

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

December 2008



July, 2001

www.OGHRG.org

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!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
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Next Meeting is:

Thursday, December 4th
7:00 pm - 8:45 pm
Granada Hills Charter High School- Rawley Hall



Season's Greetings



- 7:00** Introductions - Sign In
- 7:05** Reading of Minutes,
- 7:10** Community Announcements; News; Updates; Events
- 7:15** OGHRC Committee Reports
Financial; Zoning & Density; Newsletter; Communication
- 7:30** **Guest Speaker; Connie Semf; Principal of Northridge Academy High School**
- 8:10** Verizon Pole Boxes;
- 8:15:** Medical Marijuana Dispensaries;
- 8:20:** LaBrea Coalition lawsuit update
- 8:25** Wrap -up

No general meeting will be held in January

OGHRG President's Message

As we close out 2008, I think it is appropriate to review the issues and projects OGHRC has been involved in this past year. First, the battle with Regency Properties and Kohls continues. This project is currently in litigation, and it may take many more months to resolve. Given the current state of the economy, the project may be dropped altogether. If it is, then OGHRC will be proactive and work with Regency to find attractive and appropriate retailers who will improve the Granada Hills Shopping Village.

OGHRG has joined with a number of other grassroots community organizations in a lawsuit against the City of Los Angeles. The purpose of this suit is to force the city to follow their own regulations, and perform annual reviews of infrastructure for development purposes. The city has not performed such a review in the last 10 years, and is still relying on data produced in the late 1990's to justify development in some cases.

OGHRG has been a vocal opponent of unlicensed group homes in our area. As a result, Councilman Grieg Smith introduced a motion mandating the Planning Department and the City Attorney to craft a city-wide ordinance that will regulate all licensed or unlicensed group homes, this ordinance is being written by the Planning Department, and there should be an opportunity for public comment on their draft in early 2009.

OGHRG has taken a stand against the proliferation of medical marijuana dispensaries in Granada Hills. We currently have five such dispensaries in Granada Hills, two located in Old Granada Hills on Chatsworth Street. Many cities have developed citywide ordinances controlling or eliminating such dispensaries. This looks like the next battle we will be fighting in Old Granada Hills.

The Granada Hills-Knollwood Community and Specific Plans continue in the review process. Members of OGHRC have been directly involved in the process, which should culminate in a new plan in 2009.

OGHRG was involved in a number of community events in 2008. In April, we participated in Citrus Sunday, an effort to provide fresh fruit for food banks in the San Fernando Valley.

(Continued page 2)



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 8th year, we are a voice well known to our elected representatives with issues that affect us all - please join us.

December 2008

**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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December Guest Speaker - Connie Sempf

Connie Sempf is the Principal of Northridge Academy High School on Zelzah within the campus area of CSUN. Following is some information about the school.

The school is a LAUSD campus that opened in September, 2004. There are approximately 980 students in grades 9 through 12.

The school's mission is to inspire, support, and expect our students to achieve their fullest potential as learners and productive citizens. Northridge Academy sets high



expectations for all students by providing a rigorous and relevant curriculum with a system of learning supports. They firmly believe in the importance of actively engaging the voice and

wisdom of our students, parents, and community in the building of our culture. There are Advisories in order to foster a mentor/support/advocate relationship between adults on our campus and our students to support both academic and personal growth.

In addition to a 9th Grade Bridge/Exploratory Academy, the school has developed 3 academies, or small learning centers, that correspond with 3 major colleges at CSUN. They are Health and Human Development; Arts, Media & Communication; Careers in Education.

The joint relationship between Northridge Academy and CSUN provides a unique opportunity for the high school and university to develop richer curriculum and expanded learning opportunities for the students on both campuses. Faculty from Northridge Academy regularly meet with their counterpart faculty at Cal State University Northridge to develop and plan curriculum. In addition, students at Northridge Academy have access to a wide variety of Cal State University Northridge resources, including check-out privileges at the CSUN Oviatt Library.



Candy canes began as straight white sticks of sugar candy used to decorate the Christmas tree. A choirmaster at Cologne Cathedral decided to have the ends bent to depict a shepherd's crook and he would pass them out to the children to keep them quite during the services. It wasn't until about the 20th century that candy canes acquired their red stripes. During the Christmas/Hanakkah season more than 1.76 billion are made.

President's Note - continued from front page

In October, we participated in the 8th annual Granada Hills Street Faire. This was a great outreach event and fundraiser. In November, we joined several north valley neighborhood councils in sponsoring a Disaster Preparedness event that was attended by about 500 people. The event was preceded by the Great Southern California Shakeout on November 13, and then a real life disaster, the Sayre fire in Sylmar and north Granada Hills over the weekend.

In closing, I want to wish all our members a safe, joyful, and memorable holiday season. Take a walk around our own emerging candy cane lane just north of San Fernando Mission between White Oak and Encino. Introduce yourself to a neighbor you don't know. Extend a helping hand to those less fortunate than ourselves, either by donating a toy, a few bucks or some of your time. Please note that there will not be a meeting in January, we will see you at the February meeting. *Dave Beauvais*

Hospital High Construction

LAUSD Community Outreach department held a Hospital High construction update meeting at Patrick Henry Middle School on November 17th.

The 974 day construction schedule is on tract with most of the major dirt removal completed. A state of the art water detention, filtering and clarification basin has been installed in the ground below what will be the central courtyard of the campus. This is designed to treat all rain and run off water that leaves the campus area before entering the storm drain. Modification work is being done on the steel structure that will be the classrooms and laboratories. The next major step after the primary utility lines are in place will be the foundation work for the administration and multi-purpose building at the south end of the campus.



It was a good meeting with slides of the ongoing site work and questions about the construction were answered. Sometime around May, there will be another public construction update meeting. Until then if you have any questions related to the construction, contact Joseph Pina at (213) 893-6809 or (800) 704-1267.

- After the holidays, most of us are way behind on our bills but way ahead of our calories.
- There are generally 2 kinds of gifts; the ones you don't like and the ones you didn't get.
- There is always someone that you are afraid not to give a gift to.

Veteran's Park

The official ground breaking ceremony for the Veteran's Memorial Park at Chatsworth and Zelzah was held the Saturday before Veteran's Day. With a warm sunny day, the park was almost filled with people as Dr. Carl Melnik introduced speakers who gave praise to our country's Veterans. The Granada Hills Rotary Club has taken the Park under its wing and along with the Granada Hills Business Improvement District (BID) has planned some additions to the park.

A brick walk of Tribute leading up to a bronze centerpiece statue representing the armed forces is the first phase along with 3 new flag poles placed at the back of the statue. A super special thanks for his generous support goes to Jake Parunyan of Kenn Cleaners for making the statue a reality. Individual recognition bricks creating the walk path bear the names of supporters or in the memory of loved ones. (Bricks are still available - call Dr. Carl Melnik at 818 366-2020; recognition inscription does not need to be service related). Required descriptive plans and engineering documents for the statue, Tribute Walk and 3 new flag poles were scheduled to be submitted before the end of November.

The second phase, primarily sponsored by the BID will be a pergola with seating along the south east portion of the concrete pads surrounding the park's main tree. Construction details for the pergola are in process and will hopefully be on the same schedule for city approval.

You may have already noticed the new 3 dimensional letters on the "Welcome to Granada Hills" sign. The painted bronze letters replaced the painted letters on the concrete entrance sign.

Once completed the new additions will enhance the overall image of the Veteran's Park making it something that all of us can be proud of by providing a visual statement of the character of Granada Hills.

Recently Sold Homes

11071 Yarmouth	\$545,000	17518 Horace	\$415,000
10538 Zelzah	\$300,000	10919 Lindley	\$560,000
17529 San Jose	\$372,000	17909 Tribune Pl	\$499,000
11153 Louise	\$500,000	10860 Zelzah	\$525,000
17556 Tribune	\$435,000	17556 Tribune	\$435,000

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

Singer's Zingers - Election Blues

After every election the winners are rejoicing and sometime "rubbing it in" to the losers. As most of us realize, there's no such thing as "a good loser". However, I have a theory that to some degree the losers are the victims of their own apathy and expectation that someone else will get their candidate elected or their favorite proposition passed. Well - it's time to wake up because that's not how the system works ! If you don't believe me, research the history of the holocaust, the slaughter of the commoners in Russia, etc.

If you have an opinion about any politician or controversial issue, get off your duff and to paraphrase the old adage, "put your efforts, money, interests where your mouth is". If enough of us do that, maybe we will be rejoicing with the winners next time.





There was \$4.9 billion worth of U.S. toy imports including stuffed toys (excluding dolls), puzzles and electric trains from China between January and August of this year, 2008. That includes \$42 million in roller skates, \$638 million worth of golf equipment and \$31 million in basketballs.

There were, in 2006, 691 establishments that primarily produced games, toys, and children's vehicles, employing 13,665 workers. California led the nation with 118 of those businesses. *U.S. Census Bureau News, Oct. 30, 2008*


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Your Own Flag Pole

If anyone is feeling patriotic in these trying times and would like to show their patriotism, they can drive by the residence of Gene and Doris Behrns at 11108 Louise Ave.



and check out the flag of our country, displayed 24-7 in the front yard landscape.

Gene, has been working with the Rotary Club with rejuvenation and design ideas for the Veterans Memorial Park at Chatsworth and Zelzah. He is in the landscape design business and has been for the past fifty (50) years "yes 50 years".

A few of his clientele have expressed the same feelings of patriotism and wanted a flag pole for their property. Gene located a company in Phoenix, Az. that can supply the whole package; 16 ft telescoping pole, 3 ft. x 5 ft. flag; all the hardware and the light kit. (flag, according to proper protocol has to be lit up at night if not taken down), for under \$400.00. (They sometimes run specials reducing that price)

If anyone is interested you can contact Gene at Landscape Design, A.S.L.A. at (818) 368-4923. He will be happy to give you all the information so you can do the project yourself. If you are not into the hands on kind of work, Gene can arrange to have it installed for you.



**25th Annual
Granada Hills
Holiday Parade**

Sunday, December 7th 1:30

Chatsworth Street



25 Volunteers urgently needed to meet newly required safety measures standing watch at each intersection along parade route. Please call the Chamber office, (818 368-3235) volunteer, and feel the great satisfaction of knowing you have contributed to this 25th annual Granada Hills tradition.



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Bits & Bytes by Bette - Thawing a Turkey

Did you have trouble trying to cook a frozen turkey at Thanksgiving? This might help: Whether you have 5 days or 12 hours, you can safely thaw your frozen turkey without risking bacterial growth. Thawing your turkey in the refrigerator is the preferred method for safety reasons, but you can also thaw it in cold water. The thing to remember about both methods is that you keep your turkey COLD while thawing – the key to preventing excessive bacterial growth.

No matter which method you select, cook the turkey promptly after thawing.

Thawing Time in the Refrigerator

8-12 pounds	2 days
13-16 pounds	3 days
17-20 pounds	4 days
over 20 pounds	5 days

Thawing in Cold Water

8-12 pounds	6 hours
13-16 pounds	9 hours
17-20 pounds	11 hours
over 20 pounds	12 hours



Frozen, prestuffed turkeys should not be thawed before cooking. After the thaw, wash the turkey inside and outside. Drain. Wash your hands, utensils and sink. Be safe.

source: *Center for Disease Control article via MSN.com*

In Germany, the eighth and last day of Hanakkah used to be very special. All the leftover wicks and oil were lit in giant bonfires. People sang songs and danced around the fire, often until the small hours of the night.



Traditionally, Hanakkah is a time when children are encouraged and rewarded for their Torah studies, consequently, it became fashionable to give the children money and presents during the holiday.



Remember When?

Lightning struck and decimated a Deodar tree along White Oak near San Jose. It fell between 2 houses without damaging either one. This picture was taken in the fall of 1984. *Thanks Jill Tovey*

Coming Events



Dec 2: GH Chamber Gov't Affairs Committee monthly meeting; 11:45AM, Chamber office, 368-3235

Dec 4: Old Granada Hills Residents' Group Meeting; 7:00 See cover page for agenda

Dec 7: Pearl Harbor Day

Dec 7: Granada Hills Holiday Parade; on Chatsworth St.; starting at 1:30 from Petit at the Libray

Dec 9: Chatsworth Holiday Parade; on Devonshire from Topanga to Lurline; 10:00

Dec 11: 17A45 Neighborhood Watch; 7:00pm St. Nicholas Greek Church, Balboa and Plummer.; SLO Ken Cioffi

Dec 11: Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council, 7:00 pm; First Baptist Church of Granada Hills; 11011 Havenhurst Ave.

Dec 17: Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council, Date and Time not finalized at time of printing, check www.ghnnc.org

Dec 21: First day of Winter

Dec 22: First Day of Hanukkah;

Dec 25: Christmas Day - Thursday this year

Dec 26: Boxing day

Dec 31: New Years Eve, Wednesday



In 1836, Alabama was the first state in the USA to declare Christmas a legal holiday. Oklahoma was the last state in 1907.

Artificial Christmas trees have outsold real ones since 1991.



Data for the year 2002 shows that U.S. Manufacturers shipped \$1.3 billion worth of candles. Many are lit during Hanukkah and Kwanza celebrations.

That same year our nation's suppliers shipped \$475 million worth of effervescent wines (including sparkling wines, such as champagne)



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Neighborhood Watch - 17A27

At the November 20th meeting of Basic Car 17A27 (our area north of Chatsworth Street) Neighborhood Watch it was reported that there was a cluster of thefts from vehicles. There has been an individual arrested who might be the cause of several of these. However, especially this time of year when people are shopping, it is important not to leave anything in sight in your vehicle. People are leaving notebook computers, I-Pods, and other items that thieves will smash your car window to break in and steal. They have ready buyers for your "stuff" and will sell it for a few dollars leaving you with the cost and hassle to repair your car and replace your loss. Don't give them the opportunity, and at least hide items from plain view.

In January, the new police station (named the Topanga Station that is in Canoga Park) will open causing the Senior Lead Officer areas and reporting districts to be reshaped and renumbered.

LAPD "TipOff" Line

If you have any information regarding any suspicious activity or crimes in your neighborhood:

(818) 832-0563

The tipoff line is available 24/7 and messages can be left anonymously



TEXT-A-TIP

You can also provide anonymous tips through your cell phone if it is set up for text messaging. Text CRIMES (274637) on your cell phone and begin the message with the letters LAPD.

No Donations!

LAPD does not accept monetary or in-kind donations. There are many unscrupulous people who use this time of year or disasters like the recent fires to try and solicit donations. Ignore those people who are posing as LAPD representatives over the phone or especially at the super market and malls.



Devonshire Division Crime Stats
10/19 thru 11/15

Homicide0	Burglary 95
Rape 0	GTA 63
Robbery 12	BFMV 179
Aggravated	Personal/
Assault 18	Other theft ..91
Shots fired .. 2	Arrests 287

Data from LAPD website COMPSTAT section

Disaster Event



While the fires were burning in the hills and mountains, the Disaster Preparedness Event was being held at Fire Station 87 on Balboa. This event was in conjunction with the Great Southern California Shake-Out Earthquake drill held the previous Thursday. A coalition of neighborhood councils and community groups (including OGHRC), with the help of Councilman Greig Smith's office produced the event. They assembled city, county and federal agencies as well as volunteer and private businesses to disseminate information to help understand and prepare for what is needed to get through a major Disaster. The Event was well attended, estimated at over 500 people during the 3 afternoon hours it was open.

The Fire and the Parks

The fires in the north part of Granada Hills during the middle of November called for evacuations around Sesnon Blvd. and caused damage to several homes and yards. Thanks to the fire fighting crews, it could have been a lot worse.

O-Melveny Park lost its overhead entrance sign and all the wood fences along the creek. No buildings were destroyed. Though the bridges in the park look damaged, their structure



is concrete and were safe to cross allowing the fire department to get to some of the small flare ups the following week.

In Bee Canyon Park, which is south of Sesnon, extending from Balboa to the

entrance of O-Melveny Park, the fire burned mostly on the north side of the creek. If the City Recreation and Park department had not been clearing and trimming trees, including eucalyptus, for almost a month prior to the fire, more damage to surrounding homes might have occurred.

Unfortunately, some of the newly planted Oak trees were destroyed in the fire. These, about 800, trees planted in O-Melveny and Bee Canyon Parks are part of the mitigation measures of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill. They were planted through the Patriot Oil Fund that is a subsidiary of the North Valley Coalition. *thank you Mary Ellen Crosby for the info*

Verizon Pole Boxes

Verizon, the phone company, has been installing large cabinets on telephone poles in the area (see the boxes block sidewalks and create hazards for pedestrians - especially bicyclists or children on skateboards. In some cases, the boxes have been placed in residents' front yards with no notification and no permit process. This is an abuse of the utility company's condemnation powers. What's worse is that there is no end in sight. Utility companies are seeing telephone poles as "free land" where



anything goes. Several companies are installing ever larger utility boxes, transmitters, antennas, cell sites, etc. Some of these cabinets contain hazardous materials such as lead-acid batteries, which have exploded violently in various parts of the country. This appears to be a completely unchecked process, devoid of environmental review. *Jerry Askew, Granada Hills South NC*

gingerbread cookies



- 1 cup shortening
- 1 cup sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup molasses
- 2 tbsp. vinegar
- 5 cup flour
- 1 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 2 tsp. ginger
- 1 tsp. cinnamom
- 1 tsp. cloves

Mix shortening, sugar, eggs, molasses and vinegar. Sift flour, baking soda, salt, ginger and cinnamom. Combine the mixtures. Chill dough at least 3 hours. Roll out dough and cut with cookie cutters or drinking glass. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Place cookies on greased baking sheet and bake 5-6 minutes, depending on thickness of cookies. Makes 5 dozen 4-inch cookies. *sent in by Sharon Klek*

Free Memberships - Military

The North Valley Family YMCA is providing free one year, YMCA memberships to families with a spouse or parent called to active duty in the U.S. National Guard or in the military Reserves.

The program is sponsored by the YMCA of the USA and the U.S. Department of Defense to address the needs deployed military personnel family members who live far from a military installation. The North Valley YMCA (www.ymcala.org/nv), at 11336 Corbin Avenue, began offering the free memberships October 1, 2008, for military families residing within the branch's service area.

Y "This program will help families of military personnel during their separation from their loved ones," said North Family Valley YMCA Executive Director, Jane Stanton. "We are happy to provide a place where families can be active together and find support within the YMCA. This is another way we fulfill our mission to build strong kids, strong families and strong communities."

Military families who take advantage of the free North Valley YMCA membership can participate in a variety of activities including youth classes, adult fitness classes, aquatics programs and family swim time. The YMCA also offers a Childwatch program at the facility which cares for children while parents are working out at the YMCA. The membership is free, but special programs such as youth sports programs, swim lessons and karate incur an extra cost.

Families seeking to enroll should contact Nicole Casper, Program Director, 818-368-3231, NicoleCasper@ymcala.org and have a military ID or deployment paperwork.

About the North Valley Family YMCA

Founded in 1945 and now the largest social service organization in the San Fernando Valley. From a 34,000-sq.-foot building, more than 12,000 members take part in aquatics, fitness classes and parent-child, art and drama programs. Another 25,000 participate offsite in physical education, with 750 children in childcare, enrichment and daycare programs at schools and other facilities.



The U.S. Postal Service is expected to deliver 20 billion pieces of mail between Thanksgiving and Christmas. December 17th is expected to be the busiest mailing day with more than 3 times the average daily volume of cards and letters being delivered (27 million pieces vs. 82 million)



U.S. Christmas tree farmers sold \$493.3 million worth of trees in 2007 with Oregon farmers contributing \$114.3 million to that total. China was the leading source of artificial Christmas trees shipped to the U.S. between January and August of this year - \$66.2 million.

North Valley Family Hikers

Hiking trails from Malibu to Santa Clarita are the destination for the "Summit Seekers," an informal hiking group organized by the North Valley Family YMCA for the past four years.

"A lot of the places we go to are away from the freeways, away from the hustle and bustle," said Chelsea Good, North Valley YMCA's Healthy Lifestyles Coordinator. "It's nice to visit these hidden treasures so close by."

The morning hikes - **free and open to the public** - occur year round, roughly monthly. This year, family hikes are scheduled so that younger children can participate. North Valley YMCA opens the hikes to non-YMCA members as a way to reach out to the larger community, Good said.

Dana Hamlin, a North Valley YMCA member for five years, joined the group this spring and recalled a recent, six-mile night hike in the San Fernando Valley. The walk began at the end of Reseda Boulevard and followed a trail up into the hills over-



looking the Los Angeles basin to a concrete platform with a huge telescope mounted on it.

"You could see all the way to Dodger Stadium," Hamlin said. "It was a panoramic, beautiful view. You forget there's a lot of beauty right around here."

The hikers also venture for longer hikes outside the region such as an overnight backpacking hike in Mammoth at Steelhead Lake, elevation 10,300 feet, and a hike in Yosemite.

The next hike will be at 9 a.m., Saturday, December 6, a three-mile hike to Vasquez Rocks in Santa Clarita. A 1.5-mile family hike is set for 10 a.m., Sunday, Jan. 4 at Corriganville Park in Simi Valley, followed by a six-mile hike Saturday, January 17 at the Mishe Mokwa Trail-Sandstone Peak in Malibu.

Interested hikers should contact hike leader Jody Guerrero at jodyguerrero@ymcla.org. For more information on the North Valley Family YMCA and its other programs, call 818-368-3231 or log onto www.ymcla.org/nv.

Did You know?

As of 2004, if you plan on traveling through any of our national forests and stopping at parking lots you will need to display a valid US FOREST SERVICE pass in your car. This includes even going up to Mt. Wilson for the afternoon to see the telescopes or for the view (Mt. Wilson is in the Angeles National Forest). Passes come in many versions including a daily pass, yearly pass, or interagency pass. Some discounts are available to seniors and the disabled. Five dollar Daily Adventure Passes can be obtained locally at Big 5 and REI. source: personal "Notice of Noncompliance"; editor

