

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

**October
2011**



July, 2001

www.OGHRG.org

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Newsletter

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

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Next Meeting is:

Thursday, October 6th, 2011

7:00 pm - 8:36 pm

Granada Hills Charter High School

Rawley Hall



Columbus Day



7:00 Introductions, Disclaimer

7:05 Reading of Minutes, Agenda Review

7:10 Community Announcements; News; Events

7:15 OGHRG Committee Reports

**7:30 Guest Speaker; Captain Kris Pitcher; LAPD
Commanding Officer, Devonshire Division**

8:00 Updates: Proposed property related City ordinances
Current issues

8:15 Jim Summers; "What if?"; Second Round!

8:20 New Business and Wrap-up

November Meeting will be November 3rd

OGHRG President's Message

Community Care Ordinance Finally Ready

On April 5, 2011, the City Council's Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) voted unanimously to send the Community Care Ordinance to the full city council for a vote. After a couple of delays, this motion finally came to a vote on June 2, 2011. The motion passed by a margin of 12 to 1, with Councilman Alarcon the only dissenting vote.

After the June 2 vote, the ordinance was then submitted to the City Attorney for a final draft. The final draft of the ordinance has been rewritten by City Attorney staff. The completed ordinance will now return to City Council for a final vote.

It is unknown at this time if public comment will be allowed at the final vote, or when that vote will be taken. It almost certainly will be sometime in the next few weeks. Don't be surprised if you get a call or an email from a board member asking you to attend this final vote, even if you do not want to speak on the issue. Numbers count and we were badly outnumbered at the last Council meeting. This ordinance has been four years in the making, and we need to stand up and make our voices heard.

Food Truck Issues

Undoubtedly, many residents of Old Granada Hills have been watching the almost viral growth of the food truck phenomenon on Wednesday and Friday nights on Chatsworth Street. I have received numerous emails regarding the food trucks. Most of them are supportive, but some residents living near Chatsworth have expressed concern over the parking and trash issues this event brings.

Several community organizations have tackled the problem, with the Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce and Council District 12 taking the lead. A recent meeting of community leaders, business owners, city and county agency representatives and food truck operators was generally positive in nature. Councilman Englander opened the meeting and summarized the problems and issues involved. The Chamber presented a plan to control and mitigate some of the parking problems along Chatsworth Street on event nights. Additionally, the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council recently approved up to \$300 to purchase trash receptacles to alleviate the trash issue.

(Continued page 2)

October Guest Speaker - LAPD Captain Kris Pitcher

Please join us in welcoming the new Commanding Officer at Devonshire Division. Captain Pitcher was appointed to the position in August after Captain Kane rode off to retirement.

Captain III Kris E. Pitcher has been a member of the Los Angeles Police Department for 24 years and has worked assignments including uniformed patrol, training, vice enforcement and various investigative entities. He was appointed to the rank of captain in December of 2000 and served as the Commanding Officer of Foothill and North Hollywood Patrol Divisions, Vice Division and Force Investigation Division before being assigned the Commanding Officer of Devonshire in August of 2011.



As the Commanding Officer of Force Investigation Division, he was directly responsible for all Officer-Involved Shoot-

ing (OIS) and critical Use of Force (UOF) investigations, and presentations before the Use of Force Review Board and Board of Police Commissioners. Captain Pitcher has represented the Department on various UOF investigation concepts and issues, provided OIS investigation consultation services to law enforcement agencies across the country and has lectured, on the topic of OIS investigations and protocols, to a variety of associations at conferences and seminars including the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) annual conference, Police Officer's Association of Los Angeles County (POALAC) seminars, the Institute of Law Enforcement Administration (ILEA) national conference and the National Association for Civilian Oversight to Law Enforcement (NACOLE) annual conference.

Additionally, Captain Pitcher is a member of the faculty of Americans for Effective Law Enforcement (AELE) where he speaks on the topic of OIS Investigations at their annual Lethal and Less Lethal UOF Seminar in Las Vegas, and has authored numerous articles on OIS investigations, credibility and protocols that have been published in national law enforcement management publications and law journals.

He has earned a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and a Master of Public Administration degree from California State University Northridge, earned the distinction of Certified Litigation Specialist (CLS) from AELE, is certified by the Force Science Research Center in use of force analysis, graduated from Police Executive Research Forum's (PERF) Senior Management Institute for Police (SMIP) Executive strategic management program and has attended Harvard University Kennedy School of Government executive education program, "Driving Government Performance."



OfficeMax

A special thank you to Jim "Connect", who for over 6 months has made sure our newsletter is printed the best it can be. He works at the Office Max store on Chatsworth Street and takes personal care with each customer's project. Whoever handles your printing needs at the print service center in the store, they will do a good job, but if you talk with Jim, try to figure out where his accent is from...

President's Message - continued from cover page

The problems associated with this event are not going to be solved overnight. For some business owners the increased foot traffic has been a boon to business. For others, the parking situation offsets any enhanced visibility. Pedestrian safety continues to be a concern. Parking and trash on the side streets near Chatsworth are also an ongoing issue.

It may be that with the arrival of cooler weather and shorter days this event may wind down. On the other hand, maybe not. I was told by a representative from the Mobile Food Truck Association that Granada Hills is the largest spontaneous event in the city, and perhaps in the country. If that is true, we need to get a handle on the critical issues and manage this event so that it benefits local businesses and residents while minimizing inconvenience to those residing in the immediate area. *Dave Beauvais*

What If?

In last month's issue, Jim Summers wrote an article about "What If" scenarios related to our community. He also spoke at our monthly meeting where he further explained his solicitation for examples and a "prize" of the book by Jim Hier "Images of America - Granada Hills", to the top 5 contributors. The program has been extended with emails still being accepted up to the October 6th meeting at which time the books will be given out. Send to: oldgranadahills@yahoo.com.

Big, Bulky Trash

Do you have items to dispose of (not E-Waste) that are too big to put into your trash? The City of Los Angeles provides a **FREE** bulky item collection. This might include items like mattresses, couches, and other furniture. Just call 3-1-1 or the Bureau of Sanitation at 1-800-773-2489, Monday through Friday, between 7:30 am and 4:45 pm to make arrangements at least 1 day prior to your regular trash pickup. Have an itemized list when calling. They will not take automobile parts, construction materials, and cardboards.



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Bicycle Downtown

Ciclovía is a term which translates from Spanish into English as “bike path” and now used worldwide to describe either a permanently designated bicycle route or a temporary event, the closing of the street to automobiles for use by others.

Originating in Colombia, South America, each Sunday and holidays the main streets of Bogotá, Cali, Medellín, and other municipalities, are blocked off to become Car free. Runners, skaters and bicyclists take over the streets. Bogotá’s weekly ciclovías are used by approximately 2 million people (30% of citizens) on over 80 miles of car free streets.*



Inspired by Ciclovía, the original, weekly street closure event in Bogotá, Colombia, CicLAvia opens LA streets to pedestrians and bicyclists, creating a temporary web of public space on which residents of Los Angeles can walk, bike, socialize, celebrate and learn more about their own city. On 10/9/11, from 10:00am to 3:00pm, 10 miles of roadways will temporarily close to car traffic and open for recreational purposes. From Boyle Heights to Downtown, MacArthur Park to East Hollywood, Chinatown, and South LA, CicLAvia encourages Angelenos to not only make active use of their streets, but to rediscover the roadways and neighborhoods that too often go unnoticed in a car. Help open LA’s streets... take part in the third CicLAvia on 10/9/11 visit the event’s website at: www.ciclavia.org/about/ *from wikipedia

Harvest Festival at the Y



Saturday, **October 29th**, is the Y’s Harvest Festival that will provide the most fun you will have this Halloween season. Open to the public, this event is great for the whole family. Come to the Y and enjoy fun activity booths, crafts, performances, face painting and much more. Be sure to wear your favorite costume! 2:00 -5:00 pm

The North Valley Family YMCA is located in Porter Ranch at 11336 Corbin Avenue, just north of Rinaldi. (818) 368-3231 www.ymcala.org and type in zip code

December Parade



Not too early to be planning your entry in the 28th Annual

Granada Hills Holiday Parade. This year’s theme is “Winter Wonderland”. Applications are available at the Chamber office or online at www.GranadaChamber.com and need to be returned by October 31st. Street Pole banner sponsorships are available. The Parade is on Sunday, December 4th this year. (Anyone have ideas or interest in having an Old Granada Hills Residents’ Group “float”?)

• This newsletter issue was proofread by Bart Mills

Coming Events



Oct 1: Rotary Blood Drive; see article

Oct 1: Disaster Preparedness event: see article

Oct 4: GH Chamber Gov’t Affairs Committee meeting; 11:45AM, 818-368-3235

Oct 6: OGHRG Monthly Meeting; 7:00 Granada High

Oct 8: Yom Kippur

Oct 9: CicLAvia; see article

Oct 10: Columbus Day

Oct 13: Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council; 7:30pm Valley Academy of Arts & Sciences; www.GHSNC.org

Oct 14: LAPD Devonshire Division SOLID Pasta Dinner; St. Nicholas Greek Church 5-7:30; see article

Oct 17: Valley Vote meeting; 6:45pm at Galpin Ford;

Oct 24: Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council; 6:30pm; Rinaldi Adult School on Encino and Rinaldi. www.ghnnc.com

Oct 29: Harvest Festival at the YMCA; see article

Oct 31: Halloween (Monday)

Nov 6: Switch to Standard Time; move clocks ahead 1 hour

State Prisoner Release- October 1st

Simply put, this is when certain parolees and sentenced felons will become the responsibility of the counties. In Los Angeles County, that means 9,000 offenders will be supervised by the County’s Probation Department instead of the state parole system and between 7,000 and 8,000 newly sentenced felons will serve their time in county jail instead of state prison. Those numbers are based on historical data and may change over the course of the next 12 to 24 months.

By the end of Year 2, there will be about 15,000 individuals in the Postrelease Community Supervision program.

Currently, there are about 330 County probation deputies overseeing approximately 62,000 probationers. The jail population is at 15,171 (August 16, 2011) of which about 1,100 beds are for sentenced inmates.

Note: Parolee is a state released inmate; Probation refers to a County released inmate; Prison is state; Jail is County

The above information was gathered from a panel discussion at September’s Neighborhood Watch meeting and from handouts. There are a lot of details and implications that are not easily explained or understood, even by the agencies assigned to implement the program. Mike Antonovich wrote an op-ed article where he calls the program a “Trojan Horse for local governments. More specific detailed information can be read about LA County’s Implementation Plan at www.ccjcc.info/cms1_164890.pdf

What direct impact this will have on our community is uncertain. We should all be vigilant in being aware of what is going on in our neighborhood. Keep a special watch on vacant and foreclosed properties and report any suspicious activity to the non emergency number at LAPD:877-275-5273

• When the government puts teeth into a law, they are not always wisdom teeth

Looking Back on Ten Years

Due to timing and space constraints, this article, written by Dave Beauvais, was supposed to have appeared in our July newsletter anniversary issue:

This July marks the 10th anniversary of the Old Granada Hills Residents' Group. We have been involved in many issues in the last decade, some focused on our small community within a community while others involved Granada Hills, the San Fernando Valley and even the entire City of Los Angeles.

Among the many issues we have been involved with, a few memorable battles stand out. Early on we voiced concern over the possible construction of off ramps from the 118 freeway at White Oak. Working with Councilman Greig Smith, we were able to eliminate that possibility by changing the designation of White Oak from a secondary highway.

Many other issues come to mind, such as overbuilding, the proliferation of medical marijuana dispensaries, the proposed Kohls store in the Granada Shopping Village, graffiti, the new high school on Balboa Blvd., group homes and cell towers. Some of these battles are still ongoing, and there will be more to come. For all of you who have supported this organization with you donations, as a sponsor to our newsletter, or as a committee member, thank you.

A special thanks and recognition to a few people who have held this organization together over the past decade. Jim Summers was one of the founders of this organization and remains active on the Zoning and Density Committee. Maria Fisk was also a founder and has been a board member and chair of the zoning and density committee since the beginning. Richard Fisk has been our editor of the newsletter, on the board of Directors, and is now doing triple duty as the website manager. Bette Biers and Bob Castle have been steadfast in their respective roles of Secretary and Treasurer. Bob and Gayle Biava and John Seletos have played key roles as members of our board of Directors. Once again, thanks to the late Hal Singer, who served as Speaker Chairman for many years and did such an outstanding job securing speakers.

There is one couple we would like to recognize for their ongoing and generous financial support over the years. However, they have asked to remain anonymous, and we will honor that request. Thanks, we literally could not have done it without your support in a couple of the lean years. Finally, thanks to Councilman Greig Smith and his staff, who have been incredibly supportive of this organization over the years. Councilman Smith is retiring on June 30, we wish him many happy years of retirement.



Most graffiti will be removed or painted over within 24-72 hours by calling the West Valley Alliance at **818-885-8885**. Or call **311**

Blood Drive



The Granada Hills Rotary Club is hosting the biggest blood drive in the San Fernando Valley. At last year's event, the Rotary collected more than 400 pints of blood for local hospitals. This year's ambitious goal is 500 pints.

The drive will take place at two venues: the Granada Hills Recreation Center (corner of Petit and Chatsworth St.) and the North Valley Youth Sports Complex (just north of Woodley and Balboa, behind the DWP), both in Granada Hills. All blood donors will receive a free t-shirt, a free pancake breakfast (or lunch), a free Baskin-Robbins ice-cream coupon and a free raffle ticket. Non-donors may purchase tickets for either the pancake breakfast or lunch for \$7, which includes a raffle ticket. The Raffle Grand prize: a ride for two aboard the Goodyear Airship, and there will also be other prizes.



All proceeds will benefit the Granada Hills Rotary Club's youth service programs. Blood donors may pre-register online at www.rotarygivesblood.org to obtain a priority appointment time. On the day of the event, walk-ins will also be welcome.



This event is co-sponsored by AYSO Regions 8 & 174, the Granada Hills Recreation Center, Kaiser Permanente, Cedars Sinai and Providence Health & Services. AYSO Regions 8 and 174 will again compete for the most blood donors recruited, proportional to team size. The team with most donors will all be treated to a day at Magic Mountain.

For more information, please call Jim Feffer at 818-802-8452 or email loffj@aol.com

Saturday, October 1st; 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Granada Hills Recreation Center (Petit Park)
North Valley Sports Complex



LAPD Helicopter flying around and wonder what is happening? Call LAPD Air Operations at: **213-485-2600**

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Disaster Preparedness

Learn How to Prepare for Disaster at the Annual North Valley Disaster Preparedness Event...

Nine Neighborhood Councils including Northridge East, West & South, Granada Hills South and North, Chatsworth and Porter Ranch Neighborhood Councils are organizing the Disaster Preparedness Event on Saturday,

October 1st, at Fire Station 87 (Balboa south of Devonshire) in Granada Hills from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

The Neighborhood Councils will be giving away 300 emergency preparedness bags - one per family. There will be 2 drawings for a backback filled with emergency supplies and resources. The Yogi Bear Shakey-Quakey School House and a puppet show for the kids will be there along with information and demonstrations from American Red Cross, the L.A. Fire Department, LAPD, DWP, HAM Radio, Community Emergency Response Team, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association and more.

The Neighborhood Councils along with Councilman Mitch Englander, are sponsoring free Hot Dogs and Burgers to be served from noon to 2:00

For more information, call (818) 756-8501.

Granada Village Shopping Center

Sprout's Farmers Market is now open for everyone to use their coupons that were mailed to community households. Rite-Aid will be moving just east of Sprout's sometime in early October or even by the end of September. Once they

move, work will begin on renovating their old space and making it a HomeGoods store. Petco is close to being open, probably around the same time as the Rite-Aid move. The latest news is that Zankou Chicken will be moving into part of the Blockbuster building, though no time frame has been firmly established.

Recently Sold Homes

10518 Shoshone	\$300,000	11900 Louise	\$625,000
17200 SF Mission	\$465,000	17605 Horace	\$315,000
11003 Yarmouth	\$411,500	10728 Louise	\$330,000
10803 White Oak	\$370,000	17319 Horace	\$465,000



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Property Tax

Property tax bills will be coming in the mail soon. Homes have lost value, not being what they were worth just a few short years ago. If you feel that your tax is too high you can file for an assessment appeal.



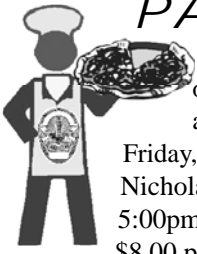
California law allows for a temporary reduction in assessed value when a property suffers a "decline-in-value." A decline-in-value occurs when the current market value of your property is less than the assessed value as of January 1. The assessed value is the value shown on your most recent property tax bill.

While property owners may still file a 2011 Decline-in-Value Review Application (July 2nd thru November 30th), their property may have already been reviewed. You can check the "Will My Property Be Reviewed for a 2011 Decline-in-Value" webpage to find out if your property automatically qualified. In June 2011, notices were mailed to property owners who were granted a decline-in-value assessment for 2011.

Online filing for an appeal is available at: There is a fillable form on the website or you can request applications by calling: (213) 974-1471; 1(888) 807-2111; 1(800) 735-2922 (TDD). You can also find out more in person at the District office at 13800 Balboa Blvd.

Please note that there is no charge (FREE) to file an assessment appeal. Watch out for scammers that want to charge you a fee for this process.

PASTA DINNER



Supporters of Law Enforcement in Devonshire (SOLID) is sponsoring their 16th annual "All You Can Eat" Pasta Dinner, Friday, **October 14th**. It will be held at St. Nicholas Church, Balboa and Plummer, from 5:00pm to 7:30pm. The cost for the dinner is only \$8.00 per person with food from a variety of local restaurants. Join your neighbors, have dinner and talk with officers of LAPD that are working to keep our corner of the city a safe place to live. This event helps support the Devonshire Division of LAPD with equipment and supplies the City doesn't provide. More information? Call 818-756-9011 www.soliddevonshire.org

Devonshire Division Crime Stats 8/21 thru 9/17

Homicide0	Burglary 102
Rape 2	GTA 17
Robbery 11	BFMV 82
Aggravated	Personal/
Assault 15	Other theft.....82
Shots fired .. 2	Arrests 367

Data from LAPD Compstat



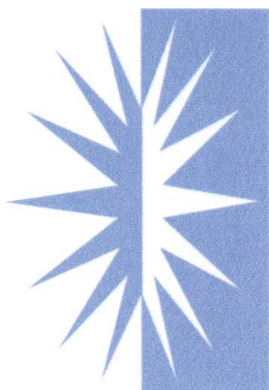
P.O. Box 34055
Granada Hills, CA 91394

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

October 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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