

TPOA NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Helen Itria Norman, TPOA President

TPOA members - and, for that matter, your neighbors, co-workers, dentist, doctor and anyone else within sound of your voice - we need your help. More to the point, we need your *opinion*. In our last newsletter, we told you about the new plans for Brown Center, from Mann Theater on the east through the GAP on the west. This means the theater will disappear. Rather quietly, we wondered how you might feel about this. Those who responded were very upset - vehemently so; but we didn't hear from enough to know how the whole Tarzana community felt. So, we're asking now, PLEASE LET US KNOW HOW YOU FEEL. We've included a questionnaire (see insert) for you to fill in and mail. But before you do, there's more you need to know.

A vitally involved TPOA member, concerned not only for the loss of his local movie house with its convenient location for locals, but for the negative impact on nearby restaurants and other businesses, e-mailed an anguished plea to the new owners of Brown Center. In a detailed, courteous reply, he was informed that the current theater format is out of date and cannot compete economically with the stadium seating and upgraded digital electronic equipment of newer theaters. In fact, according to the property manager, Mann Theaters wished to terminate their lease early.

Now, when compared with other Valley areas such as Woodland Hills (Warner Center, hotels), Studio City (Universal Studios and CityWalk) and others, Tarzana is not a full-scale destination. Of course we have some fine restaurants, but no major entertainment attraction other than the Mann Theater. That's it. It is, however, the *only* general release movie theater on the Boulevard; that makes it a draw. We wonder: would an elegant, upgraded shopping district be a destination in itself? This Brown Center "facelift" is planned in three stages: the first stage, from the Mann location to Yolanda; the second, from Yolanda through the GAP; the third involves potential condos and parking to the south. We wonder if the new owners would consider planning for a modern well-equipped theater in the second phase. If demand is loud, vocal and overwhelming, might they recognize the true value (financial rewards) of putting in a grand new theater? We realize it's problematic - but is it worth a try?

It's up to you. How badly would you want this? Please fill in the questionnaire and TALK TO US!

TPOA "TOWN HALL" ATTENDANCE TOPS THE CHARTS It was standing room only at the El Caballero Country Club after 300 TPOA members and guests from all over the valley were seated to hear a discussion of "What is Your Vision for the Valley?" Panel participants City Council members Wendy Greuel, Tom LaBonge, Alex Padilla, Jack Weiss, and Dennis Zine, (five of the seven who represent the Valley) Mayor James Hahn and Councilmember Antonio Villaraigosa were skillfully kept on target by moderator Lee Kanon Alpert, Time-Warner Public Affairs Commentator. The program was videotaped by Time-Warner Cable for later viewing.

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TARZANA PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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Second Monday of each month
Except July and August

At

**THE TARZANA COMMUNITY
& CULTURAL CENTER 19130
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HERE COMES THE BUS - GET ON BOARD!

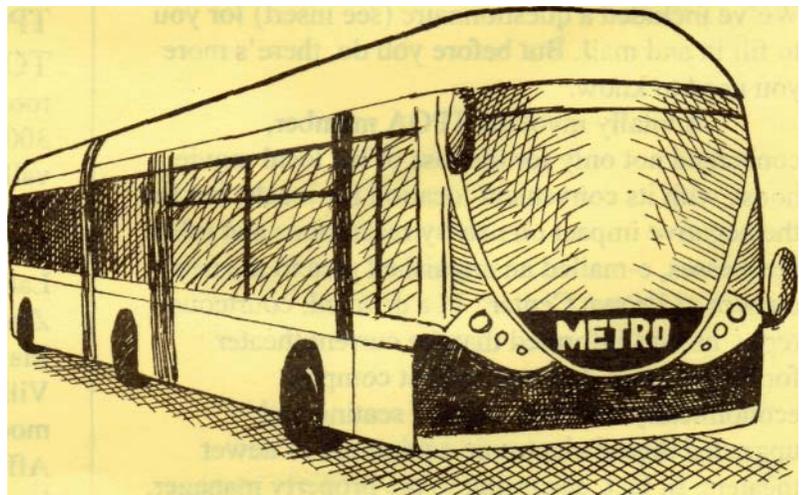
In September, after two-plus years of construction and expenditure of approximately 300 million dollars, busway service from the North Hollywood Metro Subway terminal will head for its western terminal at Warner Center. This is a significant addition to east/west transportation across the San Fernando Valley and, better yet, its schedule is linked with that of north/southbound buses. In the process, a new word has been added to our vocabulary. Signs labeled "BUSWAY" have blossomed at street crossings all along its 14-mile length from North Hollywood to Woodland Hills.

Six parking lots to serve 3000 riders are being constructed along the route, two of which are the 524 space lot at Oxnard and Reseda and the 394 space lot at Victory and Winnetka. It is expected that a substantial number of riders will be passengers transferring from the North Hollywood Metro Rail station on Lankershim Blvd.

Initial equipment includes 20 articulated buses, each with a 60-seat capacity. The schedule calls for their leaving their respective terminals at seven minute intervals.

Much thoughtful planning, including meetings with neighborhood groups along the route, has resulted in an attractively designed project that includes generous landscaping and station stops enhanced by original art. Incidentally, that such public art be included in city projects is the subject of an ordinance requiring that 1% of the project cost be dedicated for that purpose. The ordinance is managed by the Public Art Division of the Public Affairs Department headed by Director Felicia Filer.

To get an idea of how the busway design complements rather than detracts from a residential neighborhood, take a drive west along Chandler Blvd., starting at Laurel Canyon, where extensive landscaping is substantially complete.



A TREE, ONCE A THING OF BEAUTY, NOW A HAZARD?

The small, pine tree covered, diamond shaped spit of land that divides Mecca Avenue and Reseda Blvd. will always be remembered as the spot where one of its trees fell and took the life of a man who was driving by. Since that tragic event, there have been numerous calls from TPOA members expressing concern about the remaining pines as well as the pepper trees which reach out over Reseda Blvd.

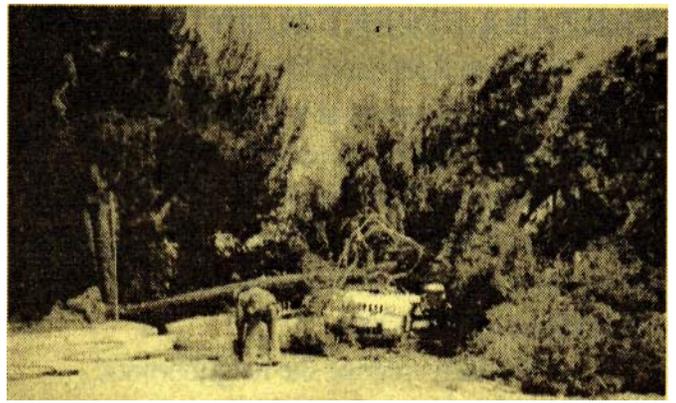
At the April 26 Neighborhood Council meeting, similar calls were reported and contact has been made with David Kempton, Director of the West Valley Street Services Division, to discuss what needs to be done now to protect the public.

Long time member Marilyn Sperling lives near the above property and started taking pictures during the heavy rains to illustrate the hazard they posed and request attention from the city. The snapshots below were taken before the tree fell and later, as city crews moved in to remove the debris and cut down other trees that might topple over.

It has long been TPOA's dream that this spit of land could be transformed into a "pocket park", minus its pine trees, plus attractive landscaping. That idea has not been abandoned and the question of what would be the appropriate entity to undertake and maintain such a project will be the subject of



Before



numerous discussions in the weeks ahead.

After

FAME IS NOT FLEETING: JUST ASK DR. TERI PALL

Board member Teri Pall's telephone (probably cordless) started ringing off its pedestal last week following an ABC Jeopardy program in which the contestant was asked to name the inventor of the cordless telephone. The answer: our own Teri Pall. Teri had not been watching the program so was surprised to hear not only from friends near and far but that the contestant knew the answer.

You will find Teri Pall's name in a number of compendiums such as Who's Who in Science & Engineering, Who's Who Among American Women, Who's Who in Women Inventors. Paleontologist, inventor, behavioral scientist, design engineer, advertising agency executive and, yes, jazz musician, numerous patents bear her name.

She designed Etch-A-Sketch as an engineering tool. Encouraged that it would make a great toy, the Wall Street Journal later acknowledged it as the second best-selling toy in America. And there's the transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulator that, among other uses, can lessen back pain and a walker that incorporates a seat.

Lesser known inventions include components Teri has developed in conjunction with other Jet Propulsion Lab scientists that make exploration of outer space possible. An expert in robotics which has significant application in outer space technology, Teri designed the robotics exhibit for the California Museum of Science & Industry. The list is long for this remarkable woman who earned doctorates from London and Columbia Universities. Hats off to Dr. Teri Pall!

TARZANA STREET MAINTENANCE

William Robertson, Director of the Bureau of Street Services, spoke at a Neighborhood Council Federation meeting for the South Valley on Thursday, March 24 on the subject of how each neighborhood council could derive the most bang for the buck from the \$100,000 allocated to it for street repair in 2005-2006.

Robertson credited the neighborhood councils with being responsible for an increase in the miles of streets scheduled for repair from 135 in the past fiscal year to 240 next year. Street maintenance was high on the list of priorities in the Mayor's budget survey.

L.A. roads are in serious need of repair/reconstruction. Of the 6,500 miles of streets in the City, 1000 miles are failed streets. Some roads need only a slurry topping; others require complete reconstruction. Tarzana's are no exception. The City works on an 80/20 plan: 80% of the work goes into resurfacing/repair, while 20% goes into reconstruction. Robertson pointed out that by fixing the initial breakdown before it becomes severe, the high cost of reconstruction is eliminated..

Because \$100,000 does not go far — it will pay for 3,300 feet of maintenance overlay, 2,640 feet of resurfacing, or 1,130 feet of total reconstruction based on a 28 foot street width — Robertson recommended that to get the most streets fixed the councils select streets that are only moderately broken down, rather than those that need complete rebuilding, leaving the worst streets for the City to reconstruct.

Robertson also recommended that we select residential streets, not those that contain public transportation, and that, for maximum cost-effectiveness, the streets chosen be contiguous with those already planned for work by the City and that they be part of a grid — if that is feasible. In addition, he strongly recommended working with Councilman Zinc's office.

The Tarzana Neighborhood Council is reviewing the streets that were selected for repair last year, as well as a new list from the City, and will apply the criteria suggested by Robertson to determine priorities for the community. The NC will then discuss its priorities with the Bureau of Street Services to make a final determination.

.....*MaxFlehinger*

CRIME ALMOST TOOK A HOLIDAY

Sr. Lead Officer Kip Jackson recently took family leave time following the birth of his son, the Jacksons' second child. Just before that he attended a Board meeting and was pleased to report that Tarzana had dropped to No. 2 in property crimes, that is, burglaries. However, car theft, reported separately, revealed that the Cadillac Escalade was at high risk for theft. The thief removes the tracking device, making recovery difficult. So owners may want to consider more than one anti-theft device.

Patrols continue to cite street vendors at locations familiar to you. On issuance of a third citation, the vendor is arrested. However, the primary target is the manager who delivers the produce. If you see produce being delivered, usually in early morning, take the license number of the vehicle and report it.

At a Neighborhood Watch meeting, Jackson reported on restaurant burglaries. Mainly directed at up-scale restaurants, the burglars work in pairs, enter and demand that customers turn over cash, jewelry and watches. While there is no defense against such assaults, loss would be less traumatic if diners left valuable items at home. Attend the monthly Neighborhood Watch Meeting on the third Wednesday of each month at Councilman Zine's office and learn more about personal safety.

NEWSRACK ORDINANCE READY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

John Bwarie, Mayor's Representative for the South Valley, recently brought Street Services Division personnel together with community representatives to acquaint them with the fine tuning of the ordinance that now makes it possible to begin accepting newsrack applications from the publishers, removing all newsracks for which applications have not been made and installing approved racks. And even more good news is that implementation will begin in the South Valley.

**TPOA MEMBERSHIP
\$15 PER YEAR
YOUR BEST BUY IN TOWN**

RARE PRIZE ACQUIRED IN SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS

Escrow closed in mid-April on 588 acres of beautiful wildland right in the middle of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area at a cost of \$35 million. Once known as Gillette Ranch, former home of shaving products magnate King Gillette, it is now the site of Soka University which will remain here until 2007 when students now enrolled have graduated. Soka will then move to recently acquired property in Orange County. In the intervening time, plans for public access will be in progress. The area is not only rich in the wild life and plant communities it supports but also in cultural history beginning about 7000 years ago. It's an educational gem just waiting to be used.

How was this purchase possible? Assembly member Fran Pavley said that this acquisition has been a dream and top priority of all the park agencies for many years. And the dream morphed into reality with Soka as a willing seller and a broad coalition of funding partners including the National Park Service, State Parks, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Coastal Conservancy, individuals, the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission and contributions from the cities of Agoura and Calabasas which Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky agreed to match with funds from Los Angeles County. At present, you can get a view of this property by taking Topanga Canyon to Mulholland; turn left and left again on Mulholland and go about five miles. You eventually meet Las Virgenes Canyon Road. Look to your left; there lie 588 acres of beautiful wildlands!

HEALTH AND SAFETY BILL PASSING THROUGH ASSEMBLY

Secret settlements are an everyday occurrence in most courts and allow companies to demand secrecy as the price of compensation for victims. The result: deaths and injuries that could have been avoided. Assemblymember Fran Pavley's AB 1700, co-authored by Senators Martha Escutia, Sheila Kuehl and Assemblymember Patty Berg, will soon be voted on in the Assembly and then pass to the Senate. It seeks to stop the industry tactic of hiding illusory trade secrets to escape responsibility for dangerous products. If you would like more information, call Pavley's Woodland Hills office at 596-4141.

NEW WEST VALLEY POLICE STATION DEDICATED!

What a change! Officers literally could come out of the closets of their long-time temporary space which was at such a premium that even a bathroom was turned into an office. Privacy or quiet moments in which to write reports were not available. It was daily pandemonium. First, some history.

In 1926 the first San Fernando Valley Police Station was built in Van Nuys and out of it worked all the officers assigned to the valley.

21 years later, population growth, particularly during the WWII years, necessitated a new Division for the West Valley, and in 1957 the renovated Reseda Masonic Lodge at 7137 Reseda Blvd. became a second home for the West Valley Division. It served 80 square miles from Rinaldi on the North, Mulholland on the south, Balboa on the east to City Limits on the west. But this was only temporary, and a new West Valley Station was already on the drawing boards.

In August 1960, a new 19,000 square foot station with a 2200 square foot motor garage and 200 car parking space was dedicated at its present location, 19020 Vanowen Street, Reseda. Cost: \$600,000!

In only 20 years, this space became inadequate and portable trailers were brought in. 20 more years, and it was obvious that an entirely new station was called for. The question of funding was answered by placing Proposition Q on the March 2002 ballot. It passed!

On April 13, 2005 the new station was dedicated! It features a two-story 54,000 square foot building, a parking building for 353 cars with helipad on the upper level to accommodate Department helicopters, an 8,120 square foot Maintenance Facility for auto maintenance and storage and a fuel island with two 10,000 gallon underground fuel tanks. Cost: \$26,036,000!

Art work, required by ordinance graces both the front entry windows, illuminated at night, and the elevator doors which feature vintage police photos etched into the metal. The entire force is moving in as this is being written, and temporary buildings will soon be a thing of the past. Congratulations!

MOVIE THEATER SURVEY

Do you utilize the Mann Theater in Tarzana (please circle) Yes No If yes, how often (please circle)

***1 time/year..... 2 times/yearseven times/year..... once a month..... other
If not, why not?***

Please indicate your response below on a scale of one to five with one (1) being not important and five (5) being very important.

Currently, the Mann Theater in Tarzana is the only free standing theater remaining on Ventura Blvd. How important is it to you to have a community theater that is not located in a large mall?

How important do you feel it is to you personally to have a theater in Tarzana?

1 2..... 3..... 4..... 5

How important do you feel it is to have a theater in Tarzana as a draw for local business?

1.

Please indicate your age and gender below to assist us in tabulating the responses to this survey.

Age (please circle): 20-35 35-45 45-55 55 and older Please circle: Male

Female Comments:

Thank you for responding to this survey. The results of this survey will be published in our next newsletter.

**Please return this survey to Tarzana Property Owners Association,
P. O. Box 571448, Tarzana, 91357**