

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



March 2006

Upcoming Events:

*Tujunga Little League
Opening Day Ceremonies*
Saturday, March 4
8:00 a.m. - Noon
Tujunga Little League
Fields
11950 Big Tujunga
Canyon Road

Office Hours
Wendy will hold office
hours in Sunland Tujunga
on Saturday, March 18
Please call Liberty Mesa at
(818) 352-3287 for an
appointment.

*Board of Public Works
Commission Meeting
and Information Fair*
Wednesday, March 22
6:00 p.m.
Van Nuys Sherman Oaks
Recreational Center
Gymnasium
14201 Huston Street

Grand Opening Celebration
of the LAPD Foothill
Station Senior Lead Officer
Drop In Center
Saturday, March 18

Fighting for L.A.'s Fair Share

Last month I traveled to Sacramento with Mayor Villaraigosa and my council colleagues to tell the Governor and our state legislators that the time is now to think **big** and invest in the short term fixes and long term solutions that will release the chokehold that traffic has on our daily lives.



Photo: In Sacramento with, from left, Council President Eric Garcetti, San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, President Pro Tem Wendy Greuel

The Governor and state legislators recently unveiled plans to dramatically improve the state's infrastructure including roads, schools, and housing through a proposed statewide infrastructure bond. The bond proposals include funding for transportation projects but mostly ignore any significant investment in mass transit and long-term solutions to our region's traffic crisis.

L.A. County is expected to grow by about 30 percent in the next 25 years. That's equivalent to adding a city the size of Chicago within the county. Just think of how many more additional cars will clog our roads and highways!

We met with State Senators and Assembly members to remind them that Los Angeles is ground zero for traffic congestion in California and that we deserve our fair share of traffic congestion reduction funds that will be generated by the infrastructure bond for mass transit, goods movement, road improvements, and the environmental mitigations that are necessary to keep our air clean.

With this bond, we have a real opportunity to finally provide practical public transit alternatives for Los Angeles residents in order to reduce our city's addiction to automobiles, and to

11:00 a.m.
North East Valley City Hall
7747 Foothill Boulevard,
Tujunga
To reserve your lunch,
please call (818) 352-3287
by Wednesday, March 15

LA River Meetings
The third set of workshops
for the L.A. River
Revitalization Plan will take
place during the last week
of March. This set of
workshops will focus on
assessing "opportunity
sites" along the river where
community goals such as
improving water quality,
providing places to play
and recreate, and re-
energizing riverside
communities can take
place.

Saturday, March 25
10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Birmingham High School
17000 Haynes St., Van
Nuys

the gas and emissions that are so harmful to the environment.

Bond money will allow us to finally synchronize our traffic lights in real time, which experts tell us will reduce traffic congestion by seven to ten percent and will move traffic 30 percent faster. And we could also begin to realize our dream of a seamless public transportation system by investing in projects such as a North/South extension of the wildly successful Orange Line, extensions of both the Gold and Expo Lines and seriously consider a meaningful extension of the Red Line beneath the Wilshire corridor.

For far too long, state officials, city leaders, and residents alike have dismissed a grand vision for mass public transit because we have convinced ourselves that it's not possible. We tell ourselves that: "L.A. is too spread out" or that "we'll never get people out of their cars," and "it's too expensive."

We're asking Sacramento to think big and act now by investing in dramatic solutions to Los Angeles' traffic crisis – our quality of life depends on it.

Grand Opening of Van Nuys Sherman Oaks Park Gymnasium



This weekend I joined with members of the community to dedicate the Van Nuys Sherman Oaks park gymnasium and recreation center. The brand new 13,425 square-foot facility, built with \$4.26 million in Proposition K funds, features full-court basketball, a state-of-the-art scoreboard, and a multi-purpose room.

The Van Nuys Sherman Oaks Park spans 67-acres and is a jewel of the 2nd Council District. The park hosts thousands of young people every year who participate in sports leagues that include baseball, basketball and gymnastics, and after-school activities including arts and crafts, dance, piano and day camps. Construction began in September 2003.

The city is now in the process of designing a state-of-the-art Senior Citizen Center that will continue to provide seniors with quality programs and meals at the Van Nuys Sherman Oaks park site.

Crime Alert!

The North Hollywood/Valley Glenn Areas have recently seen a

rise in "distraction home burglaries." North Hollywood detectives say the perpetrators of these crimes mainly target senior citizens to gain access to the home and remove valuables. Suspects typically appear at the home and claim to be either utility workers who need access to the backyard, a parent with a sick child who needs a glass of water, or someone claiming to have lost their cat or dog and ask to look in the backyard to see if it's there. The purpose of all of these scenarios is to gain trust and distract the homeowner while a second or third accomplice search the house for valuables.

I urge residents to be vigilant and keep a watchful eye on your elderly neighbors. If you see any suspicious behavior, please report it to the police.

The LAPD's North Hollywood Division have provided the following tips in order to avoid being a victim of these crimes:

- Never allow anyone in your house who is a stranger to you.
- Never open the door for strangers wanting water, or to look for lost pets, or who are selling home repairs you did not request.
- If someone comes to your door who claims to be from the Department of Water and Power, Gas Co., or Phone Company, call the utility or company they claim to be from and ask if someone was sent to your home before you let them in. A real employee will wait for you to make the call.
- Don't be afraid to say "no, you may not come in" or "I will call 911 and have the paramedics or police help your child."
- Call 911 and tell the dispatcher "I have a stranger at my door who wants to come into my house - I don't know this person and I need an officer to come to my house."

This message was sent to by:

Wendy Greuel
Los Angeles City Councilmember
6350 Laurel Canyon Blvd. Suite 201
North Hollywood, CA 91606

District Office
Sunland-Tujunga Office
City Hall Office

(818) 755-7676
(818) 352-3287
(213) 473-7002



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If you wish to be removed or update your e-mail address please