Your Community Newspaper December 2017



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# 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.

700

\*: 30.00 : 1

#### **Beware, Fires May Encourage Price Gouging**



Mike Feuer L.A. City Attorney

Price gouging during a public emergency isn't just outrageous, it's illegal, Consumers should be very wary of price spikes for hotel rooms, gasoline and emergency items like generators. If you suspect price gouging, report it to my office immediately, and we will prosecute when appropriate.

Price gouging is illegal whenever a local state of emergency has been declared. For 30 days following such a declaration, it is unlawful for a person or business to sell or offer any consumer food, goods or services used for emergency clean-up, emergency supplies, medical supplies, home heating oil, building materials, housing, transportation, freight, storage services, or gasoline at a price that is more than 10% higher than the price charged by that person for those goods or services immediately prior to the declaration. Hotels and motels are also prohibited from charging prices that are more than 10% higher than rates they advertised immediately prior to the declared state of emergency.

For a period of 180 days after the declaration, it is also unlawful for a contractor to sell or offer to sell any repair or reconstruction services or emergency clean-up services for more than 10% higher than they charged immediately prior to the declaration. Exceptions to these prohibitions exist if, for example, the person or business can prove that the price increase is directly attributed to additional costs imposed on it for labor, goods or materials.

Anyone who is the victim of price gouging or who has information about it occurring in Los Angeles should file a complaint with the City Attorney's Office who can criminally prosecute violators of California's price gouging statute. Violators can be sentenced up to one year of imprisonment in county jail and/or fined up to \$10,000. Violators are also subject to civil enforcement actions, including civil penalties of up to \$5,000 per violation, injunctive relief and mandatory restitution. File a report by calling: 213-978-8340, or file online at: https://www.lacityattorney.org/consumercomplaints.

#### Patty Lopez Announces Her Candidacy for AD 39

"I am both humbled and excited to announce that I am running for the 39th State Assembly District. After recent events leading to a vacancy in our Assembly district, I am grateful to all the people throughout our district that personally reached out to me and asked me to run. I am so incredibly grateful for this outpouring of support within our community, that I have decided to run for the Assembly. I am honored to have the opportunity to serve our communities again. The State Assembly represents our very diverse and incredible communities that comprise the 39th Assembly District. I am excited to have the opportunity to bring my dedication, passion, and much needed experience back to this position and to represent our great community in the California State Legislature once again."

"Our district needs a fighter. And whether it is protecting this district from crime, poverty, pollution, high speed rail, or any other threat, I will be your tireless advocate and champion in the State Assembly. I will work collaboratively with all my colleagues in the Assembly, in order to strengthen our ability to assist all our fellow Californians. As your Assemblywoman, I will be a voice on behalf of the voiceless and a fighter for economic fairness and social justice for all Californians. I am asking you to join me in this fight."

During her time in Sacramento, Assemblywoman Lopez authored critical environmental and anti-poverty legislation known as the "Right to Dry" Bill. The Bill prohibits Managers/Owners of apartment complexes and multiple family residential dwellings from preventing individuals from drying their clothing on a clothes line instead of using a traditional dryer. Additionally, she authored economic legislation that requires an independent filmmaker to sit as a board member on the California Filming



Former Assemblymember Patty Lopez standing next to Mission College President, Dr. Montgomery Perez with her Education Rep. Louis Lopez during the Ribbon Cutting for the new college campus in Sunland-Tujunga. Also included are Sunland-Tujunga Satellite Committee Members Lilianna Sanchez, Nina Royal and David Barron.

Commission. She also authored the first-in-the-nation anti-crime legislation that made intentional prosecutorial misconduct a felony offense in California.

In 2016, she was honored by the National Women's Political Caucus as the recipient of their annual Woman of the Year leadership award and received the annual Green Leadership Award for her strong environmental voting record. She received an A+ rating from the Courage Campaign for her voting record. She was also honored by the California Defense Attorney's Association.

Patty Lopez has been a staunch and proud activist for immigrant rights, the rights of transgendered individuals and the educational rights of public school students. She was also the catalyst who worked diligently with L.A. Mission College, Sacramento, and the Community's Mission College Satellite Committee. To finally bring their much needed College Satellite to the Sunland-Tujunga region of the Northeast San Fernando Valley as committed by Measure J, passed by the voters in 2007. Patty Lopez and her husband, Juan, continue to raise their family while residing in the City of San Fernando, since 1988.

Vote for Patty Lopez for AD 39, on Tuesday, April 3. 2017. Patty Lopez for AD 39, 2018 ID #1400606 - Donations appreciated

#### Sen. Portantino, LA Mission College hosted Open House at Sunland-Tujunga Campus

State Senator Anthony J. Portantino had the privilege, along with Los Angeles Mission College President Dr. Monte E. Perez, of hosting an Open House event at the college's Sunland-Tujunga campus on Friday, November 3, 2017. The campus opened this spring. The Senator and Dr. Perez met with community members to discuss course offerings and available services, including ESL classes and UC/CSU transferable courses.



I-r: Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council leaders with Senator Portantino and Dr. Monte Perez: Nina Royal, Jon vonGunten, Pat Kramer, Senator Portantino, Ana Orudyan, Krystee Clark, Lydia Grant, Patti Potter, Dr. Monte Perez

"I believe in providing opportunities for learning and community enrichment wherever possible. I am happy to support LA Mission College's expansion into Sunland-Tujunga, which addresses a need long expressed in this 25th District community," commented Senator Portantino.

Senator Portantino and President Perez also fielded questions about how the Sunland-Tujunga campus can better meet the needs of the community. Students from LA Mission College's Culinary Arts Institute provided finger foods and desserts. Approximately 50 people attended the Open House including a number of current students and school administrators.

Enrollment at the new campus for the fall semester is approximately 200 students in 10 classes.

Course offerings for the Fall 2017 semester include Child Development 1 (Child Growth & Development), Child Development 2 (Early

Child Development 2 (Early Childhood: Principles & Practices), Communication Studies 101, English 101 (College Reading & Composition), and Math 227 (Statistics). Spring 2018 course offerings include Psychology 1 (General Psychology), Geography 2 (Cultural Ele-

ments of Geography), and Counseling 004 (Career Planning), as well as a non-credit 16-week ESL class. Full course offerings are available at http://www.lamission.edu/schedules/LAMC-Spring-Schedule-2018.pdf.

Sen. Portantino represents nearly 930,000 people in the 25th Senate District, which includes Altadena, Atwater Village, Bradbury, Burbank, Claremont, Duarte, Glendale, Glendora, La Cañada Flintridge, La Crescenta, Lake View Terrace, La Verne, Los Feliz, Monrovia, Montrose, Pasadena, San Dimas, San Marino, Shadow Hills, Sierra Madre, South Pasadena, Sunland-Tujunga, and Upland. For more info: Vickere Murphy vickere.murphy@sen.ca.gov 818.409.0400

## Introduction to American Government & Politics

(Political Science 1)
January 2 to February 4, 2018
5:20 to 7:45 p.m.
Monday-Thursday
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Sunland-Tujunga Campus

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Sen. Portantino, LA Mission College hosted Open House at Sunland-Tujunga Campus

#### Fire Station 31 Still Missing in Action

By Nina Royal

Sylmar residents are still waiting for their much needed L.A. City Fire Station 31. They are constantly reminded of their need for their promised station having gone through the Sayer, Marek, Station, and most recent Sand Canyon, Tuna Canyon and Creek fires in the northeast valley. Diane Valencia, Safety Chairman of the Sylmar Neighborhood Council, says that coverage in Sylmar by the Fire Department is not acceptable. Many calls in their community must be answered by neighboring Fire Stations from as far away as Sunland-Tujunga.

According to Ms. Valencia, Sylmar has 92 thousand people living in 13 sq. miles, with one fire station and an extra

fast response vehicle (FRV) which is supposed to take the place of the full service Fire Station 31, which was promised to the Sylmar Community when the Fire Department broke ground for it in 2006, due to the new community development of a 550 residential housing project called the Legends at Cascade, a golf course and an industrial business park.

During a packed Town Hall Meeting held by the Sylmar Neighborhood Council Safety committee, at the beginning of this year, Ms. Valencia presented a comparison chart showing that the community of Sylmar was not getting their fair share of fire services. She pointed out the number of Fire Stations per capita among some of the local cities:

- Burbank, population 104,447. 6 stations, 1 per 17,408 citizens
- Santa Monica, population 92,000, 4 stations, 1 per 23,000 citizens
- Downey, population 113,000, 3 stations, 1 per 37.000 citizens
- Sylmar, population, 91, 245, I station, 1 per 91,245 citizens. Sylmar also has the largest area to cover (13 sq. miles) in the City of Los Angeles,



The City of Los Angeles has made a historic commitment to invest \$1.4 billion over 30 years to fix sidewalks around the city and make them accessible to everyone. There are three ways to request sidewalk repairs:

- Access Request Program: The Access Request Program makes repairs requested by/for people with a mobility disability who encounter physical barriers such as broken sidewalks, missing/broken curb ramps or other barriers in the public right of way.
- Rebate Program: The City is also offering a limited-time rebate to property owners willing to pay for their own sidewalk repair through the Rebate Program.
- Report a Sidewalk Problem: To report any other sidewalk issue, go to Report a Sidewalk Problem.





The number of large fires that have taken place in the Northeast Valley area in the city of Los Angeles during the last 10 years, prove that it is the most volatile fire zone in the city, due to the mountains of the Angeles National Forest. Because of their natural wind tunnel, Sylmar has the reputation of having the hardest blowing winds. They have suffered the worst destruction of property by fires in the City of Los Angeles during the the last 50 years, as well as many deaths by fire and other disasters. They also have a very large number of non- emergency calls.

The development of the above mentioned projects that were to help fund Fire Station 31, were scaled back, in

2005 and 2007, due to the decline in the housing market and the developer's finances. However, the taxes levied to Sylmar community homeowners, under the Mello Roos Community Facilities Act, that was created to build infrastructure and Fire Station 31, is still being charged to the homeowners. This tax is paid directly to the County Assessor's office and is included in their property tax payment. Over \$3,000,000,000 has been collected to date and continues to rise... still no Fire Station 31

Monies allocated for the new station have not been located to date. The Sylmar Neighborhood Council and their Safety Committee called upon former Council Representative Felipe Fuentes and the County Assessor's Office for information and did not get a satisfactory response. They are calling on newly elected District 7 Council Representative, Monica Rodriguez, to acknowledge the seriousness of their plight, help resolve this issue. and finally build their much needed Fire Station 31.

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#### **Location Filming vs Green Bicycle Lane Marking**

By Elektra Kruger

The film and entertainment industry plays an important role in the economic vitality of the Los Angeles region. In recent years both the State and the City of Los Angeles have enacted a number of policies to return what had become "run-away production" back to our home front. In so doing it has become essential that no undo impediments to location shooting are created in our streets.

The City is beginning to use green pavement markings to delineate bike facilities as called for by the Federal Highway Administration (FHA). While the green colored pavement markings could be installed the full length of our bike lanes, it is DOT's intention to apply these markings only to select streets especially those classified as Vision Zero High Injury Networks and also a variety of other potential "conflict areas" such as bus zones, "mixing areas" where right-turning vehicles must cross bicycle lanes to execute their turns and high-use driveways.

The Los Angeles Department of Transportation has been using a bright, highly reflective green color for these bike lane markings which is creating post-production problems and "green-screening" for location filming on Los Angeles streets. The FHA allows for a wide range of green hues including a non-reflec-

tive forest green that would be less disruptive to the film industry while still providing the sought-for safety benefits for our bicyclists.

Given that this option is available to the City, in early July 2016, Councilmember Bob Blumenfield presented a Motion to the Los Angeles City Council asking that they direct the Department of Transportation to begin using a non-reflective forest green color as the standard pavement color for bike facilities. The Motion was referred to the City Council's Transportation Committee for their review and recommendation. It was also first brought forth in the City Council's Entertainment Committee in early November 2016 at which time one stakeholder spoke in favor of the Motion.

The Department of Transportation has been working closely with representatives of the film industry and together they have identified a shade of green and a type of marking material that not only meets the requirements of the FHA, but also minimizes disruption to film production. This collaboration is still on-going to field test any new materials that may be developed in the future. DOT will also work directly with representatives of the film industry before installing any on-street green pavement markings.

For street segments that have been identified by the film industry as "high filming" and that also have existing or planned bicycle lanes and are on the High Injury Network, DOT will discuss use of green on these streets with the film industry as projects are planned. The discussions will consider safety, filming needs and alternative treatments in order to make street design decisions that best serve the film industry and the users of Los Angeles streets. The location closest to us that has a high filming rate, does have bike lanes and is located in a segment of roadway designated as part of the City's High-Injury Network is at the intersection of Glenoaks and Osborne. In early June 2017, the General Manager of the Department of Transportation presented an inter-departmental memorandum to Councilmember Mitch O'Farell, the Chair of the Entertainment Committee, with the recommendation that the Los Angeles Department of Transportation report in one year on the performance of green colored pavement marking materials being used. A copy of the memorandum was additionally sent to the City Council's Public Works Committee and Transportation Committee for their review and recommendations.

Editor's Note: Elektra Kruger is a member of the Shadow Hills Property Owners Assoc. and serves on the Hansen Dam Advisory Board, Sunland-Tujunga Land Use Committee, CPAB Foothill Div., and contributes to the NVR

#### **Current State of L.A. City's Helicopter Fleet**

By Elektra Kruger

The Los Angeles Department of General Services Fleet Service Division is responsible for maintaining the helicopter fleets of the Police Department, Fire Department and DWP. Three of six LAFD aircraft were down for maintenance during the simultaneous Mandeville Canyon and Sylmar fires in late May 2017 seriously impeding the capability of our Fire Department to make inroads fighting those fires. Kudos to our hard-working Department who's men and women saw to it no homes were lost in either fire. This kind of maintenance backlog and its resultant lack of adequate services to the residents of Los Angeles brought Councilmembers Mike Bonin and Mitchell Englander to co-present a Motion to City Council in late May 2017 asking that it instruct the Department of General Services to prepare a report on such things as maintenance workload vs maintenance labor force, how long helicopters have been out of service, etc. In late July 2017, the Department of General Services submitted its report to Councilmember Mitchell Englander as Chair of the City Council's Public Safety Committee. The reasons given why 3 LAFD units were out of commission at the same

- Unit 1 was taken out of service in late November 2016 for its manufacturer's mandated inspection. It was not returned to service until early June 2017. Why such an extended downtime? A major part had to be shipped back to the manufacturer in Philadelphia for repair.
- 2. Unit 2, a water-dropping helicopter, was taken out of service earlier than anticipated because of our unusually intense fire season that caused it to log in its maximum flight hours earlier than expected for its manufacturer's mandated maintenance inspection time. Maintenance was anticipated to be scheduled in July, but had to commence in May.
- Unit 3 began its regularly scheduled manufacturer's mandated maintenance inspection in early May with an anticipated return to service in August (That strikes me as an extensive downtime for a routine inspection)
- 4. A fourth unit was unexpectedly taken out of service in late May for an unscheduled inspection as a result of operators reporting something suggestive of a problem with the unit.

As of July 27, 2017 – the date the report was submitted – the status of availability of the 27 aircraft maintained by the General Services Division Fleet Services was:

- LAFD: 5 of 7 units available
- LAPD: 11 of 17 units available
- DWP: 2 of 4 units available

In response to the Motion's request for a report on the current workload generated by the City's helicopter fleet vs currently available labor force, the General Services Division maintains 27 aircraft, seven different models each with its own manufacturer's recommended maintenance schedule. Given regularly scheduled inspection/maintenance down-time and occasional unexpected maintenance needs, those 27 aircraft require approx. 41,650 maintenance hours per year on average. In FY 2016-17, Fleet Services approved over 4,500 hours of overtime for its maintenance staff and there is still an awful lot of excessive down-time for those choppers.

In response to the Motion's request for a report on the current status of all filled and unfilled maintenance positions and how many additional fulltime positions or overtime hours would be required to address current and anticipated workloads in the future, I don't think they really answered the question. What they did say was that there are currently 27 authorized mechanic positions approved for the 2017-18 budget. During the course of any one year, with people coming and going, there is an average vacancy rate of 1.2 for those positions in FY 2016-17. Between these intermittent vacancies, sick time and workman's comp, of those authorized 27 positions there is an equivalent of 3.7 vacancies on average in FY 2016-17.

In response to the Motion's request for a status report on the maintenance backlog for LAPD and DWP choppers, as of the date of the report one of the two out-of-service DWP choppers was in for routine inspection/maintenance which was expected to take no more than 4 days.

The second unit was another story. In mid-June it ran into some high voltage wires outside Lee Vining in the Owens Valley. Despite the fact that the voltage transmissions in the wires was about 12,000 volts, the chopper was able to fly to and land at a nearby DWP facility. But the damage was significant enough to require the chopper to be trailered to the Fleet Services facility in Van Nuys.

As of the date of the report being submitted by General Services, there were 6 LAPD choppers out-of-service. 5 of which were for general inspection/maintenance and were expected to range from 3 days to 21 days to complete. One was anticipated to take 60 days because it also required manufacturer instrument modifications.

As of the date of the report there was a 71% availability of LAFD aircraft with 19% of the Fleet workforce assigned to those out-of-service, DWP had 50% availability with 19% of the Fleet workforce assigned to those out-of-service (those two choppers??) and a 65% availability of LAPD aircraft with 62% of the Fleet workforce assigned to those out-of-service.

All effected departments – the General Services Division Fleet Maintenance Division, the LAFD, the LAPD, the DWP – agreed that additional helicopter mechanics are required to accommodate the workload and provide more timely completion of helicopter inspections and maintenance requirements to meet operational needs. The Department of General Services recommended that the City Council approve the addition of two helicopter mechanics AND secure funding for those positions and to authorize the General Services Department to outsource non-critical work. In late July 2017, the General Services Report was forwarded to City Council's Personnel and Public Safety Committees.

Editor's Note: Elektra Kruger is a member of the Shadow Hills Property Owners Assoc. and serves on the Hansen Dam Advisory Board, Sunland-Tujunga Land Use Committee, CPAB Foothill Div., and contributes to the NVR.



## COMMENTARY

#### Our California Golden State Is Golden No More

By David Barron



The Democrat party has been in control of our state legislature for decades. The Democrats have been saying they are the party of the working class and the poor. Then, why after decades of being in control of the state legislature, is California the number one state in poverty in the nation, with a homeless crisis growing

out of control?

California is one of the highest taxed states in America. Our government run public schools should not be deteriorating in education. Our teachers and students need and deserve ethical legislator's to better manage tax dollars going towards education.

Unethical Democrats have high jacked the Democrat party in our state legislature and their platform has been, over-spending, raising taxes, quietly diverting tax dollars for other purposes, eroding private property rights and dismantling zoning laws. We can certainly include any unethical Republicans too. But, it's the Democrats who have been in control of the legislature for decades and who have ignored their constituent's needs.

These unethical Democrats have passed laws which are allowing early release of dangerous career criminals into our communities, instead of building the needed additional prisons to eliminate overcrowding.

Our governor and legislators have not addressed the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) which has a \$1.4 trillion unfunded liability and growing.

These unethical Democrats have misled the voters regarding the High Speed Train's cost and its plans to destroy existing communities in the Northeast San Fernando Valley.

Democrat Senate leader Kevin de Leon is watching out for himself and his billionaire friend, Tom Steyer, while over taxing families who struggle to make ends meet. De Leon advocated to pass Tom Steyer's Senate Bill 350, Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act.

At a Pacoima Neighborhood Council meeting, a well known community activist was promoting SB 350. However, she failed to inform stakeholders in attendance, that SB 350 also included forcing people to eventually reduce the amount of gasoline that they purchased by 50%, and would penalize people if they purchased more than their limit. Lucky for us the SB 350 failed. This bill would have punished the middle, and low-income residents, the very people the Democrats say they want to help.

SB 350 would have benefited de Leon's campaign supporter, billionaire Tom Steyer, who was heavily invested in solar and electric vehicles. The Pollution Reduction side of the bill seems hypocritical because Tom Steyer, as a former Hedge Fund manager, says he's an environmentalist. But, he doesn't mention he invested heavily in oil and financed a 5,000 acre coal mine that was to operate for 30 years.

Democrat Senator Bob Hertzberg gives constituents the impression he likes them by his well-known jovial hugs, but apparently objected by several women. Hertzberg kept constituents in the dark by his limited information of the contents of his SB8 The Upward Mobility Act. A misleading title considering it would deliver a burden on the middle and low income class. It was a \$10 billion per year tax on businesses that provide services to consumers. And, it was the Howard Jarvis Tax Association which keeps a close eye on state legislators, gave Hertzberg an F regarding property taxes for property owners.

Former Assembly member Raul Bocanegra is another Democrat who worked against his constituents. When first elected to the assembly he signed and voted for Senate Bill 1, Sustainable Community Investment Authority. This bill included selecting unelected people, that would be known as the "Authority," to make decisions for us regarding zoning, land use, declaring properties blight and approving bonds without public input. A horrible bill against democracy for the people.

Before Assembly member Bocanegra resigned in disgrace, he introduced Assembly Bill 1455 California Records Act: exemptions, which closed the door

even tighter to open transparency. This bill allows politicians who receive money from unions to conduct negotiations with taxpayer dollars in secret.

Let's not forget former Democrat Assembly member Felipe Fuentes dubbed, "The Worst Legislator In California."

It's the unethical Democrats who apparently without moral values who say they advocate for the working class and the under served, who continue to quietly attack Proposition 13 the bill that protects property owner's from skyrocketing property taxes, that can force people out of their homes.

To become more informed and to join the fight against any modification to Prop 13 by state legislators, follow the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association.

California is called the "Golden State" because gold was discovered here and due to our golden yellow poppy fields. Let's aim to make our state legislative body a safe work environment, without sexual harassment, and regain the prosperity of our Golden California economy to shine like gold by electing candidates with ethics and moral values.

Former Assembly member Patty Lopez, a Democrat for our people who is not owned by the Northeast San Fernando Valley political machine, has declared her candidacy to regain the 39th Assembly District seat. While she was in office, she worked with our communities to save open space, opposed the High-Speed Rail and believed in only sensible development. She also believes in education for everyone and played an important roll in bringing to fruition the formerly stalled and much needed Mission College Satellite, to service the communities of Sunland-Tujunga and adjacent areas. She pledges to continue working for her constituents.

Editor's Note: David Barron is a community activist, Board Member of the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council, serves on their Land Use and Safety Committees, S-T Mission College Satellite Committee, a retired Los Angeles City Housing Inspector, former Construction Inspector with the State Architect and a Columnist for the NVR.

#### You Should Know...

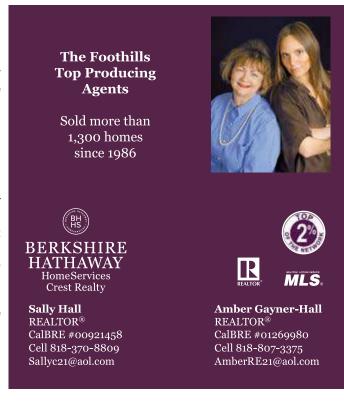
**Stonehurst Elementary School** located in Shadow Hills will be a Science-Technology-Engineering-Arts-Mathematics (S.T.E.A.M.) magnet school effective Fall, 2018.

The Special Election to fill the San Fernando Valley State Assembly District 39 seat which vacated by Raul Bocanegra, will be held Tuesday, April 3. Unless one candidate receives more than 50 percent, the top two vote-getters will advance to a runoff on June 5, 2018.

**A Community Forum** regarding updates to the L.A. City General Plan is being hosted by both the Granada Hills North and South Neighborhood Councils, Thursday, January 18, at 7:00PM at the St. Euphrasia School Auditorium.

The final *Commercial Cannabis Location Restriction Ordinance* has been adopted by the City Council and signed by the Mayor. The City Clerk has published it as Ordinance No. 185345, with an effective date of December 19, 2017. The full text of the ordinance is available at the following link: http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2014/14-0366-S4\_ORD\_185345\_12-19-2017.pdf

The Cannabis Procedures Ordinance and Cannabis Rules and Regulations Ordinance, which govern the City's new commercial cannabis licensing program, were also adopted and signed, effective on December 19, 2017. Please see the Department of City Planning's Questions & Answers document for more information on the Location Restriction Ordinance: https://planning.lacity.org/ordinances/docs/CommercialCannabis/files/QA\_%2012-12-17.pdf Should you have any questions regarding the Location Restriction Ordinance, please contact Niall Huffman, City Planning Associate at 213-978-3405 or niall.huffman@lacity.org. Inquiries regarding applications for the seven different types of licenses related to Cannabis operations should be directed to the Department of Cannabis Regulation at 213-978-0738. The City will make an announcement when applications become available. Other matters that may be taken up in 2018: setting cap on retail businesses per community plan area; increasing years after felony conviction before person can be eligible for license.









## COMMENTARY

#### **Soothing Solutions**

Floating is believed by many health professionals to be the most effective means available today to achieve profound physical and mental relaxation, wellness, relief from chronic pain, and improve sleep patterns. What is a Float tank? The Float tank is a chamber filled with ten inches of skin temperature water and 800 pounds of dissolved Magnesium Sulfate (Epsom salts). The buoyancy counteracts the effects of gravity, providing a sense of weightlessness for the floater. You float effortlessly, free from stress, allowing your conscious mind to enter a tranquil state. Light and sound are minimized and external stimuli are essentially nonexistent as you float in a warm silky solution. Dr. John C. Lilly, while conducting research for the U.S. Government, developed the first floatation tank. By 1954, he had honed the tank into a practical means of study. For the next eighteen years the floatation tank remained a research tool in the scientific community. In 1972, Glenn and Lee Perry, in conjunction with Lilly, developed the first commercially available float tank, appropriately named "Samadhi." According to Dictionary. com, the term Samadhi refers to "the highest stage in meditation, in which a person experiences oneness with the universe." However, unlike meditation, floating does not require years of practice, uncomfortable positions, or divine concentration. Virtually anyone can float. Most new floaters find their initial comfort zone in the tank within the first ten to fifteen minutes and are astonished by the beneficial results. Floating and the Samadhi tank have gained popularity, and the growth of the float community has skyrocketed in the past decade. Owners of Soothing Solutions Burbank, Gayle Batt, Allen Montalbano, and Peter DiNova, proudly operate a Samadhi float tank. Soothing Solutions offers a comfortable, inviting space and a well-appointed float room. All you need to bring is yourself and an open mind to experience the benefits of floating. The curative nature and personal growth associated with floating and Epsom Salts is well documented and has demonstrated improved cognitive function and clarity, relief from anxiety, fatigue, and chronic pain, among a host of other conditions. While floating, skin absorbs



magnesium which is highly beneficial to skin, general health, and mind. Up to 80% of Americans are magnesium deficient. Magnesium deficiency contributes to cardiovascular disease, weak bones, migraines, and constant fatigue. Magnesium ions regulate over 300 biochemical reactions in the body through their role as enzyme co-factors. They likewise play an important role in the reactions that create and use ATP (Adenosine Triphosphate) the basic system of energy within the body's cells. Epsom Salts have been used as a natural remedy as early as the 11th century in Europe. Today, the combined effectiveness of weightlessness and magnesium sulfate have proven successful in relieving a multitude of conditions and producing a profound feeling of wellness in people who float.

Soothing Solutions is here to serve first time and experienced floaters. The float center offers daily appointments 9:00 am-7:00 pm. After hours and Sunday by reservation. Soothing Solutions offers gift certificates and multi-float packages to suit your float needs and budget.

Consider Soothing Solutions Gift Certificates and Float Packages as the perfect gift for family, friends, coworkers, or that someone special who is hard to buy for.

Soothing Solutions

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#### YourLA2040: L.A.'s Urban Tree Canopy needs a Better Plan. Los Angeles community members have untapped power to guide the General Plan Update

By Jill Stewart and Ileana Wachtel, Fall 2017

#### Part 1 of 2

"To exist as a nation, prosper as a state, we must have trees." — Theodore Roosevelt

### Why Now is the Time to Act

In 2016, Mayor Eric Garcetti announced plans to launch the first full update since 1970 of the city's key strategic planning document, the General Plan.

Los Angeles had been hobbled by a General Plan dating from the Vietnam War era, seesawing from one administration to another, fueling a non-strategic approach to changing times that spawned neglect of L.A.'s sewer, water and road infrastructure and a downwardly-spiraling ranking in 2017 as 74th in the nation in providing parks to its 3.96 million residents. (We were ranked at 65th last year.)

With a full update to the General Plan underway, Angelenos

have their first chance in nearly two generations to engage in a transparent, robust, public give-and-take — to set the vision and new goals for L.A. As Mayor Garcetti noted in his 2017 State of the City Address: "These Updates won't be written by anonymous bureaucrats in backrooms, they will be written by and with the residents of Los Angeles."

Whose vision drives this first effort in 47 years to choose our overarching dreams, policies, and best practices for Los Angeles? Is it the L.A. City Council's vision? Is it the Mayor's vision? Is it the City Planners' vision?

Interestingly, the answer is none of the above. The State of California is clear in its 2003 and 2017 Guidelines, that the public drives and informs a city's General Plan Update, right from the very start:

"A local General Plan should 1) start with a shared community vision that will 2) help set priorities throughout the planning process and 3) inform decision makers about community values." (California General Plan Guidelines, Chapter 2: A Vision for Long-Range Planning, pg. 11-12)

Of key concern to L.A. residents are issues unknown to the City Fathers of 1970. Climate change, the urban heat-island effect, the importance of urban tree canopies to human and environmental health, the societal and environmental importance of open space, the locations of earthquake faults, the pressing need to capture storm runoff, the impending failure to add neighborhood parks to a growing city.

We now know, 47 years after the last comprehensive Los Angeles General Plan was written, that cities can fight climate change by nurturing an urban tree canopy — a forest of trees that mitigate the urban heat-island effect, consume greenhouse gas emissions, reduce use of carbon-based fuels to cool homes, businesses and cars, absorb storm runoff through their root systems, create habitat for important bird, animal and insect life, and even improve human mental and physical health.

Environmentally progressive cities such as Austin, Cleveland, Pasadena, Portland, Sacramento and Seattle have surged ahead to create extensive urban tree canopies. Pasadena, for example, protects 13 tree species; Los Angeles protects only four. Cleveland has a comprehensive Urban Forest Management Plan, Los Angeles has none.

In fact, in the nationwide push by cities to re-green their tree canopies, Los Angeles has been on pause. While L.A. has an admirable "Sustainable City pLAn," its urban forest goals remain largely unformed and



unfulfilled. Budgets for trees and parks have waxed and waned, major development is approved without requiring green belts, open space is rezoned for building, and the siting of parks in congested communities has suffered repeated failures. The Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering has yet to adopt the most fundamental practice in cities, of inventorying L.A. street trees — the first step in saving and expanding them through an Urban Forest Management Plan. Independently of the city, Caltech, in partnership with AEye Labs, is developing a GIS system to detect the species, tree count and location of every L.A. street tree using Google Maps and Google Street Views.

Los Angeles has an Open Space Element in its aging General Plan, an Element that will require robust public voices to shape it during this modern-day Update. But the dire health of L.A.'s tree canopy requires that it be granted its own Element status in the General Plan. To this end, we urge Los Angeles City Planner Vince Bertoni and Mayor Eric Garcetti to include an Urban Forest Element in the Los Angeles General Plan.

This topic must not be relegated to a mere chapter, as is currently being considered at City Hall, but given a full nod as a formal Element of the Plan.

L.A. is well behind dozens of cities, such as Washington D.C., Portland, Glendale, Austin and Sacramento, in rebuilding its urban forest. Researcher E. Gregory McPherson and others found in their 2008 Los Angeles 1-Million Tree Canopy Assessment, that just 21 percent of L.A. is protected by tree canopy. Nine years later, MIT's Treepedia platform, working together with the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on the Future of Cities, studied L.A.'s street trees in 2017, and found a 15.3 percent canopy. Treepedia is now backward-mapping L.A.'s street trees as they existed in 2008, using Google Street View — and expects the data to chronicle a steep tree canopy loss since then.

L.A.'s government is planting only about 15,000 trees annually, about the same as far smaller Charlotte, Sacramento, or Washington D.C.

It isn't for lack of money. Los Angeles had a record \$9.2 billion budget this year. Yet there is little money for the urban forest. About \$5 million to \$8 million per year flows in from city and state sources and is tapped by tree canopy efforts such as the LA Beautification Team, Los Angeles Conservation Corps and North East Trees. Some 10,000 of the 15,000 new trees are planted by residents, and the city has no reliable method for managing their survival. Recre-

ation and Parks alone lost an estimated 14,000 trees by withholding water in L.A. parks during the drought, after Gov. Brown issued a short-sighted "no watering" policy that he rescinded too late. And neither the Urban Forestry Division nor the Department of Building and Safety has the budget to enforce the environmental law requiring developers to replace trees they destroy.

The environmental, health and equity implications of not investing in re-greening our urban tree canopy are serious for L.A., situated in an arid Mediterranean-like climate — not a desert — where trees can flourish and provide immeasurable human and environmental payoffs to rich and poor alike.

Sacramento, by example, has a city-owned water and power utility, SMUD, so committed to expanding Sacramento's urban forest that it issued thermal readers so the public could compare the summertime surface heat of a sidewalk in full sun (115 degrees) to the same sidewalk five feet away, in the full shade of a tree (89 degrees).

L.A.'s vanishing urban tree canopy cries out for a commitment to systemic change. The ebb and flow of election cycles should not affect the future of L.A.'s tree canopy. Its estimated 700,000 street trees and 2 million privately owned trees are infrastructure on par with the water system and the roads. Fighting greenhouse gas emissions, the heat-island effect, polluted storm runoff, the loss of shade, and the destruction of urban habitat, are no longer a debate. They are a must.

Building an Urban Forest Element directly into the General Plan, alongside such increasingly important Elements as Public Safety, Open Space, and Infrastructure, will focus long-term thinking, public debate and citywide talents on the problem unlike any time in the past.

Part 2 will be in the January 2018 issue and include: How is the City Addressing L.A.'s Tree Canopy Crisis? and What Los Angeles Must Do in 2018



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Share your events with your neighbors through: InformNVR@aol.com FREE! 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.

#### Saturday, Dec. 23

#### WINTER WONDERLAND

#### **Snow in Sylmar**

10am-2pm

El Cariso Park 13100 Hubbard St, Sylmar

#### Sunday, Dec. 24

**Christmas Eve** 

#### Monday, Dec. 25

#### **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

Rules & Elect. Comm 9747 Wheatland, SH 7:00 pm

#### Tuesday, Dec. 26

#### **Bolton Hall Museum Presents**

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

Arleta NC Gen. Meeting

Beachy Ave. Elem. School 9757 Beachy Ave., Arl 6:30 pm Panorama NC

Rules Comm. Meet Plaza Del Valle 8610 Van Nuys PC 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

#### Sunday, Dec. 31

#### **NEW YEARS EVE**

Celebrate - but -Don't drink and Drive!

#### Monday, Jan. 1

#### HAPPY NEW YEAR!

#### <u>Tuesday, Jan. 2</u>

#### **Bolton Hall Museum Presents** LANCC Meet. 10110 Commerce Ave., S-T Docent Tours

1:00 pm-4:00 pm 818-352-3420

#### FTDNC Land Use

9747 Wheatland Ave., SH 7:00 pm

#### MHNC General Meet.

LAPD Mission Station 11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH Bolton Hall Museum LAPD Community Coffee 818-902-2361 for time &

#### **BONC Meeting**

TBD empowerla.org/calendar 6:00 pm

#### Arleta Looky Loos

Neighborhood Watch Liberty Temple Church 12821 Osborne St. Arl 6:45 pm

#### Wednesday. Jan. 3

#### STNC Outreach Comm

6:00 pm Joint Exec Board Budget Comm.Meet 7:00 - 9:00pmNV City Hall 7727 Foothill Blvd., S-T

#### FTDNC Outreach Com

9747 Wheatland Ave., SH 7:00 pm

#### NHENC Gen. Meet

Penny Lane Rainbow Rm 15314 Rayen, North Hills

#### Thursday, Jan 4

#### **FTDNC Outreach Comm**

9747 Wheatland, SH 7:30 pm

#### **PCNC Land Use**

Mission Comm. Hospital 14860 Roscoe Blvd., PC 6:30 pm 818-894-7841

#### Kagel Cyn Civic Assoc.

Dexter Park, KC 11053 No. Trail Rd., KC 7:00 pm

#### **STNC**

WEST Cmte NV City Hall 7747 Foothill 6 pm

#### Kiwanis - Northridge Rosie's BB

8930 Corbin Ave. Northr'ge 12:00 pm

#### **GHSNC Board Meet.**

10535 Zelzah Ave. GH 6:30 pm 8:30 pm

#### Saturday Jan. 6

#### LADWP MOU Comm.

#### **DWP** Building

111 N. Hope St. LA 8:45 am

**DWP** Building

111 N. Hope St. LA 10:00 am

#### **LVT Improvement Assoc**

White Elephant Sale LVT Park & Rec. Ctr 11075 Foothill Blvd. LVT 8:00 am - 4:00 pmSunday, Jan. 7

#### Presents "Lights & Sirens 10110 Commerce Ave., S-T

Docent Tours 1:00 pm-4:00 pm 818-352-3420

#### Monday, Jan. 8

#### FTDNC Budget

#### & Finance Comm 9747 Wheatland Ave., SH

7:00 pm

#### STNC Land Use Com N Valley City Hall 7747 Foothill Bl 7 pm

#### **SNC Land Use Comm**

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

#### **PCNC Commerce**

Wells Fargo Bank 8548 Van Nuys Blvd., PC 2:30 pm 818-714-2133

**SVANC Gen Meet** 10631 Vinedale Ave., SV

#### 6:30 pm

Northridge West NC Beckford Elem. School 19130 Tulsa St., Nrdge

#### **GHNNC Safety Comm**

11139 Woodley Ave., GH 2:00 pm

#### Tuesday, Jan. 9

#### **Bolton Hall Museum**

7:00 pm

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

#### **SNC Outreach & Public** Safety

Sylmar Park 13109 Bordon

#### Wednesday, Jan. 10

#### STNC Board Meet.

North Valley City Hall 7747 Foothill Blvd.S=T 6:30 pm

#### **Rotary Club**

7:00 pm 818-951-5299

#### NHWNC Comm. Forum

Holy Martyrs Armenian School 1667 Parthenia St., NH 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm

#### S. V. Rotary

Mandarin Terrace 8815 Sunland Blvd., SV 12:00 pm -1:30 pm 818-768-9888

#### **PCNC-Commerce Com**

Wells Fargo Bank 8548 Van Nuys Blvd., PC 2:00 pm

#### **NHNE NC Outreach**

Valley Plaza Library 12311 Van Owen St., No Ho 6:30 pm

#### **Sun Valley Beautiful**

9081 Tujunga Ave., SV 11:30 am

#### No Hollywd.Nh'brh'd Watch Pentecostal Church

6800 Radford St., No Ho 6:30 pm 818-331-139+

#### Pan. City Neighborhood Watch

9261 Wakefield, PC 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm All Northridge NC's

#### Vision Committee Meet.

CD 12 Office 9207 Oakdale Ave. Chats. 2:00 pm

#### Thursday, Jan. 11

#### FTDNC Equest. Meet. 9747 Wheatland, SH 7:30 pm

#### LAPD Foothill Div. CPAB Japanese Amer. Comm. Ctr

#### 12953 Branford, Pac 6:00 pm 818-756-8866

Kagel Cnyn Civic Assoc. Dexter park 11053 Ño. Trail Rd., KC

#### 7:00 pm Valley Alliance of NC's

Sherman Oaks Hosp. 4929 Van Nuys, Sherm. 6:30 pm

#### Sylmar Equestrian Commit.

Sylmar Rec Center 13109 Borden, Ave., Syl 6:30 pm

#### Friday, Jan. 12

#### **GHNNC Policy & Rules**

11139 Woodley Ave., GH 4:00 pm

#### Saturday, Jan. 13

#### Plan Check NC

Hollenbeck Police Station 2111 E. lst St, L.A. 10:00 am -1:00 pm

#### GHNNC, Rules &

Policy Comm. 11139Woodley Ave, GH 4:00 pm

#### Little Landers Hist. Society \*\* Presentation'

10110 Commerce S-T 1:00 pm 818-352-3420

#### Sunday, Jan. 14

#### **Bolton Hall Museum Presents** 10110 Commerce Ave., S-T

Docent Tours 1:00 pm-4:00 pm 818-352-3420

#### Monday, Jan. 15

#### Martin Luther King Day

#### Valley Vote

Galpin Ford 15555 Roscoe Blvd., NH 6:30 pm

#### **GHNNC Gen. Meeting** Rinaldi Adult Center, 17450 Rinadli St., GH

6:30 pm FTDNC Rules & Elec.Com 9747 Wheatland Ave., SH

#### 7:00 pm

#### Tuesday, Jan. 16 **Bolton Hall Museum Presents** 10110 Commerce Ave., S-T

**Docent Tours** 1:00 pm-4:00 pm 818-352-3420

#### Arleta NC Gen. Meeting

Beachy Ave. Elem. School 9757 Beachy Ave., Arl. 6:30 pm

#### **Green Commit. Meeting**

Sylmar Rec Cener 13109 Bordon, Syl 7:00 pm Bird Watching Walk O'Melveny Park, GH 9:00 am - 12:00 pm 818-885-7493 for info.

#### Wednesday, Jan.17

#### LAPD-CPAB

Mission Division 11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH 6:30 pm

#### **Rotary Club** 7:00 pm

818-951-5299 Pacoima NC Gen. Meeting Pacoima Comm. Center

#### 6:30 pm Northridge East NC Board

Northridge Woman's Club 18401 Lassen St.

11243 Glenoaks Blvd., Pac

#### North Hills West NC New Horizons

15725 Parthenia St., NH 7:00 pm Strathern Nh'brh'd. Watch Church of the Nazarene

#### 6:30 pm

Sylmar NC Green Comm. Sylmar Park & Rec. Cent. Susan B. Anthony Bldg. Polk & Bordon Ave., Syl 7:00 pm

12120 Strathern St., NoHo

#### Hansen Dam Park Advisory Board

Mobile Office

Lake View Terr. Rec. Ctr. 11075 Foothill Blvd., LVT 7:00 pm **Congressman Cardenas** 

#### 11075 Foothill Blvd. LTV 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

LVT Park & Rec Ctr

#### Thursday, Jan 18 FTDNC Gen. Meeting Lake View Terr. Rec. Ctr.

#### 7:00 pm

**Neighborhood Watch** Block Captain's Mtng. Sylmar High School 13050 Borden Ave., Syl 6:30 pm

#### Northridge East NC Northridge Academy

9601 Zelzah Ave., Nrdge **NHNE NC Board Meet** Arminta Elem. School

11530 Arminta St., No Ho

#### Arleta Neigh'd in Action 9603 Gullo Ave., Arl

7:00 pm

#### 7:00 pm Saturday, Jan.20

**NC Budget Advocates** W.L.A. Muni Bldg. 1645 Corinth, L.A. 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

#### Sunday, Jan. 21

#### **Bolton Hall Museum Presents** 10110 Commerce Ave., S-T **Docent Tours** 1:00 pm-4:00 pm

#### Monday, Jan. 22

#### **PCNC Land Use**

818-352-3420

Mission Comm. Hospital 14860 Roscoe Blvd., PC 6:30 pm 818-894-7841

#### STNC Land Use Mtg

N Valley City Hall 7747 Foothill Bl 7 pm

#### Tuesday, Jan. 23

#### Panorama NC

Rules Comm. Meet Plaza Del Valle 8610 Van Nuys PC 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

#### **Bolton Hall Museum Presents**

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

#### Arleta NC Gen. Meeting Beachy Ave. Elem. School

9757 Beachy Ave., Arl 6:30 pm Ham Radio Club

Kaiser Permanente

393 E. Walnut, Pas.

#### 7:00 pm Thursday, Jan. 25

#### Gen. Meeting Mission Com. Hospital 14960 Roscoe, PC

Panorama City NC

6:30 pm

Saturday, Jan. 27 NC Emerg. Prepare'd. Alliance Emergency Oper. Ctr.

#### 200 N. Spring St. L.A. 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Museum of the SFV Speaker Series & Pop-Up Art Mart 19960 Nordhoff St. Northrge

#### 2:00 pm Sunday, Jan. 28

#### **Bolton Hall Museum Presents**

818-352-342

**Docent Tours** 

818-352-342

1:00 pm-4:00 pm

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

#### Monday, Jan. 29

Rules & Elect. Comm

#### **FTDNC**

9747 Wheatland, SH 7:00 pm Tuesday, Jan. 30

**Bolton Hall Museum Presents** 

10110 Commerce Ave., S-T









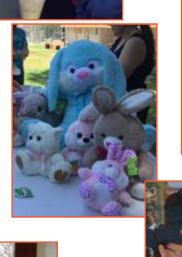






































#### **Recycle Your Christmas Tree**

LA Sanitation has curbside collection for Christmas trees. If your Christmas tree is too big to cut and place inside the green waste bin, simply place the tree next to your green waste bin on collection day. In addition, holiday wrapping paper, cartons, cardboard, Styrofoam® and other expanded polystyrene products, plastics and gift boxes are also recyclable and should be placed in the blue bin. However, it is illegal to place household hazardous waste, such as electronics (i.e. televisions and computers) and batteries into the collection bins. Please take those items to one of seven S.A.F.E. Centers for safe disposal and recycling. Residents of multifamily buildings are requested to place their Christmas trees at the curbside on the collection day in your neighborhood. Whether you are serviced by LA Sanitation or a private hauler, we will pick up your tree on your neighborhood scheduled collection day. Please remove all ornaments, decorations, tinsel and the stand from the tree.

Christmas trees can be dropped off on Sunday, January 8, 2017 at Sun Valley - Sunland Recreation Ctr 8651 Foothill and Sunland 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and at Fire Station 77, 9224 Sunland Blvd. on January 3rd through mid-month.





## This 'N That Homer A. Hansen

By Marlene Hitt

When a young man in his teens, about 1892, Homer Hansen roamed the Countryside, camped in the Big Tujunga Canyon under the oaks and spruce, and as a result of his visits, found in Big Tujunga Canyon the pace he most wanted to stay. After Studying medicine in the East, he returned to the Big Tujunga as Doctor Homer A. Hansen, a man suffering from acute inflammatory rheumatism. He was told he had less than a year to live.

Hansen went into the canyon to live out the end o his life, but in about a year found that he had fully recovered. In 1909, he filed a homestead claim of 93 acres below the present Big Tujunga Dam and built his cabin there.

Doctor Hansen seems to have had a medical practice of sort. He met a fellow named Silas Hoty and Silas' big horse Beelzebub. Silas and Beelzebub had been toting in whole logs for burning in the fireplace of his windowless cabin. Uncut, which stuck out the front door. The constant smoke irritation nearly ruined Hoyt's eyes. That, and the eyebrows that curled into his eyes and onto his cheeks were a serious threat to his sight. Dr. Hansen prepared an eye wash for Silas and trimmed the brows. He was probably better in no time.

A few years late, after more and more visitors began coming into the Canyons, Hansen built a two-story guest lodge with stables, a pool and cabins. There he entertained celebrities, U.S. Senators, L.A. Supervisors, and even the fames lawyer Clarence Darrow, all of whom used the lodge as a week-end retreat Homer Hansen suffered the same disasters as all the early settlers in this area. Roads were often washed out and it was a chore to keep them open. The flood of 1926 washed away his lodge. He rebuilt, only to lose again in the flood of 1938.

Everything was swept away except the stone fireplaces, which were removed in 1968. The Western portion of Rancho Tujunga, Hansen Heights (Shadow Hills) was surveyed in 1907and platted by Homer A. Hansen who named streets after members of his family.

There was a picturesque landmark in the valley called "Hansen Knoll", a "land island" bulging out of the flat, brush-covered area...The knoll has been the home for many years of Dr. Homer Hansen", It was at that site that the dam we now see, named after Home Hansen, was built. (Glendale News Press editorial September 1938)

In the file folder labeled "Hansen" at the museum there are two Photographs, a few clippings, and a small white envelope. Inside the envelope are Some springs of dry maidenhair fern.

Homer Hansen married Marie A. Huber in 1920. The site chosen was a place of natural beauty. A cover on whose walls and roof grew a mass of maidenhair ferns.

All guests, clery and the Birthday party were all on horseback. Who knows when Homer found that cave and what dreams he may have dreamed there? How delightful that his new wife could appreciate the beauty of the Big Tujunga as much as did her husband. In a interview of Mrs. Marie Hansen by Sarah Lombard several years ago, Marie remembers: "There were 28 people in the party, all mounted. Since Dr. Hansen did not own 28 saddle horses, he had rented some from the studios. One horse had been trained to lay down when touched at the shoulder with a heel. So when one of the women accidentally touched the horse...he promptly lay down in the middle of the stream. His rider had to dismount, wade to the bank.. "The lady remounted and the wedding party went merrily on its way. On the way back to the Lodge for the wedding breakfast some of the horses took advantage of the Inexperienced riders and started running. One horse stopped quickly and sent his rider into the sandbank head first. What a morning! The cave, about 3 miles above the Big Tujunga dam site, was destroyed when The Big Tujunga Dam was built, about 1931, and is now under water.

The teen-aged wanderer of the Big Tujunga Canyon so many years ago most likely would never have guessed what would have happened nor in these years after. That severely ill young doctor who had one year to live would have been amazed to see the changes in the canyons and on the ranch lands.

For information about the history of this area, visit the Bolton Hall gift shop And book store.

Editor's Note: Marlene Hitt is a former Poet Laureate of Sunland-Tujunga, Director of Bolton Hall Museum, Historic Preservation Board Member on the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council and selected "Woman of the Year" by Congressman Adam Schiff.







## THIS 'N THAT WE WANTED TO THE STATE OF THE S

#### Nikki's Neighborhood

By Nikki Pelley



Prospective sellers always ask me what they should do to improve their home to get it ready to sell. As a seller's agent, I always focus on the items that will get them back the most money for their investment. Kitchens and bathrooms are the rooms that get back more in added value than the

other rooms. In Southern California, it is the standard, now, that granite counter tops will be in the kitchen and bathrooms. When I take a buyer into a home, first thing they look for is granite. If a seller cannot go in for installing granite, we look at what can be done, with the budget they have to work with. Sometimes putting in granite leads to putting in new cabinets, so it can get quite expensive

The topic here is standards. If a home has been kept up to standard, then there should be a minimal investment. If a home is generally worn out and in

need of a facelift in every room, it may be best to paint and install new flooring. If this is not within the seller's budget or convenience, I come up with a market analysis of what the home would be worth if it were up to standard, less the cost of repairs and suggest that they offer the home for a price that reflects that the home is not upgraded. So the price looks very attractive to the buyer and the buyer can paint and install the type of flooring that they want.

It is very easy for a seller to think that if they put in \$20,000 that they could get back \$50,000 or \$60,000. But it does not always work that way. Sellers see others buy and flip houses and make a profit and feel that their home is worth more and want to make that extra little money. But, what they don't see is that the contractors who do this for a living use repairs and remodeling that are installed quickly. Most house flippers work in vacant houses, so the hassle and time is lessened due to the ease of working in a vacant home. The month or 6 weeks that it takes the home-

owner to do improvements, could mean that the seller misses out on their dream home that may have come onto the market and disappeared just as fast, then their true profit is not realized.

However, if a seller has the money and wants to do a total facelift, I am all for it. The use of neutral colors is the key. Sellers need to stay away from personalized improvements that only mean something to the seller. If you like that crystal chandelier, take it with you and the curb appeal gets them in the door, then the buyer can see how magnificent the home is! Most buyers want to buy a home that they can move into and all they have to do it is turn the key in the door! Til' next time! Nikki J

Editor's Note: Nikki Pelley is a Realtor and contributes to the NVR. She can be reached at: homes4ubynikki@gmail.com. She will be happy to answer your questions.









## Viva's Rancho Cantina



## NEW YEARS EVE BASH!



Doors Open at 6:45PM
Appetizers 7:00-8:00PM
Buffet 8:30- 10:30PM
Dessert 10:30PM
No Host Bar
Champagne
Live Entertainment

by



Jimmy Angel and The Gutierrez 3 Carmine's Shuffle Brothers

Advance Buffet Ticket \$55. \$65. at the door

Bag of Rocks

Parking at Pickwick Center 900 W. Riverside Dr. Burbank, Ca. 91506 For reservations call 818-729-9361









#### Spotlight on San Fernando Valley's Top Cop

Deputy Chief John Sherman is the Commanding Officer of the Los Angeles Police Department's Operations-Valley Bureau (OVB), located in the San Fernando Valley, consisting of seven LAPD Patrol Divisions. They include: Devonshire, Foothill, Mission, North Hollywood, Topanga, Van Nuys, West Valley Areas and the Valley Traffic Division. OVB consists of 224 square miles and is the largest division in the department with a population of approximately 1.8 million people. Its' area covers from the City of Burbank on the east side, to West Hills on the west, from Granada Hills in the north, to Mulholland Drive on the south side.

Chief Sherman is the son of LAPD Lieutenant Glen Sherman (Ret). He was born and raised in the San Fernando Valley, attended Cleveland High School and Ca State University Northridge (CSUN), where he served as a Police Student Worker with the LAPD. He earned his BA in Business Management from the University of Phoenix in 1994. He also served four years on active duty with the U.S. Marines before joining LAPD in 1985. After graduation from the academy he went on to serve as a Patrol Officer in the Rampart, Devonshire, and Hollywood Divisions. He was promoted 1990 to Sergeant, then to Lieutenant in 1997. In 2001, he was promoted to the rank of Captain and served as Assistant Commanding Officer of Rampart Area and then promoted to Commanding Officer of Devonshire and West Valley Areas.

In 2007, prior to opening, Chief Sherman was chosen to be the Commanding Officer to lead the transition for the new LAPD Topanga Community Police Station, which now serves the communities of Canoga Park, West Hills, Chatsworth, and Woodland Hills in 2007. He was responsible for identifying personnel, creating the command and interfacing with the communities.

I have a good understanding of the Valley, and I'm very familiar with the City of Los Angeles and the diverse communities in which we serve.

Chief Sherman says, "I believe in maintaining a strong communication between our communities and our Police Department, which is the basis of community policing. Please make an effort to meet the officers assigned to your local police stations, and be sure to follow us on the following social media platforms... Facebook- LAPDOPERATIONSVALLEYBUREAU Twitter-@LAPDOVB

Lastly, you may want to consider being a part of the Nixle Emergency Communication System. You can receive these notifications by texting to 888777 and by entering your Zip Code. When this is done correctly you will receive a text back from Nixle verifying that you will now be receiving emergency notifications"



Chief Sherman participates in monthly meetings of the "San Fernando Valley Coalition on Gangs" held at the Church on the Way in Van Nuys. Their meetings include Police personnel representing each of the seven Community Police Stations in Operations Valley Bureau, along with organization leaders in the Valley who are committed to gang prevention and share information. They meet the first Thursday of each month.

# Important Message from the Valley's Top Cop Prevent Package Theft this Holiday Season!

It's the most wonderful time of the year - until your package gets stolen from your car or doorstep. When purchasing gifts please consider the following tips that will help you avoid becoming a victim of package theft.

Do not leave anything in your car when you are shopping. Car prowlers target parking lots all throughout the holiday season in anticipation of busy neighbors leaving packages in their cars while shopping.

If you are having your purchases shipped to your house, sign up for delivery alerts from the shipper. If you aren't home during delivery, message a neighbor on Nextdoor to have them take the package back to their place until you get home.

If possible, require a signature for all your deliveries. If there's no one home to sign for the package, it won't be left at your home.

Be neighborly. If you see a package sitting on a neighbor's doorstep, reach out and ask if they would like you to hold it until they are home.

Keep your car and house doors locked at all times.

I wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season. Deputy Chief John Sherman

## **Emergency Communications Amateur "Ham" Radio Classes**

**April 2018** 

7 weeks taught by licensed Volunteer Examiner (VE) 8th week FCC test

Cost \$30 instructor • \$30 book • \$15 test

Call 818-430-5244 for more info • Email: mark.seigel@gmail.com

#### Community Alert – Felony Hit & Run

12/9/17 - 2:33 p.m. La Tuna Canyon Road W/O 210 Freeway

RD 1679

Report No. 17-16-17671

Hit and run between vehicle and cyclist.

Suspect's car, possible newer model black Maza CS5 travelling eastbound on La Tuna Canyon Road when it collided with Keith Jackson (bicyclist). Anyone with information about the crime is asked to call Valley Traffic Division Officer Takishita at 818-644-8116. Tipsters may also go to www.lacrimestoppers.org and click on "Submit a Tip" and follow the prompts.

## Introducing Emergency Preparedness Foothill Coalition

The Emergency Preparedness Committees of the Foothill Trails District and Sylmar Neighborhood Council have united to establish the Emergency Preparedness Foothill Coalition. The coalition will function as a single body in the area of Emergency Preparedness to address the specific issues of the Foothill communities. The Foothill Coalition will reach out to Topanga and Sand Canyon that also have equine communities to share information and resources for mutual benefit. Each community has its own unique skills, knowledge, and trained staff that would assist the other communities so neither community would be weaker or less prepared. The coalition would function as a single body at public events as well as their own fairs, trainings, workshops, and preparedness rehearsals. Disaster knows no boundaries therefore it is in all of our interests to collaborate as one. For more information contact:

#### **Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council**

Monthly Board Meetings: 3rd Thursday of the month 7 pm at Lake View Terrace Recreation Center 11075 Foothill Blvd. (818) 353-2000 ftdnc.org

#### Sylmar Neighborhood Council

Monthly Board Meetings: 4th Thursday of the month 6:30 pm at Sylmar Charter High School 13050 Borden Avenue (818) 833-8737 sylmarneighborhoodcouncil.org

Please check websites to confirm meeting locations





Pick Up and Send Packages at UPS Access Point 10034 Commerce Avenue Tujunga 818-353-7135 Hours: M-F 9-6 • Sat 10-2

## THIS 'N THAT



## In Memoriam Lou Brousseau

Sunland-Tujunga Elks Lodge No. 2098 honored Lou's life with an Elk's memorial service. Lou was a brave soldier serving in the 13th Army Air Corp, 5th Bomber Group 72nd Squad in the South Pacific 1943-46 during WW II. He received various medals of honor for his service including the Presidential Unit Citation. Lou owned the Bade Mortuary located in Tujunga at Hillhaven and Tujunga Canyon for over 30 years. He passed away on Sept. 5, 2017 nine days before his 98th year.

## Fire Works

As leaders in our community, we feel we must address issues that affect the greater good of everyone. This past Fourth of July celebration showed that there is confusion about the safe and legal ways to honor our Country, to the extent that we imperil ourselves in the name of celebration with misuse of fireworks.

Fireworks are illegal. Let us repeat: fireworks are illegal. The private detonation of these and rockets in the San Fernando Valley and throughout the City of Los Angeles has reached epidemic proportions. The result is that for weeks before and after the Fourth of July, as well as other major holidays, neighborhoods are shattered and the very air befouled from heavy smoke and deafening noise. Both people and pets are damaged, some permanently.

Our Neighborhood Council is taking the lead to ask for help.

We are asking that our own City Council Leaders (The Los Angeles City Council), Assembly District 39, Neighborhood Councils throughout Los Angeles and anyone else who can help us join forces so we may to stop or at least curtail the use of Illegal fireworks in our communities.

According to City Attorney Mike Feuer, "All fireworks are illegal in the City of Los Angeles. They can't be sold and they can't be purchased by individuals." Yet, even with this warning for this past Fourth, one eyewitness wrote:

"The sounds that echoed all over the San Fernando Valley, days leading up to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July were bad, but no one could have prepared us for what was coming at Dusk on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Sights of skyrockets, smoke, the sounds of rockets, bombs and what sounded like war guns were going off everywhere. The Elderly were huddled in their homes, pets had to be sedated, while others scared beyond disbelief this was occurring."

The LAPD reported that 911 was overloaded from people too frightened to leave their own front doors. Dogs who are normally in their yards bolted down city streets in sheer terror, some never to return. The elderly experienced heart attacks and strokes. The overloaded 911 system made it likely that some would simply die before rescue personnel could get to them. But children suffered too. Here in Los Angeles a 9-year-old girl lost her hand in an illegal fireworks blast.

This is no way to "celebrate" or honor our Country. This is a disgrace. It is a disgrace, too, that the sale of fireworks is legal in Los Angeles County, making it too easy get hold of them.

The problem is not unique to Los Angeles. Injuries from Illegal fireworks this past Independence Day, hospitalizations and serious injuries happened to police officers and civilians from all over the country. A Man in Nebraska's hand was blown off and hurled 90' away.

Legislation needs to be written. Stricter laws, and enforceable laws are necessary. Resources for Law Enforcement needs to be enhanced during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and New Year's Eve holidays, when Illegal firework sales and usage is escalated. We do not want to live through another holiday where we choke because of the smoke in the air, with explosions going off as if we were living in a war-torn country, living with the fear that comes with these traumas.

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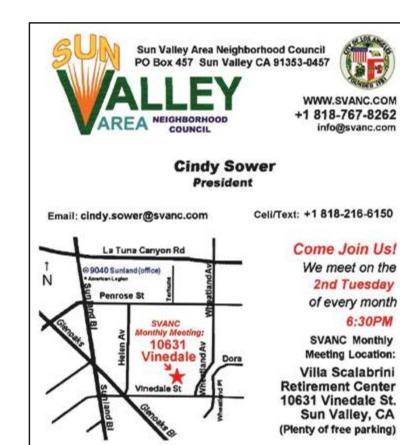
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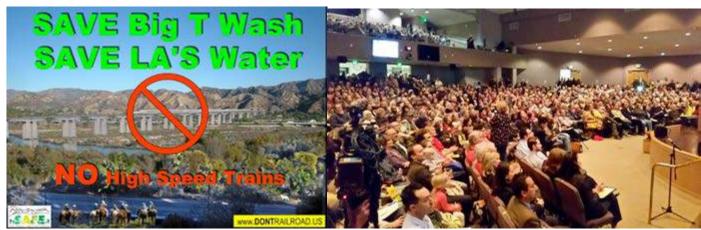
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## SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, January 18, 2018, 6:30 pm



2,300 Residents Attended First High Speed Train Meeting in January 2015

## THREE YEARS LATER: JOIN THE "UNITED FRONT" TO "ELIMINATE ABOVE GROUND HIGH SPEED TRAIN ROUTES IMMEDIATELY"

As we observe the 3-year anniversary of the proposed high speed train routes through the heart of the northeast San Fernando Valley, join the SAFE Coalition and concerned stakeholders to take action that will lead to the CHSRA Board of Directors eliminating these routes from further consideration.

#### WHO:

- Residents, businesses and leading community organizations such as Neighborhood Councils, Homeowner Associations, Chambers of Commerce, Churches, Schools and More
- All Elected Officials Representing the northeast San Fernando Valley are Invited:
  - o Congressmen Adam Schiff and Tony Cardenas
  - State Senators Bob Hertzberg and Anthony Portantino
  - o County Supervisors Kathryn Barger and Sheila Kuehl
  - Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti
  - o City Council President Herb Wesson, Jr.
  - o City Councilmembers Monica Rodriguez, Nury Martinez and Paul Krekorian
  - o Los Angeles Unified School District Board Member Kelly Gonez

WHAT: Every two years, CHSRA must submit an updated Business Plan to the legislature for approval. The 2018 Business Plan is being formulated NOW and NOW is the time for the northeast San Fernando Valley to come together and speak as a "United Front" comprised of residents, businesses, community leaders, community organizations and elected officials, and demand the Authority immediately remove above ground high speed train alternatives, located in our densely populated and sensitive environmental areas, from further consideration.

WHERE: All Nations Church, 10000 Foothill Blvd., Lake View Terrace, 91342.

**WHEN:** Thursday, January 18, 2018, 6:30 p.m.

**INFO:** Email SAFE Coalition at safe@dontrailroad.us. Visit website: www.dontrailroad.us





# Merry Christmas & Happy New Year



818-768-6499 7730 N. Hollywood Way Burbank, CA 91505 (Just off the Golden State (5) Fwy)