

WHHO

Woodland Hills Homeowners Organization

September 2008

P.O. Box 6368, Woodland Hills, CA 91365



President' s Message

The summer time off from regular meetings passed quickly and your Board has been busy with all of the proposed developments in Warner Center and the needed re-study of the Warner Center Specific Plan.

We have worked hard with the Citizen' s Advisory Committee, the City and the Neighborhood Council in the workshops for the Warner Center Specific Plan, attempting to work for a marvelous plan for the Westfield Development between the Promenade and The Plaza which Westfield calls "The Village".

We will, in the final plans, get an outstanding and fully implementable Specific Plan and development for the Village. All the concerned people are beginning to fully realize that we all need to not look and complain but to sit down and make sure that what is developed has a buildable and prosperous future.

It is not often a community gets to plan its future and not have it dictated by uncontrolled forces. This we have been given a rare opportunity and it is not being ignored by the community leaders who are all working in concert for the great enjoyable future of all the West San Fernando Valley.

We will be happy to see you and all your friends at the September meeting and we will have Jane Usher, President of the City Planning Commission at our October meeting to enthral you with her vision of how to get City Hall and your elected representatives to perform better for you the voter.

GORDON MURLEY
President

The opinions expressed are those of the President and do not necessarily represent those of the Board of Directors or the members of the Organization.

THOUGHTS OF OTHERS

Start a program for gifted children, and every parent

General Meeting September 24, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

**KAISER PERMANENTE HOSPITAL
Auditorium "A", Entrance 5
5601 DE SOTO AVENUE
WOODLAND HILLS, CA 91367**

NOTE: THE MEETING DATES ARE NOW THE 4TH WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH WHICH IS APRIL 28, 2008 AT 7:30 P.M. THE PLACE IS CHANGED. WE ARE MEETING AT KAISER HOSPITAL' S AUDITORIUM "A" AT ENTRANCE 5.

AGENDA:

We have 3 special Guests for this meeting.
Captain John Sherman the Chief for the New Police Station for the West Valley, John Creer of LAUSD for the vacant schools and their proposed future uses in the West Valley, and Pierce College President Robert Garber to appraise us of the Plans for the future of Pierce College

demands that his child be enrolled.

THOMAS BAILEY

Knowledge without wisdom is a load of books on the back of an ass.

JAPANESE PROVERB

The mightiest works have been accomplished by men who have kept their ability to dream great dreams.

WALTER BOWIE

PIERCE COLLEGE

Pierce College President' s Column

Election Fatigue?

I am told that the current presidential contest owns bragging rights as the most protracted election in U.S. history. (I am not certain that this boast would please most people!) Our California ballot also looks extremely lengthy, with many measures competing

for attention. However, I want to encourage you not to succumb to so-called voter fatigue, as there is a very important community college bond measure placed near the end of your ballot.

Measure J would fund new modern facilities and ensure the completion of the renovations currently underway at Pierce College. An innovative Green Technologies Building will keep our campus on the cutting edge of responding to environmental challenges and generate new economic opportunities in the Valley. The proposed Digital Arts and Media Building will provide graduates for the local job market in media/graphic arts and in the motion picture/television industry. An expanded Automotive and Technical Education building will train workers in technology and alternative fuels. A new Library/Learning Resources Center will help address the crisis in basic skills and student success, and improvements to our horticulture area and Performing Arts Building will expand opportunities for students and the community who take advantage of these incredible resources. In all aspects of these proposed improvement is a clear focus on educational, economic and environmental sustainability for our community.

Measure J building at Pierce College and our LACCD sister colleges will create 29,000 new construction jobs but is designed so there will be no tax increase beyond what was previously and overwhelmingly approved by the voters. Measure J will allow your college district to extend its current bond sales and taxing authority from the present sunset date of 2010 to 2015.

I know you will join me in participating in the November election. Whether you are marking your ballot at home or visiting the polling booth, please be sure to spend some time studying Measure J... and then voting on this issue critical to Pierce College's future. Pierce College truly appreciates your support and participation in our future.

**Thank you,
Bob Garber
Pierce College President**

**THREE PROMINENT SPEAKERS HEADLINE
OUR SEPTEMBER 24 MEETING.**

Get ready to hear some important news from three prominent sources at WHHO's September meeting on Wednesday the 24th in the Kaiser Permanente Hospital auditorium at 7:00 p.m.

The three speakers will be LA Police Department Captain John A Sherman, Pierce College President Dr. Robert Garber, and John Creer, Director of Planning and Development for the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Captain Sherman was named the first commanding officer for the West Valley's brand new Topanga station, which is slated to be fully operational by the end of the year. The state-of-the-art, 37,000 sq. ft. facility is located at 21501 Schoenborn St., one block north of Roscoe Boulevard between Owensmouth and Canoga Avenues.

Formerly the commanding officer of the LAPD's West Valley Station in Reseda that had jurisdiction over

The WHHO is published in Woodland Hills California 11 times annually and reaches over 600 quality homes. Advertising rates are \$25.00 per quarter page per issue. Installation of this years Board of Directors

OFFICERS FOR 2008:

- President: Gordon Murley (818) 346-5842
- Executive V.P.: Herb Madsen (818) 888-3434
- Executive V.P.: John Walker (818) 719-9181
- Treasurer: Silvia Anthony (818)340-9281
- Secretary: William Evans (818)883-7077

Directors at Large:

- Shirley Blessing (818) 887 6048
- Jane Leisure (818) 225 0843
- Martin Lipkin (818)999 4340
- Brian McDonald (818) 716-6580
- Pat Patton (818) 348 6497
- Dorothy Smith (818) 887-6028
- Robert Veeck (818) 316 0855

2008 Meeting Schedule

	General Meeting 1	Board Meeting 2		General Meeting 1	Board Meeting 2
Jan	23	07	Jul	no meeting*	07
Feb	27	04	Aug	no meeting*	04
Mar	26	03	Sep	24	02
Apr	23	07	Oct	22	06
May	28	05	Nov	no meeting*	03
Jun	25	02	Dec	03	01

- (1) All meetings are held at Kaiser Hospital on the 4th Wednesday 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise notified.
- (2) All Executive Board meetings will be on the 1st Monday at 7:30 p.m. at Fire Station 84 Community Room on Burbank Blvd. unless otherwise notified.

Woodland Hills, Capt. Sherman has headed a small group of officers and administrators who have been planning the transition to the new Topanga station. Once the station is opened, he will lead approximately 250 to 275 officers who will be responsible for enforcement in Woodland Hills, west of DeSoto. During his presentation, Capt. Sherman will outline how his command will be structured, how he intends to deploy personnel over the area, and how his officers will be able to lower response times to incidents than they can now. He'll also touch on the need for community volunteers to handle some of the station's support tasks.

Dr. Garber, who is spearheading a renaissance at Pierce College, has been asked to present an overview of his school's plans for the 2008-2009 collage year. Pierce is in the middle of a major construction and improvement phase and is welcoming the largest student enrollment in its history.

Earlier this year, Dr. Garber reported that Pierce was preparing for 25,000 students by up-dating and retrofitting the school's classrooms to meet 21st century demands, and that they were finishing construction on a new Technology Building, a new Child Development Center and a 100,000 sq. ft. Sciences building. In his presentation to WHHO members, Dr. Garber is expected to detail the latest building plans for the school, and then discuss the development rumors that keep arising about what is going to happen to the large "agricultural fields" on the western end of the campus.

As the LAUSD's head of Planning and Development, John Creer has found himself in the center of a number of huge battles being waged around and with LA's School Board members. A key issue in many of the fights has been the LAUSD's relationship with Charter Schools and the rights of Charter Schools under the voter-approved Proposition 39. Creer has explained in the past that Prop. 39 put the LAUSD in the role of a "landlord" without giving school administrators the authority to say "no."

At issue in Woodland Hills is the use and funding for four of the West Valley's six vacant elementary and middle schools. Earlier this year, Mr. Creer and LAUSD Board Members Marlene Canter and Tamar Galatzan came to a WHHO meeting and presented plans for the futures of Osso Elementary, Hughes Middle, Platt Ranch Elementary and Collins St. Elementary schools.

However, because of politics, lawsuits and budgetary challenges, most of those plans have changed. Mr. Creer will detail the new intended uses for each of the four closed schools, and will explain how those changes will impact the adjacent neighborhoods as well as the entire Woodland Hills Community.

All three of WHHO's September speakers should provide much enlightenment—and possibly some alarm—about what is going to impact Woodland Hills in the coming year. If your neighbors have any children enrolled in the LAUSD, are concerned about crime in the neighborhood, or take an interest in higher education for the area, please be sure to invite them to this important evening.

The Wednesday night, September 24 meeting begins at 7:00 pm at Kaiser Permanente Hospital at the corner of Burbank Blvd. and DeSoto Ave. The meeting is in the Auditorium, which can be accessed by going in Entrance #5. Parking in the lots and elevated garage is free.

Is SFV secession once again on the Horizon? Serious and timely reform needed at City Hall

The LA City Council has once again ignored homeowner protests and increased trash collection fees for the third time in two years. Effective Sept.1, single family residence homeowners will pay \$36 compared to \$6.00 they paid in 2003.

Do you remember the promises made by the Mayor, LA City Council members, and the Chief of Police that this "fee" would ONLY be used to hire 1000 new police officers?

For those of you who have not been made privy to the recent audit conducted by LA City Controller Laura Chick, money raised from the last trash fee increase was used for raises and equipment, police overtime, and other expenses. According to a recent Daily News Editorial, of the \$137 million dollars collected as a result of the last increase, \$86.5 million was used to hire 405 officers, not the 1000 promised.

Now the Police Dept. once again needs more money, but "don't worry" they say, this increase will only be used to fund the hiring of new police officers! Apparently, in the minds of our elected officials, our taxes go towards funding their LA City provided automobiles and gasoline, as well as their pensions. Taxes

don't fund the regular day to day operation of the city. "Fees" are apparently designed to do that.

Funds collected as fees are required by law to be used for the specific purpose defined by the fee. As you will recall, these increases are not a taxes! Mayor Villaragosa, Chief Bratton and the City Council have decided to make their own laws and we are letting them get away with it! There are at the very least, questions of ethics here. Where is the City Attorney?

Furthermore, this "fee" was imposed on property owners only - single family residences and apartments of up to four units. Large apartment owners and renters and business do not pay this fee. This means that the homeowners pay for the police and everyone else gets to use them. By any definition, this "fee" is discriminatory!

Homeowners once again have been told to tighten their belts and dig into their deep pockets. When our City Council wants more "pork", they punch additional expansion holes in their belts and threaten the public with reduced police and fire protection, emergency response resources etc. What's sad is we let them get away with it and continue to re-elect them for the maximum number of terms allowed.

To add insult to injury, our officials have the audacity to make public comments such as:

- LA City homeowners have been getting the "gift" of trash collection from the city for the last 50 years!
- Crime is down! So what that we spent money on "other things". The money was spent on the police department" and in improving public safety!

We note however, there has been no increase in the number of basic patrol cars in the West Valley.

What an example the gang at City Hall sets for our children. Perhaps the mayor will develop a magnet-school political curriculum for the LAUSD schools he is mentoring, focusing on how to become a successful politician promising one thing and doing another; and how to finance bloated budgets by increasing taxes and fees imposed specifically on homeowners.

Many current city officials would be qualified to join his faculty. Chief Bratton for example, could conduct a course teaching when "the end justifies the means", 4

and how to use statistics to justify circumventing the law. City Council members can assist teaching related skills, and how to stifle and overcome public outrage and manage to get re-elected to office.

Action Items for Consideration by the Homeowners:

- Investigate why the LA City Attorney's Office permitted this misuse of funds and consider bringing suit against the City.
- Poll the various Homeowners Organizations for the purpose of identifying and recruiting potential LA City Council candidates from the public sector.
- Prepare the paperwork to initiate the recall of any elected official who even infers that we need to sacrifice a critical service or agency to fund the every day operation of the City.
- Bring this trash fee "situation" to the attention of the Jarvis and other related groups and financially support them when they file a law suit.

Proposition 13 sheltered homeowners for a while but its protection has eroded over time thanks to "clever" political tactics like the sewer service charge and the trash collection fees. What this city needs is competent professionals running the day to day operations, not competent "professional politicians" earning six figure salaries driving around in taxpayer provided vehicles and fuel, telling the public that they no longer will be getting gifts!

Suggestions and volunteers are requested to take actions to make the LA City Council focus on priorities set by the voting public. This current group is out of control and lack of corrective action on our part will only encourage more flagrant violations of the public trust.

Bob Veeck, Member at Large
Woodland Hills Homeowners Organization

NOTE: IF YOU WISH TO BE SURE THAT WE CAN CONTACT YOU BY EMAIL TO INFORM YOU OF HAPPENINGS BETWEEN NEWSLETTERS – PLEASE SEND US AN EMAIL SO WE CAN BE SURE YOU ARE IN OUR DATA BASE.

So, if you want to help us get started you can email us and we will put you in the WHHO address directory.
Email to: g.murley@worldnet.att.net

WHHO' S WEB SITE

We have a Web site it is www.whho.com

There are links to other web sites for information on Government and Schools. It will greatly enhance the speed for finding important information for those wanting to interface with various government agencies.

USEFUL WEB SITES FOR OTHER INFORMATION

- WHHO - www.whho.com
- NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL - woodlandhillscouncil.org
- CHARTER SCHOOLS - www.charterassociation.org
- HUGHES MIDDLE SCHOOL - noonhughes.org
- OSO SCHOOLS - no-oso-highschool.org

We invite you to frequently visit the above Web sites for updated information

COUNCIL OFFICE PLANNING AND COMMUNITY PERSONNEL

- Council District #3 Dennis P. Zine, Councilman (818) 756-8848
- Chief Deputy – Cliff Ruff – City Hall
- Field Deputy – Octaviano Rios
- Planning Deputy – Jonathan Brand

NOMINATIONS FOR WHHO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

It is that time of the year for people who wish to be a member of the WHHO Board of Directors or serve as an Officer on the Board to send in their request so the nominating Committee may make their recommendations for the coming year. Send requests to WHHO Nominating Committee, P.O. Box 6368, Woodland Hills, CA 91365

POSITIONS TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Your Board has taken the following positions; We oppose "Red Square" in its request to legitimize a unauthorized patio and a DJ. This is not a Bonafide Restaurant since they rent it out for evenings and all is included in the rental price including liquor. This apparently is set for a Court Date by the City of Los Angeles

We have not taken a final position on a proposed

development on the north side of Mulholland, across from Louisville High at Mulholland Highway that wants an exception to the Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific. The Draft Environmental Impact Report has been released and we are looking at what we need to do.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS

Officers: Chair: Joyce Pearson, Vice Chair: Stephen Naczinski, Treasurer: Dorothy Koetz, Secretary: Scott Silverstein, Parliamentarian: John Anderson

GENERAL MEETINGS: The second (2nd) Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at Parkman Middle School in the Multipurpose Room.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS: They are listed on the website. www.whcouncil.org