

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

**October
2010**



July, 2001

www.OGHRG.org

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Newsletter

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

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Thursday, Oct. 7th, 2010

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Granada Hills Charter High School- Rawley Hall



- 7:00 Introductions - Sign In
- 7:05 Reading of Minutes, Agenda Review
- 7:10 Community Announcements; News; Updates; Events
- 7:15 OGHRG Committee Reports
- 7:30 **DWP presentation on proposed Refit of Towers**
- 7:50 **Guest Speaker; Glen Chester**, Financial Planner
- 8:30 CD 12 Sidewalk grinding project update
- 8:40 Group Home Status Report
- 8:50 New Business and Wrap-up

November meeting is November 4th, Granada Hills Charter High School

OGHRG President's Message

Group Home Update: We are making slow but steady progress on the illegal boarding homes in our community. In April Building and Safety inspected three homes and cited each of them. These homes were then re-inspected in August. All three were again cited. Building and Safety has now referred these cases to the City Attorney's office. The next step is to bring the owners in for an informal hearing to gain compliance. If that fails the owners can be prosecuted criminally. Additionally, one of these homes has been occupied illegally by squatters who in turn were renting rooms. The bank that owns the property has secured an unlawful detainer against the squatters, and will be moving to evict them. Closed door hearings were scheduled with the City Attorney's office on September 24th. If they do not comply after these hearings then it will go to criminal prosecution.

Ongoing Projects: A big thank you to the Residents who volunteered for the Sidewalk Grinding survey project. We have already received some survey data back (thanks Bart) and hope to complete the survey part of the project by mid-October. Once all the survey data has been received and processed, the city crew can start the actual grinding. I want to also thank Residents who volunteered for the Food Forward tree picking event. Food Forward will be contacting Residents individually and coordinating a date for the picking.

Hospital High: Several groups within and outside LAUSD are vying to manage the new Regional High School number 4, or as we know it, Hospital High. Wearing my other hat as President of the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council, I have set the date of Sunday, October 24 for a Special Informational Meeting to let these groups make presentations on their plan to manage the campus. Go to the GHSNC website for additional details if you are interested in attending.

Granada Shopping Village: I am pleased to announce that the unconfirmed rumor of a new market going in to the former Ralph's location at the Granada Shopping Village is now a reality. The store is Sprouts. They will share the space with the existing Rite-Aid pharmacy, which will have a drive up window for prescriptions. Hopefully, the existing vacancies will be filled by new retailers once an anchor store is in place. *Dave Beauvais*

October Guest Speaker - Glen H. Chester

Glen H. Chester was raised locally having attended local Granada Hills schools: Knollwood Elementary, Frost Junior High and Kennedy High when not being bused elsewhere inside the LAUSD district. Glen had the privilege of studying at U. C. Berkeley graduating with a BA in Economics in 1990. After graduating, Glen went into exile to Minneapolis, MN and Dallas, TX only to return to Granada Hills 36 hours before the Northridge earthquake hit in 1994. If only he had driven instead of flying from Dallas, TX to Granada Hills then he would have missed the earthquake!

Glen entered the financial planning industry as an independent stockbroker in 1995 and after growing the business for five years, realized that he should take it to the next level by studying for and passing the Certified Financial Planner TM exam in March 2003. In terms of his clientele, around 50% of Glen's clients are small business owners who have a pension plan ranging from basic plans such as the SEP-IRA to complex plans such as tiered/cross tested 401k plan. The other half of his clientele are individuals/couples who have a gamut of financial issues ranging from building savings for a house purchase to retirement concerns to education savings for children/grandchildren. A new financial planning concern that has been cropping up among Glen's clientele has been earning enough interest off savings since Certificate of Deposits are yielding so little to avoid touching principal.

Glen is delighted to be talking about Roth IRA's; what they are, how they work and how to potentially use them as an estate management technique. To learn more, you are going to have to attend the October 7th meeting!

When not working, Glen plays too much tennis, loves going to the horse races, volunteers at a variety of places (including past service on the GHSNC) among other activities and happily resides in Granada Hills.

Multiple Congratulations

To the law offices of Savin & Bursk honored as a recipient of the Boy Scouts of America's San Fernando Valley Leaders of Character award. The reception and dinner honors a handful of men and women who have distinguished themselves in both professional and civic accomplishment. Bonnie Bursk and George Savin successes are being celebrated along with Councilman Dennis Zine, Jean Jouck, and CBS sportscaster Jim Hill.

To Darby Avenue Elementary School in Northridge for finishing in the top 20 schools nationwide in the Kohl's Cares Facebook contest. By getting 143,537 votes, Darby placed 12th and is set to receive \$500,000 from Kohl's. The only elementary school to win.



To Granada Hills Charter High School for achieving a 31 point jump to 874 in their 2010 Academic Performance Index (API). This is the 5th year in a row and 8th time in the 9 years of the API system that the school has scored over 800, which is the goal for all public high schools in the state.

October 2nd at the Park

The Granada Hills Rotary Club's 2nd Annual Blood Drive and Health Expo: At last year's event, the Rotary collected more than 165 pints of blood for local hospitals. All blood donors will receive a free t-shirt, a free pancake breakfast or lunch, a gift certificate for Baskin-Robbins ice cream and a free raffle ticket. Non-donors can purchase tickets for the breakfast or lunch, with proceeds benefiting the Granada Hills Rotary Club's youth service programs.



Blood donors may pre-register online at www.Rotarygivesblood.org, but walk-ins are also welcome. The health expo will feature free health screenings and information.

This event is co-sponsored by AYSO Regions 8 & 174, the Granada Hills Recreation Center, Kaiser Permanente, Cedar's Sinai and Providence Health & Services.

For more information, please call Jim Feffer at 818-802-8452 or email info@rotarygivesblood.org

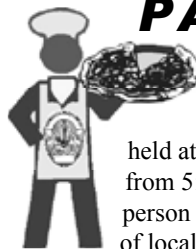
Saturday, October 2; 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Granada Hills Recreation Center (Petit Park)

The Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce is setting up 20 booths to showcase local businesses. Come by and meet your neighborhood retailers and service providers.

Saturday is also the day for soccer sign ups.

PASTA DINNER



Supporters of Law Enforcement in Devonshire (SOLID) is sponsoring their 12th annual Pasta Dinner, Friday, October 17th. It will be held at St. Nicholas Church, Balboa and Plummer, from 5:00pm to 7:30. The cost is only \$8.00 per person and is all you can eat with food from a variety of local restaurants. There will be free child identification (digital picture and thumb print) courtesy of Hollywood Masonic Lodge. Join your neighbors, have dinner and speak with and support the LAPD officers and staff that are working to keep our corner of the city a safe place to live. More information? Call 818-756-9011 www.soliddevonshire.org

If you want to get fat, eat fast; if you want to get thin, don't eat - fast.

Granada Hills Florist advertisement featuring Millicent R. Ford, 'The Pioneer' Florist in Granada Hills since 1954. Contact info: Tel (818) 363-8189, Fax (818) 363-1778, 17637 Chatsworth St. Granada Hills, CA 91344, www.granadahillsflorist.com

Dog Walking

The residents of White Oak Avenue, and those who enjoy walking on our street, have noticed a rather disgusting problem getting worse - - dog poop left on the sidewalks and lawns by irresponsible dog walkers. While people (who live on other streets) love to walk their dogs on the sidewalks of this lovely



tree-lined street, a great many of them don't pick up after their dogs. Many leave their dog's poop right on the sidewalk.

Others leave it on residents' lawns. Most of the walkers are simply too lazy and inconsiderate to pick up after their dogs.

This is not only a disgusting, uncivilized health hazard - - it is also illegal.

The problem is enhanced when dog walkers use the expandable/retractable type of leash and allow their dogs to wander deep into the front yards on White Oak to poop and pee in the yards. One dog walker does not even use a leash, and throws a dog toy onto the front lawns of others, allowing the dog to trespass into the yards, pooping and peeing along the way.

Many of the residents on White Oak are proud of the street and work very hard to keep their front yards and lawns looking nice. We do not need the extra work involved in picking up dog poop left by inconsiderate people. Irresponsible dog walkers who enjoy walking their dogs on this street should not ruin it for everyone else by being lazy and leaving their dog's poop on sidewalks and in yards for others to encounter. It is illegal not to have a dog on a leash while walking the dog, and it is also illegal to not pick up after the dog.

Solutions: Have your dog poop in your own yard before you walk your dog. Don't allow your dog to wander into the yards of others to do its business. And by all means, carry a bag and CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG! *submitted by a concerned homeowner on White Oak*

Harvest Festival at the Y

Saturday, **October 30th**, is the Y's Harvest Festival that will provide the most fun you will have this Halloween season.

Y Open to the public, this event is great for the whole family! Come to the North Valley YMCA between the hours of 2 - 6 pm and enjoy fun activity booths, crafts, performances, face painting and much more. Come dressed to impress in your favorite costume!! Only

\$15 or 3 bags of candy per family for entry. The North Valley Family YMCA is located in Porter Ranch at 11336 Corbin Avenue, north of Rinaldi. 818-368-3231 www.yocala.org

Recently Sold Homes

12917 Louise	\$585,000	10546 Yarmouth	\$392,000
11647 Babbitt	\$529,000	17641 Tulsa	\$525,000
17244 Rinaldi	\$355,000	11020 Encino	\$405,000
17413 Horace	\$465,000	17083 SF Mission	\$285,000
17320 Horace	\$450,000	17556 SF Mission	\$365,000

Courtesy; Marla Rhoades, Realtor 818-571-0678
Information from the SoCalMLS is believed to accurate but not guaranteed

Coming Events



Oct 2: PALS Monte Carlo night; www.mon-tecarlofundraiser.org or call 818- 882-7336

Oct 2: Rotary Club Blood Drive and Health Fair; GH Recreation Center (Petit Park) 8-4, see article

Oct 2: Disaster Preparedness Event; 11-3; see article

Oct 2: Los Angeles Bicycle Plan hearing; 10-1; Braude Con-situent Center; Van Nuys; 213-978-1379

Oct 3: Chatsworth Historical Society's Pioneer Day; 11-4; 818-882-5614

Oct 5: GH Chamber Gov't Affairs Committee monthly meet-ing; 11:45AM, Chamber office, 818-368-3235

Oct 7: OGHARG Meeting; 7:00 Granada High

Oct 9: Community Care Facilities Code info meeting; Braude Con-situent Center; Van Nuys; 10-3; 213-978-1337

Oct 10: CicLAvia; see article

Oct 11: Columbus Day

Oct 14: Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council; 7:30pm Granada Pavillion; www.GHSNC.org

Oct 15: LAPD Devonshire Division Pasta Dinner; St, Nicho-las Greek Church 5-7:30

Oct 18: Valley Vote meeting; 6:45pm at Galpin Ford;

Oct 23: Texas Hold'em Poker fundraiser for the Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce; 818-368-3235

Oct 23: LAPD Devonshire Division Open House; 10-3

Oct 24: Hospital High operator forum; see www.ghsnc.org

Oct 25: Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council; see www.GHNNC.org for meeting location

Oct 30: Harvest Festival at the YMCA; see article



LAPD Devonshire Division

Devonshire at 10250 Etiwanda Ave.

Saturday, October 23rd

10:00am - 3:00pm

PALS

V.S.T

S.O.L.I.D.



It's not too early to be plan-ning your entry in the 27th Annual Granada Hills Holiday Parade. This year's theme is

"Favorite Holiday Gifts and Presents". Applications are avail-able at the Chamber office or online at www.GranadaChamber.com and need to be returned by October 31st. Street Pole banner sponsorships are avialable. The Parade is on Sunday, December 5th this year. (*Anyone have ideas or interest in having a Old Granada Hills Residents' Group "float"?*)

Community Care Facilities – Proposed Ordinance

There are many residential areas within the city of Los Angeles that have been struggling with an ever increasing proliferation of Group Homes- areas such as Woodland Hills, Pacific Palisades, North Hills, Porter Ranch, and Sherman Oaks, just to name a few. The term "Group Homes" has been used to describe a variety of living arrangements, where a group of people live together who are not necessarily related. There has been a great deal of controversy and confusion surrounding these facilities. The following description of several types of residential facilities may help shed some light on this complex issue:

Licensed Community Care Facilities include licensed Alcoholism or Drug Abuse Recovery or Treatment Facility, foster care, or residential care for the elderly. Some of these facilities are authorized to provide treatment. As mandated by State Law, licensed facilities for six or fewer residents are currently permitted in any residential zones. These facilities must apply to specific State agencies for a license. State officials are also responsible for inspecting and monitoring these residential facilities. www.adp.ca.gov

Unlicensed Community Care Facilities offer housing but no care, supervision or treatment. Included are shelters for the homeless & independent elderly, and group living for those recovering from alcoholism or drug addiction. There are coalitions that establish guidelines for some of these facilities. But the nature of these establishments is simply unknown. Because many are unregulated, the public has been frustrated at attempts to resolve repeated crimes/nuisances associated with these facilities.

Parolee-Probationer Homes are not generally licensed. These types of group homes are a new phenomenon and the demand is likely to increase dramatically because of the State's early prisoner release program. Some cities have banned Parolee homes while others are attempting to regulate them.

Boarding or Rooming Houses offer rooms for rent. Some of these so-called rooms are only a mere corner of a subdivided room. Typically, "rooms" are rented by the day, month, or longer. This is a business and considered illegal in areas zoned single family.


For three years, the community of Old Granada Hills has been attempting to deal with several problematic facilities in our area. Many concerned neighbors have been asking "why hasn't anything been done, why is this taking so long, what else can we do!" Well, we finally have an opportunity to do something and have our voices heard. On 9/10/10, City Planning released a new Community Care Staff Report (CF 07-3427), scheduled to be heard October 14, 2010 (deadline for public comment is 10/7/10). The Zoning and Density Committee has thoroughly reviewed this new proposal. We are up against a tight timeline though! But be assured, that you will be hearing from us either by flier or updates on our website. The city needs to hear from us! This is too big to fail – we must have a tight ordinance to protect us from the crimes and negative impacts associated with these group homes. *Maria Fisk*

☛ If you want to avoid criticism, say nothing, do nothing, be nothing

Disaster Preparedness

Learn How to Prepare for Disaster at the 3rd Annual North Valley Disaster Preparedness Event... Northridge East, Northridge West, Granada Hills South, Granada Hills North, Lake Balboa, Chatsworth and Porter Ranch Neighborhood Councils are organizing the 3rd Annual North Valley Disaster Preparedness Event on Saturday, Oct. 2 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, as well as Yogi Bear Shakey-Quakey School House coloring books. Free child ID cards will be available. There will be 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. *For more information, call Semee Park at (818) 756-8501.*



LAPD Devonshire Area Semi-Annual District Meeting

“How safe are you on our streets?”

Topic: **“How safe are you on our streets?”**

Guest Speaker: **Officer Mark Cronin; Valley Traffic Services**

Thursday, October 7, at 7:00 PM
Shepherd of the Hills Church; 19700 Rinaldi, Porter Ranch

Stolen Cars

It has come to our attention that parts of Granada Hills are being used as drop off sites for stolen cars. The cars are left for several days apparently to make sure that no tracking device is installed on them. They then can be removed and stripped for parts. Please watch your surrounding areas and file an incident report for any suspicious activity by calling 1-888-ASKLAPD (275-5273). Make sure you have the make of the vehicle, license number and registration number which is located in the lower corner of the front windshield.

If it is determined that the car is not stolen or has not yet been reported as such. Contact The Los Angeles Parking Violations Bureau at 1-800-222-6366 after the car has been in the same location for 72 hours. You can also provide the information on line by going to www.lacity-parking.org.

Devonshire Division Crime Stats 8/22 thru 9/18

Homicide0	Burglary 79
Rape 3	GTA 46
Robbery 16	BFMV 152
Aggravated	Personal/
Assault 21	Other theft ..97
Shots fired .. 0	Arrests 447

Data from LAPD Comstat

Septic Tank Systems

At our last meeting the City Bureau of Sanitation made a presentation about a possible new ordinance and its potential impact for those homeowners that have Septic Tanks (there are hundreds in Granada Hills). Here are a few highlights and contact information:

The property owner will obtain and submit a certification every 3-5 years that the OWTS (Septic System) is in adequate and proper operation condition.

Service Costs; \$200-\$400 is possible, but probably on the low side of the range of possible costs for inspection, pumping and certification by a service professional. The City intends to provide a list of qualified service providers, but will not be making specific recommendations.

Sewer hook up estimated costs \$15,000. A complete septic system replacement cost \$15,000 - \$20,000 for conventional systems.

For all sewer hook up connection issues and estimates, please, contact the Bureau of Engineering at (213) 482-7030 or John Delkhaste 818/376-4657. The department's website is <http://lacitysan.org/>.

Highlander High Tea

On Saturday, October 23, 2010, the Granada Hills Charter High School Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) is sponsoring the third annual Highlander High Tea in Highlander Hall at 1 p.m. Come join us for a proper English tea, complete with scones, an assortment of finger sandwiches, chocolate covered strawberries, fruit, petit fours and of course, tea. Spend a relaxing afternoon and support your school at the same time.

The award-winning choirs on campus will be performing and guests will enjoy a Fashion Show. Student volunteers from the Key Club partnering with the PTSA help with the event. Tickets will be on sale for a chance to win several gift baskets of donated items or our mystery money basket filled with cash. Proceeds from the drawings will be used to support PTSA activities on campus, such as the very successful K-9 program that is used to locate and stamp out drugs on campus. Our goal is to double the number of visits per month.

We hope you will join us for the Highlander High Tea.



**Granada Hills South
Neighborhood Council**
www. GHSNC.org



GHSNC meets the second Thursday of every month at Granada Pavillion; 7:30 PM Shopping center at San Fernando and Balboa near Pep Boys

Hospital High - Community Input Wanted

Granada Hills Charter High School has submitted its intent to run Hospital High (officially named Valley Region High School #4) and needs community support to help make it happen.

Currently there are about 4 viable groups* that have submitted letters of intent. October and November is the time frame for gathering input with December 1st as the deadline for the proposals to be submitted to LAUSD. Following will be the Community Advisory vote in January and then the Superintendent recommendation and vote in February. The School will be ready to open for the 2011-2012 school year.

GHCHS is the largest charter school in the country and consistently places in the very top of Academic Performance not only within the geographic area of LAUSD but in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. Even the special education students in some cases place higher in Academic Performance than surrounding mainstream schools. Granada High adds more that \$2.2 million of its general fund to special ed services.

Please go online to www.ghchs.com and menu down to take the student or parent/community survey. Alternative website is www.surveymonkey.com/VRHS4_Survey1 or call Mrs. J. Flint Baumwirt; Academic Programs; 818-360-2361 Ext 355

*GHS Neighborhood Council is holding a forum for all applicants on October 24th. Check www.ghsnc.org for time and location.

Streets Closed - CicLAvia

Ciclovía is 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 Carfree. 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 carfree streets.*

Sunday, October 10th, will mark the first car-free festival in Los Angeles. 7.5 miles of streets in downtown LA will be closed to cars and open to people. The 10 am to 3pm event is free where people are encouraged to walk, bicycle, skate in the public space.

Videos of Ciclovía's at www.streetfilms.org/ciclovía The LA event's website is www.ciclavia.wordpress.com *from wikipedia

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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 10th year, we are a voice well known to our elected representatives with issues that affect us all - please join us.

October 2010

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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