

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

**February  
2011**



July, 2001

[www.OGHRG.org](http://www.OGHRG.org)

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Communication  
Fund Raising  
Newsletter

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

Newsletter articles, pictures,  
comments, suggestions:  
rcfisk@verizon.net  
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*Next Meeting is:* **Thursday, Feb. 3rd, 2011**

**7:00 pm - 8:30 pm**

**Granada Hills Charter High School- Rawley Hall**

Happy  
Valentine's  
Day



- 7:00** Introductions, Disclaimer
- 7:05** Reading of Minutes, Agenda Review
- 7:10** Community Announcements; News; Events
- 7:15** OGHRG Committee Reports  
Financial; Zoning and Density  
Newsletter
- 7:20** Council District 12 Update - Seme Park
- 7:30** **Guest Speaker; Barry Biers - DeBugger**
- 8:10** Updates and reports: Hospital High; Group Homes;  
Community Plan and proposed new ordinance



*March meeting is March 3rd, Granada Hills Charter High School*

### OGHRG President's Message

Dues Call 2.0: Last month I issued our annual dues call for 2011. As we did in 2010, we inserted a self addressed envelope for your convenience. Unfortunately, we ran out of envelopes, so those of you with names ending in W,X,Y or Z will be getting those envelopes this month. As of this writing, our Treasurer, Bob Castle, reports that we have received over \$1700 from 72 households or individuals. That is an encouraging start, but it is nowhere near enough to meet our 2011 budget.

We have about 2200 households in Old Granada Hills, and we send this newsletter to about 1300 of those homes. In other words, only 5.5% of the residents receiving this newsletter have thus far responded. I know we will do better than that in the long run, but I want to send a special appeal to those of you who receive this newsletter but have never donated; we need and deserve your support. From fighting against 118 freeway off ramps at White Oak, to opposing over expansion of the Granada Shopping Village, from working to close illegal boarding homes to supporting Granada Hills Charter High School's bid to operate Hospital High, we have been in the forefront of each and every one of these battles, and many more.

We have worked long and hard on issues that make a difference in our community. We need your support to continue that work. Our largest expense is this newsletter (about \$500 per month). We have done a good job in reducing our newsletter related expenses, going from an 8 page format to 6 pages, and further reducing printing costs while improving the look of the newsletter. Every part of this newsletter is put together by volunteers, starting with our Editor, Richard Fisk, who puts in untold hours each month, to our newsletter committee, who help Terry and I finish the folding, tabbing and labeling the last Monday of each month. Bottom line, if you enjoy reading this newsletter, and appreciate the work OGHRG does in our community, then please submit your dues. Dues are \$25 per household or \$15 per individual.

Hospital High Community Vote:

Last month I mentioned that LAUSD will be holding a community vote on the operation of Valley Regional High School #4 (Hospital High) at James Monroe High School. That vote will be held on Saturday, January 30, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the auditorium. Assuming this

(Continued page 2)

February Guest Speaker - Barry Biers

Barry has lived in Granada Hills since his days at San Jose Street Elementary and Porter Junior High, graduating from Montclair College Prep High School. His children started at Granada Elementary, graduated from Granada High School and are currently active with junior sports events. Barry is on a weekly bowling league along with his father Bob Biers and his son Robert Biers. Barry is pleased to be active in the Granada Community supporting our efforts in current and past events.



Conquer Pest Control [located in Granada Hills,] a family operated company, opened its doors in 1995. Under heavy scrutiny and examination by the Structural Pest Control Board in 2010, Conquer is very proud of the inspector's praise for having passed at 100% - no infractions in the compliance of tight-stringent codes [field, fleet and the office].

We provide service to Greater Los Angeles, San Fernando Valley, Santa Clarita Valley, and Palmdale/Lancaster areas as well as Ventura County. All operators/technicians are licensed and regulated by the Structural Pest Control Board and only apply pesticides that are registered and approved for use by the California Department of Food and Agriculture as well as the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Common pests treated include: ants, crickets, waterbugs, roaches, earwigs, spiders, silverfish, pillbugs, food pests, beetles and moths. Services are also available for fleas, ticks, mites, rats, mice, bees, and wasps.

February's Main Topic is -- **BED BUGS**

The bloodsucking pests which can cause great mental anguish with their persistent and fast growing infestations, have rapidly multiplied throughout our areas. In major cities, the pests have been discovered in theaters, clothing stores, office buildings, and [of course] our private residences. Hotel furniture can be a haven for bedbugs, as can other tourist destinations like airplanes, cruise ships and buses.



Per the Dailynews.com [Kevin Modesti, Staff Writer] Los Angeles ranks 10th on the list of the nation's cities with the most bedbugs.

President's Message - continued from cover page

newsletter gets in the mail and delivered on time, the vote should be in the next few days as you are reading this article. I urge you to take the time, get in your car and VOTE for Granada Hills Charter High School to operate the new High School. Not only that, bring a neighbor to vote as well. As I wrote last week, this "community vote" has been prejudiced by the location of the vote, which is certainly not centrally located, and the fact that two Monroe High School teachers were primary contributors to the writing of LAUSD's "plan". We need to overcome that bias, with an overwhelming turnout of voters from Granada Hills, which is where the school is located and where the vote should have been held.

Candidate Forums:

Last month, the board voted to host a Council District 12 Candidate's forum in lieu of our regular meeting on March 3, 2011. We will provide more details in the March issue, but this will be the last opportunity to hear from all five candidates before the March 8th election. In addition, there are candidate forums scheduled for January 31 at Community Integration Services, 10100 Balboa Blvd. (next to Fire Station 87) and February 17, (sponsored by GHSNC) at Patrick Henry middle School library. *Dave Beauvais*

Pollworkers Wanted - \$105+

Directly from the City Clerk Website

The office of the City Clerk - Election Division invites you, your family, and your friends to take part in the electoral process by signing up to be a pollworker for the upcoming 2011 Municipal Elections.

We are especially looking for individuals who speak English and one of the 6 federally mandated-languages (Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese). We are also looking for Inspectors who will be in charge of the polling place on Election Day.

On Election Day, pollworkers work from approximately 6:00 am to 9:00 pm. Inspectors receive a \$100 stipend. Clerks receive a \$80 stipend. In addition, you will be paid an additional \$25 for attending a mandatory training class, as long as you work on Election Day. Training classes will be scheduled across the City and in your community.

To be a pollworker, you must be: At least 18 years old; A United States Citizen; A registered voter; Able to speak, read and write English or be Bilingual

Election Days are: **March 8th and May 17th**

For more information call 866-899-8683 or go to the website: <http://cityclerk.lacity.org/election>

Chinese New Year 2011



Chinese New Year begins according to the Chinese calendar which consists of both Gregorian and lunar-solar calendar systems. This year, the year of the **RABBIT**, begins Thursday, February 3rd

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**Coming Events**



**Jan 29:** Hospital High Vote at Monroe High school; 9-3

**Jan 31:** LA Budget Committee public meeting; see article

**Jan 31:** CityCouncil Candidate forum

6:00; at Community Integration Services, 10100 Balboa, just south of Fire Station

**Feb 1:** GH Chamber Gov't Affairs Committee monthly meeting; 11:45AM, Chamber office, 368-3235

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

**Feb 7:** LA County Assessment seminar; see article

**Feb 10:** Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council, 7:30pm Granada Pavilion near Pep Boys

**Feb 10:** Meet the author at Hillcrest, see article

**Feb 14:** St. Valentine's Day, Monday

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

**Feb 18, 19:** Book sale at Granada Hills Library; see article

**Feb 22:** Presidents' Day

**Feb 22:** VRHS#4 (Hospital High) on the agenda at LAUSD Board meeting; who will be awarded the school's operation?

**Feb 21:** Valley Vote; 6:45 Galpin Ford

**Feb 25:** GH Chamber installation awards dinner; see article

**Feb 28:** Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council, 7:00pm Rinaldi Adult School

**Book Sale**

The Friends of the Granada Hills Library will be hosting a 2 day used book sale on Friday, February 18th, from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm. and Saturday, the 19th, from 10:00am to 2:00pm. A variety of books for all ages will be available all at excellent prices. Bags of books will be sold for \$5.



"Strong" volunteers are needed to assist in setting up and closing down the book sale. If available, contact Mary; 818-886-6193

The sale will take place in the community room at the library which is located at 16040 Petit Avenue, Granada Hills, CA (corner at Chatsworth St.) The library phone number is 818-368-5687. *Carol Mandelberg*

**Crime**

In 2010, 161,000 people went to jail in the City of Los Angeles. That included 47,000 from the Valley. That says a lot, not only about the Police Department, but also for the City Attorney's office who prosecutes the people arrested for crimes. Even if the police department's budget is not cut, what happens to the crime rate if the Attorney's budget is cut?

**Recently Sold Homes**

10869 White Oak	\$550,000	17609 Ludlow	\$515,000
10937 White Oak	\$392,000	17346 Index	\$570,000
17807 Tribune	\$430,000	10901 Zelzah	\$460,000
11616 Balboa	\$320,000	17728 Orna	\$530,000

**Mystery Writer at GH Womans Club**

"Meet the Author," an always popular event, will be presented February 10, 2011 at 1 pm at the Granada Hills Woman's Club located at 10666 White Oak Avenue. The afternoon features mystery writer Dorothy Howell, whose mystery series revolves around the escapades of Haley Randolph, who works in a department store and has a passion for designer bags.

"Handbags and Homicide" was the first in the series, followed by "Purses and Poison" and "Shoulder Bags and Shootings." "Clutches and Curses" is scheduled for a summer release.



The "handbag" theme of this series is a result of the author's passion for designer bags, which is shared by her protagonist.

Refreshments will be served during the book signing which will follow Ms. Howell's presentation. According to Joan Vitale, who is chairing the event, pre-paid reservations of a \$15 donation per person are to be mailed to the clubhouse payable to the Granada Hills Woman's Club.

An author of 26 novels, Ms. Howels also writes historical romances under the pen name Judith Stacy.

Dorothy Howell is a member of Sisters in Crime, Mystery Writers of America and Romance Writers of America.

For further information, please contact Yolanda Petroski, President of the Granada Hills Woman's Club at 818-363-9844.

**Property Tax Appeal**



Under the Los Angeles County Public Education Program, there is a free seminar about your property tax assessment. It was developed to help taxpayers better understand the assessment appeals process in LA County.

The 90 minute seminar covers your appeal rights; When and how to file an application for reduction in assessment; How to prepare for a hearing, admissible and inadmissible evidence, and what will happen at the hearing and what to expect afterwards.

Seminars will be conducted year-round in various locations throughout the County. The next one is Monday, February 7th, in Glendale in the public library, which is at 222 E. Harvard St. Begins at 10:00 am. The Seminar will also be held in Van Nuys on May, 4th. *information at: 213-974-4240 or online at: <http://bos.co.la.ca.us/categories/appeals/seminarschedule.htm>*

**Hospital High**

Many organizations and elected officials have made their decision on who they want to see operate Hospital High. Any community would love to have a high performing school in their area. We have the possibility of having 2. **Saturday, January 29th, between 9:00am and 3:00pm at Monroe High School** is your opportunity to cast your vote for Granada Hills Charter High School. The school is located at 9229 Haskell, just north of Nordoff in North Hills.

**People to People**

Some of you may be interested to know that there is a Los Angeles Chapter of an organization called People to People International. President Eisenhower founded this organization and his granddaughter is presently the president or CEO.



The organization's basic purpose is to provide a way for people from different nations to meet those who live in far distant countries, to experience another culture, and to promote understanding among all nations of the world. They also promote philanthropic activities to erase prejudice,

bias and bigotry within or among nations. The Los Angeles Chapter focuses on homestays which enables a group from another nation to stay with families in this area to experience our culture. The reverse can also happen when a group from the US can experience another nation in the same manner. We have had visiting teen-agers from Milan, Italy and from Cairo, Egypt, a member of the Polish Consulate and are looking forward to a group from Azerbaijan in May. If you are interested in more information about PTPI, you may call Gayle Biava at 818-368-3473 or go on-line to PTPI.com. In the near future the Los Angeles Chapter web page will become available. *Gayle Biava*

**Local Student to Perform at Carnegie Hall**

Ryan Merrill LeGrand, student at Hillcrest Christian School, has been selected for the 2011 American High School Honors Performance Series at Carnegie Hall. He will be a part of the Honors Choir as a Baritone 1. Participation is limited to the highest rated high school performers from across North America.

Ryan is a composer of classical music; he studies voice and plays trombone, trumpet and baritone in the Hillcrest Christian School band.

Ryan auditioned this fall for the Honors Performance Series and was accepted by the Selection Board committee. Ryan will join other performers from the United States and Canada for a special performance at world-famous Carnegie Hall.

Finalists will come together for five days in February to have the opportunity to learn from conductors work with other finalists, and get a taste of New York City before the Saturday, February 19th, performance.



**Auto Insurance**

Auto Insurance is something that every driver in California must have, and it feels great when you are able to get discounts on your auto insurance while maintaining proper coverage for yourself and your loved ones.

In 1988, Proposition 103 passed, and established the "good driver discount". Did you know that if you qualify, all insurance companies in California must offer you this discount known as "good driver"? We voted for this and we earned it. We all want to pay less for our insurance, but at the same time we want to make sure that we are not sacrificing our limits of coverage.

Some insurance companies do not explain your limits, but instead focus on your excitement over saving money. For example, are you protected against the uninsured or underinsured motorist? Many drivers just carry the State minimum requirements, which are 15/30/5. California also offers a special program for those who need financial aid, which allows for a minimum coverage of 10/20/3. If you do not understand what these numbers represent, you need an agent who is able to help you. If you are hit by a motor vehicle that is underinsured, will your coverage protect your family and property? A good agent will take the time to review the policies that you may have, ask questions, and help to choose updated or new policies providing the best coverage for you and your family. Many well established insurance companies offer Home, Auto, Commercial, Specialty and Life Insurance products. *Debbie Wubben, Farmers Insurance Agent dwubben@farmersagent.com or (818) 802-2025*



**LA Fire Department**

Los Angeles Fire Department Chief Gerry Malais spoke to the Northridge East Neighborhood Council, January 19th about the impact of the city's budget on the department and to us residents. The department's budget has been \$554 million up until 2 years ago, it is now \$450 million.

With rolling closures of fire stations there are 18 fewer ambulances and 140 personnel not working on any given day. The city has 4 HazMat units, one of which was located at the Balboa station near Devonshire. While the equipment is still there, the team's individuals have been shifted to other duties.

With \$10 million more that might be cut from the budget and personnel continually being shifter around, will the Fire Department be able to adequately react to the next disaster or even the every day emergencies? *from notes taken by David Levin, NC Service Provider*

**Devonshire Division Crime Stats 12/19 thru 1/15**

Homicide ....0	Burglary ..... 88
Rape ..... 0	GTA ..... 54
Robbery ..... 13	BFMV ..... 159
Aggravated	Personal/
Assault ..... 16	Other theft .83
Shots fired .. 4	Arrests ..... 341

*Data from LAPD Compstat*

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## Abandoned Homes

We have experienced a downturn in our economy and sadly during these tough economic times, some of our neighbors have lost their homes through foreclosure. Losing one's home is indeed a very tragic event. Not only does the homeowner suffer, but the loss of a home through foreclosure can take a toll on surrounding neighbors as well. Unfortunately, some individuals who have lost their homes may simply abandon them leaving doors & gates unsecured and belongings strewn on the front lawn. Such abandoned homes are frequently vandalized and can be an attraction to transients and squatters. Old Granada Hills is no stranger to the negative impacts associated with foreclosed homes that have been taken over illegally by squatters. Therefore, it is very important for every member of our community to be on the lookout for abandoned homes. We also need to pay close attention to homes that go up for sale. Sometimes squatters take the "For Sale" signs down, move in illegally. On the surface this seems to be an ordinary sale transaction until the neighbors suddenly find 10 cars parked on the property. Report any suspicious activity to the appropriate authorities. And always bring this to the attention to OGHARG – we meet the first Thursday of every month.

## Valentine's Day - Monday, Feb. 14th

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*



## GH Chamber Installation and Awards

The Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce is holding the 83rd annual Installation and Awards Ceremony at the Odyssey Restaurant on Friday, February 25th. At this dinner and social event, the 2010 Board of Directors will be recognized and the 2011 Board and Officers will be sworn in. Alison Robinson, Board President will be starting her second term. The nominees for the Gil Benjamin Citizen of the Year Award will be honored and winner will be announced. Councilman Greig Smith, completing his final term, will be the auctioneer for a variety of items and opportunities. You are welcome to attend and meet the people involved with our business community. For more information or to RSVP, contact Bonnie Bursk at 818-368-8646 or the Chamber office at 818-368-3235.





**LAPD Devonshire  
Area Semi-Annual  
District Meeting**  
**Thursday, February 24, at 7:00 PM**  
Shepherd of the Hills Church; 19700 Rinaldi, Porter Ranch

## City Budget & Finance Committee Meeting

Give your input and hear an in depth status update the City's Budget at the City Council's Budget & Finance Committee offsite public meeting in Northridge. As an effort to give community members the opportunity to learn more about the workings of the City government, and give people the chance to give their input, the Budget & Finance Committee holds offsite meetings regularly in communities across Los Angeles.

**Monday, Jan. 31; 6:30 pm**  
**St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church**  
**9501 Balboa Blvd. Northridge**

## Bowling Fundraiser



Granada Hills Rotary Club is having a bowling fundraiser, Sunday, February 27th at Mission Hills Bowl. There will be teams of 5 all trying to get the elusive perfect score of 900 for 3 games. Minimum sponsorships of \$500 per team or individual sponsors of \$100 per bowler. Will the GH Chamber team beat one of the Neighborhood Council teams? There will also be the Leo Levy Opportunity drawing with 30 gifts and prizes. Tickets, bowling sign ups and further information is available through John Weitkamp at 818-363-3144 or email at [jweitkamp@aol.com](mailto:jweitkamp@aol.com)



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**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.**

## February 2011

**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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