community and helping others.

Johnny is the owner of the Rockin W Ranch in Shadow Hills. His Shadow Hills Riding Club works with those with disabilities using equine therapy and participates with "Saddles for Soldiers" to offer veterans the same. He has also worked with the Help Group for teens with autism, Phoenix House for at risk children and the Wounded Warriors Project for post 9 - 11 veterans.

Johnny was nominated by New "Heaven on Earth" Ranch (NHOER), a local 501c(3) public charity located

in Lake View Terrace. NHOER became a nonprofit member of the Fernando Foundation in 2013. This was their first year being able to nominate someone and Johnny was chosen as one of the finalists. It is a rare honor to have a first time nominator see their choice make the finals. Johnny's message was on his presentation video presented before the gathered guests in the packed house. Both the business and political community of the San Fernando Valley heard his commitment to those in need first hand.

The Foothills also had finalist Mel Wilson from Pacoima, nominated by the North Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce. The Fernando Award was bestowed on Martin Cooper, nominated by the Boys & Girls Club of the West Valley and New Horizons. The winner is determined from the votes of Fernando Foundation members.

Hopefully, by someone being recognized from the equine community, it will lead to other opportunities to encourage more people in the greater San Fernando Valley to be involved, participate and support Johnny Higginson and NHOER to help people with disabilities.

North Valley Reporter

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Special Thanks to: Peter DiNova, Nick Krall, Mike O'Gara, Al Piantinida, Erna Royal, Bobby Royal, Jerry Sherman

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Mission Hills

By Pamela Goldfinger

As Californians, we’re used to Presidents of both parties coming to town—especially Los Angeles—to raise campaign funds, but rarely do they make large policy announcements. They save those for the coveted swing states.

But something special happened this month. President Obama came to town, and want everyone to have a good time,” stated Los Angeles Fire Chief Brian Cummings. “But remember; fireworks of any kind are illegal in the city of Los Angeles.”

It is re unlawful to purchase fireworks in any city for use within the City of Los Angeles.

- Possession and /or use of fireworks within Los Angeles are a violation of Municipal Code 57.55.01A, or Section 12677 of the Health and Safety Code.
- Fire investigators and police officers will be out in force this year. Violators risk serious fines, confiscation of fireworks, and jail time.
- The public is requested to report the sale or use of fireworks within the City of Los Angeles by calling 9-1-1.
- For a safe and fun July 4th, visit a professional fireworks show in your area.

Yes, we’ve heard it before “all fireworks, even the so called ‘safe and sane’ variety, are illegal in the city of Los Angeles.” We hear it every year, year after year. So many times in fact, it’s difficult to believe that there are individuals out there who aren’t aware of the fireworks laws in Los Angeles. Yet, block by block, neighborhood by neighborhood, all across our City, the Independence Day celebration turns into an intense inferno of illegal fireworks with a violent cacophony of noise and choking smoke.

And, for many, fear. We all know the dangers and warnings about this holiday. With the long running

drought, the potential for fire becomes a serious concern; especially true for those living in the foothills. Serious bodily injury occurs every year. More animals are turned in to animal shelters the day after this holiday than at any other time of the year. Many seniors feel particularly vulnerable and helpless. Because emergency workers are overwhelmed, calling 911 can become an exercise in futility. And, let’s not forget the craziness of guns being shot into the air!

Why am I writing about July 4th madness in October? This year the Mission Hills Community Action Group formed a task force to work with our local city officials, first responders and communities at large in order to join together in an effort to bring this holiday under control and focus on the true meaning of Independence Day. Our first campaign was launched June 7, 2014. Planning for our 2015 campaign is now underway.

Following is our platform:

- Street level enforcement is limited to one action per watch due to the onerous task of booking fireworks or waiting for the Bomb Squad
- Community Education works great on minor offenders but has minimal impact on flagrant violators
- All of the fireworks that annoy and cause danger by flying or exploding are clearly illegal to possess without a license in the State of California
- A single violator can affect the quality of life of every person within a ? mile radius. Ten of them can impact a entire Basic Car
- Hundreds of ads were listed in Craigslist for clearly illegal fireworks products in the weeks before this year’s Independence Day.
- Anecdotal reports of officers simply asking people to be safe when using fireworks and in fact an e-mail via shows that the problem is beyond

the scope of patrol level or even Area level enforcement.

- We have been very fortunate not to have wind driven fires started by fireworks and turn into a Bel Air sized conflagration.
- Many animals are scared into the streets only to end up lost forever, run over by vehicles, attacked by coyotes or, if they are lucky, taken to the shelter scared and shivering.

We ask that:

- Law enforcement and prosecution resources are brought to bear citywide in a highly visible way against at least some violators to set the tone and send a message.
- That law enforcement and prosecutors concentrate on the illegal distributors of the devices to reduce availability and that those cases are publicized to deter others.
- That appropriate metrics be determined and monitored to gauge the effectiveness of the efforts. This should include Animal Shelter census and contraband seizure numbers among others.

All fireworks, including the “safe and sane” fireworks are banned in the City of Los Angeles. With respect to using “safe and sane” fireworks, contact your neighborhood fire department to inquire about any local restrictions in your community. When and where you can use legal fireworks is up to your local jurisdiction. By obeying the law, you protect your children, pets and property.

For more information regarding Mission Hills Community Action Group Visit: www.missionhillscommunityaction.org

Editor's Note: Mrs. Goldfinger is a long time community activist, a member of the Mission Hills CPAB and a founder of the Mission Hills Neighbored Council.

City to Enforce No Tobacco Sales to Minors



City Attorney
Mike Feurer

City Attorney Mike Feurer announced the temporary suspension of tobacco licensing to fourteen stores so far for selling tobacco to minors. Feurer, together with the Parent Center Group (PCG), is initiating a broad campaign to end the sale of tobacco and electronic cigarettes to minors. It includes verification of tobacco permits for businesses and education-

al programs for parents. They will work as a team with parents at the schools to detect any suspicious or illegal selling of tobacco and electronic cigarettes to minors. Feurer declared the start of the pilot program to educate parents in middle schools. Among them are Vista Middle in Van Nuys, Barack Obama Global, Joseph Le Conte, Leichty in Westlake and MacArthur Park. Paulino Guevara with the PCG, who is concerned with this issue said, “It is imperative that our communities and the City Attorney work together to resolve this abuse to our children. For this reason we must take responsibility because we as parents are as

much at fault as well. The responsibility lies on both sides with store owners and the parents. We must raise awareness and take action now. I will be the first to enroll in this classes offered by the City Attorney’s Office and invite other parent’s to join in supporting our community cause.” To report illegal tobacco and electronic cigarettes to minors call 213-978-7970. To enroll for the class or to bring this campaign to your school call 818-792-3080

Mitigation for Fracking Impacts Fails Senate

By Elektra Kruger

Part One

California is the third largest oil producing State and in the top fifteen for natural gas with its oil and gas development and production facilities concentrated in Kern County and the Central Valley. Many producing fields are also located in coastal areas including Los Angeles County, Ventura County, Santa Barbara County and others as well as offshore where allowed. There are currently approximately 50,000 actively producing oil and gas wells in the State. In the last few years the practice of hydraulic fracturing, colloquially referred to as “fracking,” of oil and gas wells to facilitate the production of oil and gas has come under severe scrutiny and the object of great controversy. Proponents argue that the practice of hydraulic fracturing promotes energy independence, provides jobs and is entirely safe. Opponents argue that frocking contaminates the air, water and soil resulting in adverse impacts to public and environmental health and welfare. The practice of hydraulic fracturing injects a fluid – a mixture of water and undisclosed chemicals – into an underground geologic formation at pressures strong enough to enhance fractures within the formation thereby increasing access to hydrocarbons trapped in the formation. Fracking is one form of a process referred to as “well stimulation treatment.” Others include such things as acid-based treatments. Recent projections suggest that some of the largest oil reserves in the country are located in the Monterey Shale formation and that utiliz-

ing well stimulation treatments could result in substantial increases in oil production and an economic boom.

The California State Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources which is the State’s Oil and Gas Regulator, a Division within the Department of Conservation, is responsible for regulating the drilling, operation, maintenance, stimulation, abandonment of oil and gas wells, the operation and maintenance of tanks and facilities related to oil and gas production in an oil and gas field, the removal or abandonment of tanks or facilities in an oil and gas field and issues regarding public safety and environmental damage in the State. The Division is headed by the State Oil and Gas Supervisor who has the broad authority to regulate the oil and gas industry “to prevent, as far as possible, damage to life, health, property and natural resources,” etc. (Public Resources Code 3106). Any operator wishing to perform well-stimulating treatment on a well must first obtain approval from the Supervisor. Under existing law, any person violating any prohibition specific to regulations of oil or gas operations is guilty of a misdemeanor – a slap on the hand for something that did, or could have, caused serious public harm or environmental damage.

Despite this range of regulatory responsibility and authority allotted to the Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources, in 2011 they could answer none of the questions posed to it by State Senator Pavley relating to the practice of hydraulic fracturing. In the following years there have been numerous attempts to either require the Division to take on the responsi-

bility to regulate the practice of well stimulation or, in absence of doing so, have the practice of well stimulation banned. In September 2013, Governor Brown signed SB 4, into law. The law provided emergency interim regulations governing well stimulation practices effective January 1, 2014 requiring that:

- The Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency order an independent scientific study of all aspects of well stimulation treatments to be completed by January 1, 2015 including acid well stimulation and hydraulic fracturing
- The Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources finalize and implement regulations relating to well stimulation treatments by January 1, 2015
- The Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources conduct an Environmental Impact Report to be certified by July 1, 2015
- The Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources has the authority to impose site-specific mitigations for projects conducting well stimulation treatments during the interim period
- Groundwater monitoring be conducted for wells subject to well stimulation treatments
- The CHEMICALS used in the well treatment process be disclosed to the public.
- Both pre- and post-stimulation reports related to the well treatment process be disclosed to the PUBLIC, including but not limited to, DISPOSITION OF the chemicals and water used during the well stimulation process and baseline with follow-up water quality testing

(cont. on page 9)

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Monday, Oct 27

FTDNC
Rules & Elec. Cmte.
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

Tuesday, Oct 28

Arleta NC
Commu. Imprvmnt Cmte.
13306 Branford St., Arl
6:30pm

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

Rotary Club
Joselito's
7308 Foothill, Tujunga
7:00 pm

Friday, Oct. 31

**Halloween
Trick or Treat Safely**

Saturday, Nov 1

LADWP MOU Cmte
Hollywd. Com. Cntr.
6501 Fountain Ave., Hlywd
8:45 am

LANCC Mtng.
Hollywd Com. Center
6501 Fountain Ave., Holly,
8:45 am

PCNC Cmte. Mtngs.
US. Bank/PCNC Office (4th Fl)
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, Nov 2

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

Monday, Nov 3

STNC Land Use
7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T
7:00 pm – stnc.org

Mission Hills NC
Gen. Mtg
Mission Police Station
11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH
6:45 pm
Exec. Brd. Mtg. follows

Tuesday, Nov 4

**VOTE
ELECTION DAY**

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

Rotary Club
Joselito's
7308 Foothill Bl
7:00 pm

FTDNC Land Use
9747 Wheatland Ave., SH
7:00 pm

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

Wednesday, Nov 5

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
6:30 pm

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

Thursday, Nov 6
Kiwans 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 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

Saturday, Nov 8

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

PlanCheckNC
Boyle Heights Police Stn
Community Room
10 am – plancheckncla.org

Sunday, Nov 9

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

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, Nov 10

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, Nov 11

Veterans Day

SVANC Gen. Mtng.
10631 Vinedale Ave., SV
6:30 pm

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

Rotary Club
Joselito's
7308 Foothill Bl
7:00 pm

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

Bolton Hall Museum
Docent Tours
10110 Commerce Ave., Tuj
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, Nov 12

STNC Gen. Mtng.
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill Blvd., Slnd
818-951-7411
7:00 pm – stnc.org

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

Thursday, Nov 13
VANC Meeting
(Valley Alliance of NCs)
Sherman Oaks Hospital
4929 Van Nuys Blvd., SO
6:30 pm

Friday, Nov 14
Kagel Cnyn Civic Assoc.
Dexter Park
11053 No. Trail Rd., KC
7:00 pm

Sunday, Nov 16

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

Monday, Nov 17

PCNC
Mission Commu. Hosp.
Med. Office Bldg., 2nd floor
14850 Roscoe Blvd., PC
Committee Meetings:
Public Safety-6:00 pm
STNC Land Use
7747 Foothill – Tujunga
7:00 pm - stnc.org
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, Nov 18

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

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

Rotary Club
Joselito's
7308 Foothill Bl
7:00 pm

Wednesday, Nov 19
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

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

Thursday, Nov 20

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 Caf 
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

Saturday, Nov 22
Friends of Granada Hills Library
10640 Petit Ave., GH
10:30 am

Sunday, Nov 23

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

Monday, Nov 24

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

Tuesday, Nov 25

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

Rotary Club
Joselito's
7308 Foothill Bl
7:00 pm

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

Thursday, Nov 27
THANKSGIVING

Saturday, November 29
SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

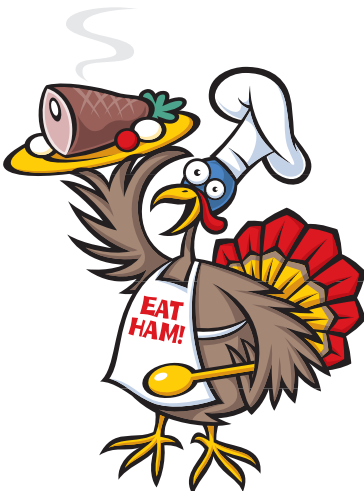
Monday, Dec 1

STNC Land Use
NVCH 7747 Foothill
7:00 pm

Tuesday, Dec 2

Rotary Club
Joselito's
7308 Foothill, Tujunga
7:00 pm

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



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Suggestions on How to Vote on Nov 4 Important Ballot Measures

By David Barron



As you may already know, I always try to protect our over-taxed taxpayers, so I am sharing my ballot preferences with you.

STATE Measures

Prop 1 – NO - The \$5.7 Billion Water Bond - First of all, I want to inform you who the players are. During our L.A. Neighborhood Council Coalition (LANCC) meeting on Saturday, September 6, Ron Pickle, our Rate Payer advocate (who was appointed by the Mayor) who is supposed to represent us regarding the LADWP, when asked about Prop 1, had no opinion for or against it. I declared that I knew what Prop 1 contained and I would be voting “No.” A second “Red Flag” went up in the following days when the LADWP announced they were supporting Prop 1. \$2.7 billion dollars is proposed to build dams, when actually, we simply need to increase the height of the dams, which would cost a lot less than \$2.7 billion dollars. Most of their requested \$5 billion dollars would most likely go as payback to the elected official’s politically connected supporters and Los Angeles would not get any increase in their water allotment

Prop 2 – NO - A “Rainy Day Fund.” Our State says it will set aside \$800M to \$2B per year to pay down State debt of \$300B, not counting the \$150B in unfunded pension liabilities. But, what they don’t call your attention to is the Governor can simply declare not to set aside any money to pay down the States debt if he so chooses. It must be rewritten to also include that they will not take money away from schools either.

Prop 45 – NO - Health Insurance rates changes. This bill will change who makes decisions on health rate cost. It gives one person, the Insurance Commissioner, too much power to make decisions. This

Proposition must be rewritten to benefit the insured and patients.

Prop 46 – NO - Health Care and lawsuits. The way this Proposition is written increases medical negligence lawsuit awards which will affect increase in health care cost, force doctors to move elsewhere, causing a shortage of doctors and services provided. This Proposition must be rewritten to benefit the patients not the trial lawyers.

Prop 47 – NO - Regarding our prisoners. It will reclassify some prisoners from felons to misdemeanors. Theft which includes fraud, forgery and firearms, under \$950, would be considered a misdemeanor. Possession of methamphetamine, heroin and cocaine now a felony, would become a misdemeanor unless they have a prior history of a particular kind of violent felony or sex offense. Because of the reclassification some may need a new trial which the taxpayer would pay for. And, when the prisoner is classified as lower risk, the prisoner could then qualify for early release back into our neighborhoods.

The correct solution for our over-crowded prisons is for Governor Brown to spend the money already allocated to build more prisons, especially if he intends to maintain open borders. Read more on WWW.californiansagainst47.com.

Prop 48 – NO – Indian Casinos. The decision is about whether or not to allow Indian Casinos to be built outside the Indian Reservation or Indian Territory designated lands. This is a fight between two Indian Tribes who are in competition with one another for customer’s money at their Casino’s. If one Indian Casino wins the other loses customers and would force employee layoffs.

This proposition also includes big business East Coast hedge-fund investors, dealing with big money who don’t necessarily have pure intentions, and an Indian Casino backed by a Las Vegas Casino corpo-

ration who would operate the gambling hall. Big money is not worried about the average Indian resident.

If you vote “YES” you will be giving these hedge-fund investors and wealthy corporation’s permission to build Casinos outside Indian territories, anywhere in the State, county, city or any neighborhood. And, they would be able to avoid the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). And, voting “Yes” would also be playing into the hands of the State and City’s plans to attack our “Zoning Laws” with their many new ordinances coming down the pipe line, like re:codeLA and Senate Bill 1 and Sustainable Communities Investment Authority.

However, if we are blessed with an ethical elected official who will not be bought by Casino’s big campaign contributions, chances are our ethical elected official will oppose a Casino in your neighborhood or any other unwanted project that does not meet the Specific Plan.

However, I’m voting “NO” in order that Casinos stay within Indian Territory and Casino workers can remain employed. I don’t trust my current elected officials who favor special interest groups and that lack a clear policy about gambling expansion. Read more here: <http://www.sacbee.com/2014/09/07/6683079/endorsements-vote-no-on-proposition.html#storylink=cpy>

COUNTY Measure

Prop P – NO - More money for Parks and Gang Prevention. Proposition P, will not reduce crime. All this is, is a new tax. Vote “NO” because government agencies do not handle our money wisely. They don’t misplace revenue, they just park it in “Special Accounts” for their use. The County, City and State have squandered money for gang prevention and 14 years later, what do they have to show for it? We have Gang injunctions throughout our city. The money goes to special interest programs and legitimate programs do without. Proponents of this bill do not have ethical intentions with our tax dollars.

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

The Future of ‘Sun Valley’ Rests on the History of ‘Detroit’

By Jesse Torrero



Cursing around the Internet one night I came across some old time pictures of my hometown Chicago, Illinois. My mom and dad Annette and Jesse R. Torrero moved here in late 61’ with me as a one in a half year old into Burbank to live with my grand parents Annette and J. Glenn Orr, then on to buy the family home in Sun Valley in

62’. Years later I became a Real Estate and Loan Broker in the area, which has lasted 33 years and like all of us have so many fond memories. Wow! Sun Valley what a place to grow up. Swimming in the clear clean waters of Hansen Dam, riding horses and dirt bikes, playing on the streets with no traffic, and endless front yards with no fences, structures, or vicious dogs that seemed to stretch out like a giant golf course of green grass that I swore reached the horizon.

As I looked at the pictures of Chicago, I moved on to some old photos of the 5th largest city in America called Motor City, Detroit, Michigan. These pictures, however, have a past and present photo side by side. What happened? Today Detroit looks like Tokyo after the aerial firebombing campaigns of WWII. In my opinion the corrupt politicians, unions, and corporations broke the back of Americas greatest manufacturing city. It is ironic that since “61, every elected politician in Detroit has been a Democrat with a progressive and liberal agenda of socializing and creating thousands of handout programs that people have taken totally advantage of. These decisions have lead to a generational stagnation of education, health care, manufacturing, and social behaviors. Detroit should just be mowed down, and started all over, but, that will never happen.

So, you say ‘Jesse what does this have to do with Sun Valley, and Los Angeles?’

Simple, “I say have you really taken the time to look at Sun Valley and Los Angeles closely?” The fond memories I have of Sun Valley are all gone. The memories today’s kids will have of Sun Valley are gangs and crime, graffiti, pimps, prostitution, human sex trafficking, schools that look like prisons, destroyed streets, trash everywhere, homeless infested parks, human defecation in the alleys, marijuana stores, vacant houses filled full of low life transients, and have you been to Hansen Dam lately? It is ironic that Sun Valley and Los Angeles, like California is 90% run by Democrats, unions, and giant corporations. Does this not remind you of what happened to Detroit?

We now have new politicians all over the scene so let’s see if it is business as usual. I can only hope and pray that Detroit is not our future. I think I should better hope and pray a lot more than I am for that not to happen.

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.

They call it a Surface Mine... the Truth is... it’s a Strip Mine

By Dan Feinberg

The owners of land below Kagel Mountain in the San Gabriel Mountain foothills above Sylmar want to Strip Mine the land for profit. Lately they have been promoting their project trying to get some in the community to support it. They even put up a website (www.foothillarp.com) as they have given their project a kinder, gentler name, “The Foothill Aggregate Reclamation Project.”

About 2% of Americans of the 13-Colonies joined GeoThey call it a “surface mine” but the truth is they will Strip Mine the San Gabriel Mountains foothills of earth and aggregate forever changing the hillsides above Sylmar.

They say they’re “reclaiming aggregate” but the truth is they will Strip Mine the hillside and sell (truck away) the earth and aggregate from our hills.

They say their STRIP MINE project “could save millions on tax payer dollars in hauling costs on public projects” but the truth is they want to be able to remove the earth so they can make a PROFIT.

They say they “understand that traffic in the area is a major issue. As such, we would hope to lessen our influence by working with the community to tailor haul routes during certain days and times.” The truth is the major issues are:

- Double Dump Trucks driving up and down Hubbard Street for years
- Increased traffic 5 days a week for 5-10 years
- Diesel pollution including soot and microscopic particulate that will get into our lungs
- Air pollution from all the equipment that will be used in the mountainside
- Noise pollution 5 days a week

The truth is **this Strip Mine project will forever alter the natural beauty of the San Gabriel Mountains above Sylmar.** Their greed for profits over nature and people will, if left unchecked will enable them to forever change the mountainside that has been here since the beginning of time.

The truth is the negative impacts of their Strip Mine project far outweigh any benefits they can talk about.

The truth is they cannot get community support for their Strip Mine project. As long as you don’t let them. As long as you make your voice heard.

For more information visit: http://casm-sfv.org/Strip_Mine_Project.html

Editor’s Note: Dan Feinberg is President of CASM SFV, Inc. email: DanF@CSM-SFV.org



Foothill Division Welcomes New Captain Captain Ernest Eskridge



*Commanding Officer,
Los Angeles Police Department,
Foothill Division*

Foothill Division welcomes newly appointed Commanding Officer, Captain Ernest Eskridge. He is filling the position of former Commanding Officer, Captain Sean Malinowski who has been promoted to Commander. Fortunately, Eskridge is not a stranger to Foothill. He has previously served in the Foothill Patrol Division, Foothill Gangs, and Foothill Detective Division. He was instrumental in implementing the “Foothill War Room” which was the command and control center for strate-

gizing and combating Part I Crime. He was born in Los Angeles and earned an Associate’s of Arts Degree from Pasadena City College, a Bachelor’s Degree in Criminal Justice and Master Degree in Public Administration from California State University of Los Angeles and was appointed to the Department in September 1984. After graduating from the Police Academy, he held assignments in Central Patrol, Central Area Vice, Central Detective Division, Communications Division, Van Nuys Patrol Division, and 77th Patrol Division. He was promoted to Sergeant in 1991 and worked Devonshire and Central Patrol Divisions. He was promoted to Detective in 1993 and was assigned to Southwest Detective Division for two years. He was also assigned to Inter-

nal Affairs Division for two years as a Detective, and Narcotics Division for four years as a Sergeant. He promoted to Lieutenant in 2001 and was assigned to Harbor Patrol Division. He also worked Wilshire Patrol Division. He was then was promoted to Mission Detective Division, Commanding Officer in November 2004. In March 2012, Eskridge was selected as the adjutant for the honorable Deputy Chief Kirk J. Albanese at Detective Bureau. In April 2013, Eskridge was promoted to Captain and assigned to West Valley Patrol Division and then on to Van Nuys Patrol Division before becoming the Commanding Officer at Foothill. Captain Eskridge resides in the City of Arcadia with his wife and three children. He enjoys playing baseball, basketball, swimming, weightlifting, and traveling with his family.

Call the Right LAPD Number for your Problem

By John vonGunten

Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) can send us the correct help more efficiently—and with appropriate speed—when we call the right LAPD phone number for the severity of our problem. Translators are available at 911 and LAPD Dispatch numbers. If we call 911 and exaggerate a problem or request immediate help just because a family argues in a coffee shop, or for theft that happened four hours ago, we risk losing officers’ trust. More important, we risk pulling an officer from an emergency. In every case, where you can safely do so, write down vehicle license plates and people’s descriptions. Take photographs if you safely can. Do not approach or challenge criminals or angry people. Some matters need instant response. Some just need a car sometime today. Some are long-term, quality-of-life issues. Let’s name these three levels: an **Emergency**; a **Non-Emergency Situation**; and a **Long Term Quality of Life Issue**.

Emergencies: Call 911
Calling 911 brings police or other emergency personnel as fast as possible! Emergencies especially include any event that threatens a person or animal with bodily harm. This includes threats of crimes that seem likely to happen; crimes that have just occurred where the perpetrator may still be near. Call 911 if you come home to find you have been burglarized; criminals may still be inside.

Use 911 to report fires, serious traffic accidents and medical emergencies. Calmly and truthfully tell the 911 operator exactly what is happening and the address where it’s occurring. If you attempt to stop a crime in progress, you can easily become its next victim! When danger is past, if you are trained in first aid, render assistance when you can do so safely. Texting emergency data to 911 may become possible following a six-month study.

Non-Emergency Situations: 877-ASK-LAPD (877-275-5273)
These are not emergencies, but they do require police attention. This number reaches the LAPD Dispatch Center. It will dispatch (send out) a police car as soon as one is free and not helping at an emergency or earlier situation.

Situations that are not yet emergencies include: A vehicle repeatedly circling or cruising your block; a suspicious vehicle parked nearby; public intoxication; selling liquor to minors; aggressive panhandling; illegal marijuana shops; many people repeatedly coming and going from an address late at night; trespassing and loitering; loud parties or animals; disturbing the peace; lewd or indecent public behavior; illegal garbage dumping in progress; abandoned vehicles; fender-benders without serious injury; evidence of a crime that is hours or days old with no criminal visible.

Long-Term Quality of Life Issues: Call your Senior Lead Officer (SLO)

Find your area SLO’s contact information. Long-term quality-of-life issues don’t present a danger, but need police attention. They make our areas unsightly, unsafe, and diminish our appeal to new businesses and desirable residents. Examples include suspected narcotics dealing; prostitution or vice; neighborhood disputes; illegal businesses; vagrants or others frequenting an area and causing nuisance; vehicles on lawns or illegally parked for days or weeks; traffic matters. In some issues, an LAPD officer may have no jurisdiction. S/he can refer you to the City agency directly in charge of the matter, e.g., Animal Services, Engineering-Public Works, Street Services, Planning, Traffic Safety, etc. If your SLO is off work when you call, telephone the Dispatch Center above or Foothill Division’s front desk at 818-756-8861.

Anonymous Phone and TEXT-A-TIP
You can call or text LAPD anonymously 24/7 with a crime tip. Text CRIMES (274637) and begin your message with “LAPD.” The anonymous crime-tip voice line is 800-222-TIPS (800-222-8477). The contact information for SLO’s in the North Valley Divisions will in the issue. For further information e-mail: jon@globescope.us

Editor’s Note: Jon von Gunten is a community activist and represents LAPD Neighborhood Watch on the STNC.

Mitigation for Fracking Impacts Fails Senate (cont. from page 5)

- Surrounding neighbors be notified in advance before commencing with well stimulation procedures

In late February 2014, State Senator Leno presented a Bill calling for the mitigation of negative environmental and/or public health impacts as a result of Oil and Gas Well Stimulation activities. This Bill failed in the State Senate by a vote of 16 ayes to 16 noes. Why did this happen? How did this happen? I will be presenting a series of articles that will go through a step by step account of what happened from the date of this Bill’s introduction to the final date of “failure.” This Bill, SB 1132, had it been approved, would have extended the timeline for concluding the scientific study to June 30, 2016, but would also have required additional items to be considered including

the evaluation of various potential direct, indirect and cumulative health and environmental impacts of on-shore and off-shore well stimulation and well stimulation treatment-related activities. The Bill would have PROHIBITED all well stimulation treatments until:

- The Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency had formed a committee to review the scientific study which was to be conducted and completed with full public participation
- A Committee of executive agency members had certified, with public participation, that the study is final and that well stimulation poses no risk to, or impairment of, public health and welfare or the environmental and economic sustainability of the State

- The Governor determined that measures were in place to ensure that well stimulation treatments would not create adverse impacts to public health and the environment or IF those well stimulation treatments were to result in adverse impacts they be mitigated to minimize those impacts
- The Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources had prepared an Environmental Impact Report

Were any of the above criteria not been met, the moratorium on well stimulation practices would have stayed in effect. The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water met in early April 2014 to review the proposed Bill.

Editor’s Note: Elektra Kruger is a community activist who sits on the FTDNC and STNC Land Use Committees and writes for the NVR.



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Silent Departure: Selfless Act of a Wounded Warrior Memories of an Unwritten Hero

By: P. Vincent DiNova

Warning: The following commentary contains graphic Descriptions of wounds suffered by American Soldiers in South Vietnam. Reader Discretion strongly advised.

“Older men declare war. But it is youth that must fight and die. And it is youth who must inherit the tribulation, the sorrow, and the triumphs that are the aftermath of war.” Herbert Hoover, speech (1944)

Veterans Day is approaching on November 11 and I felt it might be appropriate to do a story on America’s “unwritten” heroes. Over the centuries, throughout all wars, representing all nations that have ever been to war, I’m certain there have been thousands of “unwritten” heroes...their unheralded exploits having taken place, not only on the battlefield, but sometimes “behind the lines” as well.

Our history books remind us that the enormous “foot print” planted by the Vietnam War in America’s military history and the psyche of its citizenry—as well as the psyche of just about every other nation on the planet—spanned the greater part of 15 years, from 1961-1975. And, depending upon which “reliable sources” you choose to believe, American casualties were about 58,479 dead, and 303,644 wounded. I’m certain that, among those numbers there are countless numbers of brave souls who have sacrificed themselves for the benefit of their comrades-in-arms, whether under immediate fire or not. This is a short story of one such soldier, memories of one of my unwritten heroes...

The setting: Over 46 years ago, but forever emblazoned in the forefront of my memories as if it was yesterday. January 31, 1968. The massive Tet Offensive. V.C. (Viet Cong) and N.V.A. (North Vietnamese Army) forces initiate surprise attacks on over 100 cities, including 33 of 44 provincial capitals. Their largest campaign of the war. We never saw it coming. Up to that point, according to our government, we were winning. Winning. Really? Forward to sometime in May, just a couple of months later. Everyone’s nerves still beyond frayed, tattered, ragged, unraveled—pick one, or two, or... Underground bunker. 155th Assault Helicopter Co. compound, Camp Coryell. About 10 miles outside Ban Me Thuot (Ban Mee Too-it). Provincial Capital, Darlac Province, Central Highlands. We’d been taking in-coming small arms perimeter fire, sporadic 81mm mortar, and 122mm rocket rounds throughout the late evening and early morning hours. We were pretty much protected from the mortar rounds. But those rockets? Approximately six feet long, packed with about 100 lbs. of explosives on the front end. Major damage and casualties upon impact. If one had scored a direct hit on our bunker, it would have been “Taps” for all of us. We’d heard from the outside that they’d already taken out a couple of the Cobra gunships that were still on the ground. If

you were lucky enough to hear them fly over you they made the “swoosh” sound of small jets. If you did hear them, you knew that none of those was the one that “had your name on it.” There was V.C. and N.V.A. activity all around us. The enemy used bright white phosphorous-lit tracer bullets to distinguish theirs from ours, which were bright orange. You could see them crisscrossing each other all around the outer edges of our compound throughout the darkness.

Our bunker was already full of wounded soldiers. Painful moans and cries echoed throughout from some of those whose morphine had worn off. Pretty chaotic. Trying to treat everyone according to triage priority. Then, over the radio we heard that several Dust-Off choppers (Med-Evacs) were hovering a couple of miles away, ready to bring in 6-8 more wounded as soon as there was a break in the in-coming barrage. A small, advanced section of an artillery unit had suffered 100% casualties—everyone had either been wounded or killed. We didn’t know where we’re gonna put those guys. But soon, in they came.

One of the guys I went to aid was a young black kid, staggering in, barely on his feet, much of his uniform “wet” in red from his bleeding wounds. Maybe 19 years old, 5' 9" tall, and about 155 lb. His face was bloodied and one eye was puffed out and extremely swollen shut. In addition to some “minor” shrapnel wounds on parts of his body, one hand had been blown off. And what remained of that arm had a wound I had never seen before. The only way to describe it: It’s as if a small hand grenade had exploded from within the inside of his arm. It had swelled up to twice the size of normal and the flesh and muscle were shredded. Splintered bones were visible. Although his other hand was still attached I knew that he was going to lose that arm as well because much of the muscle was gone.

I tried maneuvering him around all the other wounded while trying to find an available stretcher. It was critical that I get him laid out with his legs raised above his head because he was showing signs of going into shock. I was amazed that he was still coherent. The only possible explanation is that the attack must have occurred very close by and they got him out quickly. (Great kudos to the “Dust-Off” pilots... in my opinion, ALL of whom are also “unwritten” heroes of the Vietnam War. But theirs is another story.) He was very unstable on his feet and almost fell over, and I used my hands to help press his shoulders back against a wall to help stabilize him a bit. He leaned there for just a few seconds after which I assisted him in sliding down to sit on the ground. I told him that it was important that we get him laid out, as I scanned the area for an available stretcher. Basically attempting to discount the need for any further assistance from me he looked at me and said, in a very calm and deliberate voice, “I’m ok, Doc. I’ve had morphine.” Then gazing down at his shattered

limbs, added, “And I’ve got tourniquets on both upper arms, so I’m ok. But I got a buddy gonna be here. He’s gonna need a stretcher. He can’t walk, cause he got no feet.” I scanned the area and didn’t see anyone matching those wounds. But, sure enough, a few moments later, they were carrying in this white kid and laid him out on what looked to be the only empty stretcher. He had lost both his legs just below the knees. I so do remember him because, after they laid him down, he kept trying to sit up to see “what was wrong” and why he couldn’t walk. And they kept pressing down on his forehead to save him from the additional trauma of seeing the reality of the severity of his wounds. So, not being able to do any more for the first kid at the moment, I went to volunteer my efforts to others in immediate need.

Moments later we started laying out the dead along the walls, as close to each other as possible. This freed up several stretchers and some ground space. I went to find that kid. I did find him. Still sitting on the ground at the base of the wall where I had left him a few minutes earlier. Slumped all the way forward. Knees arched upward. The remnants of his mutilated arms crossed over his lap. Head hanging down. Gone. He had departed this earthly plane... Quietly. Without the slightest sound. Honorably. Unselfishly. And alone. Essence of a youthful spirit no longer held captive by a wretched, burdensome body.

No words can express the overwhelming sense of guilt and despair I felt for not being able to get to him sooner. Despite our greatest and, oft-times, desperate efforts, we were not successful in saving the lives of every wounded soldier.

I shed a lot of tears during my time in that country over the deaths that I witnessed, and the maimed, mangled bodies that I helped to send back home to those soldiers’ families. But I recall well the tears I shed at that precise moment. I instantly, impulsively, directed my eyes toward his friend who was going to be Med-Evac’d out on, what earlier had been, the last available stretcher made possible by his young “brother” who had just “slipped away.”

I don’t know where this amazing young soldier was from; nor do I remember this brave, “unwritten” hero’s name. But I will never forget him. And perhaps now, after reading his story, neither will you.

“Only the dead have seen the end of war.” Plato
Author’s Note: I make the racial distinction above for only one reason: The color of our collective skins shouldn’t matter as we go about leading our “normal lives.” Especially in war, for the overwhelming VAST MAJORITY of us, it just damn doesn’t matter what the color of your skin is. When gripped by torrents of unbridled pain, we all cry out for our moms and dads, our loved ones. And we all bleed the same color or blood—red.

Editor’s Note: P. Vincent DiNova is a veteran who served in South Vietnam, 1967-1968, as an Army Medic and writes for the NVR.

It May Be Time for a “Roof Tune Up”

By David Barron



You may have heard of the term “Roof Tune Up” before in a radio commercial, or read about it in an article, but if your roofer has not mentioned it to you, or, you don’t have a regular roofer, please consider the value of such a service in maintaining your home, office, income property, or house of worship and get the most years possible from your existing roofs.

Are you happy with your roofer? Does that company keep you informed of the latest innovations in roofing technology? If you are not happy with your roofer, it may be time to consider Foothill Painting Co.

You may be surprised or skeptical when a painting company talks to you regarding your roof and your current roof maintenance provider but let me explain why a painter has a lot to say today about roofing maintenance. The proprietors of Foothill Painting Company been in the coatings maintenance business all of their lives and have recently seen new ideas come to the market place in regards to roof coatings that not only maintain your existing roof, but also may dramatically reduce the heat transfer and or loss in-

side your home, tenant spaces, or place of worship. This can significantly reduce the energy you use. and lower use equals lower bills. It is a good idea to take the time to look at www.nansulate.com and speak directly with the manufactures rep., Francesca Crolley, at 800-767-3998 and mention Foothill Painting.

The Nansulate Company is only one of the companies that manufactures roof coating solutions. Francesca has been with that company for ten years and is an expert in the sales of their energy efficient coatings.

To summarize this introduction to “roof tune up” and maintaining your roofs with renewable solutions, call Foothill Painting for a no obligation analysis of your home, income property, commercial buildings, or place of worship. They will be happy to provide you with the best solution for each of your buildings.

A painting and roofing company that will protect the outside of your home and all other structures that are important to you, I am recommending Foothill Painting Company because they are “modern maintenance” and the future of roof and wall protection, from the roof to the foundation, and do it all in the coating’s maintenance.

Editor’s Note: David Barron is a Code Enforcement Inspector, works for the LAHCID, and writes for the NVR. Information was provided by Don Freed of Foothill Painting Company, whose company is experienced in the use of these products. Visit www.roofcoatingcontractor.com or call 818-352-2888 ext. 11 for further information.

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Bruno’s Gift

By Nina Menart

One cool California morning I was visiting my friend Gloria. After waiting at the door an amazingly long time, her husband, Rob, opened the door. He said, “Sorry it took so long. The grandkids are playing with our new dog.” I was surprised; their other dog passed away a couple of years before and they were two very busy people. However, Rob is one of those people who is not complete without a dog.

Two little girls were silhouetted against the window feeding treats to a big, very gentle, seated dog. He grasped the treats tenderly from the little hands as they laughed with the little kid freedom of pure joy. The dog was probably bigger than both girls soaking wet.

It was my turn to greet him. Rob called him over and one huge golden nugget came bounding over. Bruno was big, muscular and probably seventy pounds, with tan short hair and very expressive amber eyes. We bonded at that moment—we liked each other. I thought he was one big goofy dog, clumsy like a puppy and built like a buffed man. Bruno was a lucky dog, rescued from the shelter at one or two years old. He was an adolescent, goofy, clumsy and slobbering kisses over anyone who would have him.

I could not place what breed of dog he was. I thought he may be a mixed breed. When I asked Rob what breed Bruno was he replied, “American Staffordshire” Thankfully, my overloaded mommy brain did not put two and two together. ” It never crossed my mind that an American Staffordshire was a pit bull.

You see, not even knowing what a pit bull looked like, I was afraid of them. They were vicious, unpre-

dictable and strong. They would eat my children as soon as look at them. That was what the news stories said and, of course, the newspaper stories were true.

Whenever I went over to their house, which was often, I brought treats for Bruno. We only had cats and I loved dogs also, so he was my regular fix. We always had special play time. We ran, rather, I chased him. He gnawed on my arm (I was the only one he did that to for some reason.) Relaxation meant he tried to sit on my lap, but he was not allowed on the couch so we cuddled on the floor. He rolled over after play-time and I rubbed his belly. All too soon it was time for my human friend. Bruno understood. He was well behaved and respectful during my Gloria time.

One year it was fire season in Lakeview Terrace where my friends lived. As the flames inched closer to their home, my friends and Bruno were evacuated. They left without a minute to spare. All three of them smelled like smoke. We had the pleasure of having Bruno live with us for two weeks.

We took care of our friends’ dogs when owners went away. Bruno made himself at home on the couch, on his bed, with the kids and their friends. The only rule was that he could not go upstairs because that is where the cats lived. During that time I fed the cats and placed the litter box upstairs. Nobody knew how Bruno would handle the cats, especially since he was prone to chasing squirrels like a lunatic. The kids walked him several times a day, basking in the experience of having a big, well trained dog at their side.

We eventually found out that Bruno was a cat chaser. One day he spied one of the cats, a cute calico with rabbit fur named Katie. Lightening quick, Bruno charged up the stairs, turned the corner and caught my leg. He knocked me over on the side of my knee.

As I struggled to rise, Kati ran into the other bedroom, up the wall and onto the window screen. Eventually, I was able to hobble over to Bruno and send him downstairs. Fortunately, the cat was hidden; he had chased her onto the window screen under the blinds so there was no incentive to stay. “Wow! That is a powerful dog!” With time I was able to peel the cat, who was hanging on for dear life, off the screen.

We had known Bruno for quite a few years before we got a puppy. I brought four month old, 30 lb Tyson over to play with Bruno The landlord spoiled them with food and they chased each other, played fierce dog and roughoused and nobody got hurt. I did not know he was supposed to be a vicious dog yet. Even after all that time, if I found out he was actually a pit bull, I probably would have changed my demeanor and my way of playing with him and had I known I would not have brought my dog there fearing bloodshed! So it served my brain well that I didn’t know.

Years later, after Bruno crossed the rainbow bridge, I found out that an American Staffordshire is a pit-bull breed. I am glad I did not know because I am sure I would have had an image of a vicious dog eating my kids and puppy in my head.

After knowing this I laughed and kicked myself for believing all the stereotypes. My children had friends that owned pits. They were friendly and exuberant and I was always leery of them because of the breed. I missed so many opportunities for a doggie fix in my life.

I will be ever grateful to Bruno for remaining anonymous and allowing me to get to know him.

Not the breed, just him.

The War Against Teachers (cont. from page 1)

Worse, what this new law does not do is to stop false claims by disgruntled pupils. It does contain a section dealing with wrongful charges brought by another school employee, but says nothing regarding lies told about a teacher by pupils. In fact, the only part of Buchanan’s Bill that even mentions students involves protection of their personal records held by the school! It specifies that any use of the records in the teacher’s dismissal hearing shall be in “executive session.” Executive session is undefined and nothing in the law clarifies whether or not a hearing is open to the public to begin with. In the extreme, this prohibition might even be used to prevent a pupil’s record of bad conduct in school from being introduced as evidence at all! A point in fact: if a student files a police report against his or her teacher, whether the allegations are proven true or shown to be false, the teacher may be denied a copy of the report from the police agency to be used in their own defense. They would need a court order to obtain the report, and then only if it is part of an on-going legal matter.

This troubling law allows the presumption that a teacher is guilty of charges, be they “egregious misconduct” or “unsatisfactory performance” merely due to allegations by another party. Proof is not necessary for the teacher to be removed from the classroom and a notification letter sent to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. Does a principal wish to get rid of a teacher at their school? All they have to do is claim that a teacher is endangering

student safety in some way – that is the “egregious misconduct” part—and the teacher is subject to dismissal. The teacher is restricted from examining his or her own personnel file. They are banned from the campus, they often may not talk with other personnel from their school and they are prohibited from contacting any pupils.

So even though teachers charged with misconduct are prevented from gathering information for use in their own defense, the dismissal process under AB215 is described as “fair.” Teachers’ unions endorsed Governor Jerry Brown when he campaigned for office, yet he signed this bill into law. What was this man thinking?

The actions of a few bad teachers has caused the public perception of teachers to be poor; perhaps not as poor as the politicians who craft the indecipherable laws to begin with, but not much better. Teachers are seen as only working six-hours per day with numerous holidays, and spring, winter and summer vacations! They get tenure – correction, under the Vergara Decision, they had tenure -- they have union protection and a guaranteed salary. What could be finer? Assemblywoman Buchanan’s bill panders to this perception, and we will explore it in upcoming articles.

In fact, most teachers are dedicated professionals whose careers are constantly on the line. Union protection is often an illusion, untold hours are spent in correcting schoolwork, and constant frustration is ex-

perienced in dealing with frequently changing, “fad-type” pedagogical methods. Teachers can handle those problems, and they do. The problem that defies solution is the lack of accountability by students who are allowed to drift through school, refusing to study and disinterested in their lessons. When they fail, it is not the pupil, but the teacher who is blamed. Notice that such pupils are able to prompt the removal of a dedicated, competent instructor from the classroom on their claim, only. Do an online search using the phrase “How to get your teacher fired.” You will find video “tutorials” on how pupils – from elementary school up – are able to have a teacher dismissed without any negative consequences to themselves.

Oh, wait: There are negative consequences – these kids can’t read, can’t write a complete and properly spelled sentence, and can’t solve simple math problems – but these details don’t seem to matter 97% of the time! Why should they care about the other “4%?”

Editor’s Note: Jay L. Stern is a credentialed chemistry teacher within Los Angeles Unified School District. A graduate-level chemical engineer, he has been teaching for over nine years. He is presently “housed” due to allegations made by a student. This is the first article in a series detailing the abuses public school teachers endure while attempting to educate your little “darlings.” We encourage debate. Send comments, criticisms – even praise – to North Valley Reporter.com

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Patty Lopez Challenges Incumbent for State Assembly District 39

Newcomer Patty Lopez has thrown her hat in the ring for State Assembly District 39 in a big way. Patty is a community leader with over 20 years’ experience in advocacy for school funding, improvement projects and the proper use of City Services.

Patty brings a fresh new persona to the political scene in the San Fernando Valley section of Los Angeles. Patty has artfully stitched together a remarkable grass roots campaign despite a huge disadvantage in available resources compared to her incumbent running mate.

Patty and her campaign committee are working hard, stepping up to represent those who have not had a voice, to be heard and to improve their lives within the community. As their voice, Patty hopes to be successful in conveying to her peers that there is a need to refocus on education, jobs, and housing.

Patty noted that housing is out of control and more than seventy percent of many family incomes in the district go toward rent. Seniors are another example, many are solely

dependent on small social security payments that are woeful inadequate. Patty sees a growing sense of unjustness and a hopelessness in current living standards that needs to be addressed. Patty noted that government continually raises taxes which negatively impact her constituents who are working themselves to the bone to make ends meet.

Regarding jobs and education; Patty points out that during past summers, there were jobs available for the districts youth... particularly vocation or trade jobs...but now there are few if any available. Those summer jobs also helped students with their educational pursuits. Not having summer employment has negatively impacted our youth’s ability to further their education.

Patty will represent a community composed of many ethnicities fairly, and will not cater to any individual sector. Finally, an issue close to Patty’s heart is immigration, which she’ll pay very close attention to during her tenure.

You can help make a difference by voting for Patty Lopez on Tuesday, November 4, 2014,

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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

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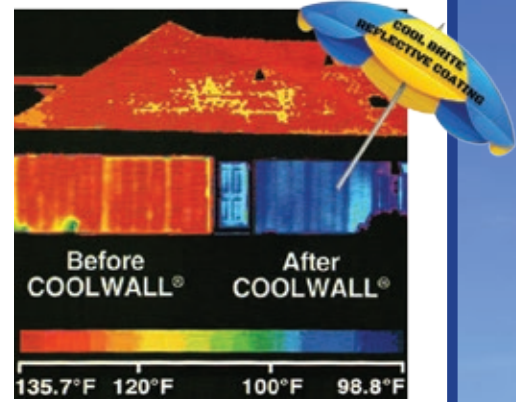
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