

Wendy Greuel Los Angeles City Councilmember

# The Valley View

LAKE VIEW TERRACE • LA TUNA CANYON • NORTH HOLLYWOOD • SHADOW HILLS • SHERMAN OAKS  
STUDIO CITY • SUNLAND • SUN VALLEY • TUJUNGA • VALLEY VILLAGE • VALLEY GLEN • VAN NUYS



September 2005

## In This Issue:

Getting Traffic Moving  
Protecting the  
Character of our  
Communities

Wendy Greuel Child  
Health and Safety Fair

### *Upcoming Events:*

September 7th, 10:00 a.m.

Grand Opening and  
Dedication Ceremony of  
Fire Station 77 in Sun  
Valley

Fire Station 77  
7777 Foothill Boulevard  
Tujunga, CA 91042

September 9, 7:30 a.m.

Back To School Safely!  
An event to educate  
children, parents and  
drivers on traffic safety  
during the back to school  
season.

Pinewood Elementary  
School  
10111 Silverton Avenue

**I am shocked and saddened by the level of destruction and loss of life that Hurricane Katrina left in her path. Staggering numbers of people have lost everything except the clothes on their backs, and it will take years to rebuild New Orleans and the Gulf Coast cities destroyed by Katrina. The victims of Hurricane Katrina are in desperate need of help. I urge you to visit <http://www.redcross.org/> or call (800) HELP NOW (435-7669) to learn how you can help.**

## Getting Traffic Moving

Last month I was appointed Chair of the Los Angeles City Council's Transportation Committee. Since then, I've been busy fighting to get Los Angeles moving again. I don't need to tell you that this City has a traffic crisis. In fact, few issues impact the quality of life in Los Angeles more than traffic. Within my first month of becoming Chair, I've worked to ban road construction on City Streets during rush hour. It is so frustrating to be caught in rush hour traffic from road construction when you are on your way to and from work. It's even more frustrating when you realize that the city has had a policy banning road construction during rush hour for many years that has never been enforced. Working with Mayor Villaraigosa, I've created a policy to ensure that our policy has teeth and that city departments will no longer be the source of rush hour traffic congestion.



Earlier this week, I went to Sacramento with Mayor Villaraigosa to fight for Los Angeles' fair share of transportation dollars to construct a northbound carpool lane on the I-405 between the US-101 and the I-10 and to ensure that the city has the tools that it needs to complete the project expeditiously and cost-effectively. The 405 is the most congested freeway in the country and the northbound carpool lane will help relieve some of the traffic. Recently, Congressman Howard Berman secured \$130 million in federal funds to complete the carpool lane. I will fight to ensure that the state also provides their fair share so that

Tujunga, CA 91042

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October 1st, 10:00 a.m. -  
3:00 p.m.

Wendy Greuel Child Health  
& Safety Fair  
Valley Plaza Park

6451 Saint Clair Avenue  
North Hollywood, CA 91606

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### **Youth Council Kick Off**

**This month I am kicking off the Wendy Greuel Youth Council, a new youth outreach program designed to give local high school students in-depth and first hand experience with city government, and an opportunity to get involved and improve their communities.**

**I will "swear-in" 20 Grant High School juniors (11th graders) from Ms. Lucy Moncada's U.S. History class as honorary City Council staffers on Monday, September 19, from 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. in the Van Nuys City Hall Council Chambers.**

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### **Highlight on City Services**

**50/50 Sidewalk Program**

**Call the city now to set up an appointment for a free estimate to repair sidewalks in your**

this project is completed quickly. People deserve to spend more time with their families and working in their businesses--not sitting in traffic. It is time for Los Angeles to take control of its own destiny and to start moving forward again.

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### **Protecting the Character of our Communities**

As a city councilmember, I am committed to enhancing the quality of life and preserving the character of our neighborhoods which is why I proposed an ordinance that I developed with the community to deal with "mansionization" in Sunland-Tujunga. Mansionization is one of the most pressing problems impacting the quality of life in our neighborhoods. The proposal, which was unanimously adopted by the City Council, protects the rights of property owners while preserving the character of our communities.

"Mansionization" involves the construction of large homes that are built out to the edge of the property line. These homes overwhelm adjoining residences, invade neighbors' privacy and change the character of a neighborhood.

Solving the mansionization problem is not about legislating aesthetics or taste, rather it is about finding solutions that balance the rights of property owners while protecting the rights and privacy of their neighbors. Mansionization affects various communities differently and requires a carefully tailored solution to each area, not a one size-fits-all approach.

The new ordinance passed by the City Council applies only to Sunland-Tujunga and applies to lots that are 8,000 square feet or less. It limits residential structures to 40% of the lot area or 2,400 square feet, whichever is greater and limits structure heights to two stories.

By working together, we can tackle our community's challenges and improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods. It is because of the work of the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council that we are finding fair solutions to mansionization and I want to thank them for all of their work on this issue.

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### **Wendy Greuel Child Health and Safety Fair**

October is Kids Safety Month and I would like to invite you to attend the Second Annual Wendy Greuel Child Health and Safety Fair, Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005 at the Valley Plaza Park in North Hollywood. The fair is sponsored by the

neighborhood. My 50/50 Sidewalk Repair Program gives residents of Council District Two, and now citywide, the option of matching the city with 50% of the costs to fix their sidewalks. In return, the City of Los Angeles will begin repairing the sidewalk within 30 days, guaranteed.

Constituents can call 818-374-6857 to set up an appointment for an estimate. Estimates are for residential sidewalks only and are based on \$10/square foot. All tree work is included in estimate.

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Wendy Greuel Children's Foundation whose mission is to actively support the needs of underprivileged children through activities and events that bring health, safety, and educational

opportunities to neighborhoods. I am so grateful to our event co-sponsors, the Automobile Club of Southern California, Blue Cross of California, First 5 L.A., Kaiser Permanente, and L.A. Care Health Plan for their generous support of this event.

The Child Health and Safety Fair will bring together some of the best healthcare providers of the San Fernando Valley in a family setting and provide free health services as well as a variety of informative safety presentations. Children from preschool to 12 years old will receive free medical and dental screenings and immunizations (please bring your child's immunization card). Additional health and safety related tests, and hearing and vision screenings will be available along with information on nutrition, finger printing, child abduction prevention, fitness, sports, swimming pool safety, anti-gang materials, and public safety tips.

The event will also feature free car seat inspections by the Los Angeles Police Department's Valley Traffic Division and California Highway Patrol. The child car seat inspection will be the seventh child car seat event that my foundation has sponsored in the last two years, with over 250 child car seats given away during that period. Additionally 300 children will receive a free child safety helmet during the fair to promote safety and encourage proper helmet usage. The Los Angeles Police and Fire Departments will have a special display of their public and fire safety programs.



Please bring your families to join me for free prizes, food, games, live entertainment, pony rides and a petting zoo. Remember the fair starts at 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The car seat inspections will be done on a first-come-first-serve basis. Valley Plaza Park is located at the intersection of Hamlin Street and Sainclair, just behind Sears Department Store in North Hollywood. Shuttle bus service will be available departing from area schools, please call my office for times and locations. I certainly hope that you can come and bring your children to enjoy a day of fun and entertainment.



For more information, please contact Arturo Gonzalez at my North Hollywood Office at 818-755-7676

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This message was sent to by:

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