


**Greig Smith**

## Councilman Greig Smith's WEEKLY BRIEFING

Recent Legislation, Community News and Upcoming Events

[www.CD12.org](http://www.CD12.org)

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Chatsworth, Encino,  
Granada Hills, Lake  
Balboa, North Hills,  
Northridge, Porter  
Ranch, Reseda, West  
Hills, West Van Nuys,  
Winnetka

[District 12 Map](#)

### Committee Assignments

Jobs, Business  
Growth & Tax  
Reform  
Chair

Budget & Finance  
Member

Public Safety  
Vice Chair

Public Works  
Member

Ad Hoc RENEW LA  
Chair

Ad Hoc Stadium  
Member



[Learn about  
Councilman  
Greig Smith's  
RENEW LA plan to  
increase recycling  
and lead Los  
Angeles out of  
landfills](#)



[Upcoming  
Events](#)

**Feb. 26, 2009**

Email [Councilmember.Smith@lacity.org](mailto:Councilmember.Smith@lacity.org) to request official City services or information, and please include your address.

## COMMUNITY NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

### Hats Off to Jerry Askew for Proactive Community Service...



Jerry Askew holds up a photo of one of the many illegal signs he has removed and the forms he uses to document them for the Bureau of Street Services.

Illegally posted paper signs on utility poles and other public infrastructure are a very unfortunate visual blight in our district.

Jerry Askew, a resident of Granada Hills and member of Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council, has made it his mission to remove as many of them as possible. His efforts are a great example of how community members can be proactive in helping keep our neighborhoods clean, tidy and welcoming.

Jerry had always been irritated by the unsightly paper signs covering utility poles in our neighborhoods. So he signed up for the illegal sign removal crew during our Sept. 27, 2008 Community Service Partnership Project clean-up day.

After a brief training session led by a Bureau of Street Services officer, he and the crew spent the day

documenting and taking down dozens of illegal signs all across our District. The completed forms, with descriptions of the signs and photos are submitted to Bureau of Street Services and the sign owners are charged for the sign removal.

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**Saturday Feb. 28  
Granada Hills  
Library Used Book  
Sale**

The Friends of the Granada Hills Library is holding a used book sale.

Many paperbacks, hardcovers, fiction and non-fiction books for all age groups will be available at very low prices.

9 am - 1 pm  
Granada Hills Library  
10640 Petit Ave.  
(Corner of  
Chatsworth St.)  
Granada Hills

Proceeds benefit books and programs at the Granada Hills Library branch.

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**Feb. 28 -  
March 29  
Beginner's Fly  
Fishing Class**

Sierra Pacific Flyfishers, a San Fernando Valley-based non-profit organization, is holding fly casting classes on Saturdays through February and and March.

Casting Classes are February 28, March 7, March 14 and March 27, 28 and 29.

For more info call Steve Ebersold at (818) 439-0556 or Paul Riegert at (818) 363-5863, email [ranniebee@aol.com](mailto:ranniebee@aol.com), or visit [www.spff.org](http://www.spff.org).

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"This was what got me more involved in the community service and working with the Neighborhood Council in the first place," Jerry said. He now serves on the Board of the Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council.

He continues to patrol the Granada Hills area removing signs several times a week. Jerry is planning to organize training sessions with Bureau of Street Services staff so that more residents can get trained and form groups to go out regularly and remove illegal signs.

For more information, email [jaskew@ghsnc.org](mailto:jaskew@ghsnc.org).

***Keep up the good work!***

**Devonshire PALS Youth Center Well Under Way...**

We are proud to report that construction on the new LAPD Devonshire PALS (Police Activity League Supporters) Community Youth Center is well under way in Northridge.

We broke ground on the PALS Center Thursday, June 5 with a community celebration. We were joined by Police Officers, residents, community groups, Board Members of Devonshire PALS, and many of the young people in the PALS and Police Explorers programs who will benefit from the center.



Construction on the Councilman Greig Smith LAPD Devonshire Area Youth Center in Northridge is well under way.

The Devonshire PALS programs offer local, at-risk youth constructive alternatives to gangs and crimes, through mentoring, education, work training, sports and other activities. It also helps build constructive relationships between the Police and the community.

**Household Hazardous Waste and Electronic Waste  
Collection Event...**

You can drop off your Household Hazardous Waste and Electronic Waste for free at a collection event Saturday, Feb. 28, and Sunday, March 1 at Pratt & Whitney in Canoga Park.



**Saturday, Feb. 28  
Sunday, March 1**

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Pratt & Whitney

De Soto Parking Lot

De Soto Ave. & Gresham St. (1 block south of Nordhoff St.)

Chatsworth

**You May Bring:**

Paint, used motor oil and filters and other

**March 12 - 26  
Free Training for  
Community Based  
Organizations**

The City is offering free "Capacity Builds L.A." training sessions. The program is meant to enhance the capacity of existing organizations and to instruct people interested in creating a new community-based organization.

At Youth Opportunity Movement Boyle Heights Technology Center  
1600 E. 4th Street,  
Los Angeles

**Thursday, Feb. 26**  
Marketing Your  
Organization

**Thursday,  
March 12**  
Proposal Writing

**Thursday,  
March 26**  
Fundraising &  
Sustainability  
Planning

**For Executive  
Directors and  
Board Members:  
Wednesday, March  
18 & Thursday,  
March 19**  
Social Enterprise &  
Earned Income

Reservations are required. All sessions are 9:00 am to 4:30 pm. Breakfast and lunch are provided. For info call Maricela Hernandez at (213) 744-9307 or email [Maricela.Hernandez@lacity.org](mailto:Maricela.Hernandez@lacity.org) or [click here.](#)

**Saturday March 7**

automotive chemicals, household, garden and pool chemicals, expired medication, batteries, fluorescent lightbulbs, used syringes, and electronic devices such as TVs, computers, cell phones and electronic toys.

**You May NOT Bring:**

Tires, explosives, ammunition, radioactive or biological waste and bulky items such as furniture or major appliances.

*The collection event is canceled in case of rain. For more information, call (800) 988-6942.*

**1970 CSUN Team Inducted Into CSUN Hall of Fame...**

In 1970, the baseball team of CSUN (then called Valley State College) won the the NCAA College World Series. The 1970 CSUN baseball team will be inducted into the CSUN Hall of Fame at ceremony on Sunday, March 1 in Woodland Hills.

Some of the members of the 1970 CSUN baseball team still reside in our District, including Coach Robert Hiebert, Brian Ford, and Dave Leveque.

The members of the team have remained friends through the years and their children have gone to school and played baseball together. All but one of the original teammates will be on hand for the induction ceremony.

**Sunday, March 1**

Warner Center Marriott  
Canoga Ave. & Victory Blvd.  
Woodland Hills  
Reception - 11:00 am  
Lunch and induction ceremony: 12:00 pm  
Tickets: \$50

*To reserve, please call (800) 228-9290. For more information, contact the CSUN Dept. of Special Events at (818) 677-5473 or at [bridget.sullivan@csun.edu](mailto:bridget.sullivan@csun.edu).*

***Congratulations!***

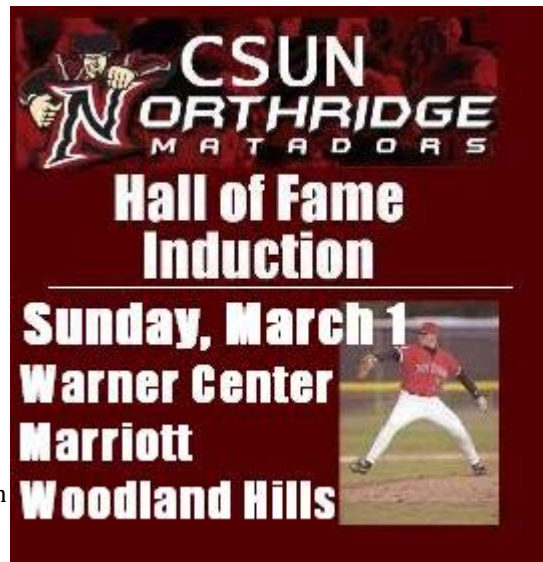
**Business Tax Renewal Information...**



The City's 2009 business tax renewal period began on January 1, 2009 and ends on March 2, 2009. L.A. area business owners should note:

**Rate Reduction**

Most businesses will receive a 3.9% reduction of their business taxes in 2009 - the final phase



### Used Motor Oil Collection Event

Residents can drop off used motor oil and used motor oil filters at this free collection event.

It is illegal to dispose of chemicals such as used motor oil in the regular trash.

The used motor oil collected at the event will be properly disposed of to keep it out of the environment.

9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
At Anheuser-Bush  
Haskell Ave. parking lot  
(Haskell Ave., south of Roscoe Blvd.)

55 gallon per person limit.

For info call Daniel Meyers at (213) 485-3774.

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### Saturday, May 16 SOLID Pancake Breakfast

Don't miss the annual SOLID Pancake Breakfast. Enjoy delicious, home-made pancakes served up by our local police officers. Proceeds benefit SOLID (Supporters of Law Enforcement in Devonshire), a non-profit group that provides non City-supplied equipment for the police officers at Devonshire Division.

7:30am - 10:30am  
At Devonshire  
Community Police  
Station  
10250 Etiwanda  
Ave.

of the 15% cut in business taxes that was approved in 2004.

### Business Tax Exemptions

Small Businesses with total annual gross receipts under \$100,000 and creative artists with total gross receipts under \$300,000 may be tax exempt. To qualify for an exemption, the business tax return must be filed by March 2, 2009. For details on eligibility call (213) 473-5901.

### E-filing...Save Time, Effort and Postage!

E-filing is available on the Office of Finance website to make filing faster and easier for registered taxpayers. The system can automatically calculate your business taxes. You can pay on-line or print a renewal form to mail in with your payment. Even if no tax is due, you must submit a completed renewal form by March 2 to qualify for an exemption.

*All of this information and more can be found at the Office of Finance website at [www.lacity.org/finance](http://www.lacity.org/finance).*

### San Fernando Valley Jaycees Host Involvement Expo ...

The San Fernando Valley Jaycees are holding their 3rd Annual Involvement Expo to give San Fernando Valley residents an opportunity to learn about the many ways they can dedicate their time and energy to community service, on Monday, March 2 in Sherman Oaks.

Each of the 40 non-profit organizations participating will highlight their programs and services, and attendees can learn about the activities of the non-profits as well as community needs. Students seeking community service opportunities for school credit are encouraged to attend.

**Monday, March 2**  
**4:00 pm - 7:00 pm**  
**Sherman Oaks Galleria Plaza Area**  
**15301 Ventura Blvd., Sherman Oaks**

This free event features guest speakers Councilmember Dennis P. Zine and LAUSD Board Member Tamar Galatzan.

The San Fernando Valley Jaycees is a community-based organization of young leaders involved in networking, leadership development and community service.

*For more information, call Vickie Bourdas at (818) 486-9603 or email [president@sfvjaycees.org](mailto:president@sfvjaycees.org) or visit [www.sfvjaycees.org](http://www.sfvjaycees.org).*

**Jaycees  
Involvement  
Expo**

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**Monday, March 2**  
**4 pm - 7 pm**  
**Sherman Oaks  
Galleria  
Plaza Area**  
**15301 Ventura Blvd.**  
**Sherman Oaks**

### Sample Ballots for March 3 City Elections Available Online...

Northridge

For more info visit  
[www.soliddev.org](http://www.soliddev.org).

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## Ongoing

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### Volunteers Needed for City Crisis Response Team

The City is recruiting community members to volunteer for the Crisis Response Team (CRT).

At the request of Police and Fire Departments, CRT members provide immediate on-scene crisis intervention, attend to survival and comfort needs, act as liaisons between victims and emergency personnel, and give referrals to victims and their families affected by a death, a serious injury, a violent crime or other traumatic incidents.

New member training will take place on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, Jan. 27 through March 12, 2009 at the L.A. Police Academy in Westchester.

Bilingual volunteers who speak Spanish or Korean are especially needed.

For info or to register for the training, call (213) 978-0697 or email [LACRT@lacity.org](mailto:LACRT@lacity.org).

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With the March 3 City elections rapidly approaching, voters need to be able to read their sample ballots with enough time to make informed decisions.

Sample ballots and the location of your local polling place are available online at [www.lavote.net/locator](http://www.lavote.net/locator).

The Department of Transportation will relax parking restrictions within one block of all City polling places on election day, Tuesday, March 3.

#### Within one block of City Polling Places:

- No money is required at City parking meters.
- Time limits at parking meters will not be enforced.
- Street Cleaning parking restrictions will not be enforced.
- Preferential Parking restrictions (permit parking) will not be enforced.

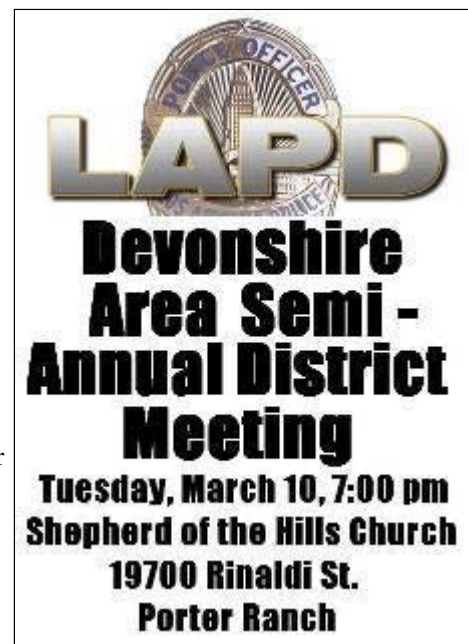
## Save the Date for the Devonshire Area Semi-Annual District Meeting...

Join Devonshire Capt. Sean Kane, Capt. Steven Ruiz, and the Senior Lead Officers at Devonshire Division who are keeping our community safe, at the Devonshire Area Semi-Annual District Meeting, Tuesday, March 10 in Porter Ranch.

**Tuesday, March 10**  
**7:00 pm**  
**Shepherd of the Hills Church**  
**19700 Rinaldi St., Porter Ranch**

Join this community meeting to discuss public safety issues affecting our neighborhoods. The topic of this community meeting is, "What influences your children when they are out of your sight?"

*For more information, contact Erica De Smith at (818) 363-1726.*



## Ride On Therapeutic Horsemanship Celebrates 15 Years and 50,000 Lessons...



Ride On Therapeutic Horsemanship will be celebrating 15 years of service to the disabled and the community, on Saturday

**Through June 2009  
After-School  
Programs at  
Granada Hills  
Recreation Center**

This bus pick-up program offers young students help with homework, and activities such as crafts and games after school.

2:30 pm - 6 pm  
Granada Hills  
Recreation Center  
16730 Chatsworth St.  
Granada Hills  
For more info call  
Dwayne Finley (818)  
363-3556

**Donate DVDs to  
Benefit Veterans**

DVDs4Vets is a non-profit organization that collects new and used DVDs and donates them to wounded soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Many of these veterans have physical and economic hardships that make it difficult for them to obtain some of the basic entertainment that most civilians take for granted.

In the last year, DVDs4Vets has delivered over 38,000 DVDs to various V.A. Hospitals, homes, centers and clinics for veterans.

For more information on how to donate DVDs, visit [www.DVDs4Vets.org](http://www.DVDs4Vets.org).

**[Councilman  
Greig Smith Links](#)**

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**[Monthly Column](#)**

March 28 at their new ranch and permanent home in Chatsworth.

Everyone is welcome to attend this free event. Enjoy a free pancake breakfast and tour the new facility. A ribbon and cake-cutting ceremony will take place at 11:00 am to celebrate 50,000 lessons given and the promise of many years of service to come at Ride On's new ranch.

**Saturday, March 28**  
9:00 am to 2:00 pm  
Ride On Ranch  
10860 Topanga Canyon Blvd.  
Chatsworth

Ride On has specialized facilities, specially trained horses, and highly trained staff that offer therapeutic horsemanship to people with disabilities.

For more information, call Sara Jones at Ride On at (818) 700-2971 or visit <http://www.rideon.org>.

**Donate Blankets to Provide Comfort to Shelter Animals  
Awaiting Adoption...**

"Blankets of Love," a volunteer effort by Granada Hills resident Eileen Smulson, collects donated towels and blankets and delivers them to L.A. area animal shelters to help keep the animals warm and comfortable.

There is little funding at animal shelters for such items, but they do make a difference in the animals' care. Since it was launched a year ago, Blankets of Love has collected thousands of donated blankets and towels and distributed them to L.A. animal shelters.

**Drop Off Locations in Council District 12:**

**Red Barn Feed** - 10142 Balboa Blvd.,  
Granada Hills

**North Valley Veterinary Clinic** - 11152  
Balboa Blvd., Granada Hills

**The Pet People** - 18040 Chatsworth St.,  
Granada Hills

**Red Barn Feed** - 8393 Topanga Cyn. Blvd.,  
West Hills

**Jan's Pet Grooming & Pet Zone** - 17629  
Chatsworth St., Granada Hills

**The Puppy Palace** - 11156 Balboa Blvd., Granada Hills

**Prestige Pet Supply** - 18425 Nordhoff St., Northridge

**Knollwood Pharmacy** - 11862 Balboa Blvd., Granada Hills

To find out our more locations where you can drop off towels or blankets in the San Fernando Valley, email [eileenobol@aol.com](mailto:eileenobol@aol.com).



**Operation  
Blankets of Love**

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[Northridge West](#)

[Porter Ranch](#)

[North Hills West](#)

[Reseda](#)

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[Winnetka](#)

[Lake Balboa](#)

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12 Chambers of  
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[Granada Hills](#)

[North Valley Regional](#)

**Save the Date for "Tip-A-Cop" Dinner to Support Special Olympics...**



Councilman Smith, an LAPD Reserve Officer, serving patrons at a previous Tip-A-Cop dinner.

**Tip-A-Cop**  
**Thursday, April 16**  
**5 pm - 9 pm**  
**Claim Jumper Restaurant**  
**Tampa & Plummer**  
**Northridge**

Mark your calendar for the upcoming Tip-A-Cop dinner at the Claim Jumper Restaurant in Northridge, Thursday, April 16 and help raise funds to support the Special Olympics!

**Thursday, April 16, 2009**

5:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Claim Jumper Restaurant  
at Northridge Fashion Center  
9429 Tampa Ave.

(Corner Tampa and Plummer St.)  
Northridge

Local Police Officers will wait tables for guests at the restaurant, with all tips going to the Special Olympics. The last Northridge Tip-a-Cop event raised the most funds of any Claim Jumper location. Help break the record this year!

*For more information, please contact David Bush, Los Angeles Police Department Community Relations, at (818) 599-3538 or email [R2493@earthlink.net](mailto:R2493@earthlink.net).*

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Councilmember Greig Smith  
18917 Nordhoff Street, Suite 18  
Northridge, CA 91324  
(818) 756-8501

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