



Winnnetka

Your participation in city governance through the Neighborhood Council enables the city to be more responsive to our community's needs.

www.winnnetkanc.com

Issue No 3 - Sept 2007

Neighborhood Council Elections

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You now have greater flexibility with the items that you can place in your Blue Bins.

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The "Winnnetka Median" Project – The WNC Makes a Major Investment in Community Improvement

by J.J. Popowich

Sherman Way Gets A Makeover

The "Winnnetka Median" project (the median runs down Sherman Way from DeSoto to Corbin) is a community improvement project that the WNC undertook beginning in 2004, shortly after the NC was certified by the City. The project is based on the premise that if a community takes pride in how it looks, the community will prosper. You could call this the signature community improvement project for the WNC.

Three Phases

The original project was approved for three phases that included landscaping the median, installing lights around the two "Welcome to Winnnetka" signs, and finally the installation of decorative river rock around the signs. The first phase was actually completed in 2006 with the weeding and planting of flowers and perennial plants throughout the median.

(cont'd on page 2)



(cont'd from page 1)

"Winnetka Median" Project

With the successful completion of Phase I, the WNC focused on the installation of lighting in Phase II. The plan called for the installation of "flood lights" to illuminate the two "Welcome to Winnetka" signs. Later modifications to the Phase II plan also called for lights to be installed along the median to make it more decorative in appearance.

Who Said It Was Easy?

This phase of the project has been much more difficult to complete. The responsibility for the median within the City government spans several different departments and the WNC ran into difficulties securing rights to tap into electricity along the median. After several unsuccessful attempts to negotiate with the City for electrical access, the Board revisited the lighting plans. The Phase II plan was again modified to include the environmentally friendly approach of installing solar lighting. In addition to the obvious benefits of solar lighting to the environment this new approach would save the City money. As a result of the changes to the plan the WNC has delayed implementation of Phase II as we work with the City to secure approval for this innovative approach.

What's Going On With Maintenance

Many Stakeholders have probably noticed that in early 2007 the City stopped maintaining the median causing many of the plants to die or be overtaken by the weeds. In addition, two timers that control the sprinklers to the median broke down in early 2007 compounding the problem. The WNC Public Works and Transportation Committee has been working with the Bureau of Street Services Urban Forestry unit to address these maintenance problems for the median.

Upgrading The Landscape

Once the City completes the necessary repairs, the WNC has authorized the expenditure of up to \$28,000.00 to re-landscape the entire median. This new allocation of funds is a much more ambitious landscaping plan than the original design from 2004 and combines Phase I and the Phase III elements to install more flowers (including roses) and plants and the river rock around the two "Welcome to Winnetka" signs. Many Board members felt that the plants from Phase I that were planted didn't do enough to elevate the appearance of the median. The revised plan includes soil restoration and preparation to ensure that the new plants are long lasting.

NC Committee Adopts New Role

The WNC Public Works & Transportation Committee has also adapted the way that we think of the median. While this project started out as a onetime improvement project, the committee has changed its focus to more of a median management approach. The Committee is looking at various options to ensure that once the WNC has completed the investment in the improvement aspects we can maintain the investment over the long run through maintenance agreements with private contractors rather than rely on City resources which can be re-directed as they were in early 2007.

Stakeholders interested in participating in this project or those that have other ideas on community improvement projects are encouraged to get involved with the Winnetka Neighborhood Council.

www.winnetkanc.com



PARK(ING) DAY LA

Park(ing) Day LA hits the streets of Los Angeles on Friday, September 21 as artists, designers and activists throughout the city step up to the curb, put a quarter in the meter, and proceed to transform metered parking spots into temporary public parks.

This year, illuminateLA will be host(ing) "Shakespeare in the Park(ing): the Audition" on Hollywood Boulevard at Western Avenue from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and featuring local talent and passers-by alike performing in the shadows of the Louis B. Mayer building.

NorthEast Trees will be build(ing) "Green Street Park (ing)" and Pedal Power will be rid(ing) bicycles as a

group, all towing trailers and looking for empty park(ing) spaces and people in need of a park(ing) space.

Park(ing) Day LA is open to anyone who is interested in transforming a metered spot into a Park(ing) space on Friday, September 21st. 2007. For more information email Stephen@ParkingDayLA.com or visit www.ParkingDayLA.com

Park(ing) Space lovers are also invited to download the map and join the bike ride or the Metro tour, both of which conclude at the after party which will be held, where else, in a downtown park(ing) structure!



Mason Avenue Street Resurfacing

by J.J. Popowich, Tarzana Neighborhood Council



A Long-Standing Goal

One of the Winnetka Neighborhood Council's long standing goals is to address the worst streets in the WNC boundaries. Over the years we've managed to work with the City to get streets such as Lubao Ave and Quartz Street's repaved. In addition, in 2006 we worked with the City to allocate a one-time allotment of \$100,000.00 to repave streets around some of our local schools. One goal set almost at the beginning of the WNC's existence was to re-pave Mason Ave, between Sherman Way and Roscoe, easily one of the worst major streets in our community.

On September 1, 2007, the WNC, with the assistance of Councilmember Zine's office, completed a portion of our long term goal. A section of Mason Ave, from Saticoy to Stagg was repaved. In 2005, the WNC had the street reviewed by the Bureau of Engineering and it was deemed a failed street. It's taken us since then to get this project resolved.

Working Through The Council District

It's important to understand that the WNC has very little direct control over street paving. We get numerous requests throughout the year from Stakeholders with bad streets. In the past, your City Councilmember may have also had a say in which streets get paved and which don't. However, with the advent of modern technology and the extreme financial situation the City is in, even that has changed. What the WNC can do is work with the City Councilmember and the Bureau of Street Services and help to define what the priorities are. If it's possible, and if it fits in the overall street

maintenance and resurfacing plans we can have some influence.

The Street Situation is Daunting

The Bureau of Street Services website, which can be found at <http://www.lacity.org/BOSS/StreetMaintenance/custodian.html>, does a wonderful job of explaining the daunting task that they do and can help us all to understand why it's so hard.



Several Techniques Involved in Repair

According to their website, they accomplish their mission by, "a variety of minor and major maintenance techniques are employed by the Street Maintenance and Resurfacing Divisions which are responsible for maintenance and repair of 6,500 miles of dedicated public roadways (28,000 lane miles) and 800 miles of alleys (400 miles fully improved and 400 miles unimproved, of which 178 miles are unimproved dirt alley). It performs nearly all resurfacing and reconstruction of residential and major streets and alleys averaging up to 200 miles of resurfacing per year.

Street Services Does more than Repairs

It also cleans all improved 13,000 curb miles of streets and alleys, the pedestrian subways, tunnels and public walkways. Miscellaneous functions include bridge and stairway repair and bulkhead construction. The Bureau's two asphalt plants produce approximately 600,000 tons of asphalt annually."

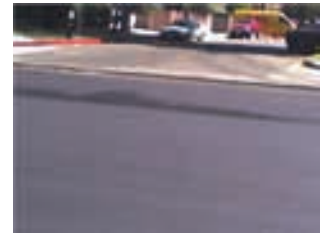
Decades of Inadequate Funding

At a recent public educational meeting Bill Robertson, Director of Public Works,

explained that the City hasn't had enough funds to address the City's streets in decades. At one point he explained that it would take almost \$1 billion dollars to adequately return LA City streets the level they should be. Needless to say, that type of money just doesn't exist. Putting it another way, street repair is probably third in line in City priorities behind Fire and Police...which we all know we don't have enough of either.

First Keep Good Streets Healthy

The Bureau of Street Services has in place a very regimented plan for taking care of the streets. Streets that are relatively new or in good condition are maintained by making sure that cracks and potholes are filled as quickly as they are reported. More seriously damaged streets can be addressed by slurry or flex sealing (which keeps additional water from seeping into



the street and further damaging it by eroding the base), maintenance blanketing (about 1 to 1½ inch of asphalt over damaged areas), or complete resurfacing.

Success Requires Involvement

The WNC will continue our efforts to address the infrastructure of our community. However, we can't do it without your help.

Please get involved and attend Board and Committee meetings. The Public Works & Transportation Committee generally meets the fourth Thursday of the month at Valley Village at 6:30 PM.

Our ability to address your concerns relies on the strength of our numbers.

Analysis of a Stakeholder by Lisa Cerda, Tarzana Neighborhood Council

We have found that our stakeholders can be divided into two identifiable groups. The half empty stakeholder and the half full stakeholder.



Mr. Empty

Mr. Empty walks past his barren parkway each morning. He drives past the graffiti scrawled wall, and shakes his head when he sees the refrigerator on the curbside that has remained there for the last month. He grumbles about the escalating cost of his DWP bill, and feels a sense of rage over the newly constructed mansion on the corner of his street. Mr. Empty threw out his notice about the development and never attended the hearings. He believes "nothing will ever change" and "there is no point." For Mr. Empty, this is true.

Mr. Full

Mr. Full walks past the newly planted trees in his parkway and stops to admire them. He can't believe he got them free from the City. He is pleased! He drives past the graffiti scrawled wall, he shakes his head, reaches for cell phone and calls

West Valley Alliance (818) 227-9722 to report it. He knows that they come out and remove it for free. He notices that the couch left on the curbside over the weekend has been removed because he reported it by calling 311. And while he was at it, he reported the pot hole on Ventura Blvd. too. He is optimistic that the Neighborhood Council will fight the DWP rate increase because he attended the meeting and participated in the discussions. He returns home that day and sees the newly built house on the corner. It fits into the neighborhood because he attended the hearings and brought his neighbors with him. They contributed ideas on the size, the landscaping and eliminating the block wall along the front of the property. He believes in "the power of the people" and "the squeaky wheel gets oiled." For Mr. Full, this is true.

Which Stakeholder are you????

South Valley Election Alliance

History is being made folks, and its in your back yard!

This project could be the model for future NC regional elections now under discussion by the Neighborhood Council Review commission.

Five Neighborhood Councils voted to have a common Election Day. Outreach and Election Chairs from each participating Neighborhood Council - Tarzana, Reseda, Winnetka, West Hills, and Woodland Hills Warner Center have spent the entire year changing their bylaws, changing their Election Procedures, and trying to find ways to encourage voter turn out.

It Takes Many Volunteers

While you're sleeping, Heath Kline of Woodland Hills, is at his keyboard hammering out agendas, formulating plans,

and guiding the preparations of publishing five differing Neighborhood Council newsletters. During the day, he is working to get City Departments to collaborate with each other for the benefit of all. His stellar team includes Misho Stawnychy and August Steurer of Woodland Hills doing the graphics and layout.

Garth Carlson of Reseda Neighborhood Council is a dynamo who puts out one publication after another. J.J. Popowich of Winnetka points out all the impossible hurdles we face and keeps telling us "it can't be done." It delights J.J. and us when we prove him wrong. Although his assessments have merit, he simply under estimates the level of personal sacrifice this group is willing to make to succeed.

This team has two goals; to educate our constituents about Neighborhood Councils and demonstrate what ordinary citizens like you can do to improve the quality of life for each other every day.

Mark Bernsley "a contributing Stakeholder" from Woodland Hills brings passion and ideas and Ed Youngblood of West Hills Neighborhood Council stokes the fire and keeps us seeing "the bigger picture." Stephen Naczinski of Woodland Hills is an organizing genius.

And every ant hill needs a worker ant. Lisa Cerda of Tarzana Neighborhood Council is our go to gal. Thanks to the bench warmers who will be called to service in the future, a few too many to name. Thanks also to our friends at the new Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, Publishing and Mail Services, Dept. of Aging, Dept. of Water & Powers, Jerry Kvasnicka - IEA and Councilman Zine's staff who caught our enthusiasm and helped or stepped aside when necessary.

The City should appreciate the sacrifice and hard work, the enthusiasm, and dedication, and their commitment to the stakeholders they serve. Bravo, to one and all. Job well done! This publication is fruits of their labor. Enjoy.

Outreach is the Key by J.J. Popowich, Winnetka Neighborhood Council

Reaching Out to the Community

Neighborhood Councils exist to represent the Stakeholders in our community. The WNC works very hard to reach out to the community to let them know that we are here for them to address their concerns and that we are here for them as a vehicle to learn about what's going on in their City government.

Event Participation

Board members have participated in a number of events in and around Winnetka including: Big Sunday, the Salute to Recreation in Reseda, National Night Out in Woodland Hills, and the Homeshow at the Staples Center. These events provide the Board members and volunteers who help the WNC an opportunity to meet new Stakeholders that may not come to meetings. You can usually find Board members staffing a table with literature about the WNC.

Connecting Through A New Website

In early 2007 the WNC launched a newly redesigned website. www.winnetkanc.com is a great way to stay connected to the Council and keep



abreast of what is going on. The website lists all the information you'll need for the Council including meeting locations (almost always at Valley Village in

Winnetka), minutes and agendas for the Board and Committee meetings and highlights of what's going on. You can also sign up to be included on our email list. In addition to receiving WNC News, you'll receive various articles and newsletters that we feel are important to keep stakeholders informed about what's going on. All you need to is visit www.winnetkanc.com.

Agenda Posting

Many Stakeholders may not know it but as an official part of the City of Los Angeles, the WNC is required to post meeting agendas in public locations to be in compliance with the Brown Act (a law which ensures that all government meetings are conducted in the open). While this is a requirement is also an excellent form of outreach.

Posting Locations

Stakeholders can visit any one of the following locations to see what meetings are coming up and what we'll be discussing: Albertsons (on the corner of Winnetka & Mason), Canoga Park Bowl (on the corner of Winnetka & Vanowen), Limerick Elementary School (on the corner of Chase & Limerick), Fulton Cleaners (on the corner of Winnetka & Roscoe), and Express Pack & Ship (next to the Winnetka Post Office). These business and schools have been kind enough to let us place our agenda and the WNC thanks them for being a community partner.

Get Involved

We're always looking for new ways to reach out to our Stakeholders. This is your Neighborhood Council and we need you to get involved so that we can represent your concerns. So stop by a meeting, join a committee, run as a candidate or keep your eyes out for us at the next event you attend...look for a big blue banner and the table with the WNC PSA video playing. We hope to see you soon!



Make Your Voice Heard

By Mark Bernsley*

It's easy to criticize and complain. There's always something our elected representatives seem to be doing that is somehow at least a little "off" from what we think ought to be going on. Over time, a tremendous sense of "disconnection" from government seemed to take over. It just doesn't seem like anybody "there" is listening.

Created By The City Charter

In 1999, a group of community activists and forward-thinking City of Los Angeles officials started collaboration together on a way to bridge the gap. What developed over the next two years through community input and a new voter-passed City Charter, was a system of local "Neighborhood Councils" ("NC's").

The NC's are an advisory group of representatives, elected by local communities within the City of Los Angeles to represent the views of those communities. Their missions are, to a large extent, what they decide it is. They are allocated a small budget that they can spend on various projects, although they serve without pay or other compensation. Their impact ultimately is what *we* make it. The NC's are, after all, a reflection of "us."

Making a Difference in the Community

The roles undertaken by NC's have ranged from small beautification projects to changes in the design and impact requirements imposed on City approval of multi-million construction projects impacting our local communities. NC's have also worked with City departments to help ensure that City services are being delivered in a manner responsive to the community's needs, such as helping to get neglected streets paved, and helping to solve local traffic safety problems. One of the most important roles NC's play is providing citizen oversight of City services like the DWP.

Thanks to NC's, your water and electricity rates are much lower today than what had been proposed.

Whether our NCs continue to serve our local interests with a voice that cannot be drowned out by paid lobbyists and special interest groups, depends upon our collective willingness to participate. Don't expect your neighbors to do it. Get your neighbors to do it with you. If you think you have a contribution to make, here is a forum in which to make it.

Your Suggestions Are Important

If you have other suggestions for how the NC can make a difference, that is one more reason for you to get involved.

I urge you to participate with your NC on as many levels as you can and are inspired to, and at least the last two mentioned here—voting and keeping connected. They are easy, yet meaningful things to do.

The first step is to open up a communication channel.

Our Stakeholder Registration form is a form for you to provide contact information to the NC. The information is not used to sell you stuff, but to enable the NC to keep you abreast of what is going on, and eventually to provide a way for you to keep the NC apprised of your thoughts and opinions on various issues.

For the form or more information, go to the NC website at www.winnetkanc.org or call the Councils main number. Fill it out indicating your areas of interest and submit that form! Help make Los Angeles City democracy work. Get involved with your NC, and vote!

* Mark Bernsley is an attorney and MBA in Woodland Hills and is a non-elected participant in the Woodland Hills Warner Center Neighborhood Council, and Chairs the 2007 Election Committee for that NC.

How You Can Participate

- ★ **RUN** for a position as a voting "member" of the council. Here you will, have the most direct impact on the direction and projects undertaken by the NC. For more information, including deadlines, go to the Winnetka Neighborhood Council website at www.winnetkanc.org.
- ★ **VOTE** in the NC elections coming up on November 8. By voting, you not only show support for the candidate for whom you vote, you also show your support and confidence in the democratic process. Don't let that process keep slipping away. Show City Hall that we won't be ignored. You will be able to vote in person or by mail. For further information, see the NC website at www.winnetkanc.org, the other articles in this newsletter.
- ★ **VOLUNTEER** your time contributing to one or more committees of the NC. You do not need to be an elected member of the NC to participate and help it run. Many of the most significant achievements of the NCs were spearheaded and driven by the efforts of those who were non-elected participants of the NCs.
- ★ **CONTRIBUTE** at NC meetings. They are open to the public and held in locally in the evenings; so it is about as easy and least intrusive as it gets to appear. If you have issues to suggest be addressed, this is a great place to start.
- ★ **CONNECT** with the community and city through your NC and stay connected. Imagine the strength of a presentation to the City Council saying that a particular opinion on an issue is verifiably shared by 78% of the community. That kind of clout only comes when people participate in their organizations. It means a lot. The only way for the NC to effectively present the views of the community is if people share their views with it.

WINNETKA COUNCIL SET TO ELECT 4 BOARD MEMBERS

By JJ Popowich

In many ways we are very lucky to live in the City of Los Angeles. Many large cities have governments that are insulated from the constituents that they serve. Let's face it, many working folks simply can't participate in government because government works during the day. Many others are prohibited by a variety of other issues including time and distance. But living in Winnetka, a part of the City of Los Angeles, you have the unique opportunity and a unique forum in the Neighborhood Council system that allows YOU to impact your community.

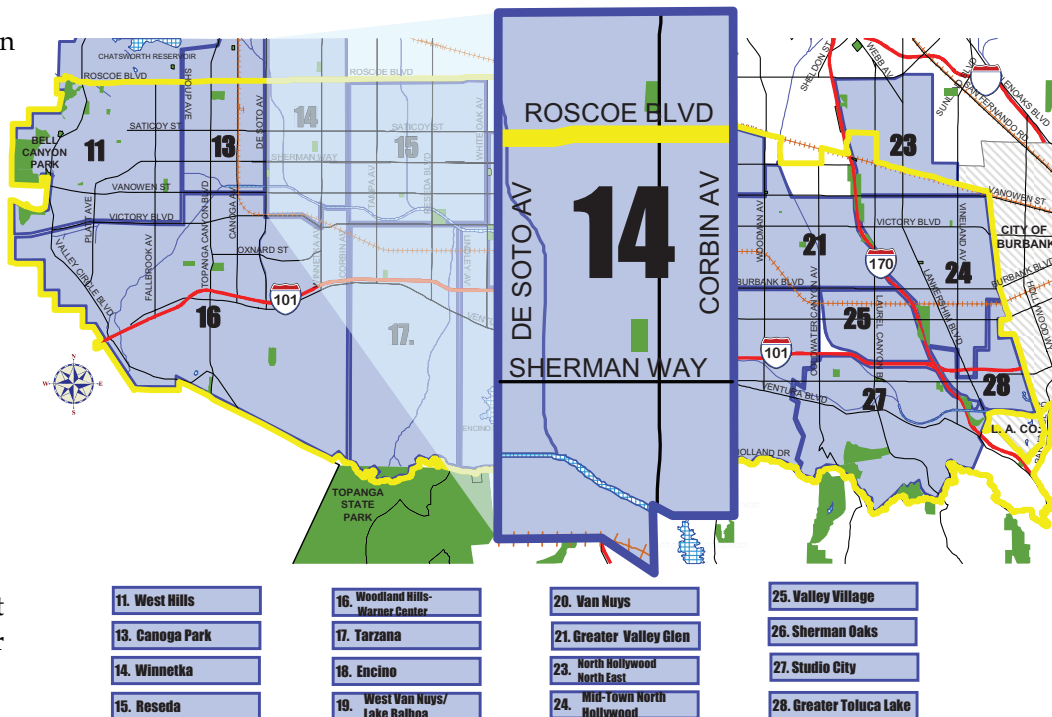
The Winnetka Neighborhood Council (WNC) will be holding elections to select four Board representatives on November 8th. This article will address all of the details concerning how to vote in the election and how to run for a board position.

The Election – When and Where?

The election will be held on November 8, 2007, at the Winnetka Convention Center located at Canoga Park Bowl, 20122 Vanowen St, Winnetka, CA 91306, from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m

The Neighborhood Council Board

The WNC Board consists of 15 seats. Eight Board members are "at-large" and elected directly by YOU. Seven seats are Stakeholders appointed by the 8 elected Board members. This year you have the opportunity to elect 4 "at-large" Board



Neighborhood Councils – South Valley Area

members. Board members serve for 2-year terms.

There is A Place and Job For Everyone On The Neighborhood Council

All Board members fully participate in the Board meetings which are held at least once a month. The majority of the NC's work is done through committees who report back to the Board.

Committees are made up of Board members and Stakeholders from the community. On the committees everyone is eligible to vote. Elected Board members are expected to serve on at least one committee. The WNC has the following

standing committees: Public Safety, Planning & Land Use Management, Public Works & Transportation, Finance Committee, Rules, Elections & By-Laws Committee, and an Interfaith Committee.

Stakeholders – Who Can Vote? Who Can Run?

You must be a "stakeholder" in order to be eligible to vote and to run. A "stakeholder" is an individual at least 16 years of age who "who lives, works, owns property, or is a member of any organization in the Winnetka neighborhood Area or Council Boundaries." You must be at least 18 years old to run for election. However, we do have an appointed Youth Representative position that is available

(cont'd on page 5)



Winnetka Neighborhood Council

Candidate Registration Form

Forma de Registración para Candidatura

Stakeholder Status (check one)

Status de Miembro de la Comunidad con Interés (marque uno)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Live within the WNC boundaries (list home address below) <i>Vivo dentro de las líneas demarcatorias del Consejo Vecinal de WNC (indique su dirección abajo)</i></p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Work within the WNC boundaries (provide name of employer and address) <i>Trabajo dentro de las líneas demarcatorias del Consejo Vecinal de WNC (propvee el nombre y dirección de empleador)</i></p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Own property within the WNC boundaries (provide address of property) <i>Dueño de Propiedad dentro de las líneas demarcatorias del Consejo Vecinal de WNC (propvee dirección de propiedad)</i></p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Participate within the WNC boundaries (community, non-profit or arts organization, faith based institution, schools (please name, describe and provide address) <i>Participo dentro de las líneas demarcatorias del Consejo Vecinal de WNC (ya sea en la comunidad, organizaciones no lucrativas, organizaciones de arte, instituciones religiosas (por favor dé el nombre, la dirección y descripción)</i></p>

Mailing Address Dirección

Print Name/Nombre el letra de Molde _____

Street Address/Dirección _____

City State ZIP/Ciudad, Estado, Código Postal _____

Phone (Day)/Teléfono (día) _____ (Eve) (tardé) _____

(Fax) _____ E-mail Correo Electrónico _____

At-Large Representative/ Representante en general

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury, that I am a Stakeholder within the boundaries of the WNC area, that I am 18 years of age or older, and that the information above is true.

Declaro bajo pena de perjuría que lo declarado es cierto y correcto, que soy persona con interes dentro de los límites del Consejo Vecinal de WNC y que tengo 18 años de edad o más.

Stakeholder Signature/Firma _____ Date/Fecha _____

Form must be received by/La forma debe ser recibida antes del: October 1, 2007

IEA, PO Box 41048, Los Angeles, CA 90041

FAX: 866.636.4441

Verified by: _____

Registrar: _____

Date/Fecha: _____

(cont'd from page 3)

Elections

for a youth stakeholder between the age of 16-18.

Stakeholders/Voters will complete a candidate filing form, selecting their board position, and affirming that all is true and correct and that they are a stakeholder within the boundaries of the Winnetka Neighborhood Council.

Learning About the Candidates – The Candidate Forum

In addition to the efforts of the candidates themselves in getting their message out, the WNC will undertake a variety of efforts to help inform stakeholders about the candidates. The council’s efforts will include the publication of candidate statements on the council’s website and in a newsletter, and Candidates’ Forum, where you, your neighbors and other stakeholders can come out and meet and hear directly from the candidates. This year’s Candidates’ Forums will be held at Valley Village, 20830 Sherman Way, Winnetka, CA 91306 on the following dates: October 24th & November 1st, at 6:30 PM.

Refreshments are planned and every effort is being made to make the event both an informative and enjoyable one.

Running for a Board Seat

If you are a stakeholder considering a run for a board seat, we urge you to do it. Sure, it takes a little time (plan on at least 10 hours or more a month). But the rewards are worth it. You could be on the vanguard of accomplishing what you and your neighbors never believed could be accomplished. You don’t need any special talents, just the desire to improve the community. Candidates interested in running have until October 1, 2007 to file. A Form to file as a candidate is reproduced at page 4 of this newsletter. The form can also be obtained by

downloading it from the council’s website at www.winnetkanc.com, or may be requested by calling 818-676-9766. Note again that the form must be received (not just postmarked) by October 1st to be timely.



October 1, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. is also the deadline for submission of candidate statements for inclusion in the WNC Newsletter “election issue,” so we urge you not to wait to the last minute to decide to run. Each candidate may submit a candidate statement of 150 words or

less; in addition candidates may submit a headshot photo in “.jpg” format. Candidate statements and photos will be posted on the WNC website and candidate statements will be printed and available for voters (photos may or may not be printed depending on available space). Statements will be edited only with the permission of the candidate. The statements should be submitted by e-mail to: secretary@winnetkanc.com, where candidate questions may also be sent.

The following events are scheduled for potential candidates:

Candidate Information Sessions will be held on September 10, 2007 at 6:30 PM, and September 24, 2007 at 6:30 PM. Both sessions will be held at Valley Village, 20830 Sherman Way, Winnetka, CA 91306. Additional information concerning the process and rules applicable to running for a board position and the election will be covered. If you are considering running for a board position, it is highly suggested that you attend one of these events.

As explained above, candidates will also have the opportunity to participate in the Candidates’ Forum. At the Forum, candidates will have an opportunity to make a brief “public” presentation to those attending, as well as to “mingle.” Details of how you can participate in the Candidate’s Forum will be discussed at

the Candidate Information Sessions and someone will be available to answer your questions at any WNC full Board meeting.

Election Process Oversight

The election process is directly overseen by a city-appointed Independent Election Administrator (IEA). The candidate receiving the most votes for a position will fill that Board position. In the event of a tie, the IEA will conduct a coin-toss to determine the winner. Remaining vacancies may be filled by the full new Board through an appointment process. Officers, who must be Board members, are elected by the full Board at the first Regular Board meeting following the certification of the election. Committee Chairs & Vice Chairs are also often appointed at this meeting.

The full statement of Election Procedures is available on the WNC website at www.winnetkanc.com.

Support Your Community

The Neighborhood Council exists for you. Participate by voting, by running for a board position, and by working with it to address the community’s needs and interests.

Election
November 8, 2007
4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m
Winnetka Convention Center
 located at
Canoga Park Bowl
20122 Vanowen St.
Winnetka, CA 91306

Winnetka Stakeholders Ignored by the LAUSD

A New Elementary School

The LAUSD recently approved the site selection of Sutter Middle School for the new location of Valley Region Elementary School #10 against the wishes of a large portion of the community of Winnetka and the WNC. The new elementary school is slated to be built on the northeast corner of the Sutter Middle School campus. The entrance to the school would be on the Leadwell Ave side.

WNC Takes a Position

In March of 2007, the WNC voted 11-0 to reaffirm our position against the placement of Valley Region Elementary School No. 10 on the grounds of Sutter Middle School. The WNC has been opposed to this project since its inception and we communicated our concerns in a June 2006 letter to the LAUSD School Board.

While the WNC is a very active supporter of the youth in our community we still have a responsibility

to our Stakeholders to be good stewards of our community. The Board took the position that there were too many detrimental affects to adding an elementary school on the same campus as a Middle School, and took the opportunity to point out at both LAUSD information meetings and in letters that there simply wasn't a need for a new elementary school.

WNC Board Has Concerns

The WNC shared the concerns of Stakeholders regarding the increased traffic, safety hazards to children due to the traffic and lack of adequate drop off and pick up locations at the existing school, in adequate space for playgrounds for both schools, the lack of adequate sound proofing for the existing Sutter class rooms to prevent playground noise from interrupting studies, and the abundance of unused seats at other local elementary schools.

In addition, the Board was very concerned about exposing younger children to the older middle school

students. While the campuses would technically be separated there are too many opportunities for children to interact around the campus. Stakeholders and Board members expressed the concerns of the already growing problem of gang and tagger activity emanating from Sutter.

LAUSD Disregards the Community

The Board joined the Winnetka Chamber of Commerce in objecting to the school. Unfortunately the LAUSD, which the City has no direct sway over, chose to ignore calls to reject the location. The LAUSD also refused to acknowledge the communities demand to hold LAUSD Board's vote on the site locally.

This blatant disregard for the community's wishes is a perfect example of why stakeholders need to be more involved in their Neighborhood Council. The more stakeholders we have who attend meetings and participate in what we do the greater impact we will have on the established political system.

An Innovative Approach to Community Involvement

We Are a Diverse Community

Winnetka is proud of the honor of being the "most ethnically diverse community in Los Angeles", a moniker bestowed upon Winnetka by former Mayor James Hahn. While some communities seem to be comprised of one particular ethnic or religious group, Winnetka is a mix of cultures, ideas, religions, and ethnicities that demonstrate what our great country is all about. We all live side by side and care about our community. The WNC believes in this concept so much that we adopted the moniker as our slogan.

The Interfaith Committee Is Born

Building on this idea the WNC took an innovative approach to Community Involvement by creating an Interfaith Committee in 2007. The goal behind this committee is to tap into the tremendous resources and experience of various faith based organizations in our community and work together to have a lasting impact. The committee consists of 13

seats, two held by Board members, and the remaining seats reserved for major faith based sectors in our community. To date the Committee has representatives of churches and temples from the Protestant, Jewish, Sikh, Hindu, Muslim, Baha'i, a representative from the Valley Interfaith Council, and a reserved seat for a representative from the LAPD's faith based community outreach.

The Board feels that there is a synergy between the efforts of the WNC and the various faith based organizations in our community to help others. By teaming up together we can better help direct community resources to where they are needed.

Your Ideas are Welcome

The committee is actively looking for ways to work together. Some ideas under discussion are Outreach efforts for the WNC to reach the various communities within Winnetka, cultural tours within the community and Los Angeles to

promote understanding and learn about our neighbors, sharing resources to help the Mayor's Million Tree Project, possible community clean up events and more.

Gang Intervention Discussion

The Interfaith Committee is also looking at the idea of holding a town hall or panel discussion with the WNC, the faith based organizations, and the various City departments focused on gang intervention. Committee Chair Armineh Chelebian summed up the idea as, "an event with the goal of saving our youth from exposure to crime and keeping them out of gangs."

The Interfaith Committee is another example of how NC's throughout Los Angeles are looking for innovative ways to address community issues. Together we can promote understanding, tolerance, and combine resources to make a positive impact for all members of our community.



Focusing on the Youth and our Future!

by J.J. Popowich, Winnetka Neighborhood Council

We Have Many Neighborhood Schools

Neighborhood Councils are reflections of the community and Stakeholders that they serve. Winnetka has a significant number of schools within our community. In fact Winnetka has at least four LAUSD elementary schools, one middle school, several Charter schools, and numerous private schools. It should come as no surprise that the Board places a high priority on looking after our youth.

WNC Supports Local Schools

In 2006, the Board authorized up to \$2200.00 to be distributed to the four elementary schools in Winnetka (Sunnybrae, Winnetka Elementary, Limerick, and Fulbright) for the purchase of books for the libraries. The schools were allowed to choose their own books and the WNC funded the purchase.

In 2006, the WNC also allocated \$2600.00 for the purchase of a new freezer for the Winnetka Childcare Center. This center is a city operated child care center located at Winnetka Park. The new freezer allowed the center to provide fresh foods to the children that previously had to be brought in from an outside vendor.

Big Sunday

The Board continued its efforts in May of this year by participating in the Mayor's Big Sunday event. This event brought together stakeholders in the community to complete various beautification projects at local schools. The WNC

provided labor from many Board members and purchased refreshments and supplies for the events at the Fulbright Elementary and Sutter Middle School.

The Latest Efforts

In June of this year the Board voted to authorize the expenditure of over \$2000.00 to support improvement projects at the Fulbright Elementary campus. The funds are earmarked for an artistic tile project at the entrance to the school and the cutting of tree wells in the playground so that the school can take advantage of the Mayor's Million Trees initiative and provide much needed shade for children.

The Board is also in discussions with Sunnybrae Elementary School to help fund some much needed improvement projects on their campus. Some ideas in discussion are re-planting a campus garden, improvements to the walkway at the entrance and installation of concrete benches under trees for children to sit on.

Winnetka Recreation Center

Our focus on the youth hasn't only been with the local schools. For two years running, the Board has also supported the Winnetka Recreation Center's annual Halloween event. This event provides a fun but safe Halloween experience for the children in our community. Past events have included costume parades and contests, arts and craft booths, games and of course trick or treating.

Safety Issues

The WNC has also focused on safety issues concerning children. In past years we've teamed up with the California Highway Patrol to purchase cameras for traffic enforcement near schools. The CHP has an innovative program where they will film traffic violations near schools and then issue citations. With the increased traffic flow on many of our local streets, like Winnetka Ave, near Sutter Middle school there is a tremendous increase in the risk to our children.

Continuing the focus on safety of our youth we've also provides significant funding to the Los Angeles District Attorney's "No Secrets" Program. Funding from the WNC has gone towards the purchase of presentation equipment and supplies for this program which is an education seminar put on by the DA's office to make parents aware of valuable resources to help protect their children from abuse.

More to Come

The WNC continues to look for other worthy projects to support the youth in our community and to assist our local schools. The youth in our community are so important that we have a reserved appointed seat on our Board for a youth between the ages of 16-18. We encourage all Stakeholders to get involved in their local schools and to join the WNC in protecting and developing our children. Why not run for a seat on the Board today or join a committee and volunteer.



CERT Trains Neighbors to Help Neighbors When Disaster Strikes

You can be a part of this important effort!

by Bill Anderson, Area 3 Residential Alternate, Woodland Hills-Warner Center NC

Natural Disasters Are a Fact of Life and of Concern to All Southern Californians.

Recent events such as August's Chatsworth earthquake and the summer long Zaca Wildfire have brought even greater focus to such questions as: "How will we cope when disaster strikes? Will aid be available in time?" Add to this the continuing threat of terrorist attack and our level of concern rises even higher. Fortunately, in many neighborhoods help may be right next door. What's more, you can learn to provide such assistance.

CERT Is an Essential Community Resource

The Community Emergency Response Team program (CERT) provides Stakeholder Volunteers with the skills needed to assist their neighborhoods should a disaster occur. "CERT is our first line of defense against the chaos and loss of life that calamity can create," commented Misho Stawnychy, a CERT trained member of the Woodland Hills Warner Center Neighborhood Council's Public Safety, Traffic, and Emergency Preparedness Committee. "The Neighborhood Councils throughout the South Valley (Canoga Park, Reseda, Tarzana, West Hills, Winnetka, and Woodland Hills), wholeheartedly support this program and urge all interested citizens to get involved."

The WNC recognizes the need for CERT training for as many member's of our community as possible. In late 2006, we held our first CERT training class at Valley Village and look forward to holding more

in the future. "In a major disaster the LA Fire Department and LAPD just won't be able to handle everyone's needs," commented JJ Popowich, WNC President. "CERT members are trained to be there in those situations. Take the time to get trained now before it's too late."

What is CERT Training?

Created by the Los Angeles Fire Dept. in the mid 1980's, the CERT program provides ordinary people with emergency preparedness training, including basic disaster response skills (such as fire safety), light search and rescue skills, team organization, and knowledge of disaster medical operations. CERT members are trained to provide assistance in the event that professional responders are not immediately available.

Level 1 Training

CERT's basic training program, Level 1, consists of 17½ hours of workshops taught one day per week for seven weeks.

- Class 1 – Introduction, Earthquake Awareness
- Class 2 – Disaster Fire Suppression Techniques
- Class 3 – Disaster Medical Operations (session 1)
- Class 4 – Disaster Medical Operations (session 2) and Multi-Casualty Incidents
- Class 5 – Light Search & Rescue Operations
- Class 6 – Team Organization & Disaster Psychology
- Class 7 – Terrorism & Homeland Defense

This initial course is followed by full-day biannual refresher drills, and an opportunity to assist the Los Angeles Fire Department at local incidents. Upon completion of the initial course sequence, volunteers are assigned to a "Call-Out Team" which will be dispersed to a disaster area as the need arises. Call-Out Team members are also expected to put their skills to use in their own neighborhoods as required.

Level 1 CERT training is provided free of charge within the city of Los Angeles to anyone age 18 and over.

NCs Take the Lead to Form CERT Teams

The Neighborhood Councils of the South Valley believe that the safety and security of Stakeholders is of paramount concern. Neighborhood Councils are taking the lead in creating CERT teams that will cover every block in each Neighborhood Council district. We are working with the Los Angeles Fire Department to create group classes for Stakeholders throughout our districts who wish to be a part of this important effort. Each class must have a minimum of 25 participants.

You Can Be a CERT Trained Volunteer

If you are interested in signing up for one of the Neighborhood Council CERT classes, or have questions about the program, email us at secretary@winnetka.org.

To receive enrollment information for CERT training, please include your name, address, email address, telephone number, and how many adults in your household interested in taking the training. We will contact you with class information in your area.

"CERT training is one the most important and satisfying things any of us will ever do," said Garth Carlson, Chairman of the Reseda Neighborhood Council. "I urge everyone to avail yourself of this vital educational experience. The lives you save could be those most dear to you."

“Blue Bins” Now Accepting Styrofoam & All Plastic Products

by Bill Anderson, Area 3 Residential Alternate

Woodland Hills /West Valley residents, including apartment dwellers, now have greater flexibility with the items that they can place in their Blue Bins. As of July 1st, the City of Los Angeles' Recycling Program became the first such large city program in the nation to accept polystyrene foam (popularly known as Styrofoam®). Additionally, consumers can now put in their Blue Bins, the full range consumer plastic products (designations 1 through 7).

Convenient & Environmentally Friendly

Long the bane of the environmentally conscious consumers, like NC Area 4 Res. Alternate Mike Gwaltney, Styrofoam® has become a reusable resource with a growing recycling market. The inclusion of Styrofoam in the Los Angeles City recycling program both provides residents with greater convenience and is a boon to the environment, reducing the both the tonnage that must to go into landfills and the creation of green house gas. As Michael Salomon, Chair of the Public Works, Street Services & Projects Committee for the WHWCNC notes, “Less energy is needed to recycle Styrofoam® than to manufacture it.” A decrease in landfill tonnage is critical as the Los Angeles Sanitation Department estimates that the City generates over 3,700 tons of non-recyclable refuse daily.

In addition to Styrofoam®, Woodland Hills Residents can now recycle all consumer items made of plastic. Such items are labeled by the manufacturer according to the type of plastic used, in code designations “1” through “7,” including empty plastic containers, plastic bags, film bags, and food trays. Before July 1st, the City those labeled with codes 1, 2, and 4 were deemed recyclable. Now, all seven plastic designations can be put into the Blue bins.

Blue Bin - What You *Can* Recycle

- **All Clean Dry Paper**

Computer, ledger, wrapping, arts and craft paper, unwanted mail, flyers, telephone books, note cards, newspaper, blueprints, magazines, file folders, paper bags, Post-it notes, catalogs; and all envelopes including those with windows

- **All Cardboard Boxes and Chipboard**

Cereal, tissue, dry food, frozen food, shoe, and detergent boxes; paper and toilet rolls; corrugated boxes broken down and flattened

- **All Aluminum, Tin, Metal, and Bi-Metal Cans** (rinsed, if possible)

Soda, juice, soup, vegetables, and pet food cans; pie tins; clean aluminum foils; empty paint and aerosol cans with plastic caps removed, and wire hangers

- **All Glass Bottles and Jars** (rinsed, if possible)

Soda, wine, beer, spaghetti sauce, pickle jars, broken bottles, etc

- **All Clean Plastics** (designations 1 – 7)

- **Empty Plastic Containers** (rinsed, if possible)

Juice, detergent, bleach, shampoo, lotion, mouthwash, dish-washing liquid bottles, milk jugs, tubs for margarine and yogurt, plastic planters, food and blister packaging, rigid clamshell packaging, etc.

- **All Plastic Bags and All Film Bags**

Grocery bags, dry cleaner bags, and all clean film plastic

- **All Clean Styrofoam®**

Styrofoam® cups, containers, and packaging such as egg shell cartons, block packaging, and clamshell packaging

Black Bin - What You *Can't* Recycle

If these items are placed in the Blue Bins, other clean materials may be contaminated. Residents must ensure that all items are clean and free from contaminants.

- **Contaminated Paper**

All soiled papers or bags with oils and food waste

- **Broken Glass**

Window glass, mirror glass, auto glass, light bulbs, fluorescent lights & ceramics

- **Other Plastic**

Plastic hygienic items, any electric or battery operated toys

- **Miscellaneous Materials**

Coated milk cartons, electrical cords, cloth/fabric, appliances, mini blinds, kitchen utensils, lawn furniture, garden hoses, rubber tires, construction materials, including asphalt or concrete, wood and wood products



Hazardous Materials • • Never Place in Blue, Black or Green Bins!

Save the following items for one of the “Toxic Waste Roundup” weekend events held throughout the area, often at Pierce College (call 311 to find the next one):

Computers, monitors, televisions, electronic parts, fluorescent lights, tires syringes, batteries (including car batteries, household batteries, rechargeable batteries), pesticides, oil based paint, garden chemicals, and pool cleaners



Your WHWCNC Reached Out on National Night Out!

by Nancy Eisenhart, Area 4 At-Large, Alternate,
Woodland Hills-Warner Center NC

National Night Out? This might sound like a night the parents can leave the kids at home, or a time to go out and party. In truth, it's a night to bring the kids and it is a night to party – to celebrate the heroes of our local law enforcement agency whose work is to keep us and our communities safe from crime.

It's Not New

National Night Out (NNO) began in 1984 as "America's Night Out Against Crime." It has grown to involve over 34 million people from more than 10,000 communities, and is held on the first Tuesday in August across the United States. NNO promotes involvement in crime, gang, and drug prevention activities, strengthening police and community relations, and encouraging Neighborhood Watch as part of the fight for a safer community.

A Partnership with Senior Lead Officers

National Night Out is a partnership between the Senior Lead Office of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and the community. It is an event that provides informational booths that are staffed by our West Valley officers and volunteer organizations. It is a unique

opportunity to have direct contact with law enforcement.

Each division of the LAPD has a Senior Lead Office. Our West Valley Division has ten Senior Lead Officers (SLO) who are assigned to the seven communities of the West Valley; Canoga Park, Encino, Reseda, Tarzana, West Hills, Winnetka, and Woodland Hills.

The SLO provides a direct contact between the police and the community. They encourage community involvement in Neighborhood Watch to help make the West Valley a safer place to live. The Senior Lead Officer knows your area and is able to assist in resolving problems that may arise.

The SLO for Winnetka is Rachel Raigoza. Her Office # is (818) 374-7631 & Blackberry # is (818) 731-2568.

A Great Turnout This Year

This year's National Night Out activities had something for everyone. Winnetka Neighborhood Council's elected representatives chatted with Stakeholders and learned of their interests and concerns for the community, signed up volunteers interested in Community Emergency Response classes.

The children enjoyed the giant slide, face painter, balloon artist, and the rock climb

that was provided by the U.S. Army.

There was an extremely successful booth for child fingerprinting. Our Senior Lead Officers involved the children in skits about bike safety and "stranger danger," and danced with them on stage. They learned first hand that the police officer is their friend.

Neighborhood Councils, including the Woodland Hills-Warner Center Neighborhood Council, volunteer and service organizations, CHP, Fire Dept., and LAPD. Special Units were all represented. Hot dogs, chili dogs, chips, and drinks were provided free, as well as nylon bags imprinted with the West Valley Division slogan, "Community Awareness is the Key to Crime Prevention." Target, the national sponsor for NNO provided prizes for our free drawing among other support.

This all free event was made possible due to the generosity of local Neighborhood Councils, City Councilmembers Dennis P. Zine, Greig Smith, and Jack Weiss, local businesses, and Target.

The Winnetka Neighborhood Council is proud to be a sponsor and participant. Save the date: August 12, 2008! To get involved go to _____ or call _____



Using Technology to Fight Crime

Surveillance cameras will be mounted to street light poles through-out West Valley Division, targeting high crime and problem areas.

by Senior Lead Officer Brent Rygh, West Valley LAPD & Lisa Cerda, Tarzana Neighborhood Council

NCs Take On Crime Prevention

Local Neighborhood Councils, City Councilman Dennis P. Zine, and the West Valley B.O.O.S.T.E.R.S, are working with the West Valley Division of the Los Angeles Police Department to set up a surveillance camera program to be used in the areas of Reseda, Tarzana, West Hills, Woodland Hills, Winnetka, Canoga Park and Encino.



This program will allow specially trained officers to monitor problem areas from a specially designed control room. Officers will be able to monitor suspicious activity and send patrol cars to stop criminals.

Cameras Can Be Relocated in the Area

These remote controlled camera systems are designed to be easily relocated from one problem area to another and use the latest wireless technology to stream high resolution footage from anywhere in the division back to the control room. The cameras pan, tilt, and zoom enabling officers to track suspects, get pictures of faces, and provide video evidence for court. The initial plans call for 14 cameras and may be expanded in the future.

Community Cameras Join In

In addition to the city cameras, there are also numerous businesses and community members that have made their individual surveillance systems accessible via Internet to officers to provide additional

investigative tools to catch criminals and get them off the streets.

A Proven Program

The success of similar surveillance camera programs in 6 other LAPD divisions has proven that technology is a necessary tool in preventing crime. This technology has also become an invaluable investigative tool in the prosecution of criminals by documenting the crimes they commit on video.

Using Street Furniture Funds

The Neighborhood Councils helped fund the project by each NC voting to allocate \$20,000.00 from the "Street Furniture Fund". These funds come from fees associated with the placement of advertising on street furniture such as bus stop shelters.

The Neighborhood Councils have provided funding for digital cameras for patrol units as well. The safety of our community is a priority for the Neighborhood Councils who partner with LAPD.



License Plate Readers

West Valley Division police officers are also using 2 vehicles equipped with state of the art license plate readers (LPR) that instantly alert officers to stolen cars and wanted suspects. The equipment was all donated to the Police Department by Westfield (1 LPR) and the West Valley B.O.O.S.T.E.R.S. (1 LPR and 1 vehicle).

These efforts act as a "Force Multiplier" with more eyes on more areas in our fight against crime.

The Neighborhood Prosecutor Program

The Neighborhood Prosecutor Program was created to advance the City Attorney's goal of making Los Angeles a safer City through crime prevention and the effective prosecution of criminals. The program is driven by the understanding that the ability to respond to neighborhood complaints and address criminal problems proactively is critical to preserving the quality of life in our neighborhoods. Prosecutors and law enforcement officers throughout the criminal justice system agree that when minor acts of civic disorder continue unchecked, a corresponding increase in serious crime inevitably occurs. The Neighborhood Prosecutor Program aims to identify, prioritize, and address criminal problems proactively before they are able to grow into serious offenses and larger problems that can lead to urban decay in our communities.

The Neighborhood Prosecutors will identify and refer nuisance abatement cases to the existing Citywide Nuisance Abatement Program (CNAP) and will also pursue criminal prosecution of those quality of life offenses that the community has identified as significant problems

Neighborhood Prosecutor Program -
877-LA CARES (877-522-2737)
English and Spanish

Citywide Nuisance Abatement
Program ("CNAP") 310-575-8934
English and Spanish
or CALL 3-1-1 toll-free

Neighborhood Councils Joined in at Concerts in the Park on July 4th.

Combine balmy summer evenings with great entertainment, an extensive food court, ample room for a picnic blanket and what do you have?

It is Woodland Hills' best kept secret, Concerts in the Park.

Founded in 1975 to bring arts and culture to the San Fernando Valley, Valley Cultural Center sponsored free Sunday concerts where this season around 140,000 Valley residents enjoyed the lovely venue, the great entertainment, and a chance to visit with old and new friends – and even get acquainted with some dogs who love the canine-friendly Concerts.

In addition this season the Valley Cultural Center began sponsoring Saturday night Movies in the Park as well as Monday Morning Concerts for Children at the nearby Madrid Theatre.

Our Woodland Hills/Warner Center Neighborhood Council sponsored a booth at the fourteen Sunday night concerts as part of its community outreach program. Neighborhood Council members volunteered their time to answer questions about the role of the neighborhood councils in LA, collect

signatures of Stakeholders who have an interest in serving on committees and/or spearheading various community projects, and just people invested in making our community a better place.

Our youngest Stakeholders received beach balls when their parents signed up to receive email notifications about local events and committee meetings.

It was definitely a successful opportunity for our Woodland Hills/Warner Center Neighborhood Council to expand our outreach into our community.



Winnetka Neighborhood Council

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