

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

**February
2008**



July, 2001

www.OGHRG.org

Contact Information

Mailing Address:

OGHRC
PO Box 34055
Granada Hills, CA 91394

Board of Directors

Dave Beauvais

President
davebeauvais@verizon.net
831-2318

Chris Silvers

Vice President
ChristopherSilvers@
hotmail.com

Bette Biers

Secretary
bjbiers@socal.rr.com

Bob Castle

Treasurer
bob@castletax.com

Maria Fisk

Co-Founder
Zoning/Density
mbfisk@verizon.net

Hal Singer

Guest Speakers
hsinger@socal.rr.com

Richard Fisk

Editor
rcfisk@verizon.net

Committees

Zoning / Density

Financial

Communication

Fund Raising

Newsletter

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

Next Meeting is:

Thursday, February 7th

7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Granada Pavilion -

NW corner San Fernando/Balboa Shopping Center

7:30 Introductions - Sign In

7:35 Reading of Minutes,

7:40 Community Announcements; News; Updates; Events

7:45 OGHRC Committee Reports

Financial; Zoning & Density; Newsletter; Communication

7:55 Guest Speaker; Cameron Smyth;

our State Assemblyman, 39th District

8:50 New Business and Wrap-up



Happy
Valentine's
Day

March meeting will be at Granada High, Thursday, March 6th; LAUSD Superintendent David Brewer scheduled



OGHRG President's Message

Our first meeting of the year focused on goals, means and organization. To start, we had an interesting presentation from Captain Sean Kane, Commander of the LAPD Devonshire Division. Captain Kane talked about the reorganization of the Valley divisions, which will result in an additional basic car unit for Devonshire. He also shared crime statistics in Los Angeles and Devonshire Division. Crime is down significantly in both the city and the division. Captain Kane also answered a number of questions from the members.

We then had an old-fashioned town hall type meeting, with plenty of input and give and take from the membership. We talked extensively about the budget, with some great ideas on how to increase income and cut expenses. We also discussed the newsletter, how it could be improved, leads on potential sponsors, and ideas for featured articles and information to publish in the newsletter.

We also had a presentation from VP Chris Silvers regarding the new website. There was a great deal of enthusiasm regarding the new site and the new features available. We also had some great ideas on what to put on the website, subjects for discussion on the forum, and possible links.

We had an extensive discussion on what you would like in the way of guest speakers. Among the best suggestions; a representative from LA Building & Safety (already in the works), a veterinarian, a nutritionist. We also discussed the meeting format and plans for future meetings. One of the most interesting ideas regarding the meeting format was a suggestion that we hold an "open house" with food, prizes, and perhaps some games.

In terms of the issues that most concern our residents, two things stood out; graffiti and zoning issues. In terms of the graffiti, the defacing of billboards along the Chatsworth corridor was the number one concern. We intend to partner with the Chamber of Commerce and Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council to tackle the growing proliferation of graffiti. Our zoning and density committee is doing a terrific job on zoning issues. We recently sent a letter to the Planning Department regarding the pace of the Granada Hills/Knollwood community plan review. In our view, it should not take three to four years to undertake and complete such a review. We are going to do everything we can to expedite the process.

Finally, we have some terrific guest speakers lined up for February and March. In February, we have Assemblyman Cameron Smyth scheduled. The meeting will be held at the Granada Pavilion, with a start time of 7:30. In March we will be back at Granada Hills Charter High School, with LAUSD Superintendent David Brewer as our guest speaker. Both of these meetings will be educational, informative, and interesting. Please plan on attending, and bring a neighbor. *Dave Beauvais*

February Guest Speaker - Assemblyman Cameron Smyth; 38th District



Elected in 2006, Assemblyman Cameron Smyth is honored to represent the 38th Assembly District, which includes the cities of Los Angeles, Santa Clarita, Simi Valley and Glendale.

Prior to being elected to the state legislature, Assemblyman Smyth served on the Santa Clarita City Council, where he was first elected in 2000 and subsequently re-elected in 2004 – he was grateful to receive the highest number of votes in both elections.

During his time on the City Council, Assemblyman Smyth twice served as Mayor, first in 2003 and again in 2005.

In his first year as a Legislator, Assemblyman Smyth was appointed as the Vice Chair of the important Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee. The committee is charged with oversight of issues pertaining to public health and the environment. As Vice Chair, Assemblyman Smyth seeks to direct the committee towards scientifically sound policies that promote a healthy environment and a strong economy and oppose those that needlessly burden the business community and drive our workforce to other states.

Assemblyman Smyth has also been appointed to the Utilities and Commerce Committee and the Local Government Committee, two important committees responsible for overseeing legislation affecting many of California's most critical infrastructure needs. As a member of these committees, Assemblyman Smyth will fight to ensure that our energy supply can meet our growing demand, make certain that California law is fluid and able to adapt to emerging telecommunication technologies, and guarantee that cities and counties maintain the authority to make critical decisions about issues that affect their residents.

Born and raised in the District, Assemblyman Smyth attended local public schools and received his Bachelors Degree in Rhetoric and Communications from the University of California, Davis, where he was also a two-sport athlete.

Assemblyman Smyth began his career as a Field Representative for the California Republican Party. In 1994 he was hired by the late state Assemblyman "Pete" Knight. In 1996, Smyth served as campaign manager for Knight's successful state

Senate campaign; the youngest on site manager for any state legislative race in California at that time.

Upon winning the election, Senator Knight promoted Assemblyman Smyth to the position of Deputy Chief of Staff. In 2000, the Assemblyman moved to the private sector and currently operates his own consulting business.

Assemblyman Smyth, along with his wife Lena, has been very active in the community for several years. They have served on the board and volunteered with several non-profit organizations including: the American Red Cross' local blood drive program, the American Heart Association, the American Diabetes Association, the Special Olympics, the Betty Ferguson Foundation, the Santa Clarita Valley Jaycees, and the Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Along with their service to the community, Cameron and Lena are parents of two boys, Gavin 3 and Rowan, born in March of 2006.

Black History Month

To commemorate and celebrate the contributions to our nation made by people of African Descent, American historian Carter G. Woodson established Black History Week. The first celebration occurred on February 12, 1926. For many years, the second week of February was set aside for this celebration to coincide with the birthdays of abolitionist/editor Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. In 1976, as part of the nation's bicentennial, the week was expanded into Black History Month. In 2000, President Clinton proclaimed February as National African American History Month.

Cash For College

There is a financial assistance workshop being held at Monroe High on Saturday, February 9th. If you receive financial assistance through CalGrants, you could qualify for an additional \$1,000 scholarship through "Cash for College".

Get help applying for this money by attending the workshop. Applicants must bring federal income tax returns for 2007, W-2 forms, paycheck stubs or records of income and current bank statements for themselves and their parents.

Monroe High School, anytime between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm. For more information, call (888) 224-7268 or visit the website: www.LACashforCollege.org.

Advertisement for John T. Seletos, Broker Associate at Coldwell Banker Commercial. Includes contact information: (818) 725-2500 BUSINESS, (818) 366-4900 FAX, (818) 282-6602 CELLULAR, jseletos@earthlink.net EMAIL. Address: 11280 CORBIN AVENUE, SUITE A, PORTER RANCH, CA 91326.

Advertisement for Bette, Your Computer Tutor. Contact: Bette J. Biers, Microsoft Certified Professional, 818 368-0527, 818.631.4402 cell, bjbiere@socal.rr.com. Notary on Wheels.

Coming Events



Feb 4: Las Lomas fee agreement hearing; 6:00pm St. Nicholas Greek Church; see article
Feb 5: GH Chamber Gov't Affairs Committee monthly meeting; 11:45AM, Chamber office, 368-3235
Feb 5: Election Day -Go Vote

Feb 7: Old Granada Hills Residents' Group Meeting; 7:00 See cover page for agenda
Feb 14: Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council, 7:00pm Tulsa Street Elementary School
Feb 14: 17A45 Neighborhood Watch 7:00 pm St. Nicholas Greek Church, Balboa and Plummer; SLO ken Cioffi
Feb 14: St. Valentine's Day
Feb 18: President's Day
Feb 20, 21: GH High Open House
Feb 25: Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council, 7:00pm Van Gogh Elementry School

GH High Open House

Granada Hills Charter High School is having an 8th Grade Articulation and Open House for incoming ninth grade students and their parents, February 20th and 21st from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Meet in the large gym for the general assembly. Afterwards parents and students are invited to visit the information booths set up in Highlander Hall and the Quad.

For more information contact the school at (818) 360-2361 or www.GHCHS.com



? Need Garden Mulch ?

It's Free - It's made from yard trimmings



Bring your own shovel, bag, or pick-up. Load up your own containers and take as much as you need. Available at 6 locations in the city. The nearest location is 16600 W. Roscoe Blvd. Hours of operation is

7:00am to 6:00pm, 7 days a week. More information: James Kurz: (818) 834-6128 City of Los Angeles; Bureau of Sanitation



- "Democracy must be something more than two wolves and a sheep voting on what to have for dinner."
-James Bovard, Civil Libertarian
- "Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you!"
-Pericles (430 B.C.)

9-1-1

The Los Angeles 9-1-1 emergency telephone system was implemented in order to provide quick and efficient help to those in need. The design is simply a 3-digit telephone number that can be dialed from any telephone, regardless of the area code. It can even be dialed from a disconnected phone, and the call is always free.

The Los Angeles 9-1-1 system receives approximately 3.3 million calls annually. However, 50% of these calls are not emergencies. This has caused the system to become critically overburdened which poses a threat to us all. You can help by following a few important guidelines.

9-1-1 should only be used for an emergency. An emergency is a crime in progress and/or a life threatening situation requiring the police, paramedics or Fire Department. Obviously, there are many other situations that require police response, but they may not warrant 9-1-1 calls. Direct dialing a 7-digit telephone number for non-emergency situations will ensure police response without overloading the 9-1-1 system. The police non-emergency number is 1-877-275-5273 (1-877-ASK-LAPD).

When you call 9-1-1, it is important that you remain on the line, even if you dial in error. When a 9-1-1 call is received, the address and phone number from where the call is originating automatically appears on the operators computer screen at the Communications Center. If you dial in error and do not remain on the line, the dispatcher is required to send officers to that location to confirm that no emergency exists.

When you call 9-1-1 for an emergency, it is important that you remain calm and prepared to answer the dispatcher's questions. The "WHERE", "WHAT", "WHO", and "WHEN" of the situation you are reporting are extremely important. Sometimes it may seem the questions are unnecessary, or may not make sense to you, but there are good reasons why they are being asked. Patience will help process your call and get appropriate help to you as quickly as possible.

Dialing 9-1-1 for less than an emergency will not expedite your call. Instead, it will cause delays that could easily be avoided.

For city services simply call 3-1-1 and you will be connected to the appropriate department or you can look at the city website: www.lacity.org

Source: LAPD Communications Division brochure



COLDWELL BANKER
GREATER VALLEYS

JIM SUMMERS, CIPS, FIABCI
Certified International Property Specialist
 (818) 360-3430 EXT 407 BUSINESS
 (818) 366-7484 FAX
 (818) 363-7955 HOME OFFICE
jimsummers@realtor.com
 "Search the MLS at www.GranadaHillsEstates.com"

10324 Balboa Blvd
Granada Hills, CA 91344





Each Office Is Independently Owned And Operated.

GH North Neighborhood Council - Land Use Issue

The following letter was sent to Councilman Greig Smith in response to his actions regarding a land use development issue in Granada Hills. He has been invited to the General GHNNC meeting on January 28th to discuss the reasons for his vote.

January 1, 2008

Dear Councilman Smith:

We are writing to convey to you how dismayed the Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council is with the recent approval you and the rest of the City Council granted to the Mayerling Development Project.

Our opposition to the project was rooted in our consistent belief that the provisions of the Granada Hills Community Plan should hold sway over land use decisions in the plan area. Unfortunately, the Mayerling case and a number of others decided in recent years suggest that you no longer support this fundamental principle. That is tragic, because it is one that we feel provides the most crucial connection there is between the City's professional judgment and the desire of the community to be able to shape its own future. Instead, what we now have is "piecemeal planning" that depends more on the whims of the real estate market and political influence than on a coherent collective vision of what is best for the community as a whole.

While we understand that most matters before the City Council are decided prior to their arrival on the Council agenda, it is disheartening for four members of the Board of our Neighborhood Council to come before you unanimously and substantively expressing our opposition to this project only to have you and your colleagues simply vote to approve the project without comment.

We ask you, what is the purpose of having Neighborhood Councils advising you if you simply ignore that advice without even engaging in a dialogue about the reasons why? And what is the purpose of spending the time and effort in developing a community plan if the provisions in that plan are later ignored by you and the City Council?

At our Board meeting in November, the GHNNC approved the following resolution:

Whereas it is the duty of the City Council Person to act as a representative the best interests of the community; and

Whereas City Councilperson Greig Smith acted by writing a letter to the City Planning Committee encouraging that they approve the Mayerling Project (MP); and

Whereas the MP was opposed by a vast percentage of the neighbors of the proposed (MP); and

Whereas the MP went against the specific plan and the K overlay as designated for that area; and

Whereas the City Council at the request of the Councilperson Greig Smith voted in favor of MP.

Be it resolved that the GHNNC condemns the actions of Councilperson Greig Smith and the Los Angeles City Council; and

Be it further resolved that a letter of condemnation be sent to the City Council and Council Person Greig Smith; and

Be it further resolved that this letter be posted on the GHNNC websites and also posted at all notice locations of the GHNNC; and

Be it further resolved that copies of this condemnation be sent to all appropriate news outlets.

If it truly is your belief that the current Granada Hills Community Plan no longer adequately serves its purpose as a reasonable guide for developers, residents and City planners alike for land use decision making, the appropriate thing for you to do as our representative in City Hall is to initiate a process to re-study and update the plan with full community participation. Re-writing the plan on a project-by-project basis is the worst kind of planning and exactly what generates so much hostility and mistrust between residents and City government. In future, we hope that you will take the publicly expressed interests of the community more to heart before casting votes in opposition to those interests.

Sincerely,

Leon F. Marzillier, GHNNC Chairman

- A government which robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul." -George Bernard Shaw
- "I contend that for a nation [City] to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle..." -Winston Churchill

Environmentally Friendly (818) 920-3819
(661) 775-1610



Heaven's Best Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning
A New Image in Carpet Cleaning

Dries in 1 Hour
ValleysHeavensBest.com

AI Kenders

Traditional Plumbing
"Service the way it should be."

Peter Holliday
Owner/ Operator
Lic. #781197

Ph (818) 535-5138 Fax (818) 831-5076

Granada Hills Design Review Board

In OGHRC's previous newsletter (January's issue), there was a brief history and description of the Design Review Board (please refer for details). The first meeting (training session) of the Design Review Board (DRB) was held at the Granada Hills Library, Tuesday, January 8, 2008. Anna Vidal, City Planning Associate reviewed the Granada Hills Specific Plan, role and duties of the Board. Before a commercial or retail building permit goes forward, it must be reviewed by the DRB to ensure compliance to provisions of the Specific Plan. The Board then forwards its recommendations regarding landscaping, screening, buffering, height limits, design elements, sign dimensions, exterior building treatment (including color, texture, windows), walkway features, and screening of rooftop to City decision-makers. The Specific Plan outlines detailed design standards for commercial, retail and multiple-unit residential projects designated by the shaded areas



John Weitkamp, Esq. has been elected as Chair, and Dr. Carl Melnick has been elected as Vice Chair. Meetings will be held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, 6:30 PM, (locations to be announced). These meetings will be open to the public and the public will be able to comment on subject matters within the jurisdiction of the DRB. The DRB has clearly defined role and duties. The Board is not an enforcement body and does not have jurisdiction over the following:

Illegal parking; Graffiti eradication; Illegal signs; Unapproved uses or businesses; Transients; Illegal dumping, abandoned shopping carts; Weed abatement; Noise; Blight

Other city agencies can be contacted to report violations. Code violations can be reported to Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety by calling (888) LA4-BUILD or by accessing www.ladbs.org

Neighborhood Watch

The police cannot be everywhere. Be aware of suspicious vehicles: Some examples: a vehicle that makes repeated trips though the neighborhood; slowly creeps down a street; is occupied and parked in front of a home at an unusual hour; was abandoned on the street - it might have been stolen or ditched after a crime. Be aware of suspicious activity possibly involving criminal behavior: constant automotive work at a non business location which could be a "chop shop"; a moving van in front of a house when the residents are not home; different people entering and leaving a dwelling throughout the day - a possible sign of drug dealing and other crimes.

Don't hesitate to call Police (1-877-275-5273) if you see anything suspicious - even if you're afraid it might "turn out to be nothing".

In late December 3 robberies: a street robbery occurred in the vicinity of Lindley and Tulsa. Suspects punched and hit the victim with a baseball bat, took the victims money and fled. Suspects are described as 2 male Hispanics 16/22 yrs old; In the vicinity of Chatsworth and Andasol. Suspects grabbed victim from behind and pulled him to the ground. A gun was pointed at the victim and suspects took money, IPOD and fled. Suspects fled in late model silver or white Ford Focus; A street robbery occurred in the vicinity of Mayerling/Shoshone. Suspects stated that they had a gun and demanded property. No weapons seen, no injuries. Jewelry was taken. Suspects left in 90/95 light blue Ford Thunderbird.

The next 17A27 Basic Car Neighborhood Watch meeting is February, 21, 7:00pm at St. Euphrasia Church.

RECYCLE YOUR BATTERIES



Bring ALL your household batteries such as AA, AAA, C cells, D cells, NiCads (and other rechargeable) and button batteries (camera, hearing aids) to the nearest participating Jiffy Lube. The nearest locations are: 18503 Devonshire; 9500 Reseda Blvd. For Information: 1-800-988-6942



Jiffy Lube and the City of Los Angeles are partners in this recycle effort.



Granada Hills
OPTOMETRY CENTER
www.optometrycenter.com
Carl B. Melnik, O.D.
 Doctor of Optometry
 (818) 366-2020
 Fax (818) 366-9868
 18013 Chatsworth St., Granada Hills, California

Devonshire Division Crime Stats
 12/23 thru 1/19

Homicide1	Burglary 81
Rape 2	GTA 47
Robbery 19	BFMV 146
Aggravated	Personal/
Assault 26	Other theft ..109
Shots fired .. 5	Arrests 294

Data from LAPD website COMPSTAT section

Zero Waste Citywide Conference

SAVE THE DATE -Saturday FEB 2, 2008 Zero Waste 2nd Citywide Conference @ Los Angeles Convention Center 8:30 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.

The Countdown to Zero Waste Continues!

Please join us for the second Zero Waste Citywide Conference to share your ideas and determine the programs, policies and facility options that will be recommended for inclusion in the Zero Waste Plan's Guiding Principles. City elected officials and local environmental leaders will be present to hear

from you, so mark your calendars and invite your friends, colleagues, neighbors, and family to join us in making Los Angeles a Zero Waste city!

Complimentary meals, refreshments, and parking will be provided. Please park in West Hall Parking at Cherry and 12th St. entrance adjacent to 110 FWY or try public transit by planning your trip through www.metro.net.

Come early to avoid the lines at the parking lot! We will have continental breakfast and a Zero Waste Film Festival (Optional) from 7:30 AM -8:30 AM.

To RSVP or for more information, please call Glenda Silva at 323-349-0661 or via email at Glenda@victorgriego.com

Remember. It's not a Plan Without You!

Hospital High

"L.A. Schools cut building plans as enrollment falls". This was the title of a January 23rd article by Eveleyn Larubia in the LA Times. The Board of Education has downsized 5 new schools, eliminating over 1,000 seats and decided against building 7 others. Since the fall, LAUSD has cancelled plans for 19 new schools and additions. So far Hospital High was not one of them.

Does that mean the district has a surplus of bond money? No, there is such a shortfall of new construction funds the Board of Education voted to slash more than \$1 billion from school repair, technology, and early education programs. That money will be diverted to building new schools. And look for more bonds on upcoming ballots. Since 2001 construction cost have nearly tripled to \$500 per foot, or more. The original projected cost of Hospital High was \$89 million and is now close to \$140 million.

One of the primary reasons for Hospital High was to relieve overcrowding at Monroe High School allowing it to return to the traditional 2 semester school year. Evidently, enrollment at Monroe is reduced, they are going back to 2 semesters starting this September.

We are staying on this issue and are in contact with our LAUSD Board Representative, Tamar Galatzan. (LAUSD superintendent, David Brewer, is scheduled to be the guest speaker at our March meeting.)

Singer's Zingers - Whom Should We Honor

I am often amazed at the perks and benefits that our elected legislators bestow upon themselves in the form of honors, questionable pay raises and various but little known benefits. One of the more egregious practices is naming parks, buildings, etc. in their own honor. By running for and winning elections they agree to the salary offered. It seems to me that any other benefits, honors, etc. they might desire should be voted upon by their constituents.

What extraordinary act or accomplishment warrants a park named for Supervisor Antonovich or the senior center named for former City Councilman, Robert Wilkenson, an so on. I am not questioning the quality of efforts these people in service of their elected commitment may individually expended. Yet, I feel my unstudied opinion and those of others regarding honorariums should be heavily weighed in the areas of personal sacrifice and unselfishness. Hence, if we are looking for people to honor by naming streets, parks, etc in their honor, I think we should first contact the Veterans Administration or the various police organizations about those who made the supreme sacrifice to protect freedom and the plush way of life we daily enjoy.

Las Lomas Action

ISSUE: The Las Lomas Project – Supplemental Fee Agreement: City of Los Angeles Budget & Finance Committee

DATE: Monday, February 4, 2008

TIME: 6 p.m.

LOCATION: St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
9501 Balboa Blvd.

BACKGROUND

You are receiving this because you or the groups you represent have taken a position to oppose the Las Lomas project. The Budget & Finance Committee will be voting to recommend or not recommend approval of the supplemental fee agreement. We are hoping that you and/or other stakeholders that share a commitment to prevent this project will attend the meeting.

There also will be an opportunity for the residents of Los Angeles to comment on the proposed budget for 2008-2009.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments regarding the contents of this email and pass this email on to others. Thanks, Mark Edwards 818.450.2772 ; *Afriat Consulting; For the purpose of disclosure, our firm represents the interests of the City of Santa Clarita (City) on matters dealing with the City of Los Angeles*

Recently Sold Homes

17404 Horace	\$520,000	17919 Tulsa PL	\$510,000
17424 San Jose	\$620,000	17063 Los Alimos	\$439,000
17259 Bircher	\$549,000	17206 Nugent	\$600,000
11225 Louise	\$715,000	11852 Shoshone	\$752,000

Courtesy; Marla Rhoades, Realtor 818 571-0678

Information from the SoCalMLS is believed to accurate but not guaranteed

Buying Gasoline

These tips are from an unsolicited email and may or may not be factual. They seem to make sense and it would cause no harm to try them:

Only buy or fill up your car or truck in the early morning when the ground temperature is still cold. Remember that all service stations have their storage tanks buried below ground. The colder the ground the more dense the gasoline, when it gets warmer gasoline expands, so buying in the afternoon or in the evening....your gallon is not exactly a gallon.

When you're filling up do not squeeze the trigger of the nozzle to a fast mode. If you look you will see that the trigger



has three (3) stages: low, middle, and high. In slow mode you should be pumping on low speed, thereby minimizing the vapors that are created while you are pumping. All hoses at the pump have a vapor return. If you are pumping on the fast rate, some

of the liquid that goes to your tank becomes vapor. Those vapors are being sucked up and back into the underground storage tank so you are getting less worth for your money.

One of the most important tips is to fill up when your gas tank is HALF FULL or HALF EMPTY. The reason for this is, the more gas you have in your tank the less air occupying its empty space. Gasoline evaporates faster than you can imagine. Another reminder, if there is a gasoline truck pumping into the storage tanks when you stop to buy gas, DO NOT fill up--most likely the gasoline is being stirred up as the gas is being delivered, and you might pick up some of the dirt that normally settles on the bottom.

Valentine's Day

Opinions abound as to who was the original valentine, with the most popular theory that he was a clergyman who was executed for secretly marrying couples in



ancient Rome. Emperor Claudius II felt that marriage weakened his soldiers. In any event, in A.D. 496, pope Gelasius set aside February 14 to honor St. Valentine. Through the centuries, the Christian holiday became a time to exchange love

messages, and St. Valentine became the patron saint of lovers. Esther Howland, a native of Massachusetts, is given credit for sending the first valentine cards in the 1840s. The spirit of love continues as valentines are sent with sentimental verses, and children exchange valentine cards at school. US Census Bureau

Kohl's

The unanimous September, 20th decision of the North Valley Area Planning Commission to approve the Regency Centers' Kohl's project was appealed. On January 22nd, the Planning and Land Use Management Committee (PLUM) of the LA City Council was to hear the appeal in their downtown City Hall hearing room. The committee is comprised of 3 city councilmen; Ed Reyes, who is the chair; Jack Weiss; and Jose Huizar.



Regency based in about 20 people in favor of the project. There were about 12 residents from Old Granada Hills there in opposition. We were all prepared to provide testimony and Regency had their presentation. Due to the number of items on the committee's agenda and the number of people wanting to speak on the Kohls' project, time was limited to 1 minute.

What was interesting was that during a discussion on another item, Gail Goldberg, head of City Planning, spoke before the committee talking about the importance of Planning. She stressed that developers would have an easier time if they adhered to Community and Specific Plans.

KOHL'S

(Kohls' violates our Community Plan by its size among other things)

During our 1 minute testimonials, Jack Weiss left the meeting, leaving only Ed Reyes, since Jose Huizer never showed up. With no quorum - a committee has to be more than 1 person - Reyes said we can continue but there can be no formal committee recommendation to the full city council. Regency decided not to give their presentation, but their attorney did address the chair. He said that this project did not require any variances ! WRONG This project required a variance against 2 specific "Q" conditions on this property. Ed Reyes did not question him or ask any other questions before he closed the meeting. Again, agencies and officials failed to address the legal aspects of this proposed project.

At Ed Reyes request, Phyllis Winger of CD 12 presented Greig Smith's position stating that changes he asked for and imposed by the North Valley Area Planning Commission were satisfactory and Mr. Smith would vote for approval.

Without a formal committee recommendation, Reyes said he will prepare a report and when asked what the report will say, he said he concurred with CD-12's position and would "communicate support for the project" and that information would be forwarded to City Council. Protocol calls for a public hearing of the appeal and since the PLUM meeting did not qualify as an official meeting after Weiss left, the case will be heard at a full LA City Council meeting scheduled for February, 8th.



P.O. Box 34055
Granada Hills, CA 91394


NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
VAN NUYS, CA
PERMIT NO. 306

Old Granada Hills Residents' Group is a non profit organization of volunteers and concerned residents of our community. In our 7th year, we are a voice well known to our elected representatives with issues that affect us all - please join us.

February 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




POSTAL PLUS
11024 BALBOA BLVD. (818) 366-0360
GRANADA HILLS, CA 91344 FAX (818) 366-0370

IRV SELMAN
NOTARY PUBLIC



HOURS
MONDAY-FRIDAY 8:00 AM- 6:00 PM
SATURDAY 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM

SHIPPING - POSTAL SERVICES - PACKING - NOTARY - COPIES
PRINTING - BINDING - LAMINATING - FINGERPRINTING
RUBBER STAMPS - BUSINESS CARDS - MAIL BOX RENTALS



Complete Automotive Service

Dave Jackson

60 Minute Tune
11920 Balboa Blvd.
Granada Hills, CA 91344
(818) 360-2277
Fax (818) 831-6609
Email: daveJackson@60minutetune.com



K NOLLWOOD
REALTY, INC.
11854 Balboa Boulevard - Granada Hills, California 91344

Josh Jordahl
REALTOR®

Bus: (818) 366-7107 X27
Cell: (818) 270-5904
Email: joshj@operamail.com




Granada Hills Florist



Millicent R. Ford
The "Pioneer" Florist
in Granada Hills
Since 1954

Tel (818) 363-8189
Fax (818) 363-1778



17637 Chatsworth St.
Granada Hills, CA 91344
www.granadahillsflorist.com