

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

**September
2011**



July, 2001

www.OGHRG.org

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Newsletter

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

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Next Meeting is:

Thursday, September 1st, 2011

7:00 pm - 8:36 pm

Granada Hills Charter High School

Rawley Hall



**Autumn
23rd**

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; Janet Little, CN; Sprouts Markets

Discussing "Out of Control Eating"

8:00 Updates: Naming of Hospital High; CC Ordinance; Septic Systems; Cell Towers

8:15 Jim Summers; "What if?"

8:20 New Business and Wrap-up

October Meeting will be October 6th

OGHRG President's Message

Annual Yard Party: Our annual yard party was held on Saturday, July 23 at the home of Brian and Cheryl Ford. We had about 60 members and guests in attendance. Plenty of food and beverages were consumed, and I think everyone who attended had a good time. We had a special presentation from Linda Johnson, representing State Senator Sharon Runner. Linda presented the organization with a beautiful framed certificate commemorating our 10th anniversary. Also in attendance was our new Councilman, Mitch Englander and his Field Deputy, Seme Park. Mitch made a few comments thanking OGHRG for our involvement and concern for the Granada Hills community.

I want to thank Brian and Cheryl for hosting the yard party this year. It was a wonderful event; they are the very definition of gracious hosts. I also want to thank one of our sponsors, Millie Ford, for donating floral arrangements for the party. Millie is one of our long time sponsors. If you have any floral needs, please see her ad in the newsletter.

Community Care Ordinance Still Pending: 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. According to sources, the final draft of the ordinance is still being rewritten by City Attorney staff. Once completed, the final ordinance will be returned to City Council for a final vote.

It is unknown at this time if public comment will be heard at the final vote, or when that vote will be taken. At this point, it will certainly not be until sometime in September. 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.

Hospital High Update: As predicted, LAUSD selected "The Valley Academy of Arts and Sciences" as the name for Valley Regional High School number 4 (Hospital High). I recently took a

(Continued page 2)

September Guest Speaker - Janet Little, C.N

Her smiling face and enthusiastic voice may look and sound familiar to you, as she has been the spokesperson for Henry's Farmers Market since 1996. Henry's and Sprouts Farmers Market merged in April 2011 and Janet became the nutritionist for Sprouts. Little is a regular guest on television programs throughout Southern California and she is also frequently quoted in local and national consumer trade publications.



For over 20 years, Little has worked within the health food industry and has traveled the region speaking extensively on natural and organic foods, nutrition, vitamins and minerals, herbal solutions and homeopathic remedies. Her areas of expertise include child nutrition, health and fitness, women's health and nutritional counseling.

Never satisfied to just talk the talk, Little lives the life she promotes every day. She can be seen competing in full and half-marathons. She also trains and competes in triathlons including Ironman events. There's nothing she'd rather be doing than helping people improve their quality of life by making healthier food choices and leading more active lifestyles.

She will give her lecture on "Solutions for Out of Control Eating". Does your mind say "broccoli" but your hand grabs the nearest doughnut? Learn what increases the appetite and what helps to control it. September 1st, 7pm, Granada High.

Janet Little at 619-592-2524 or janetlittle@sprouts.com

Granada High Business/Finance Program

Granada Hills Charter High School is starting a Global Business and Finance Program for its students. They are seeking the input and participation of local business, professionals and business organizations in the development of this new program. Come to the first parent and community informational meeting. Maybe you or someone you know would like to be a mentor or participate in the Advisory Committee to nurture the next generation of business leaders. Tuesday, September 6th, 6:30pm in Highlander Hall at the Granada High.

- A businessman can't win nowadays: if he does something wrong he is fined; if he does something right he is taxed.

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President's Message - continued from cover page

tour of the school and it is ready to go and the first semester will start in early September. If you want to take a look for yourself, plan on attending the next "Movie Under the Stars" on Saturday, September 10, sponsored by Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council. The event will be held at the new High School, and will feature food trucks, free popcorn, and a special presentation before the movie starts at dark. Check the GHSNC website for details. Dave Beauvais

What If?

On August 17th, a TV program aired based on a popular book speculating on how life in the US might be now if WW II had been won by Germany and the Axis powers. Alternative histories can be very interesting and get people thinking about history and the "what ifs". Although not as grand, nor as globally influential, it might be interesting for us to briefly consider how life in our neighborhood would be if our local issues in the more recent past might have gone another way.

Old Granada Hills is a very special area for most of us who live here. We have almost always had a strong neighborly unity when needed, as when the 118 freeway was diverted north to avoid the Deodars on White Oak, or to the successful opposition to a Home Depot in the 1970s. With the 10-year anniversary of OGH RG this year, it might be a good time to look back and see if community efforts in trying to maintain and improve the character and quality of life in our neighborhood has had an effect.

I will start off with one "what if"

What if the OGH Interim Control Ordinance- ICO- (a temporary law limiting overbuilding in OGH from 2005 - 2007)



was never established and renewed?

Alternative history: OGH today might now be populated with McMansions and due to the economic cycle, many of these homes would be foreclosed upon, and then purchased by investors to be converted into overpopulated boarding houses. Property prices usually decrease about 20-30% with nearby (0.5-1 mile) McMansions in commonly used price/square foot market value analysis; the nuisance factor could decrease prices an additional 10-15%.

We would welcome other OGH community "what ifs" from the neighborhood residents. Like the GH History Picture book, the best ideas and input often come from our residents, therefore, Jim Summers will award "Images of America - Granada Hills" by Jim Hier, to the top 5 contributions. Please email responses before September's meeting, at which time the books will be given out. Send to: oldgranadahills@yahoo.com.

As always, your help in improving OGH is always appreciated. Jim Summers, co-founder and past president of OGH RG

Recently Sold Homes

Table with 4 columns: Address, Price, Address, Price. Rows include 17318 Kingsbury \$445,000, 11231 Aldea \$433,000, 17836 SF Mission \$499,000, 17233 Simonds \$370,000, 10873 Encino \$365,000, 17221 Index \$426,000, 17922 Ludlow \$440,000, 10417 Jellico \$359,000

What OGHARG Means to You

Old Granada Hills Residents' Group was founded in July, 2001 and being that this is our 10th Anniversary, we have a lot to celebrate! In the early 90's several local residents noticed that unscrupulous developers were subdividing lots and constructing multiple 2-story structures that replaced a large ranch-style home. This one issue was the motivation to the start of OGHARG. Land use controversies everywhere tend to be one of the primary reasons why residents rally together and form organizations. Since the inception of our Residents' Group, there have been an ongoing number of concerns that have required attention and intervention. The Zoning & Density and Safety Committees continue to deal with land use and crime issues. We continue to collaborate with our Councilmember, Nuisance Abatement Attorney, LAPD, LAFD, and other Residents' Associations/Neighborhood Councils. With their help and support, we have worked together on the following:

- Successful closure of marijuana dispensaries & prostitution front within Chatsworth Street Business District
- Support of Cell Tower regulation reform
- Written position statements on proposed ordinances; Medical Marijuana, Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems, Community Care Facility, Shopping Cart Containment System, Farmers' Markets in Residential Zones, Core Findings, Procedures for Review of Projects Requiring Multiple Approvals
- Review of recent Q condition Clarification (Granada Village Shopping Center) and proposed modifications
- Ongoing Community/Specific Plan revision process
- CBS-Outdoor decision to limit adult themed billboard ads within Chatsworth St Business District
- Accurate and meaningful crime data reporting
- Reporting of commercial and residential code violations

The above listed are just some of the matters that we have discussed and reviewed at our monthly meetings. As always, we count on your participation, input and active involvement. Remember "a whole is only as strong as the sum of its parts". And your ongoing participation is essential to protecting the well-being of our neighborhood. Our special community has come a long way, but our work is far from being done. We are beginning a new season of monthly meetings, interesting guest speakers, and of course more community issues that will require your feedback and support. You know, we are on a mission to protect, preserve, and improve the quality of life in Old Granada Hills!! And this can't be done without you!

OGHARG Official Recognition



On June 29th, 2011, the State of California officially recognized Old Granada Hills Residents' Group with State Senator Sharon Runner's Senate resolution noting the 10th anniversary of the Group. The framed resolution was presented by Senator Runner's representative, Linda Johnson, at our July Yard Party. It will be displayed at our September meeting.

✿ *This newsletter issue was proofread by Bart Mills*

Coming Events



Sept 1: Old Granada Hills Residents' Group Meeting; 7:00 Granada Hills Charter High School; See cover page for agenda

Sept 5: Labor Day

Sept 6: GH Chamber Government Affairs Committee monthly meeting;

Sept 6: Granada High Business/Finance Program; see article

Sept 8: Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council, 7:30pm Valley Academy of Arts & Sciences; www.GHSNC.org

Sept 10: Free movie; see newsletter article

Sept 11: Grandparent's Day

Sept 15: 17A35 Neighborhood Watch; 7:00pm St. Euphrasia Church, 11766 Shoshone Ave.; SLO Dario Del Core

Sept 19: Valley Vote meeting; 6:45 Galpin Ford; Mayoral candidate Austin Beutner; contact: javittisr@cs.com

Sept 23: First day of Autumn

Sept 24: LAPD Devonshire Division Open House, 10-3

Sept 26: Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council monthly meeting; 6:30pm; St. Euphrasia Church, 11766 Shoshone Ave. www.ghnnc.com

Sept 27: 17A49 Neighborhood Watch 6:00 pm; SLO Janine Angeles 818-363-1726; Fire Station 87 on Balboa

Sept 29: Rosh Hashana

Grandparent's Day - September 11th

In 1970, Marian Mcquade began a campaign to set aside a special day just for grandparents. In 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed the first presidential proclamation, designating the first Sunday after Labor Day as National Grandparent's Day. The first official observance was September 9th, 1979, and has been celebrated every year since. Some interesting statistics: there are 6.4 million grandparents whose grandchildren younger than 18 lived with them (2008); 2.6 million grandparents are responsible for the basic needs of one or more of the grandchildren that live with them - of these caregivers, 1.6 million were grandmothers, and 983,000 were grandfathers; 19% of these grandparents have an income that is below the poverty line; about 9% of all children in the United States, or 7 million children, are living with a grandparent (2009). *U.S. Census Bureau News; U.S. Department of Commerce*

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Labor Day - Monday, September 5th

The first observance of Labor Day is believed to have been a parade of 10,000 workers on September 5th, 1882, in New York City, organized by Peter J. McGuire, a Carpenters and Joiners Union secretary. By 1893, more than half the states were observing a "Labor Day" on one day or another, and Congress passed a bill to establish a federal holiday in 1894. President Grover Cleveland signed the bill soon afterward, designating the first Monday in September as Labor Day.

As of July 2011, there were 153.2 million people, 16 and older in the nation's labor force. The population of the United States is 313,232,044 (July 2011, est).

U.S. Census Bureau News; U.S. Department of Commerce

Free Doggie Bags

To receive a free container with doggie waste bags, call (800) 974-9794 or email LAstormwater@lacity.org with your name and mailing address and the Stormwater Program will send one directly to your residence. (LA residents only.)

Each compact, refillable container comes with 15 bio-degradable doggie waste bags and can easily be attached to your dog's leash. You can buy a refill roll of bags from any local pet shop. Remember to pick up after your pet every time to keep LA clean and healthy!

A City of Los Angeles - Department of Public Works - Bureau of Sanitation - Stormwater Program

Free Movie



The Neighborhood Councils of Granada Hills are sponsoring a summer movie night to be held at the new high school located at 10445 Balboa Blvd. (Hospital High now has a permanent official name - Valley Academy of Arts & Sciences) Saturday, September 10th is the date, doors open at 6pm with the movie starting at sundown. Bring your own chairs and blankets. Food Trucks will be at the campus. Parking is available in the school parking structure accessible off Balboa via the alley between the school and the shopping center. Additional information: the GHSN.org website or their Facebook or Twitter pages.

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Crime - How to Find out About It

The LA Times website has a section about crime. On that opening page - <http://crime.latimes.com/> you can enter a specific address or select a neighborhood. Selecting Granada Hills, you will see a map that pinpoints specific crimes within a recent timeline. The page also lists the crime by street block name, the type of crime and when it occurred. Selecting any of the street names on the list will open another page and provide details on that specific crime. There is other crime information available including a summary and comparison data.

Another source of specific crime data is <http://www.nixle.com/>. You can sign up and have relevant local crime information sent directly to your email address. You can also get facts, figures, and data at LAPD's website <http://www.lapdonline.org/>. There you can sign up for E-Policing and have police info emailed to you.

The best way to find out what has happened is to ask the LAPD Senior Lead Officer directly at their Neighborhood Watch meeting. The Officers provide a crime map specific to our area and overall information about Devonshire Division. From Chatsworth Street north within OGHrg, our Senior Lead Officer of basic car 17A35 is Dario Del Core. His meetings are the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00pm at St. Euphrasia Church, Shoshone, north of Rinaldi. For those living south of Chatsworth, Janine Angeles is the Senior Lead Officer of basic car 17A49. Her meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of the Month, 7:00pm, at Fire Station 87 on Balboa, south of Devonshire.

Remember to call in any suspicious people or activities -1-877-275-5273 (1-877-ASK-LAPD) and call 911 for emergencies. *Thank you Leslie Brochu, for contributing to this article*

Captain Kris Pitcher is the new Area Commanding Officer at Devonshire Division. He officially took over on August 14th from Captain Sean Kane who has retired from the force.

LAPD Devonshire Division
Devonshire at 10250 Etiwanda Ave.
Saturday, September 24th
10:00am - 3:00pm

PALS V.S.T S.O.L.I.D.

Devonshire Division Crime Stats 7/17 thru 8/13

Homicide3	Burglary 72
Rape 1	GTA 38
Robbery 19	BFMV 119
Aggravated	Personal/
Assault 15	Other theft.....92
Shots fired .. 8	Arrests 455

Data from LAPD Compstat

Food trucks in Granada Hills

The local food truck phenomenon that started with one or 2 food trucks in the business district has now grown to more than 50 on Wednesday and Friday evenings. It draws several thousand people along Chatsworth Street in Granada Hills



from Zelzah to past White Oak. Some say it is the largest food truck gathering in all of Los Angeles County and there are claims that this event is known nationwide. The Daily News did a front page article covering the issue. TV news crews have been out, videos* have been made.

More recently, this craze has attracted vendors selling knick-knacks, t-shirts, jewelry, and videos games. Musicians and other artists are contributing to an atmosphere more like a huge block party or street faire. Some of the store merchants are also seizing this unique opportunity by staying open later and offering samples, special discounts and promotions.

While the overwhelming opinion of the visitors is positive, the sheer number of people introduces unintended consequences. The most commonly identified problem is parking. Even without the food trucks this has been a long-standing issue in the business district. The food trucks are compounding the problem when they and their associates begin to occupy virtually all the street parking early in the day. Merchants have heard their customers complaining about not being able to find parking. Another significant issue is public safety relating to pedestrians and drivers not obeying the law or just being careless as they move about the venue. We have been fortunate to date in not having any serious accidents. There is also concern that with this large number of people gathered

something might spark an unruly situation. Trash and cleanup are another issue. All of these issues continue to be monitored but will take time to develop specific plans to address in detail.

Councilman Mitch Englander and staff, LAPD, Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council, Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce, the members of the Business Improvement District, and the Old Granada Hills Residents Group, are aware of the situation. Meetings have been held and it has been suggested the community would be better served if one group takes the lead. LAPD has asked the Chamber of Commerce to be that lead organization. In response, the Chamber of Commerce has formed an inclusive committee to serve as the focal point. There is no single representative that speaks for the food truck operators, but many have expressed willingness to work together to address the negative issues.

This event is bringing a lot of attention to Granada Hills. We have talked with the people on the street, sent letters and surveys to participants and would like to hear from you. Please email or call the Granada Hills Chamber with your comments – good, bad, or indifferent (mention this newsletter). email@granada-chamber.com 818-368-3235.

*A locally produced video by Mark Hovatar can be seen at: http://tinyurl.com/3clshgo

Granada Village Shopping Center

There are a lot of rumors going around about who, what and when with the Shopping Center. The only facts Regency representatives have been telling, as of the middle of August, are: Sprouts will be open in September; the relocation of Rite-Aid and the addition Petco is not certain for September. Petco will be located next to Sprouts on the west (Rite-Aid to the east) and HomeGoods will occupy the space where Rite-Aid sits now. Nothing finalized yet on the new dining district. New news and updates will be mentioned at the September

1st monthly meeting. **Late update directly from Sprouts:** The store will open Wednesday, September 7th, at 7:00am.



- The only food that never goes up in price is food for thought.
- Dieting is a trying time when you stop eating food and start eating calories.

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Dave Jackson

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September 2011

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.

**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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