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# Your Community Newspaper

## July - August 2018

**[www.northvalleyreporter.com](http://www.northvalleyreporter.com)**

*By Nina Royal*

Michel R. Moore, a 35-year veteran of the Los Angeles Police Department, is the new Chief of Police for the City of Los Angeles replacing current Chief Charlie Beck who retired on June 28. The new Chief is no stranger to the San Fernando Valley. In 2002, he served as Commander and then Deputy Chief in charge of Operations Valley Bureau.

Moore was born in Porterville, CA, the second of five children and grew up in various parts of the United States. He graduated from high school in Conway, Arkansas and returned to Southern California in 1978.

Chief Moore joined the Los Angeles Police Department in 1981 and rose through the ranks of Police Officer, Detective, Sergeant, Lieutenant, working various patrol, investigative, and administrative assignments throughout the City. He promoted to the rank of Captain in 1998, where his assignments included assuming command at Rampart Area following the arrest of Rafael Perez and during the 2000 Democratic National Convention.

In 2001 he was promoted to Commander and assigned to Operations Valley Bureau until he was promoted again as Assistant to the Director, Office of Operations.

In 2004, he was promoted to Deputy Chief and assumed the command of Operations-West Bureau, later transferring back to Operations-Valley Bureau in 2005.

Moore was promoted to Assistant Chief in 2010 and assigned as Director, Office of Special Operations. In that position, he oversaw the Detective Bureau and Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations

In 2015, as Assistant Chief Moore was assigned as Director, Office of Administrative Services, where he oversaw the Department's fiscal, personnel, training and various support operations, including the Department's command center, communications and records management. He was also the Chair of the Department's Use of Force Review Board which evaluates all Categorical Uses of Force, including deadly force and hospitalizations.

Most recently, Chief Moore was assigned as Director, Office of Operations. In that position, he oversaw the Department's geographic bureaus and patrol divisions which provide uniformed and investigative services within the City of Los Angeles. In addition, he directed the Department's COMPSTAT process, including weekly command inspections.

Chief Moore attended the University of Redlands earning a Bachelor of Science in Business and Management in 1993, and a Masters of Business Administration in 1999. He is also a graduate of the Police Executive Research Forum, the Senior Management Institute for Police, the Supervisory Leadership Institute, and the West Point Leadership program. He also completed advanced coursework in emergency management, counter-terrorism, and process improvement. He has received numerous commendations and awards for his police service including the Department's Medal of Valor, the Police Medal, the Police Star, and the Meritorious Service Medal.



Chief Michel Moore surrounded by public officials including L.A. County Supervisors Janice Hahn and Kathryn Barger and L.A. City District Attorney Jackie Lacey at his installation as the 57th L.A. City Police Chief.



Chief Moore presented his vision for the LAPD

Chief Moore is a Director for the Los Angeles Police Federal Credit Union, Immediate Past President of the Los Angeles County Peace Officers Association, First Vice President of the Los Angeles Police Memorial Association and Council Member of the Southern California Law Enforcement Torch Run for the Special Olympics. He is a member of various professional organizations including the Police Executive Research Forum, the Latin American Law Enforcement Association, the Los Angeles Women Peace Officers and Associates Organization, and the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

As LAPD's Chief, Moore promises to lead with compassion and to continue to promote a community policing style of leadership that stresses intelligent, partnership-oriented, strategies involving community stakeholders, as well as various members of the criminal justice system.



**HAPPY  
4th of JULY**

## IN THIS ISSUE

## Memorial Day Services

### PAGE 2

**City in Motion**  
**PAGE 4**

**Part 3- L.A.'s  
Urban Tree Canopy  
PAGE 5**

**Calendar**  
**PAGES 6- 7**

Public Safety  
PAGE 11



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Memorial Day Services in the North Valley: Burbank • Granada Hills • Sylmar • Sunland-Tujunga



### Celebrating the Life of Lee Adrian

By Sarah Ramsawak

Lee was a farm boy of German and Norwegian ancestry from Binford, North Dakota. He was born on August 22, 1945 and died on June 21, 2018 from Pan-creatic Cancer.

He and his wife worked tirelessly on the Whitsett Avenue ‘VINTAGE NORTH HOLLYWOOD’ mural which was dedicated in 2014, with a drought-resistant garden on both sides of the mural. The large mural was a community effort and can be seen everyday by motorists on Whitsett Avenue, and motorists on the 170 Freeway, north of Sherman Way.

Lee Adrian dearly loved this nation of America, which he had served in the UNITED STATES AIR FORCE.

Lee had a Big Heart for his family, friends, community, his church, and for the many unknown others that he labored to help when working with Habitat for Humanity. He had made frequent pilgrimages to many different sites where Habitat for Humanity worked to construct new homes for many disadvantaged persons. One of his favorite work sites was in the state of Alaska.

In 2017, Lee Adrian became the third facilitator and leader of the Strathern Neighborhood WATCH. Lee greatly loved his work with the Strathern Neighborhood Watch. He invested his money, his time, his energy, and his faith in his community. He was also involved in the Community Police Advisory Board with the Foothill Police Division that supported this Neighborhood WATCH. And he worked constantly for his church.

A short poem entitled SMALL TOWNS, of unknown origin can explain the fabric that made our friend LEE ADRIAN the caring and gentle man that he was.



Lee Adrian  
1945-2018

#### Small Towns

*Small towns are an attitude  
Toward helping one another. Where each man  
finds special joy In making glad the other.*

*A small town thrives on kindly words  
And kindly deeds to share.*

*The essence of each day is this  
Capacity to care.*

*Yes, small towns are an attitude  
Toward loving simple things.*

*Like quilting bees and church bazaars,  
And Christmas carollings.*

*A small town thrives on hayrack rides  
And programs in the park.*

*With picnics and school affairs  
And bonfires after dark.*

*The attitude is one of peace  
From deeply thankful hearts,  
Who saw the deeds that must be done  
And gladly did their part.*

(Author Unknown)

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COMMUNITY NEWS

You Should Know...

Experience **Museum at Midnight at Bolton Hall Museum**, 10110 Commerce Ave, Tujunga, during the full moon on Friday, July 27, 6:00 pm to midnight. The free event offers Moon Games...videos...music...viewing...treats and raffle.

Bolton Hall Museum in Tujunga, announced new open hours for the 2018 summer months. They will be open to the public on Friday evenings 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. and Sunday afternoons from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. They will be closed Tuesday afternoons until the end of August. The change will give more individuals who work or go or go school to visit the Museum.

**SB 958** is being appealed by LA County. Under the new law, Los Angeles County would be one of only two counties in the state required to create a 14-per-

son commission charged with re-drawing the five Supervisorial district boundaries after the U.S. Census, which is conducted every 10 years. Under the new law, Los Angeles County would be one of only two counties in the state required to create a 14-person commission charged with re-drawing the five Supervisorial district boundaries after the U.S. Census, which is conducted every 10 years. Voters in all other California counties enjoy a broad range of options regarding how to conduct supervisorial redistricting. For more information visit: [leginfo.ca.gov/billTestClient](http://leginfo.ca.gov/billTestClient).

**FCC's Schools and Libraries Program** Awarded \$5 Million to upgrade wireless Technology in its 87 library locations to Improve Internet Connectivity and Reduce Digital Divide. Public computers and Wi-Fi access are

among the most used library resources in LA County, but internet connection has been slow with an average speed of 10 to 20 MB per second which is going to change.

**LA City Expands Affordable Swim Program for Kids** called SwimLA, under the Department of Recreation and Parks, offers affordable swim lessons that teaches lifesaving skills for kids ages 4-17 at all City pools, all summer long. June 18 – August 31, 2018 (morning, afternoon & evening lessons available) Scholarships are available. Cost is not a barrier. Spaces are limited. Sign up your child today! Find your neighborhood pool and register at [www.swimla.org](http://www.swimla.org) or call (323) 906-7953.

Sylmar

Mission College Wine Tasting Event



L.A. Mission College Culinary School hosted their annual wine tasting event. Pictured are President, Monte E. Perez, PhD; Nina Royal, Publisher NVR; Chancellor Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D.; Ann Job, Sylmar Neighborhood Council; Mark Seigel, Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council and Dean Madelline Hernandez, Mission College Sunland-Tujunga Campus.

Letter to the Editor

There is Power in Patience, and Persistence...

In working with a large city, we have to practice much patience and (too) much persistence to get an effective response from city services.

Constituents have been reporting problems and asking for assistance for months, and years, all to no avail, only the routine explanations of “no money.”

Silence and ‘no money’ is not acceptable. The question about our DEAD TREES was brought up at the Watch meeting on June 20th, but it was not really addressed adequately.

I have been working since before December 2017, on this matter, and I have documented all the evidence of conditions and locations to our CD 2 Councilman Paul Krekorian, to the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates, to the Mayor and to all of the other 14-city Council Members.

One of the trees is cited in that report is a tall Liquid Amber at the corner of Todd Court and Rhodes Avenue. That tree has been reported to the city many times. That tree now has an obvious lean, close to a 15-20-degree lean, and when it falls it will cross Rhodes Avenue. Hopefully no traffic will be passing when that tree falls and hopefully no person will be injured, and no property will be damaged.

I will attend the Budget Day concerning next Fiscal Year City Budget for 2018-2019 at Los Angeles City Hall. Does a leaning dead tree, constitute any urgency?

I will commend the Mayor on his Great Streets Program and ask that it be extended to our residential streets also. I will complain about the conditions of our residential streets where those trees are dying and falling and creating an ugly blight to our community.

If you also believe that “Great Streets” should go beyond the fifteen streets in the Mayor’s Executive Directive of October 10, 2013, and that “Great Streets” should reach into the residential areas where blight can create safety hazards, then, please share your concerns with the office of CD 2 Councilmember Paul Krekorian, at his San Fernando Valley Office: Tel: 818-755-7676, or at his Los Angeles City Hall office: Tel: 213-473-7002

Your help by calling the office of Paul Krekorian will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Ramsawack  
Founder, Strathern Neighborhood Watch



Granada Hills

The Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post 2323, is in the process of forming a new Auxiliary at their post in Granada Hills. The new VFW Auxiliary is inviting relatives of those who served in overseas combat to join them and their network of nearly 4,000 Auxiliaries of nearly half a million members nationwide in enhancing their community through volunteer projects, patriotic programs, youth scholarships, and activities that support veterans, active-duty military and their families.

The VFW Auxiliary has served veterans, active-duty military and their families for more than 100 years. Members provide assistance to veterans and their families, work to instill patriotism in youth, provide countless hours of service in the VA and other medical facilities, and make sure their support of veteran’s issues is heard on Capitol Hill.

For information on joining the forming Auxiliary, or ways to work with the Auxiliary in Granada Hills, contact Mary Anne Kreutz at 818-426-9448



Commander Brad Klimovitch and Joe Shammass at the recent VFW Post 2323 installation of officers



Lake View Terrace

Poker Ride

San Fernando Rangers & Sidekicks  
Poker Ride event benefits the San Fernando Rangers who patrol Foothill and Hansen Dam open spaces and trails.





# The City In Motion

By Elektra Kruger

## Adopted City Budget Recommendations

Create a Tree Maintenance and Urban Forestry Program. Instruct the Bureau of Street Services to report with a comprehensive plan to address the removal of dead trees, planting of new trees and maintenance of the existing street tree inventory on an ongoing basis. Recommendations referred to the City Council's Public Works Committee for their review.

- Instruct the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), the Bureau of Sanitation and others to report to the City Council for consideration and approval prior to implementation the clean-up protocols, process and assignment of resources for the expanded HOPE and Clean Streets Los Angeles Programs. Recommendations referred to the City Council's Environmental Justice and Homeless and Poverty Committees for their review.
- Instruct the Department of Recreation and Parks and the Bureau of Sanitation to report to the City Council's Parks and Environmental Justice Committees with an analysis of addressing the homeless encampments in City parks, a discussion of the applicable protocol for conducting clean-ups in City parks, the resources required for the Bureau of Sanitation and the Department of Recreation and Parks to address these needs including staffing, equipment and vehicles and all associated costs.
- Instruct the Bureau of Sanitation to report to the City Council's Budget and Finance Committee with a deployment plan which addresses the inefficiencies of the current Homeless Outreach and Proactive Engagement (HOPE) Team deployment locations.
- Instruct the Bureau of Street Services to report to the City Council's Public Works Committee on the feasibility of increasing fines for illegal tree pruning and tree removal.
- Instruct the Bureau of Street Services to report to the City Council's Public Works Committee on the status of the improvements that have been made as a result of the State of Trees Report, how the

deficiencies identified in the report have been addressed and the plan to address continuing deficiencies.

## Tree Maintenance and Urban Forestry Program

Among the adopted City Budget Recommendations for this Fiscal Year, there was one to create a Tree Maintenance and Urban Forestry Program. The City Council's Budget and Finance Committee instructed the Bureau of Street Services to develop a hiring plan that would increase City resources of the Urban Forestry Division to enhance removal of dead trees, enhance planting of new trees and the regular watering of recently planted trees and to establish a proactive tree trimming program. Funding for salaries and equipment for all newly hired employees has been procured in the City's 2018-2019 Budget. Addition of a second dead tree removal crew would double the Urban Forestry Department's annual removal of 880 to an estimated 1,760 with the two crews. The Urban Forestry Tree Maintenance Program is to have one tree planting and two tree watering crews with four additional tree trimming crews to be hired to support the currently existing single crew. It is anticipated that each crew would be able to trim approximately 5,500 trees per year. This hiring plan, as proposed by the Bureau of Street Services, was forwarded to both the Personnel and Public Works Committees of the City Council for their review in mid-June 2018 and was approved by the Public Works Committee at their late June 2018 Hearing.

## Toyon and Mexican Elderberry to be "Protected"?

In December 2013, the Public Works Committee of the Los Angeles City Council recommended the Council approve a Motion directing the Department of City Planning and the Bureau of Street Services to prepare and present a report relative to the feasibility of adding the Toyon and the Mexican Elderberry to the Los Angeles Protected Tree List. There are currently four trees classified as protected trees – the Oak, the Southern California Black Walnut, the Western Sycamore and the California Bay. Any removal of a protected tree in a project requiring an environmen-

tal review requires mitigation of the tree's removal. In 2012, the Toyon was designated as the City of Los Angeles's official native plant. The Toyon attracts butterflies and was, and still is, a popular food source of local Native Americans. The Mexican Elderberry is native to California as well as elsewhere in North America. Its fruits serve as a food source for over 50 species of songbirds, upland game birds and small mammals. Deer browse on the twigs, foliage and berries. The shrub provides excellent nesting cover for small birds. While the recommendation for Motion approval was made in December of 2013, it was not until January of 2015 that the Motion was placed on the City Council Agenda for a final vote and was adopted. Adoption of this Motion however did not mean that the Toyon and Mexican Elderberry have yet made it to the Protected Tree List, it meant only that the City Council had directed the Department of City Planning and the Bureau of Street Services to report on the "feasibility of" placing the Toyon and Mexican Elderberry on the Protected Tree List. While supporting the addition of the Toyon and Mexican Elderberry to the Protected Tree List, the Greater Valley Glen Neighborhood Council did say that should there ever be reason to remove any of the other four protected trees already on the list, a Toyon or Mexican Elderberry should not be selected as a replacement tree. The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council expressed concern about adding the Toyon and Mexican Elderberry to the Protected Tree List not by reason of not wishing to have these plants added to the List but by reason of some of the changes included in the proposed up-dated Ordinance which states that only trees having an individual stem or trunk greater than 4" in diameter would qualify for protection. This change could result in thousands of healthy and viable trees losing their protective status as many trees like the Black Walnut, Toyon and Elderberry commonly sprout multiple stems. To be continued in future issues of the North Valley Reporter.

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

## City Council Introduces Proposed Neighborhood Council Reforms

Councilmember David Ryu, Chair of the City Council's Health, Education and Neighborhood Councils Committee submitted proposed reforms for the Neighborhood Council system in City Council today based on feedback he received in a survey he sent out to Neighborhood Council board members.

- Amending City Charter to change the name of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) to the Neighborhood Councils Department (NCD), the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC) to the Neighborhood Councils Commission (NCC), and phasing out the use of the term/branding "EmpowerLA".
- Amending the L.A. Admin. Code to remove the "Community Impact Stakeholder" and recommendations for including specific additional definitions by ordinance of eligible voters and board members of Neighborhood Councils.
- Amending City Charter to remove any reference to "selection" and clarify that Neighborhood Council board members will be elected.
- Creating a one-time review process, overseen by the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners to evaluate Neighborhood Council bylaws to determine if board seats are equitably allocated amongst stakeholder types
- Recommendations for adopting regulations to provide a uniform minimum voting age and board member age to allow consistent participation across the City.
- Recommendation for developing and adopting a planning and land use training required for all Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Neighborhood Council planning and land use committees.
- Recommendations on a process to allow NC's to roll-over a non-cumulative maximum of \$10,000 in any given fiscal year.
- Recommendation removing Section 5.485.h of Chapter 88 of Division 5 of the LA Municipal Code

in order to remove the expiration of the ability for NCs to accept in-kind or monetary donations.

- Report on the costs of holding all Neighborhood Council elections on the same day in order to provide for a uniform citywide advertising and outreach campaign.
- Develop a process, with the assistance of GSD and the City Clerk, to assist Neighborhood Councils with accessing shared space in City facilities, as envisioned in Council File 16-0298
- Develop an ongoing compendium of best practices generated from Neighborhood Councils and share those on a periodic basis with all Neighborhood Councils and include "how-to guides" for accomplishing those best practices
- Develop point of contact lists for key city departments and agencies, including DCP, DOT, Public Works' Bureaus, Aging, Disability, HCID, DCA, LADWP, Port, Airport, Cannabis Regulation, Emergency Management, Animal Services, LAPD, LAFD, Recreation and Parks, Zoo, Finance, Library, Economic and Workforce Development and BIDS, with assistance from the departments and agencies, and share those lists with Neighborhood Councils, facilitate the training of those points of contact at those relevant departments on the most fruitful ways to assist and communicate with Neighborhood Council members, and coordinate with Neighborhood Councils to formally appoint a point of contact at each NC to communicate between each NC and the point of contact at each department, thus creating a single line of communication.

Councilmember Ryu has asked for reports back on these issues from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment and the Office of the City Clerk within 60 days. He is also requesting Neighborhood Councils and Neighborhood Council Alliances to provide feedback and /or Community Impact Statements (CISs) to the Health, Education and Neigh-

borhood Councils Committee within 90 days under Council File 18-0467 at <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cf-number=18-0467>

Sign up for Neighborhood Council board and committee agendas at: <https://www.lacity.org/your-government/government-information/subscribe-other-meetings-agendas-and-documents/neighborhood-councils>

*The next issue of NVR will recap recommendations from the Neighborhood Councils.*

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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 3 of 3

In a November 2015 editorial, the *Los Angeles Times* warned, “The easiest and cheapest solution would be to chop them down, fix the sidewalks and plant some small, decorative species in the parkway.... it would be in line with the settlement, which puts the top priority on sidewalk safety, not preservation of the urban canopy. But it would be shortsighted.” (<http://www.latimes.com/opinion/editorials/la-ed-1116-sidewalks-20151116-story.html>)

But that is where things are heading in Los Angeles in the fall/winter of 2017.

Rather than adopting best practices from Seattle and Portland — cities that know how to save both their sidewalks and the trees — Los Angeles is pursuing a plan in which the Urban Forestry Division and contractors will chop down many thousands of L.A.’s largest and oldest shade trees to even out the sidewalks.

To comply, the city launched “Safe Sidewalks LA” to begin sidewalk repair. In doing so, the city failed to assess the massive tree destruction the program would allow — prompting TreePeople and its partners to demand an Environmental Impact Report. (Public comment for the initial “EIR Scoping Period” ended Sept. 15, 2017).

TreePeople is urging residents to write to their City Council members, advocating for a far more generous tree replacement ratio than 2-to-1; adoption of best practices in choosing and replanting the destroyed trees; on-site individual tree evaluation like Seattle’s, conducted by a certified arborist; and sustainable sidewalk designs such as “bioswales” that capture runoff that is then taken up and cleansed by trees.

Tree experts who testified to the city’s Community Forest Advisory Committee this year said an initial 4-to-1 tree replacement proposal for the sidewalk program, to make up for the profound shade and environmental benefits lost, was reduced to 2-to-1 — insufficient to address long-term environmental damage the destruction will incur.

According to TreePeople, 216 trees had been cut down as of early September 2017 under the “Safe Sidewalks LA” program that resulted from the sidewalk settlement. A few weeks later, in mid-October, the number had reached about 350 trees destroyed, according to the L.A. Urban Forestry Division. Thousands of trees will be destroyed over several years — any street tree that pushes up a public sidewalk by more than 1/4-inch faces destruction. Communities from working-class Northeast L.A. to upscale Windsor Square have begun calling City Hall as prized heritage shade trees vanish overnight.

To avoid this potentially devastating destruction, Los Angeles must look to Seattle and Portland, which since 2015 have each followed a far more sustainable path — in Seattle the “Trees and Sidewalks Operations Plan” requires that an arborist and an engineer perform a joint “field review” of tree-versus-sidewalk conflicts, and then choose the best way to save every possible tree, even as they fix the sidewalks. (<http://www.deeproot.com/blog/blog-entries/trees-and-sidewalks-a-strategic-approach-to-conflicts>)

Meanwhile, a thousand paper cuts are harming L.A.’s urban forest: Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer rarely prosecutes illegal destruction of protected trees by developers and homeowners; the city generally fails to monitor the progress of its failing “tree replacement” law, which is defied by many builders; a requirement in many Community Plans for a one-acre city park within 1/2 mile of every 1,000 residents is failing; and the City of Los Angeles does not abide by AB 283, the milestone California law pursued by the Hillside Federation and others that mandates the protection of significant native trees threatened by zone changes or construction on setbacks.

Just as with Villaraigosa’s political appointees to the Board of Public Works, no current appointees are leaders in environmental sustainability. Under them, the city has failed to approve an Urban Forest Management Plan, leaving Los Angeles far out of step with the many leadership cities. According to Los Angeles tree experts, the California Department of Forestry has granted Los Angeles funds “to plan for a plan” — with actual implementation of an Urban Forest Management Plan well down the road.



### Who Should Los Angeles Emulate, To Save Its Urban Forest?

If Los Angeles chooses to become a leader, other cities with respected urban forestry experts can show L.A. the way, including Melbourne AU, Portland, Austin, and even SMUD of Sacramento, whose officials say, “The best time to plant a shade tree was 20 years ago, the second-best time is now.”

Universities across the U.S. stand ready with valuable research to aid lagging cities like Los Angeles. Treepedia, a research program at MIT, uses high-level digital science and Google Street View Panoramas to help city governments understand tree decimation and form policies to revive their urban forests.

MIT’s studies of nine cities found that only New York has a worse street-tree canopy than Los Angeles. Treepedia assigns a “Green View Index” of 13.5 percent tree cover to New York, and 15.2 percent to Los Angeles.

By contrast, MIT’s Green View Index shows that Sacramento, a city of 460,000 that was hit hard by drought, and which suffers more severe summer temperatures than Los Angeles, has built an urban tree canopy with 64 percent more coverage than L.A. (Yet as Tree People’s Edith de Guzman noted on KPCC in June of 2017, L.A.’s San Fernando Valley, which is suffering significant tree loss, experiences 50 extreme heat days per year.)

Sacramento’s canopy covers 23.6 percent of the city. The non-profit American Forests says that Sacramento’s utility, SMUD, plants 13,000 trees per year — almost as many trees as the entire City of Los Angeles manages to plant annually, about 15,000 or so.

The nine cities that Treepedia has ranked so far look like this: 1. Vancouver: 25.9% tree canopy coverage; 2. Cambridge: 25.3% coverage; 3. Sacramento: 23.6 coverage%, 4. Seattle: 20% coverage; 5. Toronto: 19.5% coverage; 6. Miami: 19.4% coverage; 7. Boston: 18.2% coverage; 8. Los Angeles: 15.2%; 9. New York: 13.5% coverage.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Forest Service is pursuing innovations to help cities digitally document and re-green their urban forests through efforts such as the i-Tree tools to assess and manage urban forests. In 2011, the Forest Service and the New York Restoration Project launched the Vibrant Cities & Urban Forests Task Force, convening an intensive three-day meeting at which 25 experts issued Vibrant Cities & Urban Forests – A National Call to Action.

In its call to action, these experts agreed urban forests are “dynamic green infrastructure that provides cities and municipalities with environmental, economic, and social benefits.” The Los Angeles Urban Forestry Division claims on its website that the “urban forest in the City of Los Angeles has matured into one of the largest, most diverse in the world.” But as we compare this claim to other cities, we know this not to be true. Even immediate next-door neighbors Santa Monica, Beverly Hills, Glendale and Pasadena have more

diverse and extensive canopies. Los Angeles lags behind dozens of cities in the U.S. and globally, from Melbourne, which shares L.A.’s aridity and drought challenges, to Toronto, which shares L.A.’s dense urban core and outer neighborhoods undergoing intense development. Melbourne’s urban forestry plan and tree imaging program is so advanced, it appears to be from a different era than L.A.’s effort.

L.A.’s failure to plan ahead, especially in the face of climate change, is Exhibit A in explaining why the State of California requires all cities to regularly update their General Plans — overarching policies, visions and rules that shape a city’s future. Yet among 15 key cities in the U.S. West, only Los Angeles has failed to comprehensively update its General Plan during this millennium. Without a change in course by Los Angeles planners and leaders, to acknowledge and follow these leading cities nationally and globally, Los Angeles is set to become a hotter, less resilient, less sustainable city. The underlying cause of L.A.’s damaged sidewalks, the \$1.4 billion ADA settlement, the loss of thousands of trees and extensive shade, the years-long mismanagement of tree-pruning and species selection, are all the same: a lack of rigorously applied best practices, infrastructure policies or vision, which would be clearly spelled out in a modern General Plan with strong guidance from the community.

### What Los Angeles Must Do in 2018

We urge Mayor Garcetti, the City Council and Planning Director Vince Bertoni to adopt these reforms:

- Include an Urban Forest Element in our General Plan Update — not as a lesser “chapter” placed under the Open Space Element, Land-Use Element or catch-all Environmental Stewardship Element.
- Create an Urban Forest Management Plan in 2017 that sets quantified urban tree canopy targets, identifies resources to meet those targets, and adopts best urban forestry practices being followed by Glendale, Seattle, Pasadena, Sacramento and other leadership cities.
- Give our urban forest canopy the stature of L.A.’s traditional infrastructure investments, regardless of ever-changing administrations.
- Adopt a heritage tree protection ordinance that provides protections to large trees regardless of species, similar to ordinances in South Pasadena.
- Ensure, via clear policy and specific data in the new Urban Forest Element, that the tree canopy is equitably distributed across city neighborhoods.

Part 1 was in the December 2017 issue of NVR Coalition to Preserve LA

Part 2 was in the March 2018 issue of NVR How is the City Addressing L.A.’s Tree Canopy Crisis?

Email: [2preservela@gmail.com](mailto:2preservela@gmail.com)  
News and reports: [2PreserveLA.org](http://2PreserveLA.org)  
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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**  
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**Arl** - Arleta, **G.H.** - Granada Hills, **K.C.** - Kagel Canyon, **LA** - Los Angeles, **LVT** - Lake View Terrace, **LTC** - La Tuna Canyon, **M.H.** - Mission Hills, **NR** - Northridge, **NVCH** - North Valley City Hall, **Pac** - Pacoima, **S-T** - Sunland-Tujunga, **S.V.** - Sun Valley, **Syl** - Sylmar, **V.N.** - Van Nuys, **PC** -Panorama City

**Please support your NVR Advertisers so we can support you.**

**Tuesday, July 3**  
**FTDNC Land Use**  
9747 Wheatland Ave., SH  
7:00 pm  
FTDNC Rules & Elections  
8:00 pm  
**Board of Neighborhood Commissioners**  
Agenda: [empowerla.org/bonc](http://empowerla.org/bonc)  
6:00 pm

**STSH Rotary Club**  
Angeles Nat’l Golf  
Club-Agave Grill  
9401 Foothill Blvd. S-T  
7:00 pm

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

**GHNNC Board Meet.**  
St. Euphrasia School  
11766 Shoshone Ave. GH  
6:30 pm

**G.H. Woman’s Club +**  
10666 White Oaks Ave. GH  
7:00 pm

**Wednesday, July 4**  
**Independence Day**  
**STSH Rotary Club**  
**Annual**  
**4th of July Parade**  
Beginning at 10:00 am  
Mt Gleason & Foothill S-T  
  
**FIREWORKS** at  
Crescenta Valley High School  
&  
Verdugo Hills High School

**Thursday, July 5**  
**FTDNC Comm and Outreach**  
9747 Wheatland Ave., SH  
7:00 pm

**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  
12:10 pm

**GHSNC Gen. Meet.**  
GH Charter H.S. Brawley  
Hall  
10535 Zelzah Ave. GH  
6:30-8:30 pm

**Friday, July 6**  
**Bolton Hall Museum**  
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T  
Docent Tours  
1:00 pm-4:00 pm  
818-352-3420

**Movie in the Park**  
El Cariso Park  
13100 Hubbard. Syl  
6:00 pm

**Granada Hills Grubfest**  
Chatsworth between  
Zelzah & Whiteoak Ave GH  
6 – 10:00 pm

**Arts & Cult. Enrich, Meet.**  
11243 Glenoaks Blvd. Pac  
6:00 pm

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

**LANCC Meeting**  
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, July 8**  
**Bolton Hall Museum**  
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T  
Docent Tours  
1:00 pm-4:00 pm  
818-352-3420

**Monday, July 9**  
**SNC Outreach & Public Safety**  
Sylmar Park  
13109 Bordon. Syl

**Women Empowering S-T**  
NV City Hall  
7747 Foothill Blvd. S-T.

**FTDNC Budget & Finance**  
9747 Wheatland, SH  
7:00 pm

**NENC Exec Meet.**  
Northridge Rec Ctr  
18300 Lemarsh St. Nthr  
4:30 pm

**Northridge So. NC**  
Exec & Agenda Meet  
Northridge Middle School  
17960 Chase St. Nrthr  
6:00 pm

**Tuesday , July 10**  
**FTDNC Safety Com.**  
FTDNC Outreach Com  
9747 Wheatland Ave., SH  
7:00 pm

**SVANC Gen Board Meet.**  
Villa Scalabrini Ret. Ctr  
10631 Vinedale, SV  
6:30 pm

**S-T, S.H. Rotary Club Meet.**  
Agave Grill  
9401 Foothill Blvd. S-T  
7:00 pm

**GHNNC Safety Com**  
11130 Woodley Ave., GH  
2:00 pm

**Northridge West NC Meet.**  
Calahan Elem. School  
18722 Knapp St.Nthr  
6:15 -9:00 pm

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

**FTDNC Budget & Finance**  
9747 Wheatland, SH  
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

**No Hollywd North 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, July 12**  
**FTDNC Equest. Comm**  
9747 Wheatland, SH  
7:30 pm

**PCNC Land Use**  
Mission Comm. Hospital  
14860 Roscoe Blvd., PC  
6:30 pm 818-894-

**S-T Lions Club**  
6:15pm to 8:15pm at NV  
City Hall  
7747 Foothill, Tujunga

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

**SFV Veterans Emp. Comm**  
Sepulveda VA  
1614 Plummer, NH  
1:00 pm

**Sunshine Landfill**  
Advisory Comm Meet.  
Knollwood Country Club  
12024 Balboa Blvd. GH  
2:00

**Pacoima NC Exec. Meet +**  
Ed. & Youth Dev. Meet  
El Nido  
11243 Glenoaks Blvd. Pac  
5:30 pm

**Pacoima NC**  
Ed. & Youth Dev. Meet  
El Nido  
11243 Glenoaks Blvd. Pac  
6:00 pm

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

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

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

**No Ho Art Walk**  
Pedestrian Plaza  
& Lankershim Blvd.  
4:0 Movie in the Park  
El Cariso Park  
13100 Hubbard. Syl  
6:00 pm

**Movie in the Park**  
El Cariso Park  
13100 Hubbard. Syl  
6:00 pm

**Granada Hills Grubfest**  
Chatsworth between  
Zelzah & Whiteoak Ave GH  
6 – 10:00 pm

**Saturday, July 14**  
**Plan Check NC**  
Hollenbeck Police Station  
2111 E. 1st St, L.A.  
10:00 am -1:00 pm

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

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

**BONC**  
LA City Hall, 10 Floor  
200 No. Spring, LA  
1:00 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, July 17**  
**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

**S-T, SH Rotary Club Meet.**  
Agave Grill  
9401 Foothill Blvd. S-T  
7:00 pm

**Bird Watching Walk**  
O’Melveny Park, GH  
9:00 am – 12:00 pm  
818-885-7493 for info.

**Board of Neigh’d Commissioners**  
TBD  
6:00 pm

**Wednesday, July 18**  
**LAPD-CPAB**  
Mission Division  
11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH  
6:30 pm

**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.  
7:00 pm

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

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

**GHSNC Plan & Land Use**  
GH Charter High School  
10535 Zelzah Ave. GH  
7:00 – 9:00 pm

**Thursday, July 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

**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

**Friday, July 20**  
**Bolton Hall Museum**  
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T  
Docent Tours  
1:00 pm-4:00 pm  
818-352-3420

**Rules, Ingter Gov Relation & Neighborhoods Com.**  
L.A. City Hall Rm 340  
200 N. Spring, L.A.  
9:00 am – 10:00 am

**Movie in the Park**  
El Cariso Park  
13100 Hubbard. Syl  
6:00 pm

**Granada Hills Grubfest**  
Chatsworth between  
Zelzah & Whiteoak Ave GH  
6 – 10:00 pm

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

**Sunday, July 22**  
**Bolton Hall Museum**  
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T  
Docent Tours  
1:00 pm-4:00 pm  
818-352-342

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

**Tuesday, July 24**  
**Panorama NC**  
Rules Comm. Meet  
Plaza Del Valle  
8610 Van Nuys PC  
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

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

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

**SNC Bylaws Comm.**  
Time & Place TBD  
**S-T, SH Rotary Club Meet.+**  
Agave Grill  
9401 Foothill Blvd. S-T  
7:00 pm

**GHNNC Exec. Comm.**  
11130 Woodley Ave. GH  
6:00 pm

**North West NC Educ. Comm**  
Nhridge West NC Meet.  
Calahan Elem. School  
18722 Knapp St. Nthr  
6:30-7:30 pm

**Wednesday, July 25**  
**GHNNC PLUM Com.**  
11139 Woodley Ave. GH  
6:30 pm

**Valley Disaster Preparedness**  
11149 Woodley Ave. GH  
2:00-5:00 pm

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

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

**STNC Emerg Prepard Com**  
NVCH -7747 Foothill Blvd,  
S-T  
7:00 pm

**Friday, July 27**  
**Bolton Hall Museum**  
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T  
Docent Tours  
1:00 pm-4:00 pm  
818-352-3420

**Granada Hills Grubfest**  
Chatsworth between  
Zelzah & Whiteoak Ave GH  
6 – 10:00 pm

**Saturday, July 28**  
**California**  
**Watermelon Festival**  
**Sunland-Tujunga**  
**Lions Club**  
July 28th and 29, 2018 at  
Hansen Dam Sports Arena  
in Lake View Terrace

**NC Emerg. Preparedness Alliance**  
Emergency Oper. Ctr.  
200 N. Spring St. L.A.  
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

**Hansen Dam Advisory Bd**  
11075 Foothills Blvd, LVT  
[kalkrugers@earthlink.net](mailto:kalkrugers@earthlink.net)

**Sunday, July 29**  
**Bolton Hall Museum**  
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T  
Docent Tours  
1:00 pm-4:00 pm  
818-352-3420

**Tuesday, July 31**  
**S-T, SH Rotary Club Meet.+**  
Agave Grill  
9401 Foothill Blvd. S-T  
7:00 pm



**North Valley Reporter**  
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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

<b>Wednesday, Aug 1</b> <b>STNC Exec Comm Meet</b> North Valley City Hall 7747 Foothill Blvd.S-T 7:00 pm	<b>Tuesday, Aug 7</b> <b>National Night Out</b> Little Landers Park 5:00 – 9:00 pm	<b>LAPD Foothill Div. CPAB + Japanese Amer. Comm. Ctr</b> 12953 Branford, Pac 6:00 pm 818-756-8866 <b>Valley Alliance of NC’s + Sherman Oaks Hosp.</b> 4929 Van Nuys, Sh Oaks 6:30 pm <b>SNC Public Safety Comm</b> 13521 Hubbard St., Syl 6:30 pm <b>SFV Veterans Emp. Comm</b> Sepulveda VA 1614 Plummer, NH 1:00 pm <b>Sunshine Landfill</b> Advisory Comm Meet. Knollwood Country Club 12024 Balboa Blvd. GH 2:00 <b>Pacoima NC Exec. Meet + Ed. &amp; Youth Dev. Meet</b> El Nido 11243 Glenoaks Blvd. Pac 5:30 pm <b>Pacoima NC</b> Ed. & Youth Dev. Meet El Nido 11243 Glenoaks Blvd. Pac 6:00 pm	<b>Northridge So. NC</b> Exec & Agenda Meet Northridge Middle School 17960 Chase St. Nrthr 6:00 pm
<b>Thursday, Aug 2</b> <b>FTDC Comm and Outreach</b> 9747 Wheatland Ave., SH 7:00 pm <b>Kagel Cyn Civic Assoc.</b> Dexter Park, KC 11053 No. Trail Rd., KC 7:00 pm <b>Kiwanis Meet.- Northridge</b> Rosie’s BB 8930 Corbin Ave. Northr’ge 12:10 pm <b>GHSNC Gen. Meet.</b> GH Charter H.S. Brawley Hall 10535 Zelzah Ave. GH 6:30-8:30 pm	<b>FTDNC Land Use</b> 9747 Wheatland Ave., SH 7:00 pm FTDNC Rules & Elections 8:00 pm <b>Board of Neigh’d Commissioners</b> TBD 6:00 pm <b>S-T, SH Rotary Club Meet.</b> Agave Grill 9401 Foothill Blvd. S-T 7:00 pm <b>Arleta Looky Loos</b> Neighborhood Watch Liberty Temple Church 12821 Osborne St. Arl 6:45 pm <b>GHNNC Board Meet.</b> St. Euphrasia School 11766 Shoshone Ave. GH 6:30 pm <b>G.H. Woman’s Club +</b> 10666 White Oaks Ave. GH 7:00 pm	<b>Tuesday, Aug 14</b> <b>FTDNC Safety Com.</b> FTDNC Outreach Com 9747 Wheatland Ave., SH 7:00 pm <b>SVANC Gen Board Meet.</b> Villa Scalabrini Ret. Ctr 10631 Vinedale, SV 6:30 pm <b>S-T, S.H. Rotary Club Meet.</b> Agave Grill 9401 Foothill Blvd. S-T 7:00 pm <b>GHNNC Safety Com</b> 11130 Woodley Ave., GH 2:00 pm <b>Nhridge West NC Meet.</b> Calahan Elem. School 18722 Knapp St.Nthr 6:15 -9:00 pm	
<b>Friday, Aug 3</b> <b>Bolton Hall Museum</b> 10110 Commerce Ave., S-T Docent Tours 1:00 pm-4:00 pm 818-352-3420 <b>Movie in the Park</b> El Cariso Park 13100 Hubbard. Syl 6:00 pm <b>Granada Hills Grubfest</b> Chatsworth between Zelzah & Whiteoak Ave GH 6 – 10:00 pm <b>Arts &amp; Cult. Enrich, Meet.</b> 11243 Glenoaks Blvd. Pac 6:00 pm	<b>Wednesday, Aug 8</b> <b>STNC Board Meet.</b> North Valley City Hall 7747 Foothill Blvd.S-T 6:30 pm <b>FTDNC Budget &amp; Finance</b> 9747 Wheatland, SH 7:00 pm <b>S. V. Rotary</b> Mandarin Terrace 8815 Sunland Blvd., SV 12:00 pm -1:30 pm 818-768-9888 <b>PCNC-Commerce Com*</b> Wells Fargo Bank 8548 Van Nuys Blvd., PC 2:00 pm <b>No Hollywd</b> <b>North Nh’brh’d Watch +</b> Pentecostal Church 6800 Radford St., No Ho 6:30 pm 818-331-139+ <b>Pan. City Neighborhood Watch</b> 9261 Wakefield, PC 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm <b>All Northridge NC’s</b> Vision Committee Meet. CD 12 Office 9207 Oakdale Ave. Chats. 2:00 pm	<b>Friday, Aug 10</b> <b>GHNNC Policy &amp; Rules Comm</b> 11139 Woodley Ave., GH 4:00 pm <b>North Hills East NC</b> Outreach Comm. Meet 1:00 pm <b>Bolton Hall Museum</b> 10110 Commerce Ave., S-T Docent Tours 1:00 pm-4:00 pm 8:00 pm 818-352-3420 <b>No Ho Art Walk</b> Pedestrian Plaza & Landershim Blvd. 4:00 pm <b>Movie in the Park</b> El Cariso Park 13100 Hubbard. Syl 6:00 pm <b>Granada Hills Grubfest</b> Chatsworth between Zelzah & Whiteoak Ave GH 6 – 10:00 pm	<b>Wednesday, Aug 15</b> <b>LAPD-CPAB</b> Mission Division 11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH 6:30 pm <b>Pacoima NC Gen. Meeting</b> Pacoima Comm. Center 11243 Glenoaks Blvd., Pac 6:30 pm <b>Northridge East NC Board Meet</b> Northridge Woman’s Club 18401 Lassen St. 7:00 pm <b>North Hills West NC</b> New Horizons 15725 Parthenia St., NH 7:00 pm <b>Hansen Dam Park</b> Advisory Board Lake View Terr. Rec. Ctr. 11075 Foothill Blvd., LVT 7:00 pm <b>GHSNC Plan &amp; Land Use</b> GH Charter High School 10535 Zelzah Ave. GH 7:00 – 9:00 pm
<b>Saturday, Aug 4</b> <b>LADWP MOU Comm.</b> DWP Building 111 N. Hope St. LA 8:45 am <b>LANCC Meet.</b> DWP Building 111 N. Hope St. LA 10:00 am <b>LVT Improvet Assoc</b> White Elephant Sale LVT Park & Rec. Ctr 11075 Foothill Blvd. LVT 8:00 am – 4:00		<b>Thursday, Aug 16</b> FTDNC Gen. Meeting Lake View Terr. Rec. Ctr. 7:00 pm <b>Neighborhood Watch</b> Block Captain’s Mtng. Sylmar High School 13050 Borden Ave., Syl 6:30 pm <b>Northridge East NC</b> Northridge Academy 9601 Zelzah Ave., Nrdge <b>Arleta Neigh’d in Action</b> 9603 Gullo Ave., Arl 7:00 pm <b>SNC Exec. Comm Meet.</b> SNC Office 13521 Hubbard St., Syl 6:30 pm	
<b>Sunday, Aug 5</b> <b>Bolton Hall Museum</b> 10110 Commerce Ave., S-T Docent Tours 1:00 pm-4:00 pm 818-352-3420 <b>Monday, Aug 6</b> <b>STNC Land Use Com.</b> 7747 Foothill Blvd, S-T 7:00 pm <b>North Hills East NC</b> Gen. Board Meet Penny Lane Rainbow Rm 15314 Rayen St. No. Hills 6:30pm <b>NC Budget Advocates</b> Dept Conference Rm 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm <b>LVTIA Gen. Meet.</b> LVT Parks & Rec. 11075 Foothill Blvd. LVT 7:30 pm	<b>Thursday, Aug 9</b> <b>FTDNC Equest. Comm</b> 9747 Wheatland, SH 7:30 pm <b>PCNC Land Use</b> Mission Comm. Hospital 14860 Roscoe Blvd., PC 6:30 pm 818-894- <b>STNC</b> Women Empow. Comm. NV City Hall 7747 Foothill Blvd,S-T <b>GHSNC Board Meet.</b> 10535 Zelzah Ave. GH 6:30 pm 8:30 pm	<b>Monday, Aug 13</b> <b>SNC Outreach &amp; Public Safety</b> Sylmar Park 13109 Bordon. Syl <b>Women Empowering S-T</b> NV City Hall 7747 Foothill Blvd. S-T. <b>FTDNC Budget &amp; Finance</b> 9747 Wheatland, SH 7:00 pm <b>NENC Exec Meet.</b> Northridge Rec Ctr 18300 Lemarsh St. Nthr 4:30 pm	



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TREASURE HUNT  
SCAVENGER HUNT**

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**SAVE THE DATE**

**Neighborhood Council Congress**  
Saturday, September 22, 2018  
nccongressla.com

**Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair**  
Saturday, September 29, 2018  
valleydisasterfair.com



**Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July**

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9am-6pm M-F  
10am-2pm Sat.

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# COMMENTARY



By Jack Humphreville

**LA WATCHDOG**  
On June 5, 2018 57% of the California's voters approved Proposition 68, a measure that authorized the issuance of \$4.1 billion of bonds to fund "parks, natural resources protection, climate adaptation, water quality and supply, and flood protection."

Many Angelenos who supported this proposition are expecting that these bonds will pay for new parks and the acquisition of open spaces that are coveted by density loving real estate developers.

But this "something for everybody" bond measure will do very little for Angelenos and their dreams of new parks and open space.

Of the \$4.1 billion in bonds, less than one third will be devoted to parks and recreation. The other \$2.8 billion will be allocated to Natural Resource Conservation (\$1.5 billion) and Water and Water Quality (\$1.3 billion).

Of the \$1.3 billion allocated for parks, recreation, and open space, almost \$300 million will be spent on state parks and rural recreation. This leaves \$1 billion for local and regional parks.

Of this amount, about 10% will be allocated to the City of Los Angeles based on its share of the State's population. This \$100 million will be divided among the fifteen Council Districts and the Mayor. This leaves about \$5 million for each Councilmember to direct towards his or her pet project. Assuming that the bond proceeds are parceled out over a five-year period, that leaves only \$1 million a year for each Council District.

Of course, this assumes that the bond proceeds will flow directly to the City. This is unlikely as the Wall Street lawyers and investment bankers will get their pound of flesh for their efforts in issuing and underwriting the bonds. There are also the bureaucracies of the State and other levels of government who will want to get their beaks wet. And many nonprofit environmental organizations will expect to have their pet projects funded in return their help in passing Prop 68, including campaign contributions of more than \$6 million.

The City will also skim money off the top to pay for the Bureau of Engineering and the Department of Recreation and Parks as well as the Chief Legislative Analyst, the City Administrative Officer, and the Mayor's office.

Even if we are lucky to get new parks and preserve open space, there is not any extra money for the maintenance of the new parks as bond proceeds cannot

legally be used to pay for operating expenses. Unfortunately, the Department of Recreation and Parks does not have extra resources because it is still recovering from the recession and full cost accounting maneuver that decimated its budget. As it is, Rec & Parks cannot properly maintain LA's existing parks, facilities, programs, and, as Controller Ron Galperin pointed out, its bathrooms.

Unfortunately, we have been sold a bill of goods by Sacramento, our local politicians who endorsed this proposition, and the environmental community, all of whom led us to believe that substantial resources would be devoted to new local parks and open space. But this is standard operating procedure where what they say is not what you get.

In November, we will be asked to approve an \$8 billion water bond, a \$4 billion housing bond, the County's Rain Tax, and, more than likely, other taxes and bonds. But before voting, ask yourself, do you trust the politicians who occupy the Capitol and City Hall?

Jack Humphreville writes LA Watchdog for CityWatch (<http://city-watchla.com>). He is the President of the DWP Advocacy Committee and is the Budget and DWP representative for the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council. He is a Neighborhood Council Budget Advocate. He can be reached at: [lajack@gmail.com](mailto:lajack@gmail.com) - reprinted with permission from the author.





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14415 LEC 11:30 am - 2:00 pm MTWTh STAFF SUN-TUJ (Starts 07/16/2018, Ends 08/19/2018)

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14414 LEC 4:20 pm - 6:45 pm MTWTh STAFF SUN-TUJ (Starts 07/16/2018, Ends 08/19/2018)

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# COMMENTARY



## Big Real Estate’s Push Back Against Good Planning in Los Angeles

PLATKIN ON PLANNING  
*According to legend, Mark Twain coined the expression, “Lies, damned lies, and statistics,” to describe statistics that researchers use to support weak arguments.*

While there are many ways that both qualitative and quantitative data can be jimmied to justify a pre-determined conclusion, one of the simplest gimmicks is to carefully select a study’s start and stop dates. To reach the conclusions they want, scheming scholars ignore what happened before and after their target period.

This approach is exactly what was used to prop up the bogus claim that so-called NIMBYs, a figment of developers’ vivid imaginations, run LA’s City Hall. The developers’ agenda, though, is to scapegoat the city’s residents, especially homeowners, who they endlessly claim control the city’s planning process.

While this self-serving approach helps undermine the planning, zoning, and environmental laws that slow down the developers’ commercial projects, their assertion is laughable because, among other reasons, it excludes the following information:

Other than the progressive era, when Los Angeles established the first U.S. zoning code in 1908, LA’s municipal politics have rotated around oil extraction and real estate speculation. Since then, the city’s oil fields have dwindled, but real estate has remained the north star of City Hall’s institutional culture.

This situation, however, temporarily changed around 1970. First, this is when Los Angeles ran out of raw land that could be easily turned into strip malls, gas stations, shopping centers, housing subdivisions, and dingbat apartments. Second, Los Angeles, through the leadership of Calvin Hamilton, Director of Planning, prepared and soon adopted its first General Plan, the 1974 Centers Plan.

This early planning process, in turn, ushered in an unexpected problem, the inconsistencies between the older zoning code and the new General Plan. This was resolved through State legislation, AB 283, which beginning in 1978 forced the City of Los Angeles to resolve it’s zoning and planning inconsistencies. In large part, AB 283 resulted in down-zoning to make LA’s zoning parallel with the General Plan’s diverse land use categories. But, in some cases the changes resulted in up-zoning parcels to make their zoning consistent with the new General Plan. While this legislation resulted from law suits initiated by the Canyon and Hillside Association, it is essential to remember that had Los Angeles not been a paradise for real estate developers, the California State Legislature would not have forced the city to deal with its new land use realities.

The second important planning program was Proposition U, a ballot initiative that Los Angeles Councilmembers Zev Yaroslavky and Marvin Braude submitted to voters in 1986. It passed 2:1 and reduced the maximum size of projects on most commercial parcels by half, from an FAR or 3.0 to 1.5. Its impetus was the proliferation of large and ugly buildings in Los Angeles, such as the infamous Fujita Building on Ventura Boulevard, pictured above.

The third important action was the General Plan Framework Element, imposed on the City of Los Angeles by the Environmental Protection Agency to mitigate pollution in Santa Monica Bay. The City Planning Department prepared this plan in the early 1990s, and the City Council adopted it in 1996. The Framework Element was data driven and based on the premise that City’s planning policies should be growth neutral. The General Plan’s purpose was not to induce growth or hinder it, only to ensure that if and when growth occurred, the City would provide adequate public infrastructure and services. This conclusion was based on the Framework’s primary finding. LA’s growth was limited by the capacity of its infrastructure and services,

not it’s zoning, which was sufficient for all planning scenarios throughout the 21st Century. More specifically, the Framework’s technical studies concluded that Los Angeles had enough existing zoning at centers and on transportation corridors to substantially surpass the plan’s population forecasts.

Push back against these measures. Since this “golden era” of planning in Los Angeles—strongly supported by the City’s residents—City Hall has pushed back in many ways. Its goal? To return Los Angeles to that bygone era when local government was wholly devoted to real estate speculation.

This pushback has taken many forms, the most important of which I describe below:

- **Pushback #1—Zoning Overlay Ordinances.** When local communities objected to private projects that were legal, but too large, too high, or too ugly, after extensive foot dragging, since the early 1990s the City Council has responded with a host of local zoning overlay ordinances. These ordinances oiled the squeaky wheels with Specific Plans, Community Design Overlay Districts, Historical Preservation Overlay Zones, Residential Floor Area Districts, and similar tools – but left most of the city’s permissive zoning intact. Furthermore, to mollify local opponents of projects that could only be built with exemptions from planning, zoning, and environmental laws, City Hall’s decision makers loaded up their determination with page after page of approval conditions. Since City Hall approves 90 percent of all such applications – a function of pay-to-play—and then attaches these lengthy conditions, Los Angeles has become a zoning mosaic. Less than half of the city’s parcels are only subject to the zoning code, not special overlay ordinances and conditions.
- **Pushback #2—Lax code enforcement.** While the building code, the zoning code, and approval conditions have grown at an exponential rate, the capacity and willingness of the City’s Department of Building and Safety (LADBS) to enforce these micro-ordinances shrank. LADBS simply ignores the approval conditions and rarely investigates and confirms code violation complaints submitted by Angelinos.
- **Pushback #3—Neighborhood Councils.** The new 1999 City Charter created advisory Neighborhood Councils. Though they establish their own boundaries, City Hall subsidizes them and determines their boards’ composition. Unlike neighborhood organizations, these Neighborhood Councils must include commercial property owners, landlords, employers, and local institutions, such as hospitals and museums. The long-term impact of Neighborhood Councils has been to undermine hundreds of existing local groups in Los Angeles, such as resident associations and block clubs.
- **Pushback #4—Community Plan Amendments:** Community Plans, already a decade overdue in their preparation and adoption, are slowly up-zoning many Los Angeles neighborhoods. In combination with the RAS zone, adopted in 2002, these zoning and planning amendments have become tools to work around zoning and planning requirements from AB 283 and Proposition U. Once these parcels are incrementally up-zoned, developers no longer

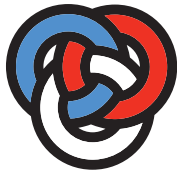
need to apply for discretionary actions, like zone changes, which are time-consuming and also trigger the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

- **Pushback #5—Density Bonus Programs:** Based on the false premise that the free market, as opposed to public housing programs, can produce sufficient affordable housing to resolve LA’s housing crisis, numerous statewide bills and local ordinances, such as the 2005 Density Bonus ordinance, offer incentives and exemptions to apartment developers so they can “build, baby, build.” Since there are no on-site inspections or monitoring of these projects, investigative reporter John Schwada concluded that the few affordable units these incentive programs generate soon revert to market rate housing.
- **Pushback #6—Less Public Participation:** City Hall prepared earlier plans and zoning ordinances, including Specific Plans and zoning overlay ordinance, with substantial levels of public participation. For example, the 1996 General Plan Framework Element sponsored over 100 public outreach meetings, all held on evenings and weekends in every part of Los Angeles. Now, new General Plan elements are largely prepared with web-site comments and a handpicked advisory committee that meets in private. This is, in fact, the exact model for finally updating LA’s 41-year-old mandatory Open Space Element.
- **Pushback # 7—Re:code LA,** 2014-2019, is still another path around AB 283, Proposition U, and the General Plan Framework. Its initial justification was simplification of the 1946 zoning code, but this approach has met two major barriers. The first is that zoning is an implementation tool for the General Plan, and these updated plans do not yet exist. The second barrier is that political pressures have trumped the re:code simplification agenda. For example, the re:code program recently replaced the existing R-1 zones covering most single family homes in Los Angeles with 15 alternative R-1 zones. In practice re:code LA replaced simplicity with even more complexity. Complexity, in turn, allows developers to easily game the system, compounding lax code enforcement (Pushback #2).

LA’s history before and after AB 283, Proposition U, and the General Plan Framework is a history that such social scientists as Harvey Molotch and William Domhoff call the urban growth machine. In Los Angeles this model prevailed before the 1980s, and has reasserted itself over the past two decades. The resulting boom has been great for real estate investors, contractors, and landlords, but the benefits only flowed upward. We still live in a city with bad air, burst water mains, crumbling sidewalks and alleys, vanishing urban trees, homelessness and over-priced housing, traffic gridlock, electronic billboards, crowded schools, and dysfunctional mass transit. Not only do those shiny new buildings leave these problems in place, they make many of them worse.

This is the price we pay for the broad pushback against the many planning gains in LA’s recent past.

*\* Dick Platkin is a former Los Angeles city planner who reports on local planning controversies for CityWatchLA. Please send comments and questions to [rhplatkin@gmail.com](mailto:rhplatkin@gmail.com). Selected previous columns are available at: [www.plan-itlosangeles.blogspot.com](http://www.plan-itlosangeles.blogspot.com). Article reprinted with permission by the author.*



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# THIS 'N THAT

## Nikki's Neighborhood

By Nikki Pelly



### My Home Improvements Tips for Homeowners Who Plan to Sell

I always get asked, by prospective sellers, 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 only 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, they go and look for the granite. If a seller cannot go for installing granite, we look at what can be done, with the budget they have to work with. Sometimes putting in granite also means putting in new cabinets, so it can get quite expensive.

The topic here is standards. If a home has been kept up to standards 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 they can paint and put in the type of floor covering 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 \$75,000. But it does not always work that way. They see others buy and flip houses and make a little profit and feel that their home is worth more and want to make that extra little money. But they don't see that the contractors, do this for a living use repairs and remodeling are installed quickly. Most house flippers work in vacant houses, so the hassle and time is lessened. The length of time that it takes the homeowner 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 profit is not realized.

However, if a seller has the money and wants to do total facelift, I am all for it. Personally, home improvement is like a hobby to me. I am all for it if it makes

sense to the sellers' bottom line. The use of neutral colors is the key. Sellers need to stay away from personalized improvements that only mean something to the seller. Landscaping is another place to focus. If 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 turn the key in the door! Til' next time! *Nikki*

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

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## Milestones, Cornerstones and Gravestones...and Gratitude

by Erin Farrell

Today, I am grateful for milestones—and cornerstones and gravestones. Are they really all that different? I don't know. I know they each mean something significant in our lifespans. They are, each one, a part of every life.

Today, my youngest son turned 18—he is now officially an adult, responsible for his own actions. I love this charming, bright soul and I can't wait to see what he does with the rest of his days, years and decades.

Today, someone in my family lost their life. By choice. This is only the second time, that I know of, that this has happened with any family member, throughout our family history.

Two completely different things, coinciding—like it or not. There they are. One by choice and one by chance.

Suicide. We are hearing more about celebrities, young people, older people choosing to end their own lives. What do we do? How do we react when someone we love chooses to leave this world before nature uses its brute force to kick them out? Do we blame? I hear this a lot. "How SELFISH." "It was so SELFISH for them to take their own life and leave the rest of us to pick up the pieces." I never understood this mentality. I never understood the "selfish" thing. How is it 'selfish' for someone who was clearly hurting so badly that they could no longer sustain any existence in this present world and therefore chose to take themselves out of the game? This life is not easy for anyone, let alone those who are burdened with mental illness or who are ill-equipped to deal with the wrath of other people. Sometimes, some people are desperate for a way out and sometimes that way is suicide.

I think suicide pisses people off. I recall a Seinfeld bit about traffic, about how we subconsciously get annoyed when someone leaves our lane for another lane. They abandoned our lane! Our fight! Our battle! I think that's how we feel when someone takes their own life. It's cheating. You cheated! Look, we know this life sucks sometimes. But cheating your way out does anger people...!

I do believe that we are here to face this beautiful, ugly, fascinating world. To conquer it, in small ways, big ways—our way. We are here for a reason and we are here with a purpose until our very last breath. Some of us, though, are ill equipped to navigate life's most difficult paths. Some of us alienate ourselves from the rest of the world, fully realizing the suffering of others and choosing to carry our own burdens rather than further burdening those who are already weighed down. I think suicide is a terrible choice—but I do understand.

How can we fix one another? Too bad we can't take out a part of us that we don't want and replace it or repair it. Science is actually all over this and someday very soon we may no longer have to worry about suicide, mental illness or any other disease. Designer babies are already being ordered up—DING!—like a chocolate shake and a double cheeseburger. Do you want fries with that? Blue eyes, green eyes, hazel or brown? Will they be smart? Tall? Handsome? Good at math? Will they be healthy? Strange world, right? What will it be like to know so many things about your child before it ever arrives? It's like those of us who read the last chapter of the book before we read the first. Who, in the stealth of night, carefully unwrap Christmas presents to see what's inside, and wrap them up again so that we could feign surprise on Christmas morning. That sneakiness. Is that, too, an undesirable trait? One that potential parents weed out so that it no longer exists? So that we, the imperfect, no longer exist? With all our ridiculous and magnificent flaws?

Suicide. Depression. Mental illness. Ugly, ugly. What about blindness? Down Syndrome? Cancer? Multiple Sclerosis? Muscular Dystrophy? Autism? What 'disease' is embraced and acceptable and what is not? Many in the deaf community abhor cochlear implants. Who decides these things?

What about the failed and flawed artists that took the broken pieces in their lives and in this world and turned them into kaleidoscopes, into mosaics? Into MASTERPIECES.

What is a masterpiece and what is a defect? Ah, these things are tough to sort out.

But back to us and milestones, cornerstones and gravestones—some of these things are out of our hands but many are not. Suicide is not an healthy decision and if it ever crosses your mind, I hope you choose life. If nothing else, consider the living. I can tell you it leaves those of us who are left behind with a heavy weight of guilt, sorrow and pain. The burden of your death far outweighs any perceived burden you feel you gave us in your life. It is horribly crushing. We would have much preferred you called us a thousand times a day, that you cried on our shoulders until your tears could no longer fall.

So, I hope and pray that you see your beauty and your value and your purpose because you have one. You are important. You are interesting, magnificent, gorgeous. You know it's true. When we feel helpless, or worthless—and we all do feel that way at one point or another in this life—we must tap into the truth. We must overcome our small, temporary insecurities. We are bigger and better than the negativities in this world. Don't let anyone or any problem keep you down. Kick its TAIL! Show it up! No matter what is going on in your life, it will change because change is inevitable. Look around—this planet needs help, so don't quit! Make your mark on this world! Rise above. Rise above, thrive and conquer. Today, I am grateful for you.


*Editor's Note: Erin Farrell is the founder of "Talk to History," an intergenerational program for kids and seniors, and the author of the "Talk to History" series of children's books on aging, empathy and human development.*

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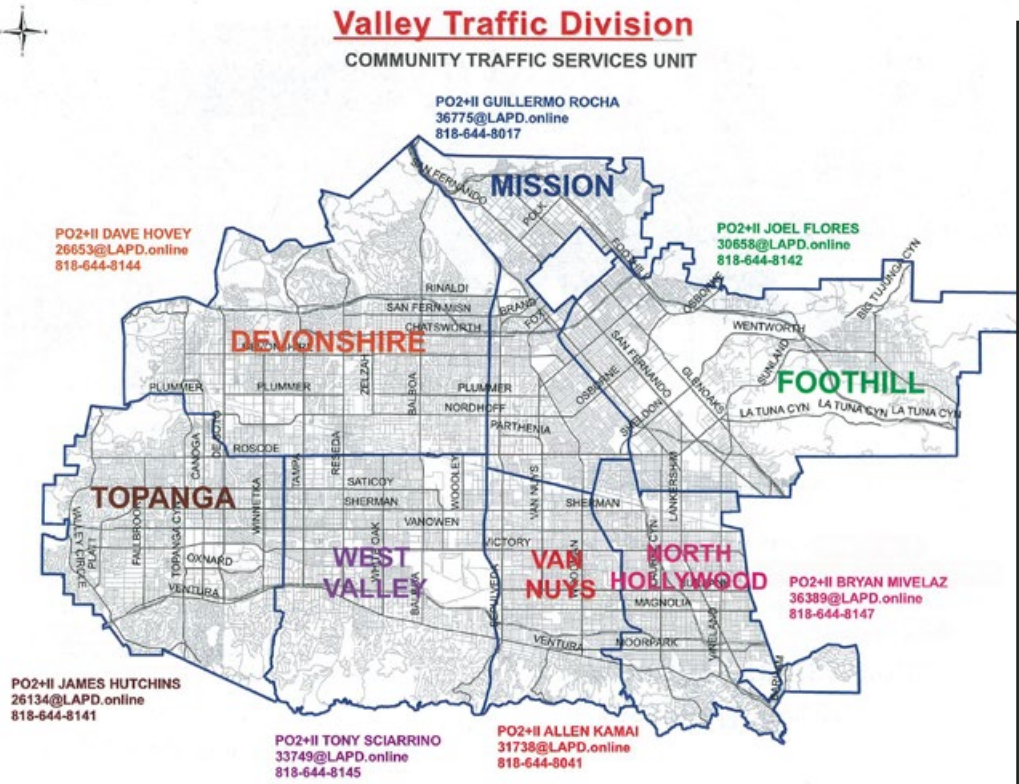


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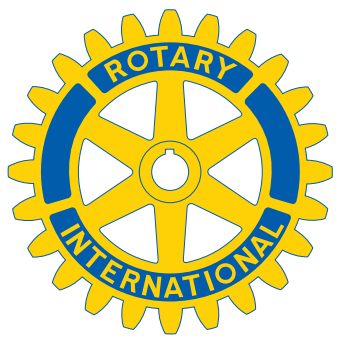
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