

...to identify, discuss, and resolve problems and issues within our community...

**April
2010**



July, 2001

www.OGHRG.org

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Newsletter

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Newsletter articles, pictures, comments, suggestions:
rfisk@verizon.net
or mailing address above

Next Meeting is:

Thursday, April 1st, 2010

7:00 pm - 8:45 pm

Granada Hills Charter High School- Library



- 7:00** Introductions - Sign In
- 7:05** Reading of Minutes, Agenda Review
- 7:10** Community Announcements; News; Updates; Events
Neighborhood Watch, GHSNC
- 7:15** OGHRG Committee Reports
Financial; Zoning & Density;
Newsletter; Communication

**7:30- 8:30 LAPD Chief,
Charlie Beck**

May meeting will be Thursday, May 6th; Guest Speaker from California Clean Money Campaign

OGHRG President's Message - Are We Broke Yet?

No, I'm not talking about OGHRG, we are in pretty decent financial shape, thanks to your generosity and support. I'm talking about the City of Los Angeles. As all of you know, Los Angeles is going through an unprecedented financial crisis. And if you think this year is bad, the shortfall next year is predicted to be twice as much. The current budget hole is about 212 million dollars. Next fiscal year, which starts on July 1st the shortfall could be as high as 450 million dollars. To put that in context, the city's 2008/2009 budget was about 3.6 billion dollars.

The Mayor has already announced layoffs in certain departments. Several departments are being eliminated altogether. Among them is the Department of Neighborhood Development, which oversees the Neighborhood Council system. The layoffs will continue, cutting into vital city services such as planning and building and safety. But at the same time the city is laying off hundreds, if not thousands of employees, LAPD has continued to hire new officers.

Public safety has to be the city's number one priority. Over fifty-five percent of the city's budget goes to two departments; Police and Fire. It doesn't take a financial genius to figure out that you can only squeeze so much savings out of the remainder of the city's budget. At some point the City Council is going to have to look Police and Fire if they are going to close a gap of 450 million dollars.

At the very least, it is almost inevitable that a hiring freeze will be put into place with LAPD. According to CD 12 staff, it costs 150 thousand dollars to hire and train a new officer. Multiply that by the 300 plus new officers hired each year, and the city can close that 450 million dollar gap by 10 to 12 percent.

So, once again the LAPD will be asked to do more with less. But the reality is that the city is broke, and next year we are going to be really broke. All our public services, including those involved in public safety are going to take a hit. *Dave Beauvais*

April Guest Speaker - LAPD Chief Beck



Charles Beck was appointed Chief of the Los Angeles Police Department in November 2009. Chief Beck oversees the third largest police department in the United States, managing almost 10,000 sworn officers, 3,000 civilian employees, encompassing an area of 437 square miles, a population of approximately 3.8 million people, and an annual budget that exceeds one billion dollars.

Chief Beck was born in Long Beach, California in 1953. Upon earning a Baccalaureate Degree from Cal State Long Beach he was appointed to the Police Department in 1977 after spending 2 years with the LAPD Reserve Corps. He rose from Sergeant in 1984 to Lieutenant in 1993, to Captain in 1999, to Commander in 2005 and to the rank of Deputy Chief in 2006, the same rank his father, a retired LAPD officer, had attained.

Chief Beck is renowned for his ability to forge traditional policing methods, community outreach programs, tempered with the input of diverse stakeholders to form enduring crime abatement programs. As Central Area's Commanding Officer, he formulated the original Safer Cities Initiative, a program that brought together a coalition to mitigate crime against the homeless. The coalition of government and private agencies became a model that has been replicated nationally.

Chief Beck was also charged with reforming the beleaguered Rampart Area after the Rafael Perez scandal. He utilized inspirational leadership fostering change from the ground up building community and racial harmony with transparency and constitutional policing. The techniques Chief Beck employed were well documented and the Blue Ribbon Review Panel recommended that the Department follow the leadership model he formulated and used.

While Commanding Officer at Rampart, Chief Beck formed an alliance with community and political groups to reclaim MacArthur Park, eliminating crime within it's boundaries and returning it to the neighborhood for recreation. Public and private funds enabled the purchase of video cameras and the park was revitalized through tree trimming, reseeding of lawns, light fixture repair and the facilities enhanced. The project received national recognition for being the essence of community policing.

Chief Beck is married with three children, two of whom are LAPD officers. He is a director of the LA Police Relief Association and off duty competes in Motocross events having won numerous medals in state, national, and international competitions.

California produces 12.9% of the natural gas, 38.12% of the crude oil, and 73.2% of the electricity it uses. The remaining gas and electricity is purchased from Canada, the Pacific Northwest, Rocky Mountain States and the Southwest.
California Energy Commission

Chatsworth Street

Some more changes are coming to Chatsworth Street in the Business Improvement District (BID) that encompasses Lindley to Encino.

The first phase of the Master plan is completed with the addition of the stone and wood Pergola in the Veteran's Triangle Park at Zelzah and Chatsworth. The Statue, new flag poles and brick walkway were a project of the Rotary Club and other community organizations. A formal Grand Opening Ceremony of the Park will take place Memorial Day, May 31st.

In the next few months, phase two will transform the street medians with the placement of six Canary Date Palm Trees (Palm Springs Variety) and new year round plantings. Stone monuments with colorful inlaid tile denoting "Old Granada Village" will be constructed at the Encino and Zelzah "entry points" of the commercial core of Chatsworth street.

Broken concrete and uplifted sections near the tree wells have been cut out and replaced in the first phase of sidewalk repairs on the north side of Chatsworth between Zelzah and White Oak. Plans are to continue the repairs to Encino and then the entire south side. The BID is providing weekly sidewalk porter service to sweep trash and landscape maintenance.

Information sent in from commercial property and business owner, John Ciccarelli, President of the Granada Hills Business Improvement District

Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce
31st Annual Golf Tournament
 Monday May 3rd
 Porter Valley Country Club

Putting contest, Continental Breakfast Shotgun start, No host cocktails, Silent Auction, Awards Dinner and Prizes

Sponsorships and Golf Slots Available **818 368-3235**



Many of the community news articles printed here are from organizations that send press releases and emails directly to the editor. If you are aware of an event that is relevant or might be of interest to the readers of this newsletter please send it to rcfisk@verizon.net for publishing consideration.

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Senator George Runner - March Guest Speaker

Senator Runner was the distinguished guest speaker at our March, OGHRG meeting. Because there has been a significant amount of interest generated in Sacramento politics, members of OGHRG filled the Granada Hills Charter High School library to maximum capacity. Residents do realize that decisions made by our State Government have a significant impact on their safety and well being. Since Senator Runner has served in State Government for more than 10 years, he was able to provide valuable insight into its operations and policies. After his presentation regarding serious budgetary challenges facing our State, Senator Runner opened up the remainder of the evening for questions from the audience. He wanted to hear what was on the minds of residents in Old Granada Hills. The rest of the meeting was spent on discussing issues such as early prisoner release program, valid ID's required for voting, group homes, Veteran's Administration land use, excessive state taxes, illegal immigration, government overspending, problems associated with legalizing marijuana, and sexual predators. In the community of OGH there has been a heightened concern about sexual predators living within the neighborhood. This is probably due to the news of the tragic death of Chelsea King who lived in San Diego. A sexual predator (who was registered to live in another city) has been apprehended as a suspect in this case. Senator Runner and his wife Sharon have been actively involved in sponsoring legislation to protect children against these criminals. Senator Runner who authored Jessica's law has made numerous media appearances to comment on the Chelsea King case. Jessica's Law (passed by the State Legislature in 2006) includes stipulations that:

- Increases penalties for violent and habitual sex offenders and child molesters
- Requires lifetime Global Positioning System Monitoring for felony registered sex offenders
- Prohibits registered sex offenders from residing within 2000 feet of any school or park
- Expands definition of a sexually violent predator
- Changes current 2-year involuntary civil commitment for a sexually violent predator to an indeterminate commitment

On a regular basis, elected officials have been invited to OGHRG general monthly meetings. In this way, residents can meet their elected representatives and share their concerns. The community of Old Granada Hills is very appreciative of Senator George Runner's and District Representative Linda Johnson's assistance regarding some problematic issues that are facing our neighborhood. *References: Senator George Runner Official Website: cssrc.us/web/17/; Prop 83 (Jessica's Law) Official Title and Summary, Prepared by the Attorney General*

In keeping with not offending anyone in our PC world, the new term for "career criminal" or "repeat offender" is now "prior persistent offender".

Coming Events



Apr 1; April Fool's Day
Apr 6: GH Chamber Gov't Affairs Committee monthly meeting; 11:45AM, Chamber office, 368-3235

Apr 1: Old Granada Hills Residents' Group Meeting; 7:00 See cover page for agenda

April 4: Easter Sunday

Apr 8: Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council, 7:30pm Granada Pavilion in Trader Jo's shopping center near Pep Boys

Apr 15: LAPD District meeting; 7:00 pm ; Shepherd of the Hills Church in Porter Ranch; see notice

Apr 15: Income Taxes Due

Apr 17: Earthday -Volunteer; 8:30 - 11:00; Whole Foods in Porter Ranch; see article

Apr 17: Healthy Kids Day at the YMCA; see article

Apr 18: Claim Jumper Restaurant Tip-A-Cop; 5:00 - 9:00; see article

Apr 19: Valley Vote meeting; 6:45 Galpin Ford; Guest Speaker; Ron Kaye; contact Joe Vitti; javittisr@cs.com

April 22: Earth Day

Apr 24: YMCA Hike in Agoura; see article

Apr 26: Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council, 6:00pm Van Gogh Elementary School

May 3: Granada Hills Chamber annual Golf Tournament; 818-368-3235; sponsorships and golf slots available



FREE MULCH

16600 Roscoe Pl. North
 Hills 7am - 6pm 7 days
 a week



Load your own container and take as much as you want; courtesy of the City Of Los Angeles

Our 19th President of the United States, Rutherford B. Hayes, 1877-1881, made Time Magazine's list of the 10 most forgettable presidents. However, he began the annual White House Easter Egg Roll, which continues each spring. (First lady Lucy Hayes, became known as "Lemonade Lucy" after banning liquor from the White House)

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CSUN Has Power

Did you know that California State University, Northridge is unique in a least one way? Their 1 megawatt power plant is the single largest fuel cell power plant at any university in the world.

The two-year-old plant which generates the base load electricity for the university's facilities and surplus heat for hot water—will effectively reduce the university's CO2 emissions into the environment by 60 million pounds during its lifetime.

The fuel cell plant runs on natural gas and produces electric power, recovering otherwise wasted heat with an efficiency approaching 80 percent. "As a reference," Physical Plant Manager Executive Director Tom Brown said, "the power that comes to your doorstep from the utility company arrives at about 33 percent efficiency, meaning the waste by-product from coal and oil or gas is going into the atmosphere." Read more about it and other programs CSUN has in "Northridge", A magazine for alumni, friends and the community of CSUN; www.northridgemagazine.com/features/ultimatesustainablessystem/

LAPD and Special Olympics

Mark your calendar for the upcoming "Tip-A-Cop" dinner at the Claim Jumper Restaurant in Northridge, Thursday, April 18 and help raise funds to support the Special Olympics!

LAPD Officers will be your waiters for the evening, and all tips go to support the Special Olympics of Southern California, which for 40 years has worked to empower people with intellectual disabilities to become physically fit, productive and respected members of society through sports training and competition.

Thursday, April 18, 2009 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Claim Jumper Restaurant at Northridge Fashion Center
9429 Tampa Ave.

For more information about the Special Olympics of Southern California, visit http://www.sosc.org/About_Us_Main.htm

- There is only one major problem today, and that is, how to deal with the people who are trying to solve it.
- The biggest problem in the world could have been solved when it was small.



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— Dave Jackson




Celebrate Earthday - Volunteer

Join Supporters of Law Enforcement in Devonshire (SOLID) for a community clean-up project on Saturday, April 17 in Porter Ranch in observance of Earth Day.



The clean-up will involve painting over graffiti and trash removal in Limekiln Canyon, a beautiful nature area with extensive walking trails. Free coffee and bagels will be served at the kick-off at the parking lot of Whole Foods Market in Porter Ranch. A delicious BBQ lunch will be hosted by Whole Foods Market in Porter Ranch to raise funds for SOLID, which brings non-city supplied materials and equipment to Police Officers at Devonshire Division.

Saturday, April 17 8:30 am - 11:00 pm
Whole Foods Market at Rinaldi & Tampa


For more information (818) 756-8501

Be on the Look

Thanks to the efforts of John Seletos, OGHRG Board Member, we rolled out new lawn signs that announce our monthly meetings. Altogether, only 20 signs have been distributed to members who are live in key locations that are highly visible. Signs will be displayed monthly on private property – not city property or parkways. They will go up the Monday before regularly scheduled OGHRG meetings and come down Thursday evenings after the meetings.



- Actions speak louder than words, especially in sign language.



LAPD Devonshire Area Semi-Annual District Meeting

Hosted by Captains Sean Kane and Maureen Ryan with Sgt. Larry Bavaro and the Senior Lead Officers (SLO's)

Topic: _____

"It is 10:00, Do you know where your car is and do you remember what you left in it?"

Thursday, April 15, at 7:00 PM
Shepherd of the Hills Church
19700 Rinaldi, Porter Ranch

Devonshire Division Crime Stats 1/31 thru 2/27

Homicide0	Burglary 93
Rape 1	GTA 59
Robbery 21	BFMV 172
Aggravated	Personal/
Assault 12	Other theft ..101
Shots fired .. 4	Arrests 483

Data from LAPD Comstat

Websites for the neighborhood....

There are several websites that let you know about registered offenders living in the neighborhood. www.familywatchdog.us was developed by John Walsh from America's Most Wanted. www.meganslaw.ca.gov also lists sex offenders. As of March 6th, there were 27 registered as living in Granada Hills.

The LAPD now offers a free service that you sign up for to receive messages directly from the police on crime, traffic, emergencies and other public safety information directly to your mobile phone or email boxes - www.Nixle.com You can also sign up for e-policing at www.lapdepolicing.org to get crime and other police related information specifically to your area from the Senior Lead Officer. The LAPD website is www.lapdonline.org menu through Our Communities to get the Devonshire Division.

If your car is towed and want to know where it is, go to www.opglaviic.com and enter your license plate number.

For zoning and city planning information including individual parcel data - <http://zimas.lacity.org/>

Hillcrest School Haiti Donation

On the heels of the devastating earthquake and widespread suffering in Haiti, Hillcrest Christian School students felt a strong desire and obligation to make a difference in the region. Two student-initiated fundraisers, "Hats for Haiti" and "Change for Haiti", spurred a one-week-long drive to collect money for the cause. For a donation of \$2.00 or more, students were allowed to wear a hat of their choice for the day. On "Hats for Haiti"

day, the campus was covered with hats, caps and beanies from every genre. The excitement was so contagious that Hillcrest's mail carrier made a donation. At the same time, high school students donated their lunch money, their humble savings and sacrificed many other personal perks in an effort to raise "Change for Haiti." During the week, 265 pounds of change and cash were collected from the classrooms. The combined result of both fundraising efforts was a substantial donation of \$6,626.97 to the Children's Hunger Fund, which focuses all donations towards those suffering in Haiti. Not bad for a week's work!



Book Sale

The Friends of the Granada Hills Library will be having a book sale on Saturday, April 24, from 10:00 a.m to 2:00 p.m. Lots of paperbacks, hardcovers, fiction and nonfiction books will be offered at excellent prices. A variety of books for all ages will be available. The Friends of the Granada Hills Library were established in 1982 and has raises money to purchase books and supplies not covered by the LAPL budget; (i.e.your taxes) for the library. The sale will take place in the community room at the library which is



located at 16040 Petit Avenue, Granada Hills, CA (corner at Chatsworth St.) The library phone number is 818 368-5687. Carol Mandelberg

North Valley YMCA Programs

As part of the nationwide YMCA Healthy Kids Day celebrated at 1,700 YMCA's across the country, North Valley Family YMCA (www.ymcala.org/nv) holds a **FREE**, open-to-the-community, play day for the children and families, from 10 am to 2 pm, Saturday, April 17th at the Y at 11336 Corbin in Porter Ranch.

Activities include: YMCA youth performances, health information booths, healthy cooking demonstrations, inflatable jumpers, rock climbing wall, music, kid's crafts, raffle and more. Parents can sign up kids for YMCA summer programs including day in-town camp, away camping and youth swim lessons and fitness classes. The event is co-sponsored by Providence Holy Cross Medical Center. For more information: Bryson Atkins, 818-368-3231; brysonatkins@ymcala.org

Summit Seekers, the monthly hiking group from the YMCA has set its spring and summer schedule. The hikes are **FREE** and open to the community. April's hike begins at 9 am Saturday, April 24th, at the Talepop trail in Agoura, near the corner of Las Virgenes Rd. and Mulholland Hwy. Hikers meet at the trail head for this 4.6 mile hike. Contact Jody Guerreo at 818-368-3231, ext 2329; jodyguerrero@ymcala.org



California non-farm employment in January 2010 was 13,842,100 which is down 4.8% from 1 year ago. The state unemployment rate in January was 12.5% up from 9.7% in January 2009. www.calmis.ca.gov/file/lfmonth/calmr.pdf

Recently Sold Homes

17270 Mayerling	\$482,000	17457 Ludlow	\$410,000
11227 Yarmouth	\$517,000	10824 Gerald	\$425,000
10417 Andasol	\$363,000	17460 Donmetz	\$405,000
10546 Debra	\$480,000	17440 Donmetz	\$710,000
17964 Tulsa	\$419,000	17657 Bryan Pl	\$779,000

Courtesy; Marla Rhoades, Realtor 818 571-0678
Information from the SoCalMLS is believed to accurate but not guaranteed

**Granada Hills South
Neighborhood Council**
[www. GHSNC.org](http://www.GHSNC.org)

 GHSNC meets the second Thursday of every month at Granada Pavillion; 7:30 PM Shopping center at San Fernando and Balboa near Pep Boys




P.O. Box 34055
Granada Hills, CA 91394

Old Granada Hills Residents' Group is a non profit organization of volunteers and concerned residents of our community. In our 9th year, we are a voice well known to our elected representatives with issues that affect us all - please join us.

April 2010

Please Support Our Neighborhood Sponsors

The businesses you have seen listed in this newsletter are dedicated to preserving our Old Granada Hills Neighborhood. If you would like to become a sponsor and have your business listed, please call us at (818)368-7454



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