



Reseda

RESEDA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

JULY 2009

L.A. RIVER AND ALISO CREEK PARK

Aliso Creek parallels Wilbur Ave. through Reseda and joins the Los Angeles River between Vanowen St. and Victory Blvd.

Currently along the Creek and the River there are access roads administered by Los Angeles County and the Army Corps of Engineers to maintain the creek and the river. Also paralleling it on the West Side are DWP power lines, commercial nurseries and community gardens.

The Trust for the Public land and Mujeres de la Tierra have joined forces to create a project to improve the area into a park-type atmosphere.

With the support of Los Angeles County, the Army Corps of Engineers, Councilman Dennis Zine, the LAPD, Reseda Neighborhood Council, YMCA and the Jewish home for the Aged, the two organizations have reached out to the community in the surrounding area to create a plan supported by the community.

Possible features would include walkways, bike paths, native greenery, trees, park areas and playground for youngsters.

An outreach project has had volunteers walking house to house inviting the neighbors to attend meetings and share ideas so that they may add input to the project.

The first workshop took place on June 27. Those that attended, walked along the River and the Creek and returned to share ideas on what they wanted. Two additional workshops will be held to design and finalize the concept.

Workshop #2 Design Charette

Wednesday, July 8, 2009 6:30 PM

Saturday, July 18, 2009 9:30 AM

Workshop #3 Design Review

Wednesday, July 29, 2009, 6:30 PM

All but one of the meetings is at Valley Vineyard Church 6642 Reseda Blvd. the July 18th meeting is at Council District #3 Office, 19040 Vanowen St.

If you are unable to attend any of the above meetings and wish to contribute your ideas, please contact Tori Kjer at the Trust for Public Land, who is coordinating

Emergency, Disaster & Community Safety 2

Community Announcements 3

Senior Corner 3

RNC Contacts 4

Recognizing Reseda Businesses 4

Event Calendar 4

the project's design and development at (323) 223-0441 ext 11. For questions regarding outreach activities contact Irma Munoz at Mujeres de la Tierra at (213) 595-0905.

NOTE FROM THE CHAIR PETER HANKWITZ

On the subject of "Medical Marijuana," I would likely be considered a strong proponent for its use in this manner. Under our current laws, however, the use of marijuana for recreational purposes is still illegal, and its use for medical reasons must continue to be regulated, perhaps even more strictly than it is now.

Recently, the Los Angeles City Council and the Planning & Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee held a press conference to discuss the recommendations for such regulation. Reseda's Councilman Dennis P. Zine attended, along with his colleagues, Councilman Ed Reyes, Councilman Jose Huizar, Councilwoman Janice Hahn and Councilman Eric Garcetti.

Among the topics discussed were the potential denial or approval of 14 existing "Hardship Exemptions" and a motion to remove them from the current Interim

Control Ordinance, which is set to expire on September 14, 2009.

Councilman Zine presented a motion on May 3, 2005 to explore the regulation of these dispensaries in the City of Los Angeles. And on September 22, 2006, Councilman Zine introduced another motion asking for a moratorium on them until regulations could be established.

Despite these actions, it is estimated that hundreds of medical marijuana dispensaries are believed to be operating in violation of the moratorium because they did not register with the City as of the deadline established in 2007. More than 180 dispensaries are registered by the City deadline, and, as of early June, are currently operating within the law.

I would urge the residents of Reseda to weigh in on this very important issue. The safety and security of our Valley's elemen-

tary, middle and high school aged children is of primary and significant concern among parents and other community members.

In my opinion, Reseda's Stakeholders would be well served by supporting Councilman Zine in his efforts to help develop a permanent ordinance that establishes firm and fair guidelines for the operation of medical marijuana dispensaries, specifically the effort to make the permanent ordinance a balance between enforceable regulations that provide safe access to those truly in need, and the desire to eliminate adverse impacts to the surrounding locations.

The PLUM Committee is expected to consider the issue of the permanent ordinance again on July 7th. Communication regarding this issue may be sent directly to the office of the Chief Legislative Analyst (LAMedical.Marijuana@lacity.org).



EMERGENCY DISASTER AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

This is the 26th year of National Night Out, an anticrime event where our West Valley community partners with LAPD's West Valley Area station. It is an opportunity to meet the police officers that patrol and protect our neighborhoods, and at the same time learn about keeping our community safe.

National Night Out welcomes the communities of Encino, Lake Balboa, Reseda, and Tarzana to a free evening of fun, food, entertainment, and informational booths. Something for everyone, and lots of activities for the kids.

Last year over 3,200 people enjoyed hot dogs, chili dogs, chips, drinks, inflatable slide and bouncers, face painting, and a DJ who had the children dancing and playing games.

National Night Out is sponsored by Target and supported by the Neighborhood Councils of Encino, Lake Balboa, Reseda, and Tarzana, as well as Council members Dennis Zine, Greig Smith, and Tony Cardenas.

This year our emcee will be **KNBC's Fritz Coleman**. Don't miss National Night Out on Tuesday, August 4th at Birmingham High School at the corner of Victory and Balboa. From 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM Free parking at the Victory entrance. Join us for this all-free event and invite your neighbors.

For more information, please call (818) 374-7636 or visit www.encinowatch.com.

COMMUNITY TASK FORCE

Are you a Neighborhood Watch Block Captain? Are you a Graffiti Monitor? Are you a Posse Member? Does your block have an Emergency plan in effect with a leader? Are you a Community Emergency Response Team Member (CERT)?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, YOU are ahead of the pack. Ideally our community needs these participants on each of the blocks, businesses or multi-unit living complexes in our Reseda.

As a Neighborhood Watch Block Captain, you are expected to know your neighbors, establish a line of communications with them and work together to observe and

report criminal elements that wish to take advantage of you and your neighbors.

As a Graffiti Monitor, you are expected to tour the area, report graffiti so it can be removed and or remove the graffiti.

As a Posse Member, you should report vandalism, graffiti, illegal signs and other forms of illegal activities. Also to remove and turn in illegal sign posting for possible prosecution.

To prepare for an emergency, you should have an emergency plan for your house, establish a communications network with your neighbors and encourage them to prepare their personal emergency plans.

Can one or two persons wear all or most of these hats? Why not?

Graffiti is a crime, as are illegal signs, illegal parking and other offenses that make our community less desirable to live, work, shop, play or drive through. Graffiti Monitors, Neighborhood Watch Block Captains and Posse Members are all working on these issues.

Block Captains and Emergency Response Leaders work together with those in their area to provide a unified response to crime or emergency. CERT trained leaders are trained to respond to emergencies of all types.

Have a block meeting/party with those on your block to identify those leaders that can make a Difference in our community. Contact us to help get the representatives of the different organizations to your meeting.

Let's work together to make Reseda a better place. Put on any or all of the hats and let's improve the community. For more information, contact Garth Carlson at gcarlson@resedacouncil.org or (818) 419-2513.

PROBLEM ADDRESSED

For some time, the residences and businesses in the neighborhood of Tampa Ave and Vanowen St have been reporting problems that are being caused by the clients and prospective clients of Advanced BioServices (ABS), also known as the Plasma Center.

The complaints range from panhandling, bio trash, illicit sex, prostitution, drug use and sales, various theft problems and other complaints from the neighboring businesses. The initial response was

stepped up patrols by LAPD and Senior Lead Officer Isla Parra.

On May 19th, Councilman Dennis Zine held a Community Meeting at the Council Office at 19040 Vanowen St. Residential and business neighbors as well as other concerned stakeholders met with Mr. Joseph Kane and staff of Advanced BioServices, Councilman Dennis Zine and staff, Captain Nick Zingo and Senior Lead Officers Royal Barber and Isela Parra, and Neighborhood Prosecutor Raffy Astvasadorian.

After hearing the complaints of the community and the LAPD, Joseph Kane and staff vowed to address the situation and keep the community informed. Below is a list of steps that have been initiated:

- ABS has established a "hotline" for local business owners and neighbors to report nuisance or illegal activities: (818) 614-2300 It is available during business hours.
- Increased parking lot clean up to twice daily.
- Enclosed waste containers behind locked fencing
- Increased uniformed security to 24/7 coverage with continuous outdoor monitoring, which led to the first graffiti arrest made Sunday June 14th at 3 AM by ABS
- ABS has committed to additional camera installation with full coverage monitoring
- Changing how donors are paid from cash payments to payment by check with a plan to move to cash cards in late summer
- ABS has committed to participate in "Neighborhood Watch" and "Neighborhood Council Meetings".

CERT TRAINING

The recent completion of Community Emergency Response Team training has added 51 new CERT trained stakeholders to our preparation for possible future disasters.

Our thanks go out to the American Legion, Revitalize Reseda and especially the L.A. Fire Department for making this happen.



SENIOR CORNER

RUMMAGE SALE

On August 15, a Rummage sale will be held at the ONEgeneration Senior Enrichment Center -Auditorium. Proceeds will be used to support Senior Services that have been cut back by the 2009/2010 State budget. Any and all donations of clothing (men, women, children), household items, bric-a-brac, small electronics, and books (no furniture please) are gratefully accepted Monday through Friday 9:00

AM - 4:30 PM at the Center located 18255 Victory Blvd. Reseda, CA 91335 - (Victory & Etiwanda).

FRIDAY MOVIES

Each Friday at 1:30 PM, the ONEgeneration Center shows free movies for Seniors at 18255 Victory Blvd. This Month's Movies are:

7/10 The Curious Case of Benjamin But-

ton - Brad Pitt, Cate Blanchet (2008) (165min)

7/17 Love in the Afternoon - Gary Cooper Audrey Hepburn (1957) (130min)

7/24 New In Town - Renée Zellweger (2009) (97min)

7/31 Cadillac Record - Jeffrey Wright, Adrien Brody (2008) (109min)

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAVE THE FARM DAY

Revitalize Reseda recently partnered with the Independent Pool & Spa Service Association to renovate and upgrade the farm adjacent to John R. Wooden High School. The animal farm has been put at risk and they currently survive on small fundraisers, teacher, student and parent donations to purchase food for the animals. They are desperately looking to secure their future. Students at Cleveland High School have been helping by circulating piggy banks on campus to help raise funds for "Save Ralph" the pot bellied pig and his friends.

The renovation project named "Save the Farm Day" was spearheaded by Revitalize Reseda. This venture was made possible due to funding and labor efforts of the pool association who had 40 volunteers in attendance. They donated a day of their time to make this a reality. Volunteers worked diligently to refurbish rabbit pens, re-screen chicken coops and renovate the duck pond and equipment. Preparation days involved leveling the land, laying drain pipes, and preparing the duck pond for renovation.

This urban humane school farm helps at-risk children learn about the environment and the benefits of interacting with farm animals in order to learn about responsibility, compassion and working together. It is a respite from not only their school day, but the stresses of city life and the issues students face at regular public schools throughout the valley. Students with special concerns are helped by an incredible staff of teachers. Principal, Jay Kessler, has 21 years of service at the school and Jeanette Dow, a 13 year teacher, are desperate for help to care for their myriad of farm animals, which include chicken, geese, goats, ducks and a pot-bellied pig

named Ralph. Funding resources have run dry for the farm. Revitalize Reseda saw this as an opportunity to help the children and animals with community support. They solicited volunteers to help the farm in daily care for the animals, secured donated medical support and negotiated reduction in food pricing through a local feed store. They also had local businesses pitch and donate funding or discount materials for the rehab.

Principal Jay Kessler was amazed at the outpouring of support from the local pool association and to Revitalize Reseda for organizing the event. "It's wonderful how the community came together to support our school."

The farm is open during school hours and it is located at 18741 Elkwood St. in Reseda. Children from local schools, seniors, and handicapped individuals regularly visit the farm to learn more about farm life, compassion for animals and the environment.

The farm is in need of funding to help feed the animals. To make a tax deductible donation, please visit www.revitalizereseda.org and click on the PROJECTS link, or call (818) 832-2280. Donations can also be mailed to Revitalize Reseda, P.O. Box 370304, Reseda, CA 91337.

NEW BUSINESSES IN RESEDA

In April, Meyber Family Child Care, 7318 Nestle Ave. (818) 776-8660 opened it's doors in Reseda.

In May, Farm Direct, 18121 Saticoy St. (818) 758-0080 and Mini Mart, 18464 Sherman Way, (818) 708-7109 established their businesses in Reseda.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

The Reseda neighborhood Watch will meet on Thursday, July 9, 2009 at 7:00 PM in the Community Room at West Valley Community Police Station, 19020 Vanowen St.

This month's guest speaker will be Sgt. Damien Gutierrez. Sgt Gutierrez will speak on a variety of subjects due to his expertise in Vice investigations and his current position as Training Coordinator for West Valley Station.

YMCA SOCCER & B-BALL

The youth Jr. Laker's Basketball league, ages 3-17, compete in weekly games on Saturdays' at Sutter Middle School or Canoga Park. Teams will also practice weekly (dates/times to TBA) after 6 PM. We will be accepting registrations until July 10th.

The youth Arena Soccer leagues, ages 3-14, compete in weekly games on Saturday's at the West Valley Family Soccer field. Teams will also practice weekly after 6pm, dates/times to TBA. We will be accepting registrations until July 10th.

The Adult leagues offer both Basketball and Soccer for participants 18 years and older. Adult basketball games will be played on Saturdays and Adult Soccer games will be played on Tuesday evenings. Team sign ups are recommended but not required. Individuals may sign up also. Accepting Basketball registrations until July 17th and Soccer registrations until July 14th.

For more information please call Josh Berg at (818) 774-2840 x 3319.



CONTACTS, MEETING LOCATIONS, EVENT CALENDAR

PETER HANKWITZ	Chair	PHANKWITZ@RESEDACOUNCIL.ORG
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LEE SMITH	Treasurer	LSMITH@RESEDACOUNCIL.ORG
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RNC CONTACT	(818) 832-7540	7324 RESEDA BLVD. #118, RESEDA, CA. 91335 RNC@RESEDACOUNCIL.ORG
RNC OFFICE	Meeting Location	18341 SHERMAN WAY, SUITE 102
AMERICAN LEGION	Meeting Location	7338 CANBY AVE.
ONE GENERATION	Meeting Location	18255 VICTORY BLVD

RECOGNIZING RESEDA BUSINESSES

The following businesses are celebrating anniversaries in our community during JULY:

Pizza Man 18109 Saticoy St. 1992	In Trend Beauty & Barber 7113 Lindley Ave. 1993
Domino's Pizza 6740E Reseda Blvd. 1999	Touch of Beauty 7603 White Oak Ave. 2000
Jessica Cleaners 7609 White Oak Ave. 2002	Saul's Brake & Front End 7000 Reseda Blvd. 2003
Encino Auto Body 7000 Reseda Blvd. 2004	Tacos Michoacan 7607 White Oak Ave. 2006

JULY 2009

RESEDA EVENT REMINDER CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Do you have events coming up in Reseda that you want to see here? Please contact Garth Carlson at gcarlson@resedacouncil.org about possible inclusion in our Calendar.			1.	2. 7:00 PM RNC Planning & Zoning Committee	3.	4. Independence Day Holiday
5.	6. 7:00 PM RNC General Meeting	7. 3:00 PM Senior Advocacy Committee, 7 PM Liaison Committee	8. 7:00 PM RNC Emergency Disaster & Community Safety Committee	9. 7:30 AM Chamber of Commerce 7:00 PM Neighborhood Watch	10. 1:30 PM Senior Movie: Curious Case of Benjamin Button	11.
12.	13. 7:00 PM Graffiti Committee	14. 7:00 PM RNC Outreach Committee	15. 7:00 PM West Valley CPAB	16. 7:00 PM 1038 Neighborhood Watch	17. 1:30 PM Senior Movie: Love in the Afternoon	18.
19.	20. 7:00 PM RNC General Meeting 6:00 PM Finance 3:30 PM Youth Committee	21.	22.	23.	24. 1:30 PM Senior Movie: New in Town	25.
26.	27.	28.	29.	30.	31. 1:30 PM Senior Movie: Cadillac Record	