

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

**March
2011**



www.OGHRG.org



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- Newsletter

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

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Next Meeting is: **Thursday, March 3rd, 2011**

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Granada Hills Charter High School- Rawley Hall

LA City Council 12th District **Candidate Forum**

Dinesh Lakhanpal Kelly Lord Brad Smith
Navraj Singh Armineh Chelebian Mitch Englander

Who will be our next representative in City Hall. Do you know who you will vote for?

April meeting is April 7th, Granada Hills Charter High School

OGHRG President's Message

Dues Call 3.0: In January, I issued our annual dues call for 2011. Like we did last year, a self addressed envelope was inserted in the newsletter for your convenience (some of you at the end of the alphabet got the envelope in February). As of this writing, our Treasurer, Bob Castle, reports that we have received over \$3700 in dues and newsletter sponsorships. That is encouraging, but we still have a ways to go to meet our 2011 budget.

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 at no cost to the organization. Bottom line, if you enjoy reading this newsletter, and appreciate the work OGHRG does in our community, please submit your dues. Dues are \$25 per household or \$15 per individual.

The Fight for a Community Care Ordinance Continues: On February 10 the Los Angeles Planning Commission held the third hearing on the Community Care Ordinance. This ordinance was requested by our Councilman, Grieg Smith, over two years ago. The first draft of the ordinance developed by Planning Dept. staff was soundly rejected by community groups and Councilman Smith. The current version, which would finally give us some recourse to regulate unlicensed group homes, while not perfect, is a good step forward.

The final vote of the Planning Commission was four in favor, one against approving the ordinance. Never the less, the motion failed. How could this be you ask? Because there are 9 Commissioners, and two of the positions are vacant. Additionally, one Commissioner was absent, and another left before the vote was taken. In order for the motion to pass, it needed more than just a majority of those present and voting, it needed a majority of the Commission, in other words, five out of nine votes.

This is not the end of the ordinance. It will be forwarded to City Council's Planning and Land Use Management Committee, who will consider the ordinance. If the ordinance is passed out of committee, it will then go to the City Council, which will need a two-thirds vote, rather than a majority vote, to pass the ordinance. Although the bar has been raised, I am hopeful that we can get the ordinance

(Continued page 2)

March Meeting - March 3rd

In January, the OGHRG board voted to host an LA City Council District 12 Candidate's forum in lieu of our regular monthly March meeting. There are six candidates on the March 8th ballot, all of whom have accepted the invitation to participate. Greig Smith, our representative for the past eight years has decided not to seek a third term.



Come to the meeting and hear their opinions and ideas as we collectively elect one to be our voice at City Hall. If you haven't made up your mind who to vote for or to confirm your mail-in vote, this may be the last chance to see them all together before the election.

Tammy Flores, Vice President of the Sylmar Neighborhood Council will moderate the forum. If you have a question you would like to ask the candidates, please email davebeauvais@verizon.net.

The March 8th election for council seats is a primary vote. If no one candidate receives at least 50% of the vote, the 2 candidates with the most votes will compete in a May run-off election.

In addition to City Council seats, the ballot includes 8 Charter Amendments, 2 Propositions, Community College District seats and 2 candidates for LAUSD Board of Education, District 3.

Please Vote, It Can Make a Difference

As a non-profit organization, Old Granada Hills Residents' Group cannot sponsor or endorse political candidates.

Shopping Center

Last September, Regency Center presented to the community their plans for remodeling the Granada Village Shopping Center that included a Sprouts Farmers Markets moving in to where the north Ralph's was located. Plans also called for the entire shopping center to be remodeled and upgraded in phases. RiteAid was going to move to the east end of the former Ralph's site to allow for a drive through pharmacy. The parking lot was to be redone. Since the plans called for Sprouts to be in by early fall of 2011, you would surmise that construction would have been started by now.

Several calls and emails to Regency Center have gone unanswered. Their website for Granada Village does show Sprouts on the plot plan, but RiteAid was not moved. A representative from Sprouts Markets did respond to an email to just say that it looks like early 2012 for the opening. Clarification from Regency would be welcome. It will be 3 years this March since the north Ralph's closed.

Recently Sold Homes

17547 Blackhawk	\$402,000	17324 SF Mission	\$435,000
12327 Jolette	\$591,500	17237 San Jose	\$500,000
11026 Andasol	\$263,500	10578 Shoshone	\$515,000
17695 Mayerling	\$570,000	10342 Rubio	\$409,000

President's Message - continued from cover page

passed. I know that Councilman Smith and his staff will do everything they can to make that happen as well, but we are going to need your letters and emails to the entire City Council to demonstrate our support for the ordinance. More on this next month.

Hospital High Community Vote: I want to thank all of you who took the time to drive down to James Monroe High School and cast your vote for GHCHS to operate Valley Regional High School number 4. The selection of Monroe High School as a voting site was, in my opinion, a deliberate attempt by LAUSD to make it look like LAUSD had popular support to be the operator of the new high school. Nothing could be further from the truth. Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council, Northridge East Neighborhood Council, the Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce and Old Granada Hills Residents' Group have all voted to support Granada Hills Charter High School as the operators. Not only that, the votes were near unanimous or unanimous in each case. It is crystal clear the Community supports GHCHS. The selection of the operator for the new high school has now been put off by LAUSD Superintendent Cortines until mid-March. *Dave Beauvais*

School Play

Hillcrest Christian School's Advanced Drama class is excited to present a fun and lively rendition of "Heaven Can Wait" on March 24th, 25th and 26th. The story is filled with surprises and is suitable for all ages.



Joe Pendleton runs into trouble flying his plane, as he is about to crash an angel grabs him before he dies. However, as he goes to heaven, Joe finds out he was not meant to die but can't be returned to his cremated body. The fun ensues as he must find another body to live in.

"Heaven" hits the Hillcrest Christian School Chapel on March 24th at 5 p.m., March 25th at 7 p.m., and March 26th at 1 p.m. The cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for students and a special family pack of 2 adults and 2 students for \$20. Hillcrest quality drama programs are a great way to spend some fun family time together.

Hillcrest is located at 17531 Rinaldi St. Tickets are available in the front office or at the door. Call (818) 368-7071 for more information.

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Veterans Celebration



You are cordially invited to the 123rd anniversary celebration on Veteran's Appreciation Day, Sunday, March 6th from 1:00 to 4:00pm. It will be held on the Veteran's "Grand Lawn, northeast 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 be permanently maintained as a National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers"



Historic Landmark in Northridge

For those that missed Dave Beauvais' presentation at the February meeting, here is a brief recap and some additional meeting and contact information. Pat LoPresti, a member of the Park Advisory Board, sent in this article.

Architect Paul R. Williams designed it in 1936. Barbara Stanwyck built it adjacent to Marwyck Farms which was a thoroughbred horse breeding facility that she and Zeppo Marx operated. In 1940, actor Jack Oakie purchased the 6,500 square foot, two-story house which has four fireplaces, a swimming pool, tennis court and countless interesting design features. In 1990, the house was named a City Historic-Cultural Monument (#484). What we are now calling The Oakridge Estate is located on a knoll on Devonshire Street near Reseda Boulevard hidden by oaks and pines.

Due to the efforts of Councilman Greig Smith, this house and property totaling 9.47 acres is now owned by the Department of Recreation and Parks. An eleven member Park Advisory Board (PAB) comprised of community members is now responsible for recommendations for the future uses of the property. By working together, we can preserve the property as a historic community asset that will be accessible to the public in perpetuity.

Interested in learning more about the Oakridge Estate? All community members are invited to attend the PAB public meetings to give input and get involved. The next meeting is March 24, 2011 from 3 - 5 p.m. at Firestation #87, 10124 Balboa Blvd. Future meetings will be held every other month on Thursdays. To receive information on tours, meetings and events, contact the PAB at oakridgepab@gmail.com or our website www.theoakridgeestate.org. A Speakers Bureau is eager to give Oakridge presentations to your organization.

Irish-American Heritage Month



Originally a religious holiday to honor St. Patrick, who introduced Christianity to Ireland in the fifth century, St. Patrick's Day has evolved into a celebration for all things Irish. The world's first St. Patrick's Day parade occurred on March 17, 1762, in New York City, featuring Irish soldiers serving in the English military. President Truman attended the parade in 1948, a proud moment for the many Irish whose ancestors had to fight stereotypes and prejudice to find acceptance in America. Congress proclaimed March as Irish-American Heritage Month in 1995, and the president issues a proclamation each year. There are over 36 million U.S. residents that claim Irish ancestry which is almost 9 times the population of Ireland (4.5 million) itself.

Coming Events



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

Mar 3: Old Granada Hills Residents' Group Meeting; 7:00 CD12 Candidate Forum

Mar 6: Veterans Appreciation Day; see article

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

Mar 10: LAPD District meeting; Shepherd of the Hills; 7:00

Mar 13: Daylight Savings Time; move clocks 1 hour ahead

Mar 15: LAUSD Board Vote - Hospital High

Mar 17: St. Patrick's Day

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

Mar 20: First day of Spring

Mar 21: Valley Vote at Galpin Ford; 6:45

Mar 24-26: "Heaven Can Wait"; see article

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

Hospital High -What's Next?

The votes have been cast by the public that have a stake in the outcome. It is speculation as to how important the outcome of that advisory voting will be. The results, scheduled to be announced February 23rd, become part of the "applicant packages" that will be reviewed by 2 separate committees before Superintendent Cortines goes to the LAUSD Board of Education with his recommendation. That is now scheduled to take place on March 15th - moved from February 22nd - where the entire school board will make a final decision.

Hospital High, officially known as VRHS#4, is one of 13 schools that will be on the agenda that day. From now until March 15th we can still make our opinion known. On the OGHARG.com website is a link to each of the LAUSD Board Member's email. Send them each a note of who you would like to see manage the new school - Granada Hills Charter for VRHS#4.

Once the decision is made, the school will need a name. The community will have an opportunity to weigh in on the name. Should it be named after a famous person, its location, a coined word from Granada Hills history, or...? Start thinking. The format for submission and selection will depend on who is chosen to run the school and will be reported in this newsletter.

Academic Competition

Granada Hills Charter, El Camino Real, Taft, San Fernando, Van Nuys, and Canoga Park, are among the 11 schools within the LAUSD District that have advanced to the State Academic Decathlon. Noteworthy, is San Fernando, which has never sent a team to the State Championship and Granada Charter who was the highest scoring team during the 2 day brain battle. El Camino Real holds the most titles nationally which includes the national title won last year. Taft has earned 3 national titles but hasn't competed for 2 years.



The Academic Decathlon is a team competition wherein students match their intellects with students from other schools. They are tested in 10 categories: Art, Economics, Essay, Interview, Language and literature, Mathematics, Music, Science, Social Science and Speech. Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals are awarded for individual events and total scores. The national competition for the State Champion teams will be held April 27-30 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The United States Academic Decathlon was created in 1981 by Dr. Robert Peterson, former Superintendent of Schools in Orange County, California. It has become recognized as the most prestigious high school academic competition in the United States.

Good luck to Granada Hills Charter High School and the other Valley Schools as they compete March 12th and 13th in Sacramento for the State Academic Championship.

Parking Meters in Granada Hills ?

There have been discussions at City Hall regarding parking meters, the revenue generated and where to put them. Currently, there are established existing zones where meters are allowed but not necessarily placed yet. Locally, in our Council District 12, it has been suggested to expand or create new zones where meters can be located. We have been briefed by our CD12 deputy representative that by expanding or creating new zones does not automatically mean that meters will be installed. She also stated that even if meters are suggested to be installed in a new zone, community input would be considered. With this information, the Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce has passed a motion to send a position statement to Councilman Smith stating that they do not want any parking meters installed or even to be considered for a new or expanded zone in or around the business corridor of Granada Hills. Unlike bus shelter and kiosk ads, all money from local parking meters would go to the city general fund.



Devonshire Division Crime Stats 1/16 thru 2/12

Homicide0	Burglary 88
Rape 1	GTA 54
Robbery 15	BFMV 133
Aggravated	Personal/
Assault 23	Other theft ..84
Shots fired .. 1	Arrests 449

Data from LAPD Compstat

Home Insurance

Your home is probably your largest and most important investment – not to mention that it is also the roof over your head. Here are some things to consider.

Coverage for the structure- Homeowners Insurance is based on what it will cost to rebuild a house. In Los Angeles County, that amounts usually to \$120 to \$200 per square foot depending on the quality of the home. It is wise to insure your home for 100% of what it would cost to rebuild, in the case that destruction is complete. For example your home burns to the ground. Remember the land value is not a part of this amount since the land will still be there.



Coverage for Contents- Most plans will also cover the cost of replacing your personal belongings if they are stolen or lost in a fire or other insured disaster. The standard coverage limit is equal to 50% of the value of the structure of your home. Most companies provide off-premises coverage as well, meaning that your belongings will be covered anywhere in the world. Some companies limit this amount to 10% of the total coverage you have on your possessions.

Liability Protection-A standard policy covers you in three ways. It covers damage to other people's property. It covers personal liability. It also covers medical expenses for injuries suffered by others. Most homeowner policies provide a minimum of \$100,000 of liability protection. But some experts recommend that you purchase at least \$300,000 in protection or more depending on your assets.

In addition to your basic coverage, you may need to buy additional riders. For instance, if you have expensive artwork or jewelry, you may want to purchase a separate policy to cover them. Coverage for jewelry for example, is limited to about \$1000 to \$ 2500 on standard policies. If you live in an area that is vulnerable to floods or earthquakes you need additional insurance. *For more information call Debbie Wubben, Farmers Insurance Agent, dwubben@farmersagent.com (818) 802-2025 License# 0H19664*

Additional Money



On February 16th, Greig Smith submitted a motion at City Hall to transfer \$85,000 from the Sunshine Canyon Community Amenities Trust Fund to the Department of Public Works. The money is to be used for graffiti and weed abatement service solely for the benefit of Council District 12.

The money will help West Valley Alliance, which is the organization that handles graffiti clean-up in our area. Most graffiti, once reported, is usually removed or painted over within 24-72 hours. Their number is **818-885-8885** or call **311**. You can also email your graffiti report in; wvalleyalliance@sbcglobal.net Be specific with the location.

• A parking meter is a device that forces a driver to make time payments forever

Community Care Facility Ordinance

Fortunately, one of the three problematic group homes within OGH has been shut down which is located on Donmetz Street. However, two more group homes continue to operate, one on Lahey Street (boarding house) and the other on Horace Street ("sober" living home). City Officials (City Attorney, LAPD, LADBS) and community leaders have spent years struggling to resolve this illegal use (multiple tenants renting out rooms in a residential house) in areas zoned one family. City officials have pointed to vaguely written zoning codes as a barrier to enforcement. They also felt that any attempt at initiating nuisance abatement proceedings against these homes would be equally unsuccessful. Over the past three years these three abovementioned group homes have generated:

- 21 calls to LADBS to report code violations
- 3 arrests
- LAPD calls to disperse 2 large parties (100-300 people)
- 85 calls to LAFD/Paramedics for service
- Bomb squad deployment causing evacuation & street closure

Our community, along with many others across the city, has been extremely frustrated with this intolerable situation. It almost seems as if we have exhausted all possibilities. But maybe there is something else that the City of LA can do. Several nearby cities have recently enacted their own group home ordinances and perhaps the City of LA could do the same? There is a proposed Community Care Facility Ordinance (CCFO) that is now being moved through the public hearing process. Several members from the OGH RG Board and Zoning & Density Committee attended the last of a total of three hearings on February 10, 2011. Though the CCFO received 4 favorable votes of the 5 Commissioners in attendance, it was not a majority of the 9 Commission seats even though 2 are not filled. Therefore, the ordinance it will require a two-thirds favorable vote when it comes before the full City Council. We, supporters of the ordinance are facing some very stiff opposition. There are groups and industries that are fiercely opposed to this ordinance. Even though boarding/lodging homes have been considered an illegal use in areas zoned one family, there are those who feel that they have every right to operate boarding/group homes in these zones. Our vaguely written zoning codes have led to confusion and misinterpretation and clarification is now needed. This proposed

ordinance does just that, it clearly defines Boarding or Rooming Houses and their location ("any one-family dwelling located on a lot zoned RD shall not be used as a boarding or rooming house"). Going forward, our job will now be all the more difficult. We will need to convince two-thirds of City Councilmembers to vote in favor of the Community Care Facility Ordinance. Our organization will keep you updated about news and hearings. Remember your support and attendance is vital, numbers count!

Citizen of Year

The Chamber of Commerce annually awards the Gil Benjamin Citizen of the year to a deserving individual who volunteers their time and puts forth superior efforts in community service. Below are this year's nominees. Please go www.Granada-Chamber.com for a more complete recognition summary. The award will be presented at the Chamber's installation dinner February, 25th.

Nancy Cartwright : VP Chair at Devonshire Division Police Activity League Supporters (P.A.L.S.); Make-a-Wish; Famous Fone Friends; Way to Happiness Foundation

Richard Fisk : Director Old Granada Hills Residents Group and Chamber of Commerce; involved with LAPD Neighborhood Watch, Hospital High; Aliso Park citizen committee

Eric Mansker : Director Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council; volunteer track coach at Granada High

Joan Mazzarelli : Volunteer; Magnolia and Rinaldi Convalescent Homes, Italian Catholic Federation, Operation Gratitude

Wynne Ritch : Director Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce; member of Rotary Club, Kiwanis and Optimist Club; Western LA County highest volunteer award with the Boy Scouts

Virginia Snow : Current board of Supporters of Law Enforcement in Devonshire (S.O.L.I.D.); past chair of, GH Woman's Club, Haven Hills, C.A.T.S., Child and Family Guidance Center, Postscripts, and P.A.L.S.

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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.

March 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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