

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

**January
2012**



July, 2001

www.OGHRG.org

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Newsletter

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

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comments, suggestions:
rfisk@verizon.net
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Next Meeting is: **Thursday, January 5th, 2012**

7:00 pm - 8:36 pm

**Granada Hills Charter High School
Rawley Hall**



Happy New
Year



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; Brian Miller; Granada Hills BID; "What is
happening in our Business District- Chatsworth St?"

8:00 Updates: Community Care Ordinance; Redistricting Council
Community Plan; Sidewalk Ordinance

8:20 New Business and Wrap-up

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

OGHRG President's Message

Annual Holiday Parade: I hope many of you saw the Chamber's 26th annual Holiday Parade on December 4. Our own Richard Fisk was the announcer for Channel 35. We had a combined Neighborhood Council Float (OK, big truck) which we decorated to the Max. Directors, family and friends rode in the truck and we had a great time. Thanks to Sharon Klek for the great pictures.

Still Waiting for the Community Care Ordinance: It now looks like action on the CCO will not happen until next year. The ordinance is still pending in the Planning and Land Use Management Committee, chaired by Councilman Reyes. Stay tuned, we will keep you updated through this newsletter, and if necessary by phone.

Protect Your Citrus Trees: Our December guest Speaker was Tom Shea, who spoke about the Asian Citrus psyllid, an insect that carries a fatal citrus disease. This bacterial disease, huanglongbing or HLB, infects any type of citrus tree, rendering the fruit inedible and misshapen. The disease kills trees within five years. This disease has already decimated the citrus industry in Florida. For more information go to www.californiacitrusthreat.org

Food Forward Pick: Speaking of citrus trees, we had a very successful neighborhood pick organized by Food Forward. This is an organization that will come out and professionally pick your citrus fruit for donation to a local food bank. We picked about 4,000 pounds of oranges for MEND the Sunday after Thanksgiving. If you want to get involved with this organization, go to www.foodforward.org on the web.

Speakers Needed: Our speaker Chair, Gayle Biava, is asking for ideas and help in securing speakers for the coming year. If you know anyone who would be an interesting speaker, or have a suggestion, please email Gayle, her contact information is on the front page.

Dues Time: As all of you know, we start collecting our annual dues at the first of the year. In the February and March issues we will insert self addressed envelopes for your convenience. But you can bring your check to the January meeting (or any meeting thereafter) if you want to save the postage. I will go into full nag mode next month, but if you want to

(Continued page 2)

January Guest Speaker - Brian Miller

Brian Miller is the Executive Director for the Granada Hills Business Improvement District (BID). The BID is responsible for upgrading the medians along Chatsworth Street including planting the Palm Trees. He will be talking about future plans for our Business corridor.

Brian Scott Miller is the Vice President, West Coast Asset Management for Combined Properties, Incorporated (CPI). In this position, Mr. Miller heads the west coast administrative office group and the property management, facilities management and tenant coordination departments for the company's west coast portfolio of commercial assets and is primarily responsible for value preservation through efficient operations and capital planning, tenant relations and retention, as well as value enhancement through specialty leasing and value-add opportunities such as renovations, redevelopments, and re-leasing/re-location strategies.

Mr. Miller began his career with CPI over 13 years ago in the Washington, DC office where he began his real estate career as a Lease Administrator. Prior to his relocation to the Beverly Hills office and promotion to Vice President, he held numerous positions at CPI including Director of West Coast Asset Management, Director of Property Management, Senior Property Manager and Senior Lease Administrator.

Prior to joining CPI in March 1998, Mr. Miller worked for the Woolworth Corporation in Camp Hill, PA as a Store Operations Specialist, supporting the retail conglomerate's numerous divisions including Footlocker, Champs Sports, Kinney Shoes, Woolworths and Northern Reflections in both the USA and abroad (Europe and Asia).

Mr. Miller is a graduate of Millersville University of PA where he received a dual Bachelors of Science degree in Business Administration and Psychology and earned his Masters of Business Administration from The George Washington University in Finance and Real Estate. Mr. Miller is a member of the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) and has received his designation as a Certified Shopping Center Manager (CSM) and is actively involved in ICSC events.

Mr. Miller also participates in numerous industry and community organizations. He has served on local committees for ICSC, as well as a committee chairperson and Board member of his Homeowners Association. More recently in 2010, Mr. Miller became a sustaining member and capital campaign donor for Southern California Public Radio and regularly promotes public radio and the arts.

Recently Sold Homes

11030 White Oak	\$225,000	17267 Simmonds	\$340,000
17218 Lahey	\$294,000	17901 Lahey	\$400,000
10924 Louise	\$285,000	11926 Andasol	\$720,000
17635 Index	\$439,000	17944 Tribune Pl	\$405,000

President's Message - continued from cover page

see this organization continue with the work we do for the community, and if you enjoy reading this newsletter, please submit your dues. Annual dues are \$25 per household or \$15 for an individual.

Holiday Cheer: Terry and I want to personally extend our wishes to all OGH residents for a safe and happy holiday season. If you are blessed with good health and financial security, please turn your thoughts and actions towards those less fortunate. There is a great need for charity in what is still a very weak and fragile economy. Give a toy, or donate a few bucks to a worthwhile charity that will make someone else's holiday a little better and brighter.

Dave Beauvais

New City Council District Boundaries

The first of 15 public meetings held by the Los Angeles City Council Redistricting Commission was held in our Council District 12 on December 5th. About 120 people were welcomed by Englander's chief of staff, John Lee, followed by an explanation of the Commission's mission, time line,

and procedures. Public comment filled the remainder of the meeting with virtually all speakers asking to keep communities in the same district and not to have multiple city council representatives for the neighborhood councils.

Mitch Englander's, Council District 12 is largest district by area in the City. There will probably be some adjustment in the boundaries with the possible changes most likely to affect Encino, Lake Balboa and West Hills.

The time line, as presented at the meeting, calls for the first map draft of the new City Council district boundaries on January 25th, followed by public hearings through February 11. A final map and commission report is to be submitted to City Council on March 1st and then to the Rules and Elections Committee on March 16th. By March 31st, 2012, the Redistricting Commission will have completed their work.



Citrus Trees, Disease: last month's speaker



The primary topic of last month's speaker - Tom Shea - was to inform us of the Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) pest that can bring the deadly Huanglongbing (HLB) disease to our trees.

The bacterial disease has already decimated a large part of the citrus crop in Florida. The psyllid has been found in Mexico and some spots in Southern California. Once a tree contracts the disease, it will kill the tree within 3-5 years. Currently there is no cure. The ACP is about 1/8" long and will generally be on the underside of the leaf. If you believe you might have the psyllid, contact the California Department of Food and Agriculture (800-491-1899 www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/acp) and they will come out to inspect and if you do have the pest, treat the trees - for free.

For those of us that have the original orange trees - that are approaching 90 years old, he suggested keeping them topped so the tree would fill out more and the fruit would be easier to pick. Mr. Shea had some other great information for us including:

When buying new trees be sure to go to a reputable nursery; With aphid infestation, spraying the tree down with water every day for a couple of weeks works as well as chemical treatments;

Suggested a few types of fruit trees you might want to consider if you want fruit trees; Cara Cara Navel Orange; 2 seedless varieties of Valencia oranges - Midnight and Delta; Seedless Kishu; Gold Nugget; Orblanco, which is a hybrid cross of a pummelo and grapefruit.

Community Plan Program

As part of the New Community Plan Program (NCP), the Planning Department is studying the land use plans for several of the City's 35 communities. The purpose of this ongoing program is to ensure that these plans are kept up-to-date so that they can effectively guide growth and development in the City's neighborhoods. Due to budgetary restraints, several Community Plan revisions have been placed on hold. The Hollywood Community Plan is now in its adoption phase. There are 6 other plans (including the Granada Hills-Knollwood Community Plan) that are scheduled for revision. The community of Old Granada Hills will be closely involved and engaged to ensure that our revised CP will encourage sustainable growth patterns while balancing the unique character of our neighborhood.

Coming Events



Dec 31: New Years Eve, Saturday

Jan 1: New Years Day; Sunday

Jan 2: Monday; Rose Parade

Jan 5: Old Granada Hills Residents' Group Meeting; 7:00 See cover page for agenda

Jan 7: Coptic and Russian Orthodox Church Christmas

Jan 8: Drop off Christmas tree; see article

Jan 12: Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council, 6:30pm Valley Academy of Arts & Sciences; www.GHSNC.org

Jan 16: Martin Luther King Day

Jan 16: Valley Vote; 6:45pm Galpin Ford

Jan 17: Police Commission public meeting; see article

Jan 17: 18th anniversary of The Earthquake; 4:31am

Jan 18: Masonic Lodge program; see article

Jan 24: Belly Laugh Day

Jan 30: Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council, 7:00pm Rinaldi Adult School

Unsolicited Merchandise?

Under California Civil Code 1584.5 it is illegal for a business to try to sell you something by sending you merchandise that you have not ordered or consented to receive. A business cannot send you unordered merchandise unless the merchandise is:

* a free sample which is clearly and conspicuously marked as such, or

* mailed by a charitable organization that is soliciting contribution and is marked as a gift.

If a business sends you something in the mail that you did not order or consent to receive, and has done so with the intention of selling it or another product or service to you, **you have no obligation to either return the unordered item or pay for it.** It is illegal for a company that sends unordered merchandise to follow the mailing with a bill or a demand for payment. (This rule does not apply where you have agreed with a business in advance to receive merchandise on a periodic basis, and it also does not apply to a good faith error on the part of the business that sent the merchandise.)

✦ *This newsletter issue was proofread by Bart Mills*

White Oak Family Dentistry *Cosmetics & Implants*



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New Years Resolutions

From the USA.gov website, a listing of the popular new years resolutions.

- 1. Lose Weight: Experts recommend at least three 20 minute sessions of exercise per week. If you are trying to lose a significant amount of weight, 5 times a week may be what you need. Make exercise part of your daily routine.
2. Manage Debt: The first step toward taking control of your financial situation is to do a realistic assessment of how much money you take in and how much money you spend.
3. Save money: See above number 2.
4. Get a Better Job: One place to start is the Federal website; http://www.jobbankinfo.org
5. Get Fit: Another Government website with guidelines: http://fitness.gov/ Of course there are many gyms around and losing excess weight and eating right are essential components of getting fit.
6. Eat Right: Lots of tips and nutrition guidelines. One is to pay attention to portion sizes and make healthy substitutes for fat intake.
7. Get a Better Education: Check out adult schools, community colleges and on-line courses.
8. Drink Less Alcohol: In the United States, a standard drink is any drink that contains about 14 grams of pure alcohol (about 0.6 fluid ounces or 1.2 tablespoons). That is one 12 oz. beer or 5 oz of wine.
9. Quit Smoking: Great resolution to make and even better if it lasts forever.
10. Reduce Overall Stress: Sometimes stress is helpful - it can encourage you to meet a deadline or get things done. But long-term stress can increase the risk of diseases like depression, heart disease and a variety of other problems.
11. Take a Trip: Get in the car, get on a plane or ship, just go somewhere away from home.
12. Volunteer: Many local organizations around to get involved. It can be rewarding in lots of ways.

- January is National Thank You month
January is on average, the coldest month of the year.

Veteran's Park - Bricks, Flags

Have you seen the engraved brick walkway leading up to the little boy statue at the Veteran's Park at Zelzah and Chatsworth? Would you like one with your personal inscription on it? Up until January 14th, the Granada Hills Rotary Foundation is accepting applications to fill the last remaining plain bricks with your message. Each single 4"x8" brick can



accommodate up to 3 lines of text at 20 characters per line. Each \$125 contribution will buy you a single brick. For \$300 you will have the opportunity to recognize and create a tribute with 3 bricks. Applications will be available at the next meeting or call/email John Weitkamp at 818-363-3144 jweitkamp@aol.com

Flags

The Granada Hills Residents, the BID and groups led by the Rotary Club did a beautiful job renewing the park at Chatsworth and Zelzah but the VFW could use some help maintaining the flags there. Our terrible winds in Granada mean we go through 2-3 sets of flags per year. We currently have a 5' X 8' American Flag and 4' X 6' California and POW/MIA flags on display. If we don't get more funding we may have to go down to 3' X 5' Flags. The flags have to be of high quality designed for heavy winds. The current American Flag costs about \$100 and the others \$65 each. Any tax deductible donations are greatly appreciated. Attention Flag Fund, VFW Post 2323, 17522 Chatsworth St., Granada Hills, CA 91344. Ray Pollok

- The man who is always waving the flag, usually waives what it stands for.

Landscape Design By Gene Behrns
American Horticultural Society Member
Member Design Review Board of Granada Hills
Affiliate Member American Society of Landscape Architects
Designer & Landscaper for the Veterans Memorial Park at Chatsworth & Zelzah
Office# (818)368-4923 Cell# (818)426-4372
E-Mail: gene@wellbye.com
We do Monthly Maintenance Too
ASLA logo

Christmas Tree Recycling

The City of LA Bureau of Sanitation has expanded CURBSIDE collection for Christmas trees. If your Christmas tree is too big to cut and place it inside the green waste bin, simply place the tree next to your green waste bin on collection day.

Using your green bin to recycle Christmas tree?

1. REMOVE all ornaments, decorations, and stand
2. CUT tree in pieces to fit into the green bin, and
3. PLACE the tree pieces inside the green bin for regular pick-up on collection day. Collected Christmas trees will be recycled into compost and mulch.

Drop off location

Fire Station #28 will accept Christmas trees for ONE DAY ONLY (see date and times below). There will be NO giveaways and we will NOT be accepting holiday wrapping and packaging material at sites.

Sunday, January 8, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Fire Station #28 11641 Corbin Ave. Northridge

Go Granada! - another win



Not only was the Granada Hills Highlander Band in the December 4th, Holiday Parade, they had another event the following week. Congratulations to the Highlander Band on winning the L.A. City Band Championship at East L.A. City College. Granada out-scored every high school in the LAUSD to capture their 20th City Championship. A special championship title was also awarded to the Tall Flag/Highlander Dance Team for the highest score of the day

- Many a person who celebrates the arrival of the new year should instead celebrate surviving the past year.
- How wonderful the holidays would be if there wasn't the day after.

Devonshire Division Crime Stats 11/13 thru 12/10	
Homicide0	Burglary 87
Rape 4	GTA 32
Robbery 19	BFMV 107
Aggravated	Personal/
Assault 15	Other theft.....85
Shots fired .. 3	Arrests 300

Data from LAPD Compstat

Police Commission Local Meeting



Join the Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners, Councilmember Mitchell Englander, and LAPD Chief Charlie Beck for a community meeting to discuss public safety issues in the Devonshire Area and the City of Los Angeles.

Tuesday, January 17, 2012 6:30 pm

St. Nicholas Greek Church

9501 Balboa Blvd. (at Plummer St.) Northridge

The usual monthly basic car meetings in January have been canceled to encourage attendance at this meeting.

Masons?



Ever wonder what the Masons were all about? The Granada Hills Lodge #378 is having a "Masonic Information Night" on Wednesday, January 18th, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. It is open to all. The program, "Mysteries of Freemasonry", will also include a live magician and refreshments. The lodge is located at 16535 Rinaldi Street.

LA County

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 10.4 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. Providing services to such a diverse population is challenging, evidenced by required printing of ballots in seven languages.

↓ Tired of being rubbed the wrong way? ↓
Go see our newest sponsor ↓



Stephen Mikita, PT, MPT

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Old Granada Hills Residents' Group is a non profit organization of volunteers and concerned residents of our community. In our 11th year, we are a voice well known to our elected representatives with issues that affect us all - please join us.

January 2012

**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 an advertising sponsor please call us at (818)368-7454 or email; rcfisk@verizon.net

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