

By Nina Royal



photo by Heather Gibson

I asked Dale if he thinks there is anything in the future that the Equine Community can do to be more prepared. He responded "I thought I was prepared. I had sprinklers across the back of the barn. But, we had 65-70 miles an hour winds blowing hard and fast and flames were going underneath the roof into the barn which

I asked Dale if he thought that most ranchers have some type of evacuation plans. He replied, "From what I've heard about the number of horses that got hurt and or killed, I think most ranchers do not have either an evacuation plan, or if they do, not a good evacuation plan. I thought my plan was one of the best going because I was assured by the Fire Department that the fire would never come here. But, it's like an act of God. I mean, look at that wash and look at those mountains where it came from. We thought we were prepared. My wife said we were caught by our own arrogance thinking how prepared we were, with

(cont. on page 2)

It Does Not Guarantee Affordable Housing. It Could Lead to More Displacement & Loss of Rent Controlled Affordable Housing.

*By Larry Gross, Coalition for Economic Survival**

By imposing much higher density and taking over zoning from local governments, the bill could result in these communities losing protections that prevent economic pressures from driving people out of their homes and replacing single-family homes with luxury

The increase in the cost of land from new luxury units can increase rents that further displacement. Displacement can force residents out into areas further from their jobs and city centers, increasing commute times and greenhouse gas emissions. While infill development near transit is necessary, this must be done in ways that protect existing communities and discourage displacement. SB 827 makes no accommodation to protect disadvantaged residents.

No definition of what's comparable housing is or what it has to be.

Los Angeles has neither demolition protections for rent-controlled buildings nor an inclusionary housing ordinance. Thus, there are no guarantees that new housing built under SB 827 would even be affordable for most of the people of Los Angeles or California.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Mission Hills

The North East Valley is Devastated

By Betty Ley

Community Activist, Dianne Hand of Arleta, was finally defeated by Cancer and passed on while at Holy Cross Hospital in Mission Hills, on Friday, February 16, 2018. Diane was born September 18, 1944, in Hamilton, New Zealand. She is pre-deceased by her husband who passed many years ago.

Among her many activities, she was involved with L.A. City Fire Station 7 in Panorama City, since its' opening in 2015 and firefighters there called her "Mom." She also regularly helped out three needy families in her neighborhood.

She served on the Los Angeles Foothill Division Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB), until the Mission Division opened in 2009, where she continued to become a member on their CPAB and served on the Quality of Life committee. She also helped to make a difference by helping to improve North Hills Park, in North Hills.

She also was active with the "Arleta Looky Loos" Neighborhood Watch, the LAPD Mission Clergy Council, attended the San Fernando Valley Coalition on Gangs, volunteered with Arleta Annual National Night Out, and the LAPD Mission Division's Annual Officer Appreciation Day. Dianne helped with the Nature Parkway in Arleta, various community clean ups in several communities across the San Fernando Valley, plus, she would attend other LAPD Community Police Advisory Boards and Neighborhood Council meetings across the Valley. Diane was also very involved in community issues with Nury Martinez, Council District Six Representative and helped Monica Rodrigues, Council District Seven, with her election campaign.

RIP. Dianne, your dedication and love will be sorely missed throughout the North East Valley

Sylmar

Community Town Hall Meeting

Public Safety & Quality of Life Issues

Saturday, April 21, 2018 • 9:30 am - 12 noon
PUC Triumph Charter Academy
Dr. Jacqueline Elliot Performing Art Center
13361 Glenoaks Blvd., Sylmar, CA 91342
Public Safety Resources for Sylmar Crime, Street
Racing, Illegal Fireworks, Disaster/Emergency
Preparedness

Join us to discuss these issues so that we may work together to find solutions

Contact Sylmar Neighborhood Council Public Safety Chair, Diane Valencia at diane.valencia@sylmarNC.org | phone 818-833-8737 with any questions



LAPD Selects Mission College

By Carlos Lara

The Los Angeles Police Department has selected Los Angeles Mission College to be the home for the LAPD CAPS Program (Candidate Advancement Program) which will be held in their Health and Fitness Center.

The program will prepare candidates who are going through the department's selection process, by providing them with physical fitness preparation, as well as formal structure to better prepare them for the vigorous LAPD academy.

There are only three CAP's locations in the City of Los Angeles: Elysian Park, Westchester, and Los Angeles Mission College is now included.

The program is set to start Tuesday, April 3rd. Classes are scheduled for every Tuesday and Thursday; 6:30–9:00 pm. An official Launch/Expo will be held on Saturday, April 14 from 9:00 am–2:00 pm. This is a huge Win-Win for the North East San Fernando Valley" says Carlos Lara, Mission College's Program Assistant, "This program will prepare more individuals to become police officers, while also promoting education here at Los Angeles Mission College. If you'd like more information, please feel free to call me at 818- 799-0845."

In Memoriam Evie Calvin

We are saddened to hear that Evie Calvin passed away recently. Evie was a long time member of the American Legion Auxiliary at Post 377 in Tujunga and well known for her many years of volunteer service to our Veterans. Each year at the War Memorial at Sunland Park, Evie would recite a poem to honor all Veterans from all branches of service. Evie was the "Poppy Queen." During WWI the poppy flourished on the battlefields of Flanders Field among the shelled buildings and bomb-scarred landscape. Like the blood that was shed there, its brilliant red bloom became a sign of hope and renewal. Evie's service would remind us that millions sacrificed their lives and health to keep our nation free. Evie would lead the American Legion Auxiliary Memorial Poppy contributions each year. We will miss Evie's love and spirit for our Veterans. Services were held at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church on March 17.

Sunland-Tujunga

Terrance Gomes Honored

Terrance Gomes of Sunland-Tujunga was honored by the Los Angeles City Fire Department with a Certificate of Appreciation for his volunteer service as a CERT Coordinator. He worked non-stop during the Tuna Canyon and Creek Fires in the North Valley where ever needed. Gomes, no stranger to being an activist, serves as President of Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition and he served as Co-Chair of the Budget Advocates.



Terrence Gomes with Captains Winn and Ignatczyk, LAFD and Elsa Rodarte Administration Assistant LAFD.

Welcome Dean Madelline Hernandez

College President, Dr. Monty Perez, has appointed Madelline Hernandez to be the permanent full time Dean of its' Mission College Satellite, located in Sunland-Tujunga, which serves communities in the North East Valley.

Dean Hernandez is a graduate of California State University Northridge with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and a Master's Degree in Educational Psychology and Counseling.

While in graduate school and upon graduation, Ms. Hernandez worked for a non-profit organization, instituting bilingual counseling, and the establishment of their Bilingual Program. While with the non-profit, as Assistant Director, she worked with local community businesses and agencies to initiate and oversee the opening of an additional site in the Northeast.

She worked as a faculty member in Counseling for over 13 years, serving as the Articulation Officer for Mission College and was actively involved with curriculum and program development. As a faculty member, she has co-chaired committees, served as Transfer Center Coordinator, Instructor for Counseling classes, the Faculty Accreditation Steering Committee Co-Chair. and Academic Senate Vice-President.

Dean Hernandez has supported the College as a Dean since 2014, overseeing Curriculum and Academic Departments, while working with various programs and services, she has now been selected to be the Administrator assigned to support the Sunland-Tujunga Satellite.

Dean Hernandez and staff member Rosalie Torres, who is also on site permanently, were introduced to the Mission College Satellite Committee at a meeting early this month, headed by Daniel Villanueva, Vice President of Administrative Services. Villanueva said he and Dr. Perez are impressed by the attendance at the Satellite and they have plans in the works to hopefully move to the other side of the complex, add an additional class room, meeting room, as well as two offices.

Hernandez gave the committee a brief presentation on how she plans to do intense outreach throughout the communities in order to populate the classes. Also, she will be doing a study on how to improve education to the area. She is also encouraging community members to be become involved in the decision-making process regarding curriculum that will benefit the surrounding communities. English as a Second Language and Computer classes have been highly successful.



Dean Madelline Hernandez

Gibson Ranch (cont. from page 1)

the sprinklers and everything going on, but we still got hit. So, I think sometimes we just need to be ready for acts of God."

I asked Dale, do you think that maybe having something similar to the CERT training programs for earthquake preparedness for ranchers would be a help? Maybe have workers who are applying for jobs have some kind of a certification. Dale said, "I think all training is a help and a step in the right direction. At our Equine Advisory Committee meeting, we actually have the county and the city folks attend. This is not just a city issue, but county and state as well. We want to sit down with them to make sure that we're locked in with them on their plans. I'd like to talk to the LAPD and the Fire Department because a lot of streets were blocked off to those of us who were evacuating horses. But, we need to raise awareness, and like you said, every ranch should have an evacuation plan and sometimes there really are no workers at a ranch and the gates are locked. It is a matter of training and passing the information on to the other ranchers. You know, anybody in my place is authorized to act to save my place which is also my business. When it comes to safety, they are absolutely authorized to act.

An act of God is what nobody ever really thought we would have. I also know that San Diego had many more horses die, so it isn't just a problem here. It's probably a problem across a state as big as California, which is number two with the amount of horses in the United States. We also spend the most money. Texas has the most horses and a few years ago they had a lot of fires that caused them to lose a lot of horses as well.

So yes, everyone needs to be aware and everyone needs to be prepared. I want to say thank you to our community. We had over 120 people here helping us. We are getting everything cleaned up and ready to start rebuilding. I promise we will be back better than ever!



You Should Know...

Do you need to renew your Passport? If you do, Congressman Adam Schiff has a message for you. “If you need to renew your passport, make sure you have paid your back taxes. Last month, the IRS began to implement provisions of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, requiring the IRS to notify the State Department of taxpayers owing a seriously delinquent tax debt. The FAST Act also requires the State Department to deny a passport application or deny renewal of a passport for seriously delinquent taxpayers. In some cases, the State Department may revoke a passport.”

Register for the Run to Remember to honor LA's First Responders who have made the ultimate sacrifice by giving their lives in the line of duty and a fund raiser to help the families they’ve left behind. Mark your calendar for **Sunday, April 8**, beginning at 7:00 am at The Grove, 100 Grove Drive in Los Angeles.

Help fight Childhood Cancer. The annual LADD/LAPD St. Baldrick’s Fundraiser where they shave

their heads in order to raise awareness and funds for childhood cancer research is being held at **LAFD Fire Station 89, 7063 Laurel Canyon Blvd. No. Hollywood.** Mark your calendar for **Saturday, March 24th** 7 am – 1:30 pm. It’s a family event with police and fire apparatus displays, free breakfast, magicians, caricatures, face painters and much more. Register and donate at <https://www.stbaldricks.org/events/lafdlapd>

Help City Select New LAPD Chief...Councilmember Mitch Englander, Chair of the City’s Public Safety Committee, announced that the city is conducting an open and collaborative search process for a new Chief who will be replacing retiring Chief Beck this June. They have solicited the input of Councilmembers and the public through town halls and online survey. You have an opportunity to say what you priorities in a Police Chief are. Let your voice be heard and complete the survey on - City of Los Angeles Survey - Survey Monkey - LACOP Survey.

The California High-Speed Rail Authority has released their 2018 Draft Business Plan and the 60-day public comment period is underway. S.A.F.E. (Save Angeles Forest for Everyone) is requesting all to submit official comment to not support approval of the Business Plan unless routes E1 and E2 in the Burbank to Palmdale project section are removed permanently from consideration. Send comment letters to California High Speed Rail Authority, 770 L Street, Suite 620, Sacramento, CA 95814 or online comment form through the Draft 2018 Business Plan website at: http://hsr.ca.gov/About/Business_Plans/Draft_2018_Business_Plan_Comments.htm By email at: 2018businessplancomments@hsr.ca.gov

Also, provide public comment at a Board of Directors Meeting being held on March 20 (Sacramento) and April 17 (Los Angeles).

Polling Place Information for Special Election Assembly 39 can be found at www.lavote.net/home/voting-elections/current-elections

Assistance for Victims of California Wildfires Now Available



Congressman
Adam Schiff
28th Congressional District

FEMA recently announced that individual assistance is now available for residents in Los Angeles County who were affected by the wildfires in December and the mudslides in January. This is a most welcome step by the Administration. In addition, loans are available for businesses and homeowners through the Small Business Administration.

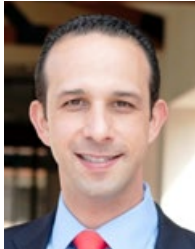
Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC) can also provide detailed information about FEMA resources and can assist with applications for disaster assistance. To locate a Disaster Recovery Center in your area text DRC and a zip code to 43362 (4FEMA).

Applications for FEMA (including SBA) assistance are available online at: DisasterAssistance.gov, by phone at 800-621-3362, or (TTY) 800-462-7585. Applicants who use 711 or Video Relay Service may call 800-621-3362. You will need the following information to apply for assistance:

- Social Security number
- Address of the damaged primary residence
- Description of the damage
- Information about insurance coverage
- A current contact telephone number
- An address where they can receive mail
- Bank account and routing numbers for direct deposit of funds

I encourage residents who are in need of more information and assistance with these agencies, to reach out to my district office staff at (818) 450-2900 or (323) 315-5555.

City Council to Review ReCycLA Trash Franchise



Mitchell Englander
Council Representative
District 12

I introduced legislation on February 13, 2018 to establish a process for the City to exit the troubled Exclusive Waste Franchise otherwise known as RecycLA. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Paul Krekorian.

“RecycLA is failing to deliver the basic city service of reliable trash pickup,” said Councilmember Mitchell Englander. “The waste haulers have had more than enough opportunity to work out the difficulties of the transition yet our constituents remain overcharged and underserved. There comes a time when we must recognize that the fault lies not with the service providers but with the program itself. Rather than persist in error, it’s time for the City to clean up this mess.”

“From the mountain of complaints and trash piling up across the city, it has become all too clear that the waste haulers are not holding up their end of the bargain with the city,” said Councilmember Paul Krekorian, chair of the Budget and Finance Committee. “We expect a higher level of performance from them across the board. This motion today puts the haulers on notice that we’re ready to do whatever it takes to hold them accountable and ensure a higher level of service for customers.”

RecycLA was purportedly established in order to move towards the City’s Zero Waste Goals, improve air quality, and reduce traffic congestion. However, the program’s implementation has brought disastrous challenges and shortcomings.

In the six months since the initial rollout, City Council offices have been inundated with phone calls and complaints from property managers, business owners, and residents all with concerns regarding the failures of the RecycLA program. Common complaints include confusion and frustration regarding new fees, over-charging and inaccurate billing, frequent and repeated missed pickups, and poor customer service from waste haulers. Missed collections have led to substantial health risks and citations from the LA County Department of Health. Moreover, many residents have complained of their rates skyrocketing up to 400% more than previous rates. There are currently 28,000 service complaints. For perspective, there are 80,000 accounts citywide.

The motion filed (17-0878-S4) instructs the City Attorney to report back to Council regarding the actions necessary to exit the Exclusive Waste Franchise.

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Special Recognition to:
David Barron, Mitchell Englander, Erin Farrell, Larry Gross, Elektra Kruger, Betty Ley, Nikki Pelley, Adam Schiff, John Sherman, Cindy Sower, Jill Stewart, Marc Stirdivant, Trevor Richmond, Ileana Wachtel

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THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES IN MOTION

By Elektra Kruger

City Council Meeting held in the evening?

As we all know, one of the primary barriers to large-scale community participation in public meetings is that they are always held during day-time hours, hours when the majority of the city’s stakeholders are at work.

In mid-January 2018, Councilmember David Ryu presented a Motion to City Council suggesting that, just as the City Council had improved the ability for San Fernando Valley constituents to attend and testify at Council meetings by having occasional Council meetings held at Van Nuys City Hall, they might similarly improve the ability for Stakeholders to attend Council/Commission meetings if they were occasionally held after 5pm. The Councilmember asked the City Council to consider instructing the City’s Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) to report on the feasibility of amending Council Rule 18, to grant the authority to schedule one or more Council meetings each month at 5pm instead of the regular 10am time slot. Additionally, report on the costs and feasibility of having Commission and Committee meetings held in the evening, as needed to allow for greater public participation.

The Motion was referred to the City Council’s Rules Committee. A number of Stakeholders submitted comments saying how important it is to make the meetings accessible to as many citizens as possible so that the Council and Commissions, etc. could hear from many citizens presenting a wide a range of views on issues at hand. Also, how scheduling these meetings only during day-time, does a disservice to many working Angelenos who should be able to voice their concerns at a public meeting venue. Plus, how holding City meetings at a time Stakeholders are unable to attend is tantamount to a state of voter suppression.

Directional Gunshot Triangulation System

Many cities throughout the Nation have begun utilizing a gunshot detection technology that notifies law enforcement when and where gunshots are occurring. The technology consists of an array of microphones or sensors located on utility poles or similar structures with a processing unit that has the ability to triangulate gunfire to a specific location. This tool would allow for law enforcement to far more efficiently and effectively respond to “shots fired” events providing the opportunity for greater arrest rates, improvement in gathering evidence and hopefully many more witnesses.

In late January 2018, Councilmember Mitch Englander submitted a Motion to City Council to determine if such a gunshot detection system would be an appropriate tool to add to the City of Los Angeles’ law enforcement toolbox by having the Council instruct the Los Angeles Police Department with input from the Information Technology Agency to prepare and present a report to the Council’s Public Safety Committee detailing what gunshot technology systems exist, how effective the LAPD believes such technology may be and reviewing what detection systems other municipalities or law enforcement agencies may be using. The Motion was referred to the City Council’s Public Safety Committee for their review and recommendations.

Improved Equine Evacuation Policies

On December 5, 2017, the Creek Fire broke out near Sylmar rapidly burning over 15,000 acres, due to the tinder dry conditions topped by the intensely violent Santana Winds. The foothills of the NE San Fernando Valley are home to a large equine population. Communication, coordination and cooperation between the equestrian community and the First Responders did not exactly pass muster when it came to evacuating horses from the fire’s path. Recognizing the need for greater cooperation between First Responders and the equestrian community during evacuation periods, in mid-December 2017, Councilmember Monica Rodriguez submitted a Motion to City Council asking that they instruct the Animal Services, and Fire and Police Departments to prepare

a report addressing the short-comings of evacuation strategies employed during the recent fires and their commitment to equine evacuations. Also, to propose strategies to increase cooperation between the City and the equestrian community during such evacuations. The Motion recommended that this report look at the feasibility of enabling individuals to cross into evacuation zones when it is safe to do so.

The Motion was referred to the City Council’s Animal Welfare Committee for their review and recommendations. In mid-January 2018, two representatives from the Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee testified in support of the Motion with one private citizen speaking in opposition during a meeting of the City Council’s Animal Welfare Committee. The Motion was amended in Committee to include the Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee in any discussions or conversations of the working group preparing the report.

The Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council, in a Community Impact Statement, emphasized the critical need for government agencies to work together with the equestrian community to create plans to smoothly and quickly evacuate horses during emergencies. Existing evacuation strategies have proven to be woefully inadequate, leaving the equestrian community totally frustrated by First Responders who have no cooperative plan to facilitate these equine evacuations, something that is urgently needed. The Motion to create the working group to prepare a report was approved unanimously by City Council at their January 26 2018 hearing.

Re-Instate Local Controls on CUB Permits

In 2012, the City began prohibiting Zoning Administrators from imposing alcohol-specific conditions of approval on the sale and service of alcohol on Conditional Use Beverage (CUB) permits in the City of Los Angeles—conditions such as restricting the types of alcohol sold, hours of operation, or sale of single can alcoholic beverages.

It was the opinion of Councilmember Paul Koretz that it should be a community’s right to exert some level of control over the sale and service of alcohol in their communities and submitted a Motion to City Council asking that this right be re-instated as a means of protecting public health, safety, and quality of life for Los Angeles neighborhoods.

The Cesar E. Chavez Commemorative Committee of the San Fernando Valley brings to our attention that the San Fernando Valley is a vibrant community experiencing an increase in businesses engaging in alcohol sales, especially restaurants. Without the ability to negotiate alcohol-related conditions, residents and community groups, as well as law enforcement, has limited ability to mitigate land-use impacts that stem from the sale and service of alcohol.

Applying alcohol-specific conditions to local CUB permits is a clear means of protecting communities while still preserving the community’s commercial base by empowering Community members and business owners can work together to negotiate reasonable guidelines surrounding the dispensation of alcohol that still optimizes a neighborhood’s “livability.”

The North Area Neighborhood Development Council threw its support behind the Motion, stating that without the ability to negotiate alcohol-related conditions and guidelines, residents and community groups would have limited ability to mitigate any problems that may stem from the sale or service of alcohol, by arbitrating reasonable operating standards for those businesses that would optimize neighborhoods “livability.”

Pueblo Y Salud, Inc. has worked diligently attempting to lower the over-proliferation of liquor outlets especially in the Pacoima area. Knowing that that they cannot always outright stop a new liquor outlet from coming into a neighborhood, the community needs to at least be able to put conditions on the permit that residents deem necessary before granting that permit.

Alcohol Justice, a group that has worked to ban alcohol advertising on public property in the City of Los Angeles added their support to the Motion to re-instate conditions of approval on CUB permits.

The Los Angeles Drug and Alcohol Policy Alliance, a coalition of almost 25 organizations, gave their sup-

port to the Motion with the realization that placement of conditions on alcohol licenses is key to holding retailers accountable to safe operating standards that fit in with the neighborhoods in which they are located. They recognize that diversity is one of the hallmarks of Los Angeles with no two neighborhoods or locations being exactly alike and that there needs to be a freedom for a community to match conditions of approval for the sale of alcohol to fit in with their specific neighborhood.

As of 2-1-2018, the Motion is still in the lap of the City Council’s Planning and Land-Use Management Committee.

Straws-On-Request

Straws-on-Request: Americans use and almost immediately discard up to half a billion plastic beverage straws daily. They either end up in our landfills, end up as trash littering our streets and parks, get washed via storm drains into local waterbodies, or the ocean where they may be consumed by marine life impacting their health. Some Cities such as Davis and San Luis Obispo have addressed this issue by implementing “Straws-on-Request” Ordinances in which restaurants would not provide straws to their customers unless specifically requested to do so. Berkeley and several coastal cities are also considering initiating similar Ordinances. Los Angeles is frequently on the forefront when it comes to environmental policies and initiatives. For example, Los Angeles played a significant role in the regulation and use of plastic bags. Recognizing that history, Councilmembers Mitch O’Farrell and Nury Martinez co-presented a Motion to City Council asking that they instruct the Bureau of Sanitation to prepare and present a report on the feasibility of implementing a Straws-on-Request Ordinance in Los Angeles and to recommend alternatives to the use of plastic beverage straws, such as straws made of biodegradable materials and/or re-usable straws. The Motion was referred to the City Council’s Environmental Justice Committee for their Review and Recommendations. The Del Rey Neighborhood Council expressed its concerns about the amount of debris, including plastic straws, that consistently appears in the Ballona Creek and supported the proposed “Straws-on-Request” Ordinance as part of the City’s continued commitment to improving environmental sustainability

Elektra Kruger serves on the Land-Use Committees of both the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council and Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council



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YourLA2040: L.A.’s Urban Tree Canopy

How is the City Addressing L.A.’s Tree Canopy Crisis?

By Jill Stewart and Ileana Wachtel, Fall 2017

Part 2 of 3

This year, the Department of Planning and the Mayor’s Office have held many closed-door “Work Group” and “Task Force” meetings to hammer out the key concepts and Elements for the comprehensive General Plan Update. A small number of members of the public have been invited to weigh in at these private meetings.

A printed outline resulting from these General Plan envisioning sessions, titled “Proposed Elements, Chapters and Topics,” was leaked in August by city employees who are concerned that non-transparent meetings are a poor beginning to the shaping of major decisions that affect the long-term health of Los Angeles and its residents.

These meetings, save one, ignored State Guidelines that place communities and the public at the forefront of the earliest stages of the General Plan’s envisioning and shaping process.

The leaked “Proposed Elements, Chapters and Topics” was dated July 2017 and stamped “Not for public review.” In it, the Urban Forest concept is relegated to a General Plan chapter, not an Element. The issue of Open Space is granted Element-level concern in the outline — but even there, the city proposes to include as “Open Space” many forms of developed city land such as city stairways, sidewalks, streets and other paved-over areas — a mission-creep definition of Open Space that is prohibited by California statute.

Residents who support transparent government are worried about the closed proceedings that led to these decisions, and that ignored the State Guidelines that set in place a full public role from the start.

Thus far, about 30 Neighborhood Councils from the Westside, South L.A., Valley, Eastside and central city have sent letters urging Mayor Garcetti, Chief Planner Bertoni and City Council members Bonin, Cedillo, Krekorian, Ryu, Koretz and O’Farrell to hold immediate, inclusive, give-and-take public discussions with residents. The L.A. Tenants Union and the Hillside Federation also sent letters urging full, immediate public participation.

In response, the Los Angeles Department of Planning in June opened a single meeting to the public — the final “Open Space Work Group” at City Hall. A standing-room-only crowd of Angelenos concerned about open space attended. Then, the door shut again. Since early June, only select members of the public have been invited to envision and hammer out the General Plan Element names, Element chapters, and the overall General Plan outline.

In a city that since 1970 has let most Elements of its General Plan fall into decay, an early and very public exchange that puts the vision of the community and residents first is required.

A General Plan must be based on serious public engagement, not passive online surveys or City Hall presentations — such as the four “Community Conversations” set for October at which the City Planning Department plans to unveil its renamed and re-envisioned Elements and chapters — all of it arrived at behind closed doors, and without notice to the public.

Under California law, cities must regularly update their General Plan. They can add new Elements that align with residents’ needs. San Diego, for example, added a Historic Preservation Element to its General Plan Update — an idea that would benefit Los Angeles as well. Remember, the State Guidelines make clear that planners and leaders must be guided by community desires from the very beginning: “A General Plan should start with a community’s vision, but community engagement should continue throughout the process, from visioning to adoption and implementation, depending on the scope and extent of the project.”

Why shouldn’t L.A. create an Urban Forestry Element? The answer, as L.A. attempts to address urban forest sustainability, seems to be, “We have a handle on this.”

How Did Los Angeles Fall Behind?

Eleven years ago, with many cities awakening to the importance of the urban tree canopy, Mayor Antonio



Villaraigosa sought to make L.A. a sustainability leader via his Million Trees Initiative, saying, “It’s about taking responsibility.” In the end, his administration planted an estimated 407,000 trees. But the program earned broad criticism when City Hall siphoned Million Trees money from highly effective planting programs operated by groups such as North East Trees, and the Million Trees Initiative earned further criticism when many trees died due to poor City Hall tree management that failed to assure their survival.

Los Angeles took another hit with the fall of the Urban Forestry Division in City Hall’s political hierarchy, which led to Urban Forestry’s cultural shift from tree expansion to tree-trimming. According to one City of Los Angeles tree advisor, once Urban Forestry was placed in a position beneath the Bureau of Street Services, it lost its “high profile to qualify for a more substantial budget.” Los Angeles has struggled with old-school practices that world-class arborists have advised L.A. to halt, including destructive guesswork in choosing and severely over-pruning L.A.’s public trees.

These practices by the city, such as planting magnolias that were doomed to die, killed off large numbers of L.A. street and parkway trees. Nevertheless, scientists E. Gregory McPherson and Alissa Kendall reported in *The International Journal of Life Cycle Assessment* their 2014 study showing that 91,000 trees planted during the flawed Million Trees effort will still provide major environmental cleansing for the city and its residents.

Beyond budget cuts and poor strategic planning, the pre-Recession housing boom helped wipe out even more of the Los Angeles tree canopy. A sobering new study of single-family neighborhoods by the USC Spatial Sciences Institute shows that trees and other greenery were decimated in L.A. between 2000 and 2009, well before the five-year drought that began in 2012.

Trees and greenery were reduced between 14 and 55 percent in Los Angeles County single-family neighborhoods between 2000 and 2009, with the city of Los Angeles faring particularly poorly, according to Spatial Sciences Institute faculty members Su Jin Lee, Travis Longcore, and John P. Wilson, with Catherine Rich of The Urban Wildlands Group.

Even so, Los Angeles City Hall allowed the tree canopy to suffer worse neglect in poor and working-class areas than in wealthier ones. As KCET showed, in an interactive map based on U.S. Forest Service data, the general rule is that the poorer the Los Angeles City Council District, the greater its lack of shade trees. Recently, KCET’s drone survey showed Hancock Park with a 37 percent urban forest cover — while South L.A. has only 7 percent.

When the Great Recession hit L.A. hard in 2009, budget cuts dealt another blow to the Million Trees effort, and about 100 employees were lost from the Bureau of Street Services, which in turn reduced L.A.’s tree management efforts.

Elected in 2013, Mayor Garcetti ended the Million Trees program, replacing it with the non-profit “City Plants” — an effort to achieve less tree die-off, while expanding the urban forest. But L.A.’s tree canopy has fared little better, and it is not clear if the current approach substantially moves L.A. beyond the Million Trees experience. As City Plant’s Elizabeth Skrzat explained to the Community Forest Advisory Committee (CFAC) meeting in October 2017, City Plants, with its limited budget, does not generally track the trees it gives out beyond a two-year check, thus it can’t verify if the trees are watered or how many live or die (the estimate cited is that up to 20% of these trees die).

As L.A.’s building boom roared back in 2013, it set off a new round of urban forest destruction created by development: New buildings allowed nearly to the sidewalk, rezoning of open space, scorched-earth demolitions, all took a toll on the urban forest of privately owned trees, estimated at more than 2 million.

By 2014, with the drought wearing on, Los Angeles leaders began encouraging residents to tear out their lawns—and stop watering trees. An anti-drought rebate embraced by Garcetti and the City Council burned through millions of dollars in anti-drought funds, leaving some parts of L.A. with gravel yards that one drought-gardening expert called “inner-city Phoenix.” (LA Weekly: Turf Terminators Has Gotten Rich Turning Yards into Gravel.)

Adding to this picture, thousands of trees died, exacerbated by non-native insects and disease that preyed on weakened or water-hungry trees. The Los Angeles Bureau of Street Services estimates there are now 7,000 dead or dying trees in Los Angeles city parkways alone.

Then, in 2015, the city settled a record-breaking \$1.4 billion class-action lawsuit, filed on behalf of the city’s disabled, for violating the Americans with Disabilities Act. The suit was aimed at the city’s estimated 4,000 miles of broken, uneven sidewalks that presented obstacles for wheelchairs and other disabled access, often caused by the roots of the 700,000 city street trees and parkway trees.

Part 1 was in the December 2017 issue of NVR Coalition to Preserve LA
Part 3 will be in the next issue of NVR

Email: 2preservela@gmail.com
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THIS 'N THAT

A Soothing Solution for Pain Without Meds...and a More Fulfilled Life?

Dr. John C. Lilly designed the “Isolation float tank” in 1954 while under contract to the United States Navy to define the effects of isolation. The float tank has proven to be among the most effective healing tools available today. The effects and benefits of both floating and isolation have been well researched and documented by Dr. Lilly, Ohio State University, and the Swedish medical community, among others. Lilly created the protocol for floating through guidance by a number of psychologists and psychiatrists. Lilly referred to these sessions as guided floats and later he used self-guidance. Today we have the benefit of scientific research and the work of many respected institutions to navigate us through floating and to gain the many benefits floatation offers.

Guided Floating: Clients utilize a trained guide to achieve specific goals through floatation. Specific goals are determined by the floater and his or her guide; a specific plan is developed to attain these goals. This requires a commitment to both the guide and to floating.

Self-guided Floating: For relaxation, one simply relaxes into the tank, clears the mind and relaxation occurs. Self-guided floating can include meditation, learning programs, mantras intentions, etc.

Whether **Guided, or Self-guided**, the individual benefits from the body being completely relaxed. While floating, the mind readily reaches theta and delta brainwave states. These states are associated with deep relaxation, reparative sleep, healing, and super speed learning. The mind becomes highly suggestible and any action taken during these states will enter into the sub-conscious. Floatation therapy may be used to complement other mind and body work and healing methods, or as a standalone practice. Many use the extended theta state as a tool for enhanced creativity, problem solving, or super learning. The more often the tank is used the longer the theta period becomes. While floating there is a considerable reduction in brainwave activity and the floater begins to generate theta brain waves. The silence and darkness during floating also induces a balance between the left and right brain. There is a shift from the normally

Nikki’s Neighborhood



By Nikki Pelley

Our Hearts go out to all those who have lost so much,,,everything for some people...in the devastating fires. The community rallied around to help in many ways that included sacrificing time and energy, many donated and others prayed. This is a good time for all of us to take stock in where we keep our valuables.

For homeowners, all papers concerning the purchase of your home need to be presented for insurance purposes as well as tax purposes. Even without a catastrophe such as a fire, papers can get tossed out or lost. Years go by and the Real Estate firm that you bought through or the lending

dominant left side of the brain (logical, analytical, and rational) to the right side (intuition, mental clarity and creativity.)

Floatation sessions are most commonly 60 or 90 minutes but may be longer. As a result of Ohio State University’s research studies, floating was shown to improve creativity in Jazz musicians, accuracy in rifle shooting, focus before academic examinations and stress relief, among other creative endeavors and anxiety related conditions. Today many athletes, television personalities, and sports figures float for therapeutic and cognitive results. Many use the extended theta state as a tool for enhanced creativity, problem solving, or for super learning. The more often the tank is used the longer the theta period becomes and greater benefit is developed.

institution from may not have the files. You will need them when you sell your home. It is important to scan them into your computer and save on a jump file, SD card, or in the cloud. You can email them to your spouse or relative and have a file in space that you can retrieve. Of course, you want to have a hard copy if possible and in a portable file easy to access should you have to evacuate or handy when you move.

Family photos and home movies are also big on the “can’t live without” list. Make a plan to get out the photo albums and scan those loose photos, as well. Photos that show your interior home will also be good should you need to make an insurance claim. Hopefully, this process will inspire you to do the things you had been planning on and reflect on all the

Soothing Solutions is proud to offer Guided Float Sessions by Allen Montalbano. Allen has spent many years training with guidance with the preeminent Float Master and Life Coach, John Lademan, who has been a Dr. Lilly associate since the beginning stages of floatation research. Allen has extensive float experience and is uniquely qualified to offer exclusive float guidance to clients of soothing solutions. Contact soothing solutions to book your Guided—or Self-Guided—float sessions.

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Website: SoothingSolutionsFloats.com
Email: Peter@SoothingSolutionsFloats.com

Soothing Solutions Now Offers Exclusive Guided Floats With Float Master Allen Montalbano

Conditions Known to be Improved *

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Cognitive Functions Known to be Improved *

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- Sports Performance
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Ask about Military Discounts and Payment options

Contact Soothing Solutions to Book Guided Floats or for Details

SoothingSolutionsFloats.com Allen@SoothingSolutionsFloats.com

**As documented by Dr. John C. Lilly and Ohio State University*

Is This What the End of a Vibrant Life Should Look Like?

By Erin Farrell

The good news: If you’re reading this, then you’re alive! Congratulations and you really should celebrate – today and every day. The bad news: You are really going



to die. I know. It’s not something any of us want to spend a whole lot of time thinking about but it’s a fact and one we will face. Here’s another fun fact: Seventy percent of Americans die in a long-term care or hospital setting. Although today’s nursing homes, assisted living and skilled nursing facilities (for the purpose of this article, we’ll lump them together as “SNF’s) are getting better, many of them are what we all envision when we think about a nursing home: Grim, sad, lonely places – and the smell... not pleasant. Many of the residents are immobile, confined to a bed in a three-bed room with dingy walls and one TV blaring loudly. A large percentage of residents experience declined mental ability and 65% of us who are admitted to an SNF die within the first year.

Now, now...No wrist-slitting. Take a sip of that coffee. There’s hope! SNF’s are generally staffed with smart, caring people and the quality of life in an SNF has truly improved over the last 10 years. If we have to die - and we do - at least we know that the nurses and caregivers assigned to us do have our best care

in mind. Also, can’t we do something to make these facilities better?

I often wonder how we allow ourselves to enter our end-of-life stage in these types of facilities. Knowing the conditions of these institutions - what does that tell us about our own self-worth, when we resign ourselves to this fate? What does it teach our children? Does our quality of life become less important when we are no longer able to care for ourselves? Are we no longer valued at that stage of our lives? Many of us complain about our youth-obsessed society, but are we subconsciously contributing to those ideals?

I know we’re busy. Often too busy with the struggle of getting through the day/month/years – but perhaps we should take some time to think about the facilities where we, our loved ones and friends, will likely go to meet our deaths. What if we can make it better... for everyone? We should, and I believe that we can. We all deserve better. Let me know what you think.

Editor’s Note: Erin Farrell is an Administrator in the Assisted Living field and publishes articles under “Talk to History” She can be reached at: erin@talktohistory.org



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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.

Wednesday, March 21
LAPD-CPAB
Mission Division
11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH
6:30 pm

**State Assembly District 39
Candidate Forum**
Saticoy Elementary School
Main Auditorium
7850 Ethel Ave.
Moderated by League of
Women Voters
Hosted by Neighborhood
Councils
6:30-9 pm
RSVP: <http://bit.ly/ca39forum>

Pacoima NC
Gen. Meeting
Pacoima Cmty Center
11243 Glenoaks Blvd., Pac
6:30 pm

**Northridge East NC Board
Meet**
Northridge Woman’s Club
18401 Lassen St.

North Hills West NC
New Horizons
15725 Parthenia St., NH
7:00 pm

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

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

Thursday, March 22
Panorama City NC
Gen. Meeting
Mission Com. Hospital
14960 Roscoe, PC
6:30 pm

Northridge NC Board Meet
Nrthrdge Middle School
17960 Chase St, Nrthrdge
7:00 pm

Sylmar NC
Board Meeting
Osceola St Elementary Sch
14940 Osceola Sylmar
6:30pm

Saturday, March 24
**Community Safety
Conference**
At USC Galen Center
3400 S. Figueroa St.
LA 90089
Info: darias@usc.edu
9am-2:30pm

**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

**Pacoima
Neighborhood
Pride Day**
8am–12noon
888-895-2647

Sunday, March 25
Bolton Hall Museum
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00–4:00 pm
818-352-342

Monday, March 26
PCNC Land Use
Mission Comm. Hospital
14860 Roscoe Blvd., PC
6:30 pm 818-894-7841

Tuesday, March 27
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
1:00–4:00 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, March 29
**Aliso Canyon Health Impact
Town Hall**
Northridge Recreation Ctr
1830 Lemarsh St.,
Northridge
Dr. Jeffrey Nordella to pres-
ent study on carcinogens
6:30-9pm

EmpowerLA Awards
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N. Spring St., LA
6-9pm

Friday, March 30
PASSOVER begins

March 30-31-April 1
SPRING CARNIVAL
Hansen Dam Rec Center
11798 Foothill Blv. Sylmar
Info: stchamber.com

Sunday, April 1
HAPPY EASTER

Monday, April 2
STNC Land Use Cmte
7747 Foothill Blvd, S-T
7.00 pm
North Hills East NC
Gen. Board Meet
Penny Lane Rainbow Rm
15314 Rayen St. No. Hills
6:30pm

Tuesday, April 3
ELECTION DAY
Polls open 7am–8pm

LAPD/Comm. Coffee
Big Jim’s Restaurant
Laurel Cyn & Sheldon, SV
8:00 – 9:00 am

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

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

MHNC General Meet.
LAPD Mission Station
11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH
LAPD Community Coffee
818-902-2361 for time & info

**Board of Neighborhood
Commissioners BONC**
Wilmington
Info: empwerla.org
6:00 pm

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

**SVANC Executive & Finance
Meet.**
SVANC Office
9040 Sunland Blvd. SV
6:30 pm

Wednesday, April 4
**STNC Outreach, Budget, EC
Committee**
NV City Hall
7727 Foothill Blvd., S-T
6pm

FTDNC Outreach Cmte
9747 Wheatland Ave., SH
7:00 pm

NHENC Gen. Meet
Penny Lane Rainbow Rm
15314 Rayen, North Hills
6:30 pm

Saturday, April 7
LADWP MOU Comm.
DWP Building
111 N. Hope St. LA
8:45 am

LANCC Meet.
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

Sunday, April 8
Bolton Hall Museum
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm-4:00 pm
818-352-3420

Tuesday, April 10
Bolton Hall Museum
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm-4:00 pm
818-352-3420

**SNC Outreach & Public
Safety**
Sylmar Park
13109 Bordon
Women Empowering S-T
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill Blvd. S-T.
6:30 pm

SVANC Board Meet
Villa Scalabrini Ret. Ctr
10631 Vinedale St. SV
6:30 pm

Wednesday, April 11
STNC Board Meeting
North Valley City Hall
7747 Foothill Blvd. S-T
6:30 pm

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

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

NoHo Neighborhood Watch
Pentecostal Church
6800 Radford St., No Ho
6:30 pm

**Pan. City Neighborhood
Watch**
9261 Wakefield, PC
6:30 – 7:30 pm
All Northridge NC’s
Vision Committee Meet.
CD 12 Office
9207 Oakdale Ave. Chats.
2:00 pm

Thursday, April 12
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

Kiwanis Meet.- Northridge
Rosie’s BB
8930 Corbin Ave. Northr’ge
12:00 pm

Active Shooter/Terrorism
Preparedness Training
SFV Japanese American
Cmty Ctr
12953 Branford St. Pacoima
Limited Seating
6-8pm
RSVP: ptabbi@gmail.com

GHSNC Board Meet.
10535 Zelzah Ave. GH
6:30 – 8:30 pm

FTDNC Equestrian Mtg
9747 Wheatland, SH
7:30 pm

LAPD Foothill Div. CPAB
Japanese Amer. Comm. Ctr
12953 Branford, Pac
6:00 pm 818-756-8866

Valley Alliance of NC’s
Sherman Oaks Hosp.
4929 Van Nuys, Sherm. Oaks
6:30 pm

SNC Public Safety Comm
13521 Hubbard St., Syl
6:30 pm

Friday, April 13
**GHNNC Policy & Rules
Comm**
11139 Woodley Ave., GH
4:00 pm

North Hills East NC
Outreach Comm. Meet
1:00 pm

Saturday, April 14
ROSE EXPO
Wilkinson Senior Center
8956 Vanalden Ave.
Northridge
12–3:30pm

Plan Check NC
Hollenbeck Police Station
2111 E. 1st St, L.A.
10:00 am -1:00 pm
info: planchecknccla.com

**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, April 15
Bolton Hall Museum
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00–4:00 pm
818-352-3420

Monday, April 16
Valley Vote
Galpin Ford
15555 Roscoe Blvd., NH
6:30 pm

BONC
LA City Hall, 10 Floor
200 No. Spring, LA
11:30 am

GHNNC Gen. Meeting
Rinaldi Adult Center,
17450 Rinadli St., GH
6:30 pm
FTDNC Rules & Elec.Com
9747 Wheatland Ave., SH
7:00 pm
STNC Land Use Com.
7747 Foothill Blvd, S-T
7.00 pm

Tuesday, April 17
Bolton Hall Museum
Presents
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00–4:00 pm
818-352-3420

**Lopez Canyon Restoration
Project Bi-Annual Meeting**
11950 Lopez Canyon Rd, Syl
Tour: 6:00-6:30pm
Mtg: 6:30pm

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

Green Commit. Meeting
Sylmar Rec Center
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, April 18
LAPD-CPAB
Mission Division
11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH
6:30 pm

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

Pacoima NC
Gen. Meeting
Pacoima Comm. Center
11243 Glenoaks Blvd., Pac
6:30 pm

**Northridge East NC Board
Meet**
Northridge Woman’s Club
18401 Lassen St.
North Hills West NC
New Horizons
15725 Parthenia St., NH
7:00 pm

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

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

Thursday, April 19
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
7:00 pm

Arleta Neigh’d in Action
9603 Gullo Ave., Arl
7:00 pm

SNC Exec. Comm Meet.
SNC Office
13521 Hubbard St., Syl
6:30 pm

Saturday, April 21
NC Budget Advocates
W.L.A. Muni Bldg.
1645 Corinth, L.A.
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Sunday, April 22

**Community Town Hall
Meeting**
Public Safety & Quality of
Life Issues
PUC Triumph Charter
Academy
13361 Glenoaks Blvd.,
Sylmar
9:30 am - 12 noon
Bolton Hall Museum
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00–4:00 pm
818-352-342

Monday, April 23
PCNC Land Use
Mission Comm. Hospital
14860 Roscoe Blvd., PC
6:30 pm 818-894-7841

Tuesday, April 24
**Armenian Genocide
Remembrance Day**

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

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

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

Ham Radio Club Mtg
Kaiser Permanente
393 E. Walnut, Pas.
7:00 pm

Thursday, April 26
Panorama City NC
Gen. Meeting
Mission Com. Hospital
14960 Roscoe, PC
6:30 pm

Northridge NC Board Meet
Nrthrdge Middle School
17960 Chase St, Nrthrdge
7:00 pm

Saturday, April 28
**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, April 29
Bolton Hall Museum
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm-4:00 pm
818-352-342

Cowboy Social Club
Chili Cookoff
VFW Hall
1006 W. Magnolia Bl,
Burbank, 3pm
818-940-1272

Monday, April 30
**Planning 101: Project
Planning**
NoHo Rec Ctr
11430 Chandler Blvd, NH
6 pm RSVP
213-978-1551

HAM RADIO CLASS
**Amateur (Ham) Radio Works
When all other systems fail!**
April 5, 2018 – May 24, 2018
10034 Commerce Ave, Tujunga
Mark Seigel – W6MES
mark.seigel@gmail.com
818-430-5244



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Call for Special Community Organization Opportunities.**



Tuna Canyon Coalition Standing its Ground

By Marc Stirdivant

Los Angeles--A nonprofit organization, working to develop a City-designated historic site in tribute to Japanese, Italian, German and other immigrants unjustly imprisoned during World War II, is pushing back against efforts to relocate their planned memorial.

Kim and Kanye’s wedding? Old news. Let’s talk about something more exciting - dying in a Nursing Home! Woo hoo! Please no paparazzi. No pictures or autographs. Thank you.

he Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition (TCDSC) issued a statement opposing a petition calling for the memorial to be moved from its historic location to an area across the street. Coalition spokesperson Nancy Oda emphasized that the proposed alternate location has no meaningful connection to the people and events that shape the Tuna Canyon Detention Station story. “The developer Snowball West is trying to relocate our planned memorial and place it across the

street, so that they can build 229 houses on the Tuna Canyon site. This recent petition is being circulated by a lobbyist in Little Tokyo and the Japanese community,” stated June Berk, secretary and Board member of TCDSC.

In June 2013, the Los Angeles City Council unanimously voted to designate a one-acre parcel, distinguished by a grove of mature oak trees, as Historic Cultural Landmark No. 1039. In addition to a memorial plaque, the Coalition is considering the installation of hiking trail markers, other educational amenities, and perhaps a regional park intended to raise awareness about the area’s historical significance.

When completed, Tuna Canyon will join other local, state, and federally designated World War II landmark sites, such as Manzanar, Tule Lake, Crystal City, Santa Fe, Ft. Missoula, and others in helping to transmit the lessons embodied in the preservation, interpretation, and education made possible through the “power of place,” according to Oda.

Oda points out that the Coalition has logged several accomplishments since it was formed nearly five years ago, among them:

- 1) Recognition by the National Park Service with two Japanese American Confinement site grants.
- 2) Development and mounting of “Only the Oaks Remain,” a museum-quality, traveling exhibit bringing to light the treatment during World War II of Japanese, German and Italian immigrants, Japanese brought to the U.S. from Peru, and others.
- 3) Establishment of “The Legacy Project,” a video collection designed to record and preserve the stories of Tuna Canyon prisoners through their descendants.
- 4) Extensive, scholarly research including but not limited to the National Archives in Washington, D.C. to chronicle the archival records and events that helped shape the Tuna Canyon story.

The Statement by the Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition

The Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition has recently learned that a group calling itself the Tuna Canyon Memorial Partnership is circulating a petition calling for a Tuna Canyon memorial to be located across the street from the actual site of the detention station. Please be aware that our organization is NOT connected to, and does NOT support, this petition in any way, shape or form. This petition is being circulated by someone working for the 229-unit housing project proposed for the historic site and not by any organization that is genuinely working on plans for an ON-SITE memorial and other public amenities in a regional park that would benefit the community and the City of Los Angeles. We are hoping that the owner will discuss selling the land at a fair market price to a public agency for these purposes.

In designating Tuna Canyon as an Historic-Cultural Monument (HCM) in 2013, the City Council asked for and fully intended that there be public access to the HCM site on La Tuna Canyon Road. They mandated the formation of a working group and instructed it through the Office of City Planning to....”explore appropriate ways to commemorate the historical and cultural significance of the site and strategies to secure resources to support the development of appropriate on-site interpretive displays, signage, markers and/or exhibits.” The working group included representatives of the landowner and the community. They reached a consensus that there would be a publicly-accessible memorial on the site where the original detention station was located and that included the grove of oak trees, which existed at the time that the detention station was in operation.

The Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition continues to support this decision and believes this is the only appropriate site where a memorial should be located.

As June Berk, a TCDSC board member, has said: “There is every reason why we should have a memorial on the ACTUAL site. It is the RIGHTFUL place to commemorate the men and women who suffered on these grounds. Just as the Manzanar Memorial was not built across the highway, or Heart Mountain, or Tule Lake built in a place “close to” or across the street, so too we believe that Tuna Canyon Historic-Cultural Monument needs to be built in its rightful place. That place is on the grounds where the men and women who suffered there looked out through the barbed wire to their visiting fam-

ilies. Those incarcerated there could not go outside the barbed wire to walk across the street. This is the rightful place to build a memorial park that will teach people that the indignities inflicted on the Japanese, Germans, and Italian immigrants, as well as Peruvians of Japanese descent and others, should never be repeated or forgotten.”

In addition, James Okazaki, another TCDSC board member, has stated: “The trees are living things. And they were witnesses to what happened at Tuna Canyon. The trees were there to see and hear the people who were detained at Tuna Canyon, and the trees heard the cries of family members who came to see them there. Therefore, those oak trees are part of and an important element of a Living Memorial about the history and legacy of the Tuna Canyon Detention Station. Thus, the Memorial must be on-site and not off-site, across the street.”

The Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition is a nonprofit organization, established in 2013, to preserve the story of Tuna Canyon, and especially of the Japanese, German and Italian immigrants, Japanese taken from Peru, and others who were held there during World War II. It is the winner of two National Park Service Japanese American Confinement Sites grants, one to tell the story of Tuna Canyon throughout traveling museum exhibit, Only the Oaks Remain, and the other to preserve the video histories of Tuna Canyon descendants through our The Legacy Project. The Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition has also undertaken extensive research on Tuna Canyon at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. and elsewhere.

We urge you NOT to SIGN this misleading Tuna Canyon Memorial Partnership petition, and we appreciate your continued support to preserve the history of Tuna Canyon at its rightful location. DON'T BE FOOLED!

Contact:
Nancy Oda remembertunacanyon@gmail.com
Tuna Canyon Detention Coalition Website:
www.tunacanyon.org
E-mail: remembertunacanyon@gmail.com
Facebook: Tuna Canyon Detention Station
Federal Tax ID: 47-0996062.

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Polls Show Newsom and Villaraigosa Tied for Governor’s Race



By David Barron

Gavin Newsom, a successful businessman, is more educated, accomplished and successful than Villaraigosa. Villaraigosa would be bad news for small business and California. He is not a true representative of constituents. He uses people for their votes and takes advantage of opportunities for his personal gain only. I believe he only strives for fame, fortune and to control departments and programs with hundreds of millions or billions of dollars. Another reason why he wanted to be Mayor, he wanted to control the LAUSD. Not because he cares about students education, but, to gain control of the multi-billion-dollar school construction budget. Just like he took care of his wealthy developers by utilizing the multi-billion-dollar former Community Redevelopment Agency. His legacy as Mayor of LA includes: over-spending, increased taxes and fees, initiating the skyrocketing DWP utility rates that would reach close to the cost of a home mortgage and leading the City to be on the verge of bankruptcy as confirmed by the City’s former Chief Administrative Officer.

Villaraigosa campaigned to become Councilman of Council District 14. After he won, he never bothered to return to attend any community meetings and immediately began campaigning for Mayor.

As Mayor, he instructed the Fire Chief to drastically cut the Fire Departments budget. Today our Fire Department is still understaffed, along with a “severely understaffed” LA Police Department, according to the president of the Police Protective League.

As Mayor, he argued the need to control the “anti-gang” program by bringing it into the Mayor’s office. Eventually an audit was done on Mayor Villaraigosa’s “anti-gang” program that revealed \$19M missing. Within a few months, after Villaraigosa took office, Gang Programs such as Para Los Ninos received \$225,000, \$37,763K, \$410,000, \$887,938 and \$332,768. Violence Intervention Program Inc; received \$1.4M. The “No Guns” program received \$1 million of our tax dollars. The Director was eventually arrested by the Federal Government for arming his former gang. Others who received favors include the Barrio Action Youth and Family Center who received a 30-year lease for commercial space for \$1 per year and, Lamp Inc., a 20-year lease at \$20 per year. With this much of our tax money going to gang prevention just about every year, (budget showed \$168M for “anti-gang” programs), instead of hiring more police officers, why did gang violence continue to escalate under Villaraigosa?

Villaraigosa was not a successful Mayor. He left the city in the red. The public only knew of him because he hired hundreds of staff to act as a public relations firm to promote him and schedule him for interviews on TV/Radio and print media, including personal and public appearances. He is not a person of integrity to trust with our multi-billion-dollar state budget. He would only use the Governor’s Office as another step to use taxpayer dollars as his ATM and to travel around the country pre-campaigning for president.

At least candidate for governor John Chiang, when he was State Controller, put Californians first, over State Legislators who would deliver late unbalanced budgets, and was not afraid to hold back legislators pay.

There is much more to know about the real former Mayor Villaraigosa.

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.

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Letter to the Editor

Insights; District 39 a Political Soap Opera

Having run for office here in Assembly District 39, then joining Team Patty for the Big 2014 win, working in the District office, doing a couple coffee-talks with Raul Bocanegra, then being sued (not kidding) by the same Raul Bocanegra, and so on and on, I’d like to mention 4 valuable and distinct political insights from a unique perspective as a free-lance writer: seeing the intimate inside and macroscopic outside of politics in D 39.

More Pamphlets, Less Problems? I remember the second public debate for the 2016 race. Four candidates (including myself) were present. But in this case, the elephant was not in the room, one Mr. Bocanegra. However, he was there by proxy, through 21 pamphlets mailed to me and thousands of other residents. With about the same amount of ‘Boca-mail’ for the primary, folks received some 40 pamphlets about how one man is the best fit for so many things: schools, safety, economy, water supply, environment, etc. At the debate, I spread all the flyers across the speaker table, for demonstration. I recall commenting about the ‘forest’ cut down for these mailers, which was met with selected, measured empathy by the audience. The lesson: Is the candidate with the most money for mega-mailers (and billboards) usually the winner? If so, is that fair? If not, can we balance this out, somehow?

One for the voters, one for the votes. The political dilemmas are sometimes so tightly woven into the fabric of the CA political system, that like a quilt, sometimes we can’t notice the thread. To what am I alluding: the short-term limit of the Assemblymember. (Indeed, that is a long word, and not found in all dictionaries.) The issue: one could argue the focus of the elected official spends, in the aggregate, half the time on their elected duties (legislation, community outreach and events, constituent’s services, etc.) and the other half campaigning for the next term. Note, even with a 4-year term, there are criticisms that up to a year and a half is spent on re-election! This is something the constituency should reckon with, especially for a freshman Assembly official, as it seems to take at least one year just to ‘learn the ropes’. I must also note that having worked as office staff (under Lopez), I remember Rule #1: not to commingle legislative intent with political intent, the mutual exclusivity of these 3 areas. Simply put, it is technically illegal for an official or their staff to do any campaigning while “on the clock” of the public’s dime. However, they are free to engage in campaigning after (or before) their work hours. So, if you think an elected official may be doing this, you would be in the right, and you have the right to ask/inform their corresponding Rules Committee about it.

From BFF..to IDK. It seems political allies, BFF (literally meaning “best friends forever”), endure thick and thin until certain scandals rock the political world. Hence, we have the meme IDK, as figuratively, “I don’t know.... that guy.” Of recent, concerning the first in CA to resign from allegations of sexual nature, we find that some long-term allies of Mr. Bocanegra (i.e., Tony Cardenas, Nury Martinez, Felipe Fuentes, etc.) now appear to be distancing themselves somewhat from the former Assemblymember. We see a public tone of ‘no tolerance’ policy should these allegations be true. However, it would satisfy a great curiosity to know if these comments for the public, for the press, for the politics game...actually mirror what they’re organically thinking. Let’s also admit, this is not black and white; we are all human. In the same situation, our political break-ups would probably not coincide so cookie-cutter with our personal ones.

Which ‘Witch Hunt’? Allow me to ask a few slightly random, fairly relevant questions: How far do we go? Where is the line crossed? Yes, one should resign over gross, blatant and admitted sexual misconduct, but are there “grey areas”? Or, should we impose a zero-tolerance policy? Ideally, this sounds like the right thing, but realistically how feasible is this? For example, what if one sees a long-time acquaintance and greets with a hug, which afterward, the ‘hug receiver’ may consider (or reconsider) that action as uninvited? Is this a case of unwanted physical contact? Surely, many may think this example is ridiculous, but given today’s political climate, I’m sure some do not. May good judgement and common sense guide us into our future uncharted political waters.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Message for Operations Valley Bureau, LAPD



John A. Sherman
Deputy Chief,
Operations Valley
Bureau, LAPD

Greetings,
As we move forward into the new year, we would like to remind readers just how much we depend and value our partnerships with the community. There is no way we can be successful without you and we want to make sure those ties are strengthened in 2018. Although the Chief of Police and I are pleased with the Department's

accomplishments in 2017, this new year brings a list of new goals and challenges.
Some of these may sound familiar, but many of the below points have been on Chief Charlie Beck's hot-list in past years. Chief Beck wants to enhance the LAPD's commitment to constitutional policing, crime reduction, and to continue to engage the community to bridge the gap between law enforcement and the community to create better communication.
My partner Commander Jorge Rodriguez and I will continue to lead Operations-Valley Bureau into 2018 with a focus on making communities a safer place for all of us. As we start this year, I have two things to ask

of you, please remain diligent in your efforts to keep our city safe by remembering that if you See Something, Say Something, and get to know the fine men and women that are assigned to your area. We are so fortunate to have a selection process that brings to us the best police candidates from across the nation. They have made an oath to serve and protect you.
Let's work together to improve our communities and the lives of everyone who call the San Fernando Valley their home. Working together we can all thrive!
Thank you,
John A. Sherman

A Word from Los Angeles City Fire Department OVB



Trevor Richmond
Deputy Chief
Operations Valley
Bureau, LAFD

It has been a busy year here in Operations Valley Bureau (OVB) and although we are beginning a new year, it is important to reflect on our past year's accomplishments. It was certainly busy last year with the La Tuna and Creek brush fires and although we did unfortunately lose homes, not single life was lost.
The collaboration between the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) and Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) was surely a contributing factor in getting everyone safely evacuated. The staff here in OVB takes our relationship with LAPD very seriously and through our extensive training together, we have managed to build strong relationships that will serve the Valley community well.
An additional partnership with MySafe:LA resulted in over 3,500 high school students throughout the Valley being trained in CPR in 2017.

Furthermore, nearly 800 smoke detectors were installed in homes through canvassing events in collaboration with MySafe:LA.
Regarding performance, OVB saw slight improvement in response times last year. In 2017, there was a nearly eight second improvement on the average in complete operational response times. OVB staff is confident that this metric will continue to improve in 2018.
Looking to 2018, OVB will continue its outreach efforts in the community by implementing goals through the new three-year strategic plan. These efforts will involve all aspects of community safety with a goal of creating new partnerships that improve the resiliency of all valley communities.
Here's to looking forward to a great 2018!

LAPD Foothill Station Receives Gift

By Cindy Sower

"Our Little Library" at Foothill Station received an amazing donation of nearly 100 books from the Darcy Family. Judith Yoakum wrote a children's book about her favorite place to visit at Lake Nacimiento. Judith had just finished her book and was ready to release it when Cancer struck. It ultimately took her life before she realized her dream. The books had been packed away until recently when her family decided to make Judith's dream come true. They began sharing the books with teachers, hospitals, and children who could enjoy visiting a special place through their Mom and Grandma's eyes. What a better way to see your dream come true than to share it with others.
"Our Little Library" was designed and built by a local artist a few years ago. Donated books are collected at the Foothill Station, as well as their annex at Pacoima City Hall.
Going to the police station can be a fearful experience for children who may be brought in from an accident etc. Others may come in with their family for personal reasons. Whatever the case, children may visit "Our Little Library" and if they choose they may take their books with them. All books are donated by community members just like the Darcey's. Our Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB) welcomes your book donations of new or gently used books. No Donation is too small!
Editor's Note: Cindy Sower is a member of the Foothill Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB) and President of the Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council (SVANC)



photo courtesy of Cindy Sower

Left to right: SLO Esther Vasquez, Captain Ernest Eskridge and Sgt. Jesse Ojeda

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*Expectation of the Public by Law Enforcement	Community Center
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*Debrief of Past Active Shooter Incidents	Limited Seating Reserve a Space
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	Phil Tabbi
	ptabbi@gmail.com



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SPRING 2018 SCHEDULE*:

NEW STUDENTS PLEASE BE ADVISED: You may attend class while your Spring 2018 online application is pending (with instructor approval).

COMMUNICATION STUDIES 101 – ORAL COMMUNICATION (UC:CSU) 3 UNITS
27313 LEC 9:00 am–12:15 pm MW
Instructor: Wesley Hernandez (8 weeks) 2/5/18 – 3/28/18)

COMMUNICATION STUDIES 151 SMALL GROUP COMMUNICATION – (UC:CSU) 3 UNITS
27487 LEC 9:00 am–12:15 pm MW
Instructor: Wesley Hernandez(8 weeks)**4/9/18**–6/4/18)

COUNSELING 004 – CAREER PLANNING – (CSU) 1 UNIT
27325 LEC 12:25 pm–3:15 pm Saturday
Instructor: Melissa Herrera (8 weeks)**4/9/18**–6/4/18)

ENGLISH 101 – COLLEGE READING & COMPOSITION I (UC:CSU) 3 UNITS
27318 LEC 12:30 pm–3:45 pm MW
Instructor: Althea Manalang (8 weeks) 2/5/18 – 3/28/18)

ENGLISH 102 – COLLEGE READING & COMPOSITION II (UC:CSU) 3 UNITS
27319 LEC 12:30 pm–3:45 pm MW
Instructor: Althea Manalang (8 weeks)**4/9/18**–6/4/18)

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE 023CE ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE: SPEECH I
27321 LEC 1:00 pm–3:05 pm Tuesday/Thursday
Instructor: Nvard Kotanjyan (16 weeks) 2/5/18 – 6/4/18)

(NON-CREDIT: No fee or test required.)

ESL 002 – COLLEGE ESL 2 – (NDA) 12 UNITS
28106 LEC 3:50 pm–7:00 pm Mo-Tu-We-Th
(16 weeks) 2/5/18 – 6/4/18)
PLEASE NOTE: ESL 002 requires an assessment test.
ESL 2 Instructors: Monday and Wednesday – Samuel Otoo
Tuesday and Thursday – Claudine Simha

MATH 227 – STATISTICS – (UC:CSU) 4 UNITS
27316 LEC 9:00 am–11:05 am Tue-Thu-Fri
AND 27317 LAB 11:20 am–12:35 p Tue-Thu-Fri
Instructor: Staff (8 weeks) **4/9/18** – 6/4/18)
PLEASE NOTE: Math 227 requires prerequisite clearance.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE 1 – PHYSICAL SCIENCE I (UC:CSU) 3 UNITS Instructor:
27322 LEC 1:15 pm–4:25 pm Friday
Instructor: Ildar Salakhutdinov (16 weeks) 2/5/18 – 6/4/18)
Contact the professor at salakhi@lamission.edu to add.

PSYCHOLOGY 1 – GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY I (UC:CSU) 3 UNITS
27327 LEC 6:30 pm–9:40 pm Friday
Instructor: Katherine Smith (16 weeks) 2/5/18 – 6/4/18)
Contact the professor at smithk4@elac.edu to add.

SOCIOLOGY 1 – INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY (UC:CSU) 3 UNITS
27323 L E C 9:00 AM – 12:10 PM Saturday
Instructor: Carl Neblett (16 weeks) 2/5/18 – 6/4/18)
Contact the professor at nebletc@lamission.edu to add.

*Schedule subject to change. Revised 2/14/18 by RT.

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As a proud immigrant, mother, wife and grandmother, I want to be your voice that we all desperately need. My accomplishments in the Assembly focused on issues important to our communities, including the expansion of L.A. Mission College with a satellite campus, located in the Sunland-Tujunga region, to better serve all surrounding communities. I am firmly committed to adult and vocational education and also supporting our community colleges.

Today I am reaching out to everyone in our communities, all my sisters, friends, family as well as every voter. Together, we have a unique opportunity to reclaim what is rightfully ours. I am the only choice to deliver the expectations of the moral and ethical services you deserve.

Women have been subdued, held down and abused for much too long. As the latest revelations demonstrate, the abusive culture in Sacramento which included our former assembly member, can no longer be tolerated. Together, with your support, we can make change happen.

Together, with your participation in the decision-making process, we will once again give people a voice in the halls of Sacramento and represent the best interests of our communities and our beautiful state.

During my previous term, I sponsored the following Bills that were voted on and passed by the Assembly.

- AB 559 Gives authority to the Department of Fish and Wildlife to conserve monarch butterflies and their habitat that will have positive impacts on the environment and overall economy for tourism.
- AB 1909 Declares, as a felony, actions of prosecutors that knowingly and intentionally withhold or falsify evidence in a judicial case.
- AB 1941 Adds an independent filmmaker and an independent commercial producer to the California Film Commission.
- AB 2036 Requires an online child care job posting service, posting information on an Internet Web site in California, to include among other things, a statement about the Trustline Registry.
- AB 2062 Prohibits the county from assessing an overpayment for the month following a change in income for a recipient of CalWORKs, or following a change in household composition for a CalWORKs assistance unit that does not include an eligible adult, if the recipient has reported the change and the county was unable, before the first of the month following the change in income or household composition, to provide 10 days' notice of the termination or reduction in benefits.
- AB 2685 Stipulates that city and county agencies obtain community input on housing plans and provide legislators with proper information prior to voting.
- AB 2767 Stipulates that the e-mail addresses of a social worker, lawyer, and special court-appointed advocate be available to a caregiver who has a foster child in their home.



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