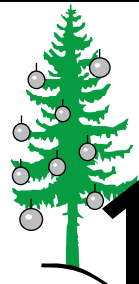


...to identify, discuss, and resolve problems and issues within our community...

**December
2010**



Old Granada Hills Residents' Group



July, 2001

www.OGHRG.org

Contact Information

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PO Box 34055
Granada Hills, CA 91394

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Committees

Zoning / Density
Communication
Fund Raising
Newsletter

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

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

Next Meeting is:

Thursday, Dec. 2nd, 2010

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

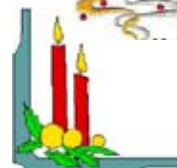
Granada Hills Charter High School- Rawley Hall

- 7:00** Introductions, Disclaimer
- 7:05** Reading of Minutes, Agenda Review
- 7:10** Community Announcements; News; Updates; Events
- 7:15** OGHRG Committee Reports
Financial; Zoning and Density
Newsletter
- 7:30** **Guest Speaker; Robert Bucker;** Dean of the Mike
Curb College of Arts, Media & Communication at CSUN
- 8:10** Group Home Status Report
- 8:20** New Business and Wrap-up

January meeting is January 2nd, Granada Hills Charter High School



Season's
Greetings



OGHRG President's Message

This month I am dedicating my entire article to an issue that affects all of Granada Hills, and in fact, a large swath of the North San Fernando Valley. The issue is who will manage the new Valley Regional High School number 4, or as it is better known to most of us, Hospital High. I have attended a number of community meetings on this subject, including a meeting sponsored by the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council, which I moderated. I have listened to the statistics, arguments, and plans put forth by the applicants, LAUSD and Granada Hills Charter High School. There really is no contest here; GHCHS is the far better choice to operate the new High School. In coming to this decision, I looked at several factors, including API (state test) scores, dropout rates, graduation rates, and financial stability.

GHCHS has one of the highest API scores in the state. Their 2010 overall score was 874. This is a much higher score than even the top LAUSD high schools in the San Fernando Valley. For instances, El Camino (798), Cleveland (756), Taft (745) and Northridge Academy (725). When compared to the two other nearest schools, Kennedy (695) and Monroe (648), the gap is even greater. And this API gap is consistent across the subgroups, such as English learners, socio-economic disadvantaged and students with disabilities.

Additionally, GHCHS has a very high graduation rate (99%), with 99% of graduating students admitted to a 2 or 4 year college. Their attendance rate is 98%. Financially, GHCHS has amassed a 10 million dollar reserve, while at the same time hiring staff to maintain a 30 to one student to teacher ratio. They have also retained that staff, in part due to salary enhancements of over 5 million dollars since 2003.

In contrast, LAUSD is furloughing teachers and staff (the entire week of Thanksgiving for starters). This will lead to a shorter school year of 7 less days. Additional cuts in staffing will mean the average teacher to student ratio of 40 may climb even higher. LAUSD faces a projected deficit of 300 to 500 million dollars next fiscal year, with no relief in sight.

Additionally, although it is impossible to get any sort of accurate numbers from LAUSD regarding dropout rates, we do have demographic information provided by LAUSD when Valley Regional High School no. 4 was originally proposed. Those numbers indicate, at least at Monroe and Kennedy High Schools, that the dropout rate is around 40 to 45 %.

(Continued page 2)

December Guest Speaker - CSUN Dean

Robert Bucker, Dean of the Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communication at California State University, Northridge since 2007, has extensive experience in university administration and independent 501(3)c organization management. He served as Assistant Dean and Director of Development for the College of Fine Arts at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (1992-95), Dean of the School of Fine Arts at the University of Minnesota-Duluth (1997-2001), and Dean of the Peck School of Fine Arts at the University of Wisconsin as Dean of the Peck School of the Arts at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee (2001-07).

He took a break from the academy from 1995-97 as Director of the Education Department for the Metropolitan Opera-Metropolitan Opera Guild in New York City. During his tenure with the Met, Bucker developed a semester-long residency program entitled "Leadership and the Arts in New York," developed with Duke University faculty. He co-directed this program for ten years.

In Wisconsin, he was a member of the leadership team for the Teachers for a New Era (TNE) K-12 education reform project, underwritten by the Carnegie Corporation in New York, the Annenburg Foundation, and the Ford Foundation.

Founder, director and conductor of the Choral Arts Ensemble of Kansas City, Bucker holds the rank of music professor at CSUN. He is a graduate of Harvard University's Management Development Program and Institute for Management and Leadership in Education. Bucker earned doctor of musical arts and master of music degrees at the University of Missouri, Kansas City. His bachelor's degree was earned at the University of Missouri, Columbia.

Too Old For Computers?

Senior Computers is an auxiliary of the SAGE Society, CSUN and is organized to meet the needs of seniors who wish to learn to use computers. It is operated by senior citizens who enjoy using computers and want to help others in learning how to use them. Senior Computers conducts classes for beginners twice a year during semester breaks at CSUN and each class meets for 6 Fridays for a total of 12 hours of training. The next class will begin Friday, January 7, from 10am to noon and run for 6 consecutive Fridays through February 11.

The curriculum is designed for beginners and emphasizes the use of Microsoft XP and Office 2007. After a brief orientation in computer hardware, software and language, participants are taught how to create documents and use email. The last session is devoted to using the internet. There is a \$25 fee for materials and the scholarship fund for CSUN students in the Computer Sciences program. Make it your New Years Resolution to learn how to use computers and get connected to the world. Call 818-831-5064 for an application and information.



President's Message - continued from cover page

The lack of transparency from LAUSD during this entire process is also troubling. Originally we were told that this High School was necessary to relieve overcrowding at Monroe, Kennedy and Granada Hills Charter High Schools. Somewhere along the line, Northridge Academy was thrown into the mix, although it is a new school that was intended to reduce overcrowding as well. Now we are told that the big problem is at Cleveland High School, and they will receive 40% of the seats at VRHS # 4, while the nearer schools will only receive 15% each. Cleveland High School is 5 and 1/2 miles from VRHS # 4, while Kennedy and GHCHS is each about one mile. What's wrong with this picture?

Finally, let's talk money. In fiscal year 2008-09, LAUSD received \$11,332 per student, compared to a state average of \$9,476. GHCHS received \$9,234 per student that same fiscal year. So why is GHCHS able to do so much more with less? They are not saddled with a bloated bureaucracy that eats up millions of dollars in administrative costs. According to a 2003 study by the Anderson School of Business at UCLA, LAUSD only gets about 45 cents on the dollar into the class room. If they operated more efficiently, with a less centralized system, they could put substantially more into the classroom. For instance, at 60 cents on the dollar, LAUSD would be able to put an additional \$2200 per student into the classroom instead of into administrative costs, consultants and computer systems that don't work.

In January, LAUSD is supposed to hold an advisory community vote on which applicant should operate the new high school. I know how I am going to vote, and I hope after reading this, you do too. *Dave Beauvais*

The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council, the Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce, LA County Supervisor Mike Antonovich, State Senator George Runner, State Assemblyman Cameron Smythe, and Councilman Greig Smith have all endorsed Granada Hills Charter High School.

Post Office Robbed

The post office safe and cash drawer at the general store at Zelzah were robbed early Thursday morning by two cracksmen, who escaped in an automobile driven by a woman. The robbers made their entrance through one of the store windows. Blowing open the safe, they took stamps and coins amounting to \$175, and from the cash drawer they secured about \$300.

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Community Chanukah Event

The Chabad of Chatsworth, Northridge and Porter Ranch is holding its free "Inflatable Chanukah" lighting of a giant balloon menorah at Porter Ranch Town Center on Sunday, Dec.5, beginning at 4:30 pm. The festivities include music, hot latkes, Chanukah gelt, donuts, balloon artist, Chanukah crafts, and a giant raffle drawing. Dinner will be available for a nominal fee.

Porter Ranch Town Center; Corbin Ave. & Rinaldi St. more information, email chanuka@porterranch.org or call 877-44chanuka

Christmas Concerts

On December 11th, Angeles Chorale presents their holiday concert, "A Baroque Christmas" at 8 p.m. at the historic First Methodist Church in Pasadena. The church has been serving the San Gabriel Valley since 1875, has remarkable acoustics and would be worth a visit just on its architecture. The program includes the chorale with a large baroque orchestra performing; Alleluia, Rejoice!, a processional with handbell accompaniment; Vivaldi's Gloria; Magnificent by Bach, and seasonal favorites including carols. Have an early dinner in Pasadena, enjoy the concert and say hello to Bob and Gayle Biava, who are singing in the chorale, afterwards in the lobby. For more information and tickets, call Bob or Gayle at 818-368-3473 or online at www.angeleschorale.org

Hillcrest Christian School would like to invite you to two concerts featuring their award winning youth choirs. On Thursday, December 2nd at 6:00 pm the Middle School Choirs will be singing favorite Christmas carols from America, Spain, France, and England, as well as Spirituals. On Saturday, December 11th at 7:00 pm the High School Choirs will be singing Christmas carols and songs from a wide range of styles and eras. Both concerts will include the audience in an Old-fashioned Carol Sing and take place at World Vision Church, located at 19514 Rinaldi Street, on the corner of Corbin and Rinaldi in Porter Ranch. Tickets are \$7 and may be purchased at the door or at Hillcrest Christian School. (818) 368-7071

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Coming Events



- Dec 2: First Day of Chanukah;**
- Dec 2:** Old Granada Hills Residents' Group Meeting; 7:00 See cover page for agenda
- Dec 2:** Hillcrest Christian School Concert; see article
- Dec 5:** Sunday; Granada Hills Holiday Parade 1:30 on Chatsworth St.
- Dec 5:** Community Chanukah Event; see article
- Dec 7:** GH Chamber Gov't Affairs Committee monthly meeting; 11:45AM, Chamber office, 368-3235
- Dec 7: Pearl Harbor Day**
- Dec 9:** Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council, 7:30pm Granada Pavilion near Pep Boys
- Dec 10,11:** Friends of the Library book sale; see article
- Dec 11:** Hillcrest Christian School Concert; Angeles Chorale Concert; see article
- Dec 21:** First day of Winter
- Dec 25: Christmas Day** - Saturday this year
- Dec 26:** Boxing day
- Dec 27,28:** Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council, 6:30pm Van Gogh Elementary School; www.gnhnc.com

Holiday Parade

It's Parade time in Granada Hills. The annual Holiday Parade is Sunday **December 5th**, from 1:30 to 4:00 along Chatsworth Street.. This year's theme is "Favorite Holiday Gifts and Presents". The Grand Marshall is Kami Cotler who is best known for her role as young Elizabeth Walton, on the TV series, "The Waltons". Kami is an LA resident who is married with two children. She gave up acting fulltime to become a teacher and is currently a co-director of a charter school. Over the years she has continued to reprise her role in each of the Walton reunion movies of the 80's and 90's and regularly appears at Walton's events.

In addition to the equestrians, marching bands, dancers, and Santa Claus, be sure to look for the Old Granada Hills Residents Group entry.

LA County

The LA County website describes all the helpful services they provide and has pages and pages of useful information. There is even a section for pet owners. This specific website discusses barking dogs. <http://animalcare.lacounty.gov/barking.asp>

Recently Sold Homes

17530 Rinaldi	\$405,000	11058 Louise	\$345,000
17847 Horace	\$371,500	11505 Swinton	\$305,000
11150 Gloria	\$330,000	10766 Forbes	\$355,000
10527 Balcom	\$425,000	11450 Andasol	\$400,000
11012 Lindley	\$422,000	17083 SF Mission	\$285,000

DWP Electricity

DWP gets 9% of its electricity that it sells us from the Palo Verde nuclear power plant in Arizona? The cost for nuclear power is about the same as power generated by coal (2-4 ¢ /kwh)* fired generators that account for about 44% of the city's power needs. Wind (6-10.5¢ /kwh)* and solar (17-30¢ /kwh) generated power cost between 3 and 15 times more than coal produced power. DWP has an ownership stake in the Palo Verde plant and would have the ability to acquire additional electricity from there as it becomes available. Are they looking there as the city seeks to reduce its dependence on "dirty" resources? How high will our utility bills get if they don't? When the sun doesn't shine and the wind doesn't blow, we still have electricity needs. There are 31 states that have nuclear power facilities and there are 17 applications for 26 new ones in the US. *LADWP Report to the LA City Council, Nov.2008, page 6



Our Overseas Troops

Operation Gratitude is a San Fernando Valley-based non-profit organization that mobilizes volunteers to write letters and assemble care packages filled with donated goods, and ships them to American troops serving in the military overseas. To date, they have sent over 500,000 care packages.

Holiday Drive Sept. 13 to Dec. 17

You can help this worthy cause by volunteering to help assemble packages, by writing letters to troops, or by donating goods or money to Operation Gratitude.

To learn more about Operation Gratitude, visit their website www.OperationGratitude.com or call (818) 909-0039

Neighborhood Watch

There is an increase in Burglary/Theft from Motor Vehicle activity (cars getting broken into), in the area between Chatsworth Street and the 118 freeway and between Balboa and Reseda. These crimes are occurring at all hours and the property being taken is any valuable that is left in plain sight.

Devonshire Division Crime Stats 10/17 thru 11/13

Homicide0	Burglary 77
Rape 2	GTA 53
Robbery 19	BFMV 113
Aggravated	Personal/
Assault 20	Other theft ..97
Shots fired .. 3	Arrests 371

Data from LAPD Compstat

Hospital High

When LAUSD bought the Granada Hills Community Hospital site for \$22.5 million at the February, 2004 bankruptcy proceedings, it was 11.5 acres and included the medical building that is just west of the parking structure. The soon to be completed high school utilizes 8.5 acres. The remaining property and medical building are now considered surplus with an LAUSD Citizen's Advisory Committee forming recommendations on what to do with it. Recent appraisals report the value at about \$2.37 million. Proceeds of a sale could be applied to non-recurring capital expenditures in the district.

from LAUSD Board member Galatzan's Gazette

If you want Granada Hills Charter High School to operate "Hospital High beginning next fall, get involved. Call the school at 818-360-2361 www.GHCHS.com

Book Sale - Friends of the Library



The Friends of the Granada Hills Library will host a two-day used book sale on Friday, December 10, 2010, from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM; and Saturday, December 11, 2010, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. The sale will take place

indoors in the library's community room.

Fiction, nonfiction, hardcover and paperback books will be available. Bags of books will be sold for \$5.00 each.

The Granada Hills Library is located at 10640 Petit Ave.(corner of Chatsworth St.) in Granada Hills. The library phone number is 818-368-5687.

Coat Drive



There are only a few days left (December 10th) to drop off donated clean, in good condition, used men's and women's winter coats at Councilman Smith's Northridge office. Last year, The Granada Hills Women's Club gathered 300 of the 1,700 coats gathered in the LA area for the Burlington Coat Factory Warm Coats and Warm Hearts Drive. Donated coats are given to local shelters and given to people in need. 18917 Nordoff St. suite 18; info@ghwc.org

Coats can also be dropped off directly at any Burlington Coat Factory store. There is one at the Fallbrook Mall. You will receive a 10% discount on store merchandise.

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Community Care Facility Ordinance

A revised draft of the proposed Community Care Facility Ordinance (AKA: Group Home Ord) was made available to Neighborhood Organizations/Councils, Citywide on 9/10/10. Since that time, members of the community have shared their concerns regarding the proposed ordinance. Considering their input, the OGRRG Zoning and Density Committee developed a written position that was subsequently approved by the Board of Directors. OGHRG supports the proposed CCFO, with suggested amendments and modifications. This document was then forwarded to Councilman Greig Smith, City Planning Commission (CPC), City Attorneys, and Planning Officials before the 10/7/10 deadline. Also, during the month of September, members of the Safety, Zoning & Density Committees initiated a letter writing campaign. Sample letter forms and fliers were distributed door-to-door urging members to write in support of the CCFO and encouraging attendance at upcoming public hearings.

There have been two public hearings before the City Planning Commission on October 14, 2010 and November 4, 2010. At both hearings OGHRG had a strong representation. Members presented testimony in support of the proposed ordinance, justifying the need to strengthen the language. Some also testified about the failure of the nuisance abatement process in closing the illegally operating facilities. Additionally, the CPC was provided with the following written account of associated crimes and negative impacts for the three facilities in our area, located at 174XX Lahey St, 178XX Donmetz St, 175XX Horace St:

- 21 Complaints filed to LADBS
- Overcrowded conditions/ transient population, housing 15-30 boarders
- Vermin infestation, deplorable living environment
- LAPD deployment of the bomb squad
- evacuation orders were initiated
- 85 calls to LAFD/Paramedics for service
- 3 arrests (assault, failure to appear, possession of a controlled substance)

- Neighbors reported more than usual burglaries, public intoxication, indecent exposure/public urination, loud parties with more than 100 individuals, open drug deals, door-to-door panhandling

Old Granada Hills is not the only community impacted by these illegal facilities. Unlike some other communities, we are very vocal and perhaps we have had a little more success in dealing with these types of group homes. It takes the dedicated commitment of an entire community (a Village - so to speak) to get results. These types of undertakings are rarely successful if handled alone. There will be another public hearing in February. Details will be posted on our website when made available. Your attendance is very important. City officials need to know that we need an ordinance that will protect us - remember, Numbers Speak!

PALS Holiday Toy Drive



The holidays are around the corner, so please start thinking about toy and gift donations for the annual LAPD Devonshire PALS (Police Activity League Supporters) Holiday Toy Drive.

All of the donated gifts and toys will be distributed to the hundreds of kids who participate in the programs at the Greig Smith LAPD Devonshire Youth Center on Saturday, December 18, and your help is needed to make it a success. December 16 is the last day for donations. The event will also feature music, entertainment, holiday snacks and a visit from Santa.

Please donate a new, unwrapped toy, gift, book, gift certificate or other age-appropriate gift for kids up to 17 years old. Gifts can be dropped off at the Council District 12 office, located at 18917 Nordhoff St., Suite 18, Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

You can also drop off gifts at the Youth Center, located at 8721 Wilbur Ave., at the corner of Parthenia St. in Northridge, Monday to Thursday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, and Fridays 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

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December 2010

Old Granada Hills Residents' Group is a non profit organization of volunteers and concerned residents of our community. In our 10th year, we are a voice well known to our elected representatives with issues that affect us all - please join us.

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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