

Linda Pruett

Vice President's Report

November 30, 2005

City Government Comes to the Valley – On Wednesday, November 16th, Los Angeles City Council held its first meeting in the new Council Chambers in the Valley Municipal Building on Sylvan Street in Van Nuys. The evening festivities began with a great (and FREE!) Barbeque Dinner for all, provided by the City. Van Nuys High School Band members furnished music for the opening ceremonies, and with the exception of just a couple small glitches, the evening's meeting preceded without a hitch. Three Board members and three stakeholders from West Van Nuys/Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council participated in the evening's festivities. I welcomed the Council members to the Valley in the name of our Neighborhood Council, and told them how much we appreciated their coming to "our little corner of the world", thanked them for our new office up on the third floor, thanked DONE for our furnishings, and L.A. Shares for all our office supplies. I invited them to come often, and they said they are planning to be back in January. I urge ALL of you to plan to attend that meeting and see your City Council in action. It's a great way to get to know your Council representatives, and to make sure they know you! Steve Leffert addressed the Council concerning its ruling on the possible name change situation for West Van Nuys, and Councilman Smith asked Steve to call and talk with his Field Rep. John Bwarie who has information on this situation.

Prior to the meeting, Steve, Shawn Moradian, Rick Pederson and I went over on Veterans Day and unpacked boxes of items we'd had stored for the new office. We cleaned furniture, hung pictures and arranged supplies so that we actually have a functional office now in which we can meet with representatives from other neighborhood councils, politicians and stakeholders. We also got to meet the folks from the Van Nuys Neighborhood Council who have the office right next door to ours.

Emergency Preparedness Committee – This Committee met on Saturday Morning, November 5th, at the FlyAway Bus Terminal. Six stakeholders attended, and we agreed that our next meeting will be held on Saturday, January 7th. You'll find information sheets on the back table, and we urge all of you to attend. One of our stakeholders, Patrick Hausske, has just completed CERT Training, and is a wealth of information concerning this vital and exciting class. We were also thrilled to have Rosie Saenz back with us, and Rick Pederson, Karen Olds and Bill Haller all had great ideas as to how we can go about making this Neighborhood Council district one of the best prepared in the

Valley for any emergency that might befall us. Again – we urge you to attend – Saturday, January 7th, 8:00 a.m. at the Flyaway. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW** so you don't forget!

L.A. City Council Video Conferencing Pilot Project – Video conferencing for the Valley is now a reality! On Tuesday, November 22, the first 2-way meeting between the Los Angeles City Council and people here in Van Nuys took place in the Valley Municipal Building. As you know, we've had a difficult time participating regularly in our City Council meetings due to distance, heavy traffic and parking constraints. But now we can voice our opinions and concerns on matters that intimately and substantially impact our lives directly to the City Council – all via video conferencing. This is a six month pilot project sponsored by Councilman Smith. It is really a tremendous opportunity to make City government open and accessible to all of us. It is important that we have as many residents, businesses and organizations as possible take advantage of this technology during the six month pilot program in order to demonstrate the need to have it available on a permanent basis. You are invited to attend and testify every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday at 10 a.m. on Council agenda items via a video and audio feed without the challenges associated with driving downtown. For more information, please contact Councilman Smith's City Hall or District Offices.

Metro Orange Line Grand Opening – Our new cross-the-valley busline opened on Saturday, October 29th, with the dedication the day before on October 28th. Rosemary Campbell, Steve and Denise Leffert, and Scott Taylor all participated in tabling on opening day and got to “talk up” our Neighborhood Council. And while we've had some accidents involving the buses, Metro and the City are working hard to make this a great form of transportation for all of us to use as we travel about the Valley. Neighbors and my family from Oregon and I took the Orange Line out to the West Valley last week for dinner one night and then back home again when we were all too full to think about driving! I know Steve and Denise Leffert are great supporters and have used it several times, as has Rosemary Campbell – she even took it to the City Council meeting! So if you haven't had a chance, yet, put it on your list of things to do, and I'll even share the name of a great destination restaurant if you're looking for an excuse to “go by bus!”