

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

March 2010



July, 2001

www.OGHRG.org

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Newsletter

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

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

Next Meeting is: **Thursday, March. 4th, 2010**

7:00 pm - 8:45 pm

Granada Hills Charter High School- Library



Daylight Savings
Time



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- 8:15 George Runner; State Senator District 17

8:15 Medical Marijuana Dispensary Update

8:20 Membership Card Update

8:25 New Business and Wrap up

April 2010 meeting will be Thursday, April 1st - LAPD Chief Charlie Beck scheduled

OGHRG President's Message

ELECTION DAY Neighborhood Council Election Day is Tuesday March 2. Most residents in OGHRG live in Granada Hills South, so your polling place will be at the Granada Hills Recreation Center at Granada Hills (Petit) Park. Hours are from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. If you live North of the 118 freeway, you are in GHNNC; their elections will be held at their office at Woodley and San Fernando Mission Blvd. Several members of our organization are also members of GHSNC and are running for another term. Please go out and vote. Remember you must bring proof of identification to vote in the special Director categories. For instance, if you are a homeowner, and want to vote for that specific Director, a property tax bill or similar document is necessary. To prove you are a business person, your business tax license or similar proof is necessary. If you want to vote for the Community Organizations Director, a copy of this newsletter should be sufficient to prove you are a member.

DUES CALL, TAKE 2 Last month we put our annual dues call, with self addressed envelopes enclosed in the newsletter for your convenience. I am happy to report that we have had a good initial response. If you have not submitted your dues yet, please do so. Dues are \$15 per person or \$25 per household. If you can't find the envelope, you can mail it in to the address on the front page, or better yet, come out to our next meeting and hear from your State Senator, George Runner.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSARIES As you may know, the City Council passed and the Mayor signed a new ordinance regulating Medical Marijuana dispensaries in the city of Los Angeles. While the ordinance is not perfect, it will restrict the number of Medical Marijuana Dispensaries in the city to 70 (eventually). It will also place restrictions on location, hours of operation, and require that the dispensaries operate on a not-for-profit basis.

I know that there are two sides to any issue, and clearly there is evidence that marijuana can be used to treat certain illnesses and maladies. But the breathtaking proliferation of Medical Marijuana Dispensaries in Los Angeles was clearly a racket designed to sell marijuana to the

(Continued page 2)

March Guest Speaker - Senator George Runner

George Runner is a California state senator, representing the 17th Senate District and a taxpayer advocate for Americans For Prosperity.

Runner and his wife, former Assemblywoman Sharon Runner, are the authors of California's Jessica's Law and honorary co-chairs of Proposition 83-Jessica's Law, which was passed by more than 70 percent of California voters in November 2006. It created some of the toughest and most comprehensive sex offender management and control laws in the nation. He authored California's Amber, which has resulted in more than 150 successful reunions of parents with their kids.

He was elected to the State Senate in 2004 after serving six years in the Assembly. Runner's priorities in the Legislature are improving California's economic prosperity; promoting business growth; supporting education excellence, and preserving the family.

He serves as the vice chair of the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality. He also serves on the following Senate Committees: Banking, Finance and Insurance; Appropriations; Revenue and Taxation; and Human Services.

He also received the Pursuit of Justice Award from the Association of Deputy District Attorneys - Los Angeles County. Runner has consistently been named one of Sacramento's most Conservative legislators by the Capitol Weekly Newspaper and received a perfect legislative score from the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers' Association in 2009.

Other Runner legislative measures include:

- \$250 million in tax credits for wages and equipment used in the production of the Joint Strike Fighter;
- Proposition 11 in 1998, to allow flexibility for local governments to enter into sales tax revenue sharing agreements;
- Military Families' law that provides a permanent exemption from non-resident tuition at all California public universities for active military personnel and their families;
- Landmark food safety legislation that improves and updates California's food safety code and is based on the best available food safety science.
- The High Occupancy Vehicle Lane law that allows commuter lanes on State Route 14 available to single-occupancy drivers during non-commuter hours.

George and Sharon are the first husband and wife in California history to serve concurrently in the Legislature. They are the proud parents of son Micah, daughter-in-law Sandy, and daughter Rebekah. They have three grandchildren.



The Granada Hills Women's Club on White Oak is having an afternoon of "Old Time Radio" on Sunday, March 7th. There will be 2 half hour shows starting at 2:00 pm. The cost is \$10; children under 12 are free. Please call Wila Hubert for reservations at 818-

President's Message - continued

general public at great profit to the owners of the dispensaries. I came to this conclusion after reading an article in the Daily News on January 17, 2010, citing our new Police Chief who was claiming that Medical Marijuana Dispensaries were at far smaller risk to be robbed compared to banks. It was this statistic that sealed the deal for me: "In 2009, the LAPD received reports of 71 robberies at the more than 350 banks in the city, compared to 47 robberies at medical marijuana facilities which number at least 800, the chief said in a follow up interview, in which he provided statistics from the report."

Really? We need twice as many MMDs as banks in this city? How many of the 2.7 million adults in this city use a bank, and how many of those same 2.7 million have a legitimate medical need to use marijuana? 80% to 2% perhaps? When you stop to think about it, arguing that we need 800 to 1,000 MMDs in this city is ludicrous. And while even 70 may be more than we need, at least it strikes a more reasonable balance. *Dave Beauvais*



How many parks are there in Councilman Smith's District? More than you are probably aware of. They have published a 4 page PDF pamphlet describing all of them. It is called "The Parks of CD 12" and is available at www.CD12.org

LA County Statistics

Los Angeles County has the largest population of any county in the nation, exceeded by only eight states. Approximately 27 percent of California's residents live here. More than 1 million of the 10.3 million residents live in unincorporated areas, whose municipal services are provided by the County. The other 9.3 million live in 88 cities, located throughout a 4,084-square-mile area.

There are 1.7 million students in elementary and high school, and many thousands more in college, including those in 27 public community colleges and universities. Approximately 73,000 residents are homeless. It is a diverse county, with more than 140 cultures and as many as 224 languages by some estimates. A language other than English is spoken in 54 percent of the households. Providing services to such a diverse population is challenging, evidenced by required printing of ballots in seven languages.

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Group Homes - Update

Over the past several years, Old Granada Hills, along with many other communities within the City of Los Angeles have been struggling with the proliferation of group homes. Unscrupulous residential property owners may be able to skirt local zoning codes by calling these group homes “sober living” facilities. Within OGH, safety officials and city inspectors have found several violations when inspecting these facilities: 1. Open containers of liquor that would clearly disqualify them as transitional sober living facilities 2. Questionable multi tenant rentals in residential areas zoned single family. 3. Illegal construction. 4. Vermin infestation.

There has been much confusion and controversy relating to status and definition of unlicensed group homes. Again, there are certain group homes that the State of California regulates and licenses. (refer to OGH RG November '09 newsletter for details). But unlicensed group homes have been operating without oversight or supervision. Therefore, many communities across the City were eagerly awaiting an ordinance that would address the legal status of unlicensed group homes, including sober living or transitional facilities.

In October of 2007, Councilman Greig Smith requested that “the City Attorney, with the assistance of the Planning Department prepare a report within 45 days outlining the Sober Living Homes regulatory ordinances enacted by.... other cities. And that the Planning Dept and Los Angeles Department of Building & Safety, in consultation with the City Attorney to provide land use control recommendations as part of the requested report, that can be enacted citywide to regulate sober living homes.”

After several years, on November 19, 2009, the Department of City Planning prepared a proposed Community Care Facilities Ordinance, City Wide: “The City cannot regulate unlicensed special needs housing operating as businesses. Staff is now recommending to bring the LAMC into conformance with the California Community Care Facilities Act by allowing community care facilities for six or fewer residents by right in residential and commercial zones and to allow community care facilities for seven or more residents as public benefits with performance standards in residential and commercial zones.”

A Planning Commission hearing for the above proposed ordinance was scheduled on January 28, 2010. Within a few days

after being announced, the hearing was abruptly cancelled. After reading the details of the text, many community leaders, neighborhood organizations and councils voiced strong opposition, to this flawed proposed ordinance. Clearly, this was a serious disappointment to those of us who have been subjected to numerous negative impacts of these unsupervised group homes. Many have been frustrated at the lack of support from city officials in effectively dealing with these facilities and protecting surrounding residents. Going forward, community leaders are requesting “a seat at the table” when new laws and ordinances will be written relating to both licensed/unlicensed group homes. *Maria Fisk*

Cancer Support Bike Ride



Ride your bike through the Valley with a police escort, get a T-shirt, enjoy a BBQ, all to support the LAPD Cancer Support Group. The ride, with a \$25 donation (\$15 for children), will start at 8:00 am, Saturday , March 13th, at the Valley Traffic Division in Panorama City and stop at each of the Valley’s 7 Police stations. There are different routes depending on how many miles you want to ride. Pre register at: www.RideToArrestCancer.com

Neighborhood Watch

Not every conflict or disagreement has to rise to the level of police involvement. Before escalating a neighbor dispute into a criminal complaint, please consider that free confidential mediation and conflict resolution services are available to all Los Angeles County Residents. The mediators are specially trained in the areas of: landlord/tenant disputes, neighbor disputes, school - related disputes, consumer/merchant disputes, matters related to ethnicity and/or race, and business disputes. They can be contacted at 213-485-8324 or by computer at www.cityofla.org/atty/mediate.htm



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Rape 2
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Arrests 351

Data from LAPD Compstat



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SFV Museum

The Museum of the San Fernando Valley is working hard to make the Northridge Centennial a success. <http://museumsanfernandovalley.blogspot.com/> They are asking for historical information and photos of Northridge and surrounding areas to add to their collection documenting the history of the San Fernando Valley. You may send them images or other information to the address listed below. Photographs sent as email should be in jpg format and accompanied by your permission to use them. It is also important, where possible, to identify people, nature of the event and location. The centennial website is: www.northridge100.org

The Museum is preparing a mobile exhibit that will be utilized for this year's centennial and many years to come. Gerald R. Fecht, Ph.D; President; The Museum of the San Fernando Valley; 21031 Ventura Blvd. Suite 419; Woodland Hills, CA; 91364 818-347-9665

GH High Advancing

Granada Hills Charter High School is one of 3 valley schools among 9 that competed in LAUSD's Academic Decathlon contest. These 9 schools of the 64 that competed will be headed to Sacramento in March for the California State Finals. Marshall High School took top honors in February's contest, followed by 5 time national champion El Camino High. The California winner will advance to the national United States Academic Decathlon on April 21st in Omaha, Nebraska.

Congratulations to Granada Hills Charter High School and good luck in the State Finals.

Open House - Hillcrest Christian School

If you have children in grades K-12 and are considering alternatives to public school, Hillcrest Christian School is having an Open House on March 4th and 5th at 6:30 PM. They have traditional educational programs, offer college preparatory curriculum including AP classes, Sports and Fine Arts, Special Learning Needs, Bible, Chapel, and DayCare. The School is fully accredited by WASC and ACSI. Individual tours can also be scheduled. For more information call the school office at 818-368-7071 Their website is www.hillcrestchristianschool.org



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Coming Events



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

Mar 2: Elections for both GH North and South Neighborhood Councils

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

Mar 4: Fair election campaign kick off; see article

Mar 7: Veteran's Appreciation Day; Brentwood 1:00 see article in this newsletter

Mar 7: "Old Time Radio" show at GH Women's Club on White Oak; 1:30pm; 818-920-6540

Mar 11: Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council, 7:30pm Granada Pavilion in Trader Jo's shopping center near Pep Boys

Mar 13: LAPD Cancer Fundraising bike ride; see article

Mar 14: Daylight Savings Time; move clocks 1 hour ahead

Mar 15: Valley Vote at Galpin Ford: 6:45

Mar 17: St. Patrick's Day

Mar 18: 17A35 Neighborhood Watch; 7:00pm St. Euphrasia Church, 11766 Shoshone Ave.; SLO Dario Del Core

Mar 20: First day of Spring

Mar 22: 17A49 Neighborhood Watch SLO Janine Angeles; 7:00 pm at Fire Station 87, Balboa south of Devonshire

Mar 30: Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council, 6:00pm Van Gogh Elementary School

Mar 29: Ralph's North has been closed for 3 years

Mar 30: Passover begins

Unemployment Help

Put **OPEN** to work for you! Refresh your career strategy skills and expand your network in an intensive five-day workshop beginning on [Monday March 8, 2010](#). Then join the team of volunteers who multiply their career-search effectiveness by actively supporting **OPEN** -- the premier source for Ventura County and San Fernando Valley professionals. Workshop is free and will be held in Simi Valley. For more information and to RSVP, contact www.eu-open.org

Deserving Awards

A super Congratulations to the Law Offices of Savin and Bursk for being recognized by the United Chambers of Commerce as the Outstanding Small Business. The United

Chambers is a Coalition of 32 Chambers & Business Organizations that represents over 21,000 businesses in the San Fernando Valley & Region. Bonnie Bursk is a community workaholic involved with many organizations here in Granada Hills. We also would like to thank her for her continued sponsorship of OGHRC.

John Bwarie of Councilman Smith's office was recognized as the Outstanding Elected Official's Staff Award. He used to give a report at our monthly meetings before the office was reorganized with his duties assumed by Semeek Park.



Mitchell Englander; Guest Speaker

Mitch Englander, who is currently serving as Chief of Staff to Councilman Greig Smith was the guest speaker at our monthly general meeting. He is not only an LAPD reserve officer but is also very active in civic and philanthropic functions. He currently serves on numerous boards of directors including the North Valley YMCA, American Diabetes Association, Police Activities League (PALS), Providence Holy Cross Hospital, etc. As a neighborhood organization, we feel it is very important to keep the doors of communications open between members of the community and our elected representatives. By engaging policymakers in an open dialogue, constituents are more likely to have their collective voices heard. By having an open public forum, Mitch was given the opportunity to provide an update on City policies and respond to resident's concerns about community issues relating to:

City budget and proposed cuts; Proposed budget protocol Advertising trailers; New Safe Collection Center; Oakie House property becoming a new park; Proposed Las Lomas Development stopped; Holy Cross Expansion; New PALS youth center in Northridge; Accessory Dwelling Units; Study to grandfather illegally converted units; Delays in Community Plan/Specific Plan revisions and plans to downzone OGH; Sober Living Homes and proposed ordinance; Graffiti and new surveillance system; Plans for new retailers/tenants at Granada Village Shopping Center; Problems with code enforcement

On an ongoing basis, OGH RG will continue to invite city officials to future meetings. In this way members can openly share their concerns with those who initiate or enforce laws and city ordinances.

Veterans Celebration

You are cordially invited to the 122nd anniversary celebration; Veteran's Appreciation Day, Sunday, March 7th from 1:00 to 4:00pm. It will be held on the Veteran's "Grand Lawn, north-east corner of Wilshire & San Vicente in Brentwood. Parking available in lots 10 & 17. Hosted by the Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 13, San Fernando Valley. The celebration is a grateful and patriotic tribute to John P. Jones and Arcadia de Baker who in March, 1888, granted the land "To locate, establish, construct, and permanently maintain a National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers"



A **Thank You** to Bart Mills, for proof reading this issue before it was printed and mailed !

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**



GH Neighborhood Councils

All the city's 90 neighborhood councils hold elections for stakeholders to vote for their directors. The city councils were divided up into districts to define their election cycle and election date. Both Granada Hills North and South Neighborhood



Councils are holding their elections on the same day, March 2nd. To vote in the election, you must be a stakeholder within the council district. A stakeholder is generally defined as a person at least 16 years of age and lives, works, goes to school,

shops, owns a business, rent, attends church or recognized religious service, is part of a community group or park activity in Granada Hills. The majority of recipients of this newsletter are in the GH South Neighborhood Council's (south of the 118 freeway) area. Boundaries can be found on each council's website or through the city's Neighborhood Council website, www.lacityneighborhoods.com



ELECTION DAY
Tuesday, March, 2nd
2:00 pm to 8:00 pm



GH SOUTH
 Neighborhood
 Council
 GH Recreation Center
 16730 Chatsworth St.
 ("Petit Park")
 www.GHSNC.org
 818-668-5969

GH NORTH
 Neighborhood
 Council
 GNNC Office
 11139 Woodley Ave.
 (Albertson's Shopping
 Center)
 www.GHNNC.org
 818-831-0578

Fair Elections Campaign

On, Thursday, March 4th, (7-9pm) is the kick off for the California Fair Election Campaign to be held at the Leo Baeck Temple, 1300 North Sepulveda Blvd. Get informed about how Fair Elections will take politicians out of the "fundraising game". Help pass the California Fair Elections Act on the June ballot. Hosted by Californians for Fair Elections which is a coalition of nurses and government reform advocates. They can be reached at www.YesFairElections.org or call 800-566-3780.



Call **3-1-1** the business day before your normal trash pickup and have bulky items picked up

Recently Sold Homes

12901 Jolette	\$565,000	17714 Kingsbury	\$475,000
10545 Encino	\$460,000	17436 Los Alimos	\$385,000
10536 Encino	\$380,000	1746 Donmetz	\$425,000
17447 SF Mission	\$545,000	11440 Andasol	\$510,000
12156 Louise	\$660,000	17437 Tribune	\$714,900

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



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.

March 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

**Granada Hills North
Neighborhood Council**

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GHNNC meets the last Monday of every month at Van Gogh Elem. School

www.GHNNC.org



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

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