

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

**January
2008**



July, 2001

www.OGHRG.org

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Communication

Fund Raising

Newsletter

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

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Next Meeting is:

Thursday, January 3rd
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Granada Hills Charter High School- Rawley Hall

7:00 Introductions - Sign In

7:05 Reading of Minutes,

7:10 Community Announcements; News; Updates; Events

7:20 OGHRC Committee Reports

Financial; Zoning & Density; Newsletter; Communication

7:30 Community Business and Organization Discussion

Budget; Committees; Website; 2008 Elections

Newsletter; Meeting Locations

8:20 New Business - Wrap up

February meeting will be at Granada High, Thursday, February 7th,

OGHRG President's Message

OGHRG has some outstanding speakers lined up for 2008. In February, we have Assemblyman Cameron Smyth lined up as our guest speaker. The meeting will be held at the Granada Pavilion at San Fernando Mission and Balboa. We expect a large turnout to hear the Assemblyman. Come out and find out what is happening at the state level, and be prepared to ask questions.

In March we will be back at Granada Hills Charter High School. The meeting will be held in Highlander Hall, which is the large auditorium. Our scheduled guest speaker will be LAUSD Superintendent David Brewer. We expect a very large turnout, as there is a great deal of interest from staff and faculty at GHCHS and other schools in the community.

As important and exciting as those two meetings promise to be, I think January is even more important. There will be no guest speaker in January; instead, we will focus on the organizations structure, goals, and mission. This is an all-volunteer organization, both in terms of funding and manpower. We your input and ideas regarding the future of OGHRG. If you can only attend one meeting in 2008, this is the one to attend.

Last month I discussed our financial situation and dues structure. A number of members have already submitted their dues for 2008. Our goal this year is to increase income from voluntary dues by 50%. If you enjoy receiving this newsletter, and appreciate the work OGHRG is doing in the community, please support us. Dues are \$10.00 per person, or \$20.00 per household each year. You can submit them by mail to P.O. Box 34055, Granada Hills, CA, 91394, or better yet, in person at our January meeting.

Lastly, I want to thank all the tireless volunteers who keep this organization up and running. A special salute this month to our Board of Directors, who provide the direction and policy for OGHRG. On behalf of the Board, Happy Holidays to all our residents. *Dave Beauvais*

Sober Living Homes - City Motion

John Hegedes has been working to bring some kind of control over houses that have been transformed into living quarters for recovering alcohol & substance abusers. These unlicensed living facilities generally offer no treatment or 12 step recovery program and as long as they do not administer prescription drugs need not answer to any agency or authority. They can be anywhere without limits, including right next door to each and every one of us. Below is the motion that Greig Smith presented to City Council.

MOTION

Sober Living Homes (alcohol and drug free houses) were intended to provide a supportive environment for people who are recovering from alcohol or drug addiction. These homes provide shelter for individuals who are transitioning between rehabilitation programs and permanent housing. They are often located in single family houses within single family residential zones.

Similar to other cities in the state, it would behoove the City of Los Angeles to define and implement land use regulatory controls in the Municipal Code for Sober Living Homes to prevent an over concentration of this use on a street or in a neighborhood. The cities of Murrieta, CA and Riverside, CA have enacted sober living ordinances, and therefore, this use can be regulated via the land use process. As such, the City of Los Angeles should enact our own ordinance.

Currently, no state or local license or land use permit is required for a Sober Living Home to open in a single family zone in the city. There are no distance requirements as to the location of sober living homes from each other. A Sober Living Home is only required to conform to the same regulations as any other dwelling unit in that zone. However, rather than living and occupying the entire house, each resident rents a room or sometimes just a bed in a shared room in the house, much like that of a boarding house rental experience. In turn, this can lead to an over concentration of Sober Living Homes on a street or in a neighborhood, and have detrimental impacts to its quality of life.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council request the City Attorney, with the assistance of the Planning Department, to prepare a report within 45 days outlining the Sober Living

Homes regulatory ordinances enacted by the City of Murrieta, CA and Riverside, CA, and those of any other cities.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Planning Department and the Department of Building and Safety, in consultation with the City Attorney, provide land use control recommendations as part of the requested report, that can be enacted citywide to regulate Sober Living Home.

PRESENTED by Greig Smith and Seconded by Ed Reyes
October 24, 2007

New OGHARG Website

In November, we launched our new www.OGHRG.org website. This simple yet informative website has updates on upcoming meetings and events, provides information on our organizational structure, mission, and important committees.

Users can obtain meeting agendas, review the minutes of previous meetings and gain information from community links. They can browse photos from past events and offer their opinions on our forum page. The forum is different from the previous message board, users have to sign in with their email address and a password they create. This extra step will help eliminate the spam and junk advertisements that overwhelmed the our last forum.



The Zoning and Density page is quickly developing with information about our Interim Control Ordinance and current issues. There is a section with plenty of information on the Regency Center/Kohls debate.

The newsletter has a sign up page to take addresses of interested recipients. We currently only publish the newsletter in print, but are seriously considering the best way to include people who wish to have the newsletter in a digital format.

We will be using the website to update the community on topics that arise with little notice or don't make it into our newsletter. Take five minutes and visit www.OGHRG.org, sign up on the forum page so that you can opine and learn a little more about the Old Granada Hills Residents' Group.

- Computers are fantastic: in a few minutes they can make a mistake so great that it would take many people many months and countless dollars to equal it.

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Coming Events



Jan 1: Tuesday; New Years Day; Rose Parade

Jan 3: Old Granada Hills Residents' Group Meeting; 7:00 See cover page for agenda

Jan 8: GH Chamber Gov't Affairs Committee monthly meeting; 11:45AM, Chamber office, 368-3235

Jan 9: Middle School Night; see article

Jan 10: Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council, 7:00pm
Tulsa Street Elementary School

Jan 10: 17A45 Neighborhood Watch 7:00 pm St. Nicholas Greek Church, Balboa and Plummer; SLO Ken Cioffi

Jan 21: Martin Luther King Day

Jan 17: 14th anniversary of The Earthquake

Jan 17: 17A25 Neighborhood Watch; 7:00pm St. Euphrasia Church, 11766 Shoshone Ave.; SLO Dario Del Core

Jan 21: Valley Vote; 6:45 Galpin Ford

Jan 28: Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council, 7:00pm
Van Gogh Elementary School

Singer's Zingers - Qualify Your Vote

The old adage of "*Minding the Store*" has a current relationship to the financial survival in today's economy of the individual family unit as well as the named community areas such as Granada Hills. We are the product of "*first things first*" *First, we need income to pay for food and shelter -- secondly, we need social and medical services; right ? -- WRONG !* Before you receive remuneration for your labors, there are taxes deducted. When you use the balance to purchase goods and/or services you are charged additional taxes.



Where does the authority for these taxes emanate ? They come from people for whom you voted into office and pay handsomely to generate on your behalf. If you think you are over-taxed or your

taxes are spent of foolhardy pork barrel projects, what can you do ? Try calling the appropriate public servant. Of course your chances of reaching him or her are minuscule with the usual subsequent excuse that they are too busy to reply to each individual inquiry. However, I think you'll find they aren't too busy to pass periodic and sizeable pay raises for themselves. The moral of this is "*if you don't mind your store, nobody else will mind it for you*". Remember every new tax is another minus sign on your financial statement. If your city, county, state and federal legislators want to spend money "*like a drunken sailor*", *tell them to exhaust their own personal funds before putting their hands in your pocketbook !*

- What people say behind your back is your standing in the community. Ed Howe
- After a man loses his reputation, it is very hard for him to lose it again.

New Design Review Board

The Granada Hills Specific Plan has been in effect since March 3, 1992. The Specific Plan outlines design standards for commercial properties within Granada Hills, including businesses located on Chatsworth Street. Briefly, the purpose of the Specific Plan is to promote: harmonious commercial development; compatibility with surrounding residential neighborhoods; new development integration with the existing small-scaled, local-service character; pedestrian-oriented environment along Chatsworth Street; consistent identity with the area's characteristic Spanish Colonial style of architecture; adequate parking.

After a thorough review of Specific Plan guidelines, the OGHRC Zoning and Density Committee found that there provisions for a Design Review Board (DRB). However, such a board no longer existed. Written communication was then forwarded to Councilman Greig Smith, requesting clarification of status of the DRB and the possibility of reestablishing such a board. Subsequently, Greig Smith appointed a six member board; Dave Beauvais, Gene Behrms, Maria Fisk, Dr. Carl Melnick, Jake Parunyan, and John Weitkamp, Esq. One vacancy still exists. The members will be undergoing a training program sponsored by Anna Vidal, City Planning Associate. The members will also be responsible for having in-depth knowledge of the Specific Plan, municipal and zoning codes. The DRB will then review proposed commercial construction projects for compliance to Specific Plan building design standards – such as landscaping, screening, setbacks, height limits, walkways and proposed use. A building permit will not be issued for any commercial project unless it has been reviewed and approved in accordance with Design Review Board procedures.

- We shape our buildings: thereafter they shape us. Winston Churchill
- Progress always means change, but change doesn't always mean progress

Graffiti

Sick of the graffiti? Me too. I'm just heartsick, that our little business district is beginning to look so shabby with the recent blight of graffiti on many of the billboards and buildings. This did happen overnight, literally in the cover of darkness. But after meeting with LAPD SLO Dario Del Core and Mike Dobry last week, I am armed with a strategy and a "To Do" list. Taking action is the only way to get our town back and drive out these taggers. If anyone is interested in helping with this graffiti prevention project, please don't hesitate to call me at 818-674-2165. *Laura Kelly*



Please report graffiti immediately to West Valley Alliance # 818-227-9722. (Add it to your cell phone) Ideally, graffiti should be removed within 24 hours. If not removed immediately, this sends a message to taggers and gangs that the community does not care. Communities that tolerate graffiti are subjected to an increase in crime and violence. *Maria Fisk*

Toastmaster - Local Club To Start In January

Last month I mentioned an intent to start a Toastmasters club in this area, which is a club where you can practice your communication skills. As of this writing there are at least 6 people interested in being a part of the club. If you would like a trial run, we will start with a crash course on speaking in public, which by the way is the biggest fear people have, bigger than death even. Of course, one only dies once but one can die several times on stage. Toastmasters can help you with speaking, listening and leadership skills. If you have an important sales presentation, status meeting, preparing for an interview, or have to run a meeting, come join the club and practice those skills. Dues run less than \$50 every 6 months, depending on where we hold the meetings and if there is a fee for the room. At this writing we do not have a location confirmed but I am planning to start meeting January 7, 2008 at 7 PM, unless there is a strong desire to hold it some other day of the week. Please contact me for information on the location for that day. Robert O'Donnell 818-620-2448.

Recycle Your Christmas Tree

After the holidays are over each year, many thousands of Christmas trees are improperly disposed of and end up in landfills, where they release greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming. In addition, once they dry out, they pose a fire hazard.

You can recycle your tree by removing all ornaments and the stand, cutting it in half and placing in the green yard trimmings waste bin. Larger trees can be brought to drop-off sites throughout the City on Saturday, Jan. 5 and Sunday, Jan. 6, 2008. Your tree will be turned into mulch and reused.

Tree Drop-Off Locations in the San Fernando Valley
Saturday, Jan. 5 & Sunday, Jan. 6th 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

CHATSWORTH
Chatsworth Park South
22360 Devonshire St.
FIRE STATION #28
11641 Corbin Ave., Northridge
(818) 756-9728
For more information, dial 3-1-1



Middle School Night

LAUSD Board Members Marlene Canter & Tamar Galatzan invite you to "Middle School Night".

Do you have a child or grandchild in the 4th or 5th grade? The transition between elementary and middle school can be scary for students – and parents! Come ease your minds by listening and talking with principals, counselors, parents and students. Featuring presentations on Southwest Valley Schools: Columbus - Hale - Hesby Span Mulholland – Northridge - Portola - Woodland Hills Academy Sutter

Wednesday, January 9th, 7:30 - 8:30 PM
Sutter Middle School
7300 Winnetka Ave. Canoga Park
For more info: (213) 241-6386 or (213) 241-6387

Closed Public Schools

Mid December, the LAUSD Board unanimously passed a resolution co-sponsored by Tamar Galatzan and Marlene Canter that requires the District to come back in 90 days with a master plan for closed schools. (A closed school denotes a site that is no longer being used for classroom space due to declined enrollment in that particular neighborhood) These 6 sites,



which are concentrated in the west valley, represent a valuable asset for the LAUSD and a potential boon to surrounding communities. To this point, however, there has not been a clear and consistent internal policy that enables members of the Board,

the facilities division, local superintendents, or other interested parties to determine among themselves the best educational or education-related use for closed campuses. The approval of this resolution is an essential first step to beginning serious internal and external conversations about the future of the sites.

The 5 elementary schools are: Collins; Devonshire; Highlander; Oso Ave; Platt Ranch. Hughes Middle School makes 6.

- Progress is not always advancement: in the past we had the little red school house; now we have the little read schoolboy.
- A few days after New Year's is when most people find out that it is easier to break a resolution than a habit.

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Interesting Historical January

Wikipedia has a lot of information. Here are some interesting historical events that happened during the month of January:

1759 - In Philadelphia, the first American life insurance company is incorporated; 1847 - Yerba Buena, California is renamed San Francisco; 1857 - The Fort Tejon 7.9 earthquake; 1871 - Henry W. Bradley patents oleomargarine; 1883 - The first electric lighting system employing overhead wires, built by Thomas Edison, begins service at Roselle, New Jersey.



1885 - The first successful appendectomy is performed by Dr. William W. Grant on Mary Gartside; 1890 - The first Tournament of Roses is held in Pasadena; 1892 - Ellis Island opens to begin accepting immigrants to the United

States; 1892 - At the YMCA in Springfield, Massachusetts, the first official basketball game is played; 1896 - Utah is admitted as the 45th U.S. state; 1902 - The first Rose Bowl game is played in Pasadena, California, with the University of Michigan beating Stanford University by a score of 49-0; 1902 - Popular Mechanics magazine was first published; 1908 - For the first time, a ball is dropped in New York City's Times Square to signify the start of the New Year at midnight; 1914 - Ford Motor



Company announces an eight-hour workday and a minimum wage of \$5 for a day's labor; 1920 - American Civil Liberties Union founded; 1921 - The



first religious radio broadcast (KDKA AM in Pittsburgh); 1922 - First use of insulin to treat diabetes in a human patient; 1924 - The 1924 Winter Olympics open in Chamonix, France (in the French Alps), inaugurating the Winter Olympic Games; 1930 - Mickey Mouse comic strip makes its first appearance, 3M begins marketing Scotch Tape, The first cans of beer are sold in the US (Krueger's Finest Beer and Krueger's Cream Ale); 1935

- Bucknell University wins the first Orange Bowl 26-0 over the University of Miami; 1937 - The first Cotton Bowl game is played in Dallas, Texas. TCU defeats Marquette University 16-6; 1942 - Henry Ford patents a plastic automobile; 1948 - Warner Brothers shows the first color newsreel (Tournament of Roses Parade and the Rose Bowl); 1957 - Wham-O Company produces the first Frisbee; 1959 - Batista, president



of Cuba, is overthrown by Fidel Castro's forces during the Cuban Revolution; 1959 - The first artificial satellite to orbit the moon, Luna 1, is launched by the U.S.S.R, Alaska is admitted as the 49th U.S. state; 1964 - The 24th Amendment to the United States Constitution, prohibiting the use of poll taxes in national elections, is ratified; 1969 - The Beatles' last public performance, on the roof of Apple Records in London; 1971 - Cigarette advertisements are banned on American television; All in the Family debuts on CBS; 1972 - President Richard Nixon orders the development of a space shuttle program; 1977 - Snow falls in Miami, Florida. This is the only time in the history of the city that snowfall has occurred; 1978 - Sweden becomes the first nation in the world to ban aerosol sprays, believed to be damaging to earth's protective ozone layer; 1979 - Formal diplomatic relations are established between the People's Republic of China and the United States of America; 1983 - The



Apple Lisa, the first commercial personal computer from Apple Computer, Inc. to have a graphical user interface and a computer mouse, is announced; 1984 - AT&T is broken up into twenty-two independent units; 1985 - The Internet's Domain Name System is created; 1985 - The first British mobile phone call is made by Ernie Wise to Vodafone; 1990 - The first McDonald's in the Soviet Union opens in Moscow; 1993 - For the first time, Martin Luther King Jr. holiday is officially observed in all 50 United States states; 1994 - The North American Free



Trade Agreement comes into effect; 1995 - President Bill Clinton authorizes a \$20 billion loan to Mexico to stabilize its economy; 1999 - The Euro currency is introduced.

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Granada Hills Holiday Parade

The 24th Annual Granada Hills Holiday Parade was a grand success. With a crowd estimated at 7,000, the 102 entrants marched, sang, danced, and drove the 1.7 mile route along Chatsworth street. Friday's rains and Saturday's wind made way for a sunny Sunday, picture perfect day for one of Granada Hills most visible events in the County. It was taped by LA City View, channel 35 and was aired several times in December. The Chamber has the DVD of the parade.



Every year there are always stories created as preparations and the parade take place. This year, the Grand Marshals were chosen to fit in with the theme of the Parade, "Favorite Holiday Songs". Mark and Kim, radio hosts from KOST 103.5, were also in their 24th year of broadcasting making them great fit. However, Kim was fired from the station the late in the week prior to the parade.

Everything seemed to turn out OK, as radio personality Mark Wallengren rode in the parade as the Grand Marshall.

Want to hear more stories? Talk with any of the parade volunteers, many have been helping with the parade for 10-15 years and more. They all have memories of parades past.

The Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce, producers of the Parade, was pleased to have Jim Hier as the Community Marshal. Jim is the author of the recently published Images of America series book, "Granada Hills". If you don't have a copy of it, they are available at the Chamber office at 17723 Chatsworth street (368-3235).



Got any ideas for next year's Parade theme? The committee would like to hear from you and if you would like to volunteer they could use the help.

Valley Vote Meeting

Ron Kaye, the editor of the Daily News will be the guest speaker at the monthly meeting of Valley Vote. Who chooses the letters to the editor? Who writes the daily editorial? How are reporter assignments given? How can we get press with our issues? Come to the meeting and ask the questions. Everyone is welcome. The meeting is at Galpin Ford on Roscoe, January 21st, at 6:45. For more information contact Joe Vitti at JAVITTISR@cs.com.



The function of a good reporter is not to cover a story, but to uncover it. Herbert Bayard Swope

Recently Sold Homes

17154 Rinaldi	\$455,000	12917 Louise	\$780,000
11852 Shoshone	\$752,000	11225 Louise	\$715,000
17919 Tulsa Pl	\$510,000	10663 Louise	\$415,000
11647 Andasol	\$650,000	17641 Orna Dr	\$630,000

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Tamara's Column - Eric Mansker

He's fallen from 60 foot buildings, been shot at, thrown punches and crashed vehicles...and he's still alive to talk about it.

Eric Mansker, a stuntman and actor for the entertainment industry, has been performing Hollywood stunts for the past 30 years.



Do not confuse him with a daredevil because there is a difference between the two. Eric explains that a daredevil does not know the outcome of the feat he is about to perform, but a stuntman can do the same thing over and over again with the same results and walk away unharmed.

Eric originally began acting and doing stunt work after he graduated from UCLA film school. He had intended on becoming a camera operator for the film industry after his experience as a combat photographer in the Marine Corps.

However, after signing up for extra work through Central Casting, he was quickly upgraded to acting roles and started doing stunt work as well.

"When I started there were only about 15 black stuntmen in the entire country," says Eric.

One of Eric's favorite roles as an actor was playing alongside of Arnold Schwarzenegger in the movie "Red Heat."

Eric has also worked on numerous other TV shows and movies. He can be seen performing stunts on the detective show "Spenser: For Hire," in various Wayans Brothers productions, and has even doubled for Mr. T and Samuel L. Jackson.

If the film is cut correctly, a stunt performer takes the hard falls and the actor takes the easy ones. "I'll come in as a bad guy and fight the main actor, who will basically beat me up," says Eric. "You get hit over the head, shot, and thrown through windows, all while the hero looks good."

Eric recalls one stunt where he fell from a 75-foot suspension bridge in Massachusetts and landed in the river below, all while being handcuffed.

"Safety is the main thing," Eric emphasizes about his work.

For all of you aspiring actors and actresses, Eric suggests signing up for acting and theater classes, as well as doing extra work. For those looking to do stunt work, he suggests practicing whatever sports or hobbies you are good at, which can include dirt biking and other extreme sports.

"You have to stay inside your niche and do what you like doing. Those are the things you will probably be the best at," he says, which is good advice for any occupation.

Although Eric is now semi-retired, he plans on continuing his work as a stuntman and also works as a construction coordinator.

Eric has three children and enjoys his home location on Kingsbury Street. He has lived in Granada Hills for over 20 years and has no plans on leaving.

"I really like the people and everyone that I work with on community issues; I like to be involved," he says.

Interesting Fact: On the popular web site "Internet Movie Database" (IMDB), Eric is listed as a stuntman or actor in more than 70 TV shows and movies.

New Parking Meters

There are 40,000 single space parking meters in the city of Los Angeles which eventually will all be replaced with new



technology meters. The new meters will offer a broad range of options instead of coins, including paying by credit card, debit card or cell phone. They will also be capable of alerting drivers via text message when the time expires. The Mayor and Councilmember Wendy Gruel kicked off the multi-phase Parking Management Program, December

13th, unveiling the new "Easy Park- Easy Pay parking meters. Initially, 4,000 single space, on street meters will be replaced and nearly 1,000 meters in 30 City parking lots with "Park and Pay" stations.

Neighborhood Watch - 17A27

Our Senior Lead Officer, Dario Del Core, says our area is doing great and the usual increase in crime around the holiday's has not occurred. It appears that the year will be closed with a overall reduction in crime.

The one reported stolen vehicle in our area was Chris Silver's truck. Thanks to Lojack and the LAPD, it was recovered.

Help reduce crime further and prevent yourself from becoming a statistic by remaining vigilant, secure or properties and report all suspicious activity to LAPD direct dispatch at 877-275 -5273.

The next Neighborhood Watch is January, 17th, 7:00 at St. Eurphrasia Church.

The Devonshire Community Police Station serves the neighborhoods of Chatsworth, and Northridge, as well as parts of Canoga Park, Granada Hills and Winnetka. Devonshire Area encompasses 53.9 square miles and has an estimated population in excess of 240,000 and is under the jurisdiction of Valley Bureau. These numbers will change as the borders are redrawn when the new Station opens this year in Canoga Park.

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

Devonshire Division Crime Stats
10/21 thru 11/17

Homicide0	Burglary 52
Rape 3	GTA 53
Robbery 32	BFMV 171
Aggravated	Personal/
Assault 21	Other theft .. 91
Shots fired .. 2	Arrests 311

Data from LAPD website COMPSTAT section



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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.

January 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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