

Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

Fall 2009

Welcome to GHSNC

Who? What? When? Where? How?

Dave Beauvais
GHSNC President

Welcome to Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council (GHSNC). You may be reading this and are wondering; "what the heck is a Neighborhood Council?"

Neighborhood Councils (NC) were created by a change in the L.A. city charter in 1999. There are currently 89 Neighborhood Councils throughout the city of Los Angeles, which are overseen by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (D.O.N.E.), and provide limited funding for operations and community projects. GHSNC was certified as Neighborhood Council in 2006 and is run by a board of 21 volunteer directors, some representing special interests like the business community, seniors and education; others are elected to at-large positions. The Board of Directors meets once a month to address the concerns and issues of stakeholders within the boundaries of the NC.

GHSNC has a number of committees made up of directors and stakeholders to address general and specific issues. Our major committees are Outreach, Planning and Land Use, Beautification, and Public Safety. Other committees include Environment and Education. We work on projects, large and small, that benefit the community like: re-landscaping the front of

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GHSNC Outreach

How are we doing?

Sean M. Rivas
Chair, Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee's job is to get information out to all the stakeholders in our neighborhood council area. We've expanded our efforts to reach out to the community since we began in 2006 through a variety of different methods and events. You may have seen us at the Granada Hills Street Faire, Granada Hills Holiday Parade, Granada Hills Recreation Center Spring Egg Hunt and Salute to Recreation. We established a website almost as soon as we got certified; we've since expanded our online efforts, so that now you can also find our NC on Facebook and Twitter. We post our agendas and other council information at the Granada Hills Pavilion, the Chamber of Commerce office, and Granada Hills Library and Recreation Center. We also utilize our schools and send flyers home with the students about important NC community information.

The most visible form of outreach you may have seen are the street pole banners that are placed throughout the council's boundaries. The Outreach Committee continues to strive for new ideas to get the word out about the neighborhood council. We need your help and support to continue to work for the community of Granada Hills. Please take a moment to give us your input on where you heard about the council, and any ideas you may have for the NC to work on to improve our community. Please complete the GHSNC survey and send it back to us in the enclosed envelope. We greatly appreciate your participation.

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Broken Sidewalk? General Questions?

Porter Middle School, funding to help the West Valley Alliance combat graffiti removal in our community, providing computers for Tulsa Elementary School, supporting the music program at Patrick Henry Middle School, and working with the Granada Hills Rotary Club to revitalize Veteran's Memorial Park (located at Chatsworth and Zelzah).

We also work on issues such as overbuilding, traffic, graffiti, and public safety. For instance, we have sponsored two Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.) trainings. We will be sponsoring another C.E.R.T. class later this year (see information in this newsletter). You will also find a survey in this newsletter. Please take the time to fill it out and return it in the self-addressed envelope enclosed. For more information, or to contact us, please visit our website at www.GHSNC.org or call (818) 668-5969. Also, be sure to come by our booth at the Granada Hills Street Faire on Saturday, October 3, which will be held on Chatsworth Street between Zelzah and Encino.

Planning and Land Use

Eric Mansker
Chair, Planning and Land Use Committee

The Planning and Land Use Committee (PLUC) is a standing committee of the GHSNC and is one of the most active committees of the council. The committee deals with zoning, density, specific plan and community plan issues facing our community. We work with a number of city agencies such as the City Planning Department, Building & Safety, Housing, City Services and LAPD, to develop a consistent policy of land use concerning our Granada Hills community. We often collaborate with other community organizations to develop strategies facing Council District 12 and the valley as a whole. The Committee is made up of five board members and one stakeholder: Eric Mansker (Chair); Jerry Askew, Jim Summers, Bob Stevens, Brad Smith and Debi Orrico (stakeholder). PLUC meetings are held every third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Coldwell Banker building's conference room at 10324 Balboa Blvd., Granada Hills. Our monthly agenda is posted on our website, www.GHSNC.org. Everyone is welcome!

Help Feed Food Banks

Lacy Reilly
GHSNC Students Representative

With a deepening recession, an unemployment rate almost 3% higher than the national average, and extreme budget cuts to many social services, California is facing very hard times. To survive this recession, however, its citizens must focus on their families well being. Unfortunately, food banks, a major source of relief for many families, are facing a great

deal of scarcity.

The number of people reaching out for aid from food banks and pantries is increasing at a rapid pace. According to the L.A. Times, the L.A. Regional Food Bank reported a 40% increase of people seeking help around the Thanksgiving holiday. Additionally, according to literature for the Valley Interfaith Council, "the Daily News projects that 75,000 workers will lose their jobs in the San Fernando Valley in 2009," meaning more families registering for help from food banks.

Food and funding are scarce for these institutions, which are of obvious help to our community. In response to the crisis, the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council, at its August board meeting, allotted \$2,500 to the Valley Interfaith Council for purchasing food products. You can reach out too: spend time packaging food at a local pantry or organize a food drive and donate items. These experiences are individually rewarding and collectively beneficial for everyone of the community, as neighbors.

Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness Committee

Robert Stevens
Chair, Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness Committee

It's been 15 years since the Northridge Earthquake interrupted our lives in Granada Hills. As time goes by, we tend to forget the impact this emergency event had on each of our lives. If this happened again, would you be ready? The City of Los Angeles holds free classes to help you understand your responsibilities in an emergency and to help you be prepared. C.E.R.T (Community Emergency Response Team) trainings are available free of charge to anyone in the City of Los Angeles. If you are interested, please fill out the form (at the bottom of the enclosed survey) with your information. More information is available at www.cert-la.com/basic or the L. A. Fire Department at (818) 756-9674.

The Public Safety Committee would appreciate any input or concerns you may have concerning safety and quality of life in Granada Hills. An excellent source of regular safety information—be it (neighborhood) Block Watch or just general curiosity about crime in the neighborhood—can be had by signing up for e-policing at www.lapdonline.org. Want a little more hands on excitement? Come to the Granada Hills Street Faire on October 3, and ask about the Volunteer Surveillance Team opportunities in your community. Come by and see us at the Street Faire!

CALENDAR OF COMMUNITY EVENTS

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT
COMMUNITY EVENTS AND MEETING LOCATIONS OR CALL (818)
668-5969 AND LISTEN TO OUR CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONTHLY GENERAL BOARD MEETING

2ND THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH, 7:00 PM

SAFETY & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE MEETING

1ST MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH, 7:00 PM

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE MEETING

3RD MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH, 6:30 PM

OUTREACH COMMITTEE MEETING

3RD TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH, 7:00 PM

PLANNING & LAND USE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

3RD WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH, 7:00 PM

SPECIAL COMMUNITY EVENT

9TH ANNUAL GRANADA HILLS STREET FAIRE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

10:00 AM-5:00 PM

FOUR BLOCKS OF CHATSWORTH STREET IN
DOWNTOWN GRANADA HILLS ARE TRANSFORMED INTO
A TRADITIONAL STREET FAIRE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY.
THREE STAGES OF ENTERTAINMENT, CAR &
MOTORCYCLE SHOW ALONG WITH GREAT FOOD AND
FUN. HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE!

SPECIAL COMMUNITY EVENT

GRANADA HILLS HOLIDAY PARADE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

1:00 PM

ANNUAL GRANADA HILLS HOLIDAY PARADE, STARTS
FROM PETIT PARK AND MOVES WEST ON CHATSWORTH
ST TOWARDS GRANADA HILLS CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL.

Environmental Affairs Committee

Shondrella Kester
Chair, Environmental Affairs Committee

As the chair of the GHSNC Environmental Committee, I
am thrilled to forward you helpful tips on how to make
Granada Hills a greener and cleaner place to live! It's
simple and easy! Please look at our website
www.GHSNC.org for more tips and information on our
committee meetings.

Going green doesn't have to cost a lot of green! Use
these simple tips to make a positive impact on the
environment while keeping your wallet intact. It's easy,
even for the laziest of environmentalists.

- **Shut down and unplug electronics.** You'll
use less energy and save money by making
small changes. Shut down your computer and
unplug toasters, etc., when you're not using
them. Plug your cell phone and other
electronics into power strips so you can turn
several devices off at once.
- **Wash your clothes in cold water.** By using
cold water, the average household can avoid
emitting 1,281 pounds of carbon dioxide
annually and save on energy bills.
- **Fill your bottle with filtered tap water.**
Choose the greener solution--use a reusable
bottle, like the [FilterForGood bottle](#), and fill it
with filtered tap water. If you use a Brita
filtration system, make another responsible
choice by recycling your pitcher filter when you
replace it, about every two months (or every 40
gallons).

Go Green for free and earn money! Yes you can
actually receive money for making a positive impact on
the environment! Here are just a few ways:

- **Cash!** A & M Recycling Center, 10365 Balboa
Blvd., GH
- **Get paid to recycle** residential trash at
recyclebank.com.
- **Recycling electronics** keeps them out of
landfills, and you earn money in the process.
Sites that will pay you to recycle include:
buymytronics.com, myboneyard.com and
greenphone.com.
- **Get cash rebates** on water-efficient toilets and
other water fixtures. Learn more at
toiletrebate.com.

Community Blood Drive & Health Expo
Granada Hills Recreation Center
16730 Chatsworth St., Granada Hills, CA 91344
Saturday, September 26th from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Register online @
ghrc.givesblood.org

For more information contact

Jim Feffer at 818-802-8452 or LOFJF@aol.com

Sponsored by:



GRANADA HILLS SOUTH NC CONTACT INFORMATION:

Mailing Address:
11024 Balboa Blvd., Box 767
Granada Hills, CA 91344

Email/Website:
Board@ghsnc.org
www.ghsnc.org

Phone Number:
(818) 668-5969

FOLLOW US ON:

Twitter: www.twitter.com/GHSouthNC

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ghsnc

OTHER IMPORTANT WEBSITES:

Councilman Grieg Smith – www.CD12.org

City of Los Angeles – www.lacity.org

Los Angeles Police Department – www.LAPDonline.org

Los Angeles Fire Department – www.lafd.org

Granada Hills Chamber – www.grnadachamber.com

Old Granada Hills Residents Group – www.oghr.org

Granada Hills North NC – www.ghnnc.org

OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS:

Councilman Grieg Smith's Office - (818) 886-5210

Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce – (818) 368-3235

City of Los Angeles – 311

County of Los Angeles – 211

Granada Hills Recreation Center – (818) 363-3556

Graffiti Removal –

West Valley Alliance (818) 227-9722

Operation Clean Sweep (800) 611-2489

Keeping our Youth Active

Brad Smith
GHSNC Vice President

With the temptation to isolate inside all day on the computer, we would like to suggest a few outdoor and community activities for our youth besides playing X-box all day. During the month of September, the Boy Scouts of America will be holding an open house. Additionally, the Granada Hills Recreation Center is preparing for fall sports and classes so go on by and pick up a brochure or visit LAParks.org to get a downloadable version of the brochure. The Friends of the Granada Hills Library is also looking for volunteers to help with their monthly book sales (especially to help move those heavy boxes of books around!). More information about all these activities can be found on our website at GHSNC.org.

GHSNC Go GREEN Tip

Ever wonder why there are so many trash scavengers in our local neighborhoods on trash pick-up day? They are picking out the cash that you throw away each week in your blue barrel. What cash you ask? Why, the aluminum cans plastic and glass bottles that you toss each week. Why not discourage trash scavengers, keep that money for yourself, and conserve resources by recycling those materials?

Here is how to do it. In your garage or yard, set up at least three 55-gallon trash cans, and separate redeemable aluminum cans, glass bottles and plastic bottles into each one. If space is a problem, you can crush the aluminum and plastic bottles. If you are not sure what is redeemable, look for the recycle logo on the can, or the letters "CA CRV" on the bottles. When the 55-gallon cans are close to full, take them to a recycle center. For one full trash can of cans, one of plastic bottles, and a few glass bottles you should receive about \$15 or more. If you generate that much each month, you will earn about \$200 per year! So, go green, discourage trash scavengers, and keep that money in your pocket for very little time or effort.



JOIN US!!

9TH ANNUAL

GRANADA HILLS STREET FAIRE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

DON'T MISS OUT ON GREAT FOOD, GAMES AND FAMILY FUN.