

Valley VOTE

Meeting Report for January 17, 2011
by Joe Vitti

Valley VOTE Board members, community leaders, and concerned citizens convened on January 17, 2011 at Galpin Ford to hear from our featured speakers **Stuart Waldman** and **David Beauvais**, and also from our **Valley VOTE Committee Chairs**.

Stuart Waldman, the President of the Valley Industry and Commerce Association (VICA) discussed the role VICA plays in representing the Valley business community. He also discussed the importance to the Valley of the new State Senate and Assembly district boundaries being redrawn this year by the newly created State Redistricting Commission. Dave Beauvais a member of the Park Advisory Board (PAB) for the "Oakridge Project" presented a slide presentation explaining the role of the PAB and the master plan for this new park in Northridge managed by the Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Department.

Stuart Waldman



Stuart Waldman has been the President of the Valley Industry and Commerce Association (VICA) since 2008. VICA is recognized as the most influential business group in the San Fernando Valley. Prior to joining VICA, he spent 11 years working for the California State Assembly representing the San Fernando Valley as Chief of Staff to Assembly members, including Assembly Speaker Bob Hertzberg. Mr Waldman discussed the role of VICA in representing the valley business community.

VICA's Goals

One of VICA's primary goals is to see that "the Valley gets it's fair share." He briefly discussed the history of the

organization that started in 1949 to promote infrastructure projects in the Valley that were severely lacking at that time compared to the other parts of the city. The main task for VICA he said "is to protect the Valley and create jobs" VICA's access to public officials ensures that the San Fernando Valley's business perspective will be heard. Stuart said his primary job at VICA is "a lobbyist for business in the Valley."

VICA representatives make regular trips to Sacramento and also visit Washington D.C. annually to speak with legislative leaders. On VICA's website, www.vica.com, you can find the guiding principles and pro and con arguments for the following topics and issues: Air Quality, Aviation, Employer Mandates, Energy, Fiscal Stability, Healthcare, Housing, Job Creation, Land Use, Political Reform, Public Safety, Solid Waste, Taxation, Transportation and Water.

State Redistricting Principals

Stuart then spoke about the importance of the new State Senate and Assembly district boundaries being redrawn this year by the newly selected 14 committee members of the State Redistricting Commission. New district lines are scheduled for completion on Jan.1,2012 and will be in place for 10 years.

The key issue is to convince the State Redistricting Commission to treat the entire San Fernando Valley as "a community of Interest" The current district boundary lines within the Valley result in **7** Assembly seats and **4** Senate seats with portions of their districts within the San Fernando Valley. However only **3** state elected representatives actually live in the Valley. This is unacceptable.

Please find below VICA's supporting principles for redistricting of the San Fernando Valley.

1. The San Fernando Valley is a geographical area roughly bounded by the Santa Susana Mountains to the north and west, the Mulholland Drive to the south, and the San Gabriel Mountains to the east. It lies wholly within Los Angeles County and includes the cities of Burbank, Calabasas, Glendale, Hidden Hills, and San Fernando, as well as the Valley portion of the City of Los Angeles;
2. The new process for redistricting legislative, Board of Equalization and Congressional districts is a public process, and VICA must engage in this process in order to advance our membership goals and improve representation in the San Fernando Valley;
3. VICA supports the creation of districts that maximize the connection that legislators have with the San Fernando Valley;
4. Our community is best served by a redistricting that maximizes the number of districts that are either wholly within the Valley or in which the Valley is the most influential voter bloc;
5. If it is necessary to merge Valley seats with areas outside the Valley, the highest priority to be maintained is that a majority of voters are within the San Fernando Valley and protect like communities of interest;
6. VICA's goals for redistricting are nonpartisan and are only to be shaped by the interest of maximizing representation and advancing goals of Valley business and residents;
7. All recognized communities should be kept together as part of compact and contiguous districts which shall recognize geographic features and natural boundaries;
8. All districts should be numbered sequentially from north to south;
9. Two Assembly district seats should be within a state Senate district.

We thank Mr. Waldman for his excellent presentation and look forward to working with him and VICA in support of the above principals for redistricting.

Dave Beauvais

David Beauvais is a member of the 11 person Park Advisory Board (PAB) established in 2010 to help develop a master plan for the "Oakridge Project," a park in Northridge, that is managed by the Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Department.

The Oakridge Project has an interesting history. Oakridge was built by architect Paul R. Williams for actress, Barbara Stanwyck, decades ago. An English manor stands on the 9-acre estate, just half a block from the busy corner of Reseda and Devonshire Boulevards. Known locally as the "Oakie" estate, it was bequeathed to USC's School of Cinematic Arts in 1991 in order to preserve the home. The school offered approximately seven acres of the estate to two separate developers (the house and surrounding grounds are protected as a historical landmark). However, in both cases, the developers went bankrupt before they could proceed to build homes.

Councilman Greig Smith was able to secure sufficient Quimby funds to allow the city to purchase the entire 9.75 acre estate as dedicated parkland.

Dave Beauvais and his associate Pat LoPresti made an informative PowerPoint presentation that explained the role of the PAB Committee and gave additional background on the house and grounds. Pat also showed some visuals of the interior of the home.

The PAB meets every other month and is charged with developing a master plan for the Park. They have elected officers, formed committees, and are developing a web site. They also be organizing a 501c3 non profit fund raising organization to help with the funding for the project.

We would like to thank Dave and Pat for taking time out of their busy schedules to bring us up to date on the Oakridge park project.

Valley VOTE Committee Reports

Pension Reform **Vic Viereck**

According to an April 5, 2010 report by the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research, unfunded liabilities of CalPERS and CalSTRS at the time were \$239.7 billion and \$156.7 billion, respectively. The same report indicated that California's shortfall of government pensions and health care benefits were about \$535 billion. It's unfortunate that Californians have to suffer from reduced services, higher taxes and fees, and the threat of sale of public assets in order to try to offset politicians errors and conflict of interest between unions and elected officials.

"Spiking", the process of using just one final year (instead of three year's average) of "service" by the employee, including overtime and other embellishments, to help determine the monthly pension payment must cease. For future employees, and current public employees, that practice needs to be stopped. Among other changes needed is to switch to defined contribution from defined benefit plans. With defined benefit plans, it's impossible to accurately budget for pension cost. The taxpayers must make up the difference for any shortcomings. Since defined contribution plans specify the amount to be paid into the plans, the cost can be accurately budgeted. That ability in itself would have helped to prevent the current crisis.

Transportation **Bart Reed**

Bart Reed discussed a presentation he made to Bob Hope Airport officials on ideas to improve ground transportation to the airport. Suggestions to the policy included increasing Metrolink train frequencies and through service to Orange County, connecting the airport with the Red line via Metro Bus, and extending LOSSAN** Corridor trains from San Diego to Los Angeles and continuing north to Ventura County. The airport committee directed staff to study these items.

***LOSSAN refers to the "Los Angeles-San Diego-San Luis Obispo" rail corridor and is the second busiest intercity rail corridor in the nation supporting commuter, intercity, and freight rail services. With 351 miles of rail, LOSSAN connects major metropolitan areas of Southern California and the Central Coast via Amtrak's Pacific Surfliner, the Southern California Regional Rail Authority's Metrolink, and the North County Transit District's Coaster and Sprinter passenger rail services. Burlington Northern Santa Fe operates freight rail services.*

Valley Region H.S. #4 **- Richard Fisk**

The Public School Choice Motion of August 2009 seeks "to tap into the potential wealth of innovative ideas and educational models that will help the LAUSD advance its commitment to provide a quality education for our students, and to develop a more "thoughtful and creative" plan for how its schools will be operated to provide better educational results.

Accordingly, the LAUSD is seeking an operator of the new Valley Region High School #4 (VRHS #4), located on Balboa Blvd. near Devonshire St., in Granada Hills, on the site of the former Granada Hills Hospital. The school will consist of 45 classrooms and serve 1,215 students.

Clearly, the extraordinarily successful results achieved by Granada Hills Charter High School (GHCHS), in only seven years of existence as a charter school, attest to the commitment of faculty, staff, parents, and the surrounding community to bring innovative ideas and sound educational and operational models to the school, and to execute them in a highly successful manner.

The choice of GHCHS as the best applicant to run VRHS #4 is supported by endorsements from the following organizations: Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce; Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council; The Old Granada Hills Residents Group; The United Chambers of Commerce of the San Fernando Valley; many elected officials; and Valley VOTE. *(You can visit www.valleyvote.org and go to the Press Release for Nov.19,2010 dealing with this matter. You will find additional information and discussion on why GHCHS is the best applicant for VRHS#4)*

The public has also been invited to cast an Advisory vote for the Applicant they feel would be best to run the new High School.
Please find below the categories of groups that have been invited to vote and the time and place for them to do so.

LAUSD PARENTS – parents or guardians of students who attend the focus, direct feeder or direct relieved schools (GHCHS, Cleveland HS, Monroe HS and Kennedy HS) Note this includes 8th grade Middle School PARENTS too as they are incoming students for next fall.

- **STUDENTS**– high school students from the relieved or focus schools (GHCHS, Cleveland HS, Monroe HS and Kennedy HS)
- **OTHER PARENTS**– parents/guardians of students who attend charter or private schools as well as guardians/caretakers or parents of LAUSD student who does not appear on the LAUSD Parent list
- **SCHOOL STAFF** – includes certificated and classified faculty and staff at focus and direct relieved schools (GHCHS, Cleveland HS, Monroe HS and Kennedy HS)
- **COMMUNITY** – eligible to anyone ineligible to vote in the other identified categories (basically any California adult over 18 years of age)



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE MOTION

If you are a parent, guardian or community member at the following school(s) ...

Frost MS, Frost MS Comp/Math/Sci. Magnet, Henry MS, Henry MS Comp/Math/Sci. Magnet, Holmes MS, Holmes MS Int. Humanities Magnet, Nobel MS, Nobel MS Math/Sci. Magnet, Maclay MS, Porter MS, Porter MS Gifted/HA Magnet, San Fernando MS, Lawrence MS, Lawrence MS Gifted/HG/HA Magnet, Northridge MS, Sutter MS, Kennedy HS, Kennedy HS Arch/Digital Arts Magnet, Granada Hills HS, Monroe HS, Monroe HS 9th Grade HS #1, Monroe HS 9th Grade HS #2, Monroe HS Law/Gov. Magnet, Monroe HS Police Academy Magnet, Cleveland HS, Cleveland HS Humanities Magnet

PLEASE SAVE THE DATES!
For the Following Public School Choice 2.0 Events
for Valley Region High School #4

<p>Advisory Vote Orientation & Executive Summary Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory Vote Orientation – Overview of the advisory vote recommendation process conducted by the League of Women Voters. • Executive Summary Review – Applicant Teams will provide information on the instructional plan, school model, and parent engagement plan submitted in the 5-7 page Executive Summary of their proposals. 	<p>Thursday January 20, 2011 6pm Monroe High School Auditorium 9229 Haskell Ave. North Hills, CA 91343</p>
<p>Applicant Team Presentation Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief Presentation of Proposals - Applicant Teams will formally present their proposals followed by question and answer period. • Applicant Team Fair – Applicant Teams will be available at tables to provide further information. • Advisory Recommendation Voting – There will be an opportunity for parents, high school students (that attend relieved schools), faculty, staff, and community members to cast their recommendation vote within a limited timeframe. 	<p>Tuesday January 25, 2011 6pm Monroe High School Auditorium 9229 Haskell Ave. North Hills, CA 91343</p>
<p>Advisory Recommendation Voting</p> <p><i>Advisory Recommendation Voting</i> – There will be an opportunity for parents, high school students, faculty and staff from relieved schools and focus schools, and community members to cast their advisory recommendation vote.</p>	<p>Saturday January 29, 2011 9am – 3pm Monroe High School Auditorium 9229 Haskell Ave. North Hills, CA 91343</p>

For more information, please call (213) 241-2547 or visit publicschoolchoice.lausd.net.

Proposal for Sidewalk Repair Cost - Glenn Bailey

The Los Angeles City Council is considering a report from the city Attorney dated Dec.10,2110, which if approved would shift the financial responsibility of repairing sidewalks, driveways, and curbs damaged by tree roots from the City to individual property owners. Since 1974, the City has assumed this responsibility under Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 62.104 However, of the 10,750 miles of sidewalks, the City estimates 4,600 miles are in need of repair at a staggering cost estimate of \$1.2 Billion. The typical repair cost is estimated to be \$3,500 to \$7,000. Under the proposed

ordinance, a property owner would be cited and given 90 days to make the repairs using someone from the City's list of approved contractors. If the repairs are not made within the 90 days, the City would cause the repairs to be made and would add a **40% Administrative FEE**.

The Council File number is 05-1853. further details are available at the City's web page: <http://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=05-1853>.

Neighborhood Councils and organization opposing this plan by the city should contact their City Councilmember and submit Community Impact Statements to the City Clerk ASAP.

The next regular monthly meeting of Valley VOTE will be **Monday, February 21, 2011** at Galpin Ford.

Valley VOTE Mission Statement

Valley VOTE, a diverse coalition of San Fernando Valley residents, businesspeople, educators, community activists, and organizations, is committed to exploring and fostering the implementation of programs that empower the people of the San Fernando Valley and the City of Los Angeles, to improve local governance, education and public participation on policy matters.

Please forward this Email to interested individuals and organizations. If you would like to be removed from our distribution list please send an Email to javittisr@cs.com