

WHHO

Woodland Hills Homeowners Organization

February 2009

P.O. Box 6368, Woodland Hills, CA 91365



President's Message

How often in the last few months have we been somewhat appalled by the insincere actions and attitude of the financial institutions, corporate executives excessive pay and bonuses? When we see people being laid off, losing their property because they were misinformed when they took out loans, having their loan rates raised to higher interest rates means they end up never being able to pay off their loans because the penalties keep adding up to higher and higher debt. Don't you wonder why they can get away with this fraud.

Partly because we don't read the fine print that spells out what the Institution can legally do. Then we sign this and make the contracts legal.

You are asked to do this with ballot measures every time you vote. You have some real sneaky ones on the March 3, 2009 ballot. Each and everyone is written to take away your ability to have honest government. Here are the blank check sections that they hope you won't read and only buy what sounds good so the government can charge you more and more because you said ok here is my money, you take what you want.

Measure A: (c) Initiate any assessment or audit of the Fire Dept. or any portion of the Fire Dept. with prior notice of the Board of Fire Commissioners, and subject to the authority of the board by majority vote to direct the Independent Assessor not to commence or continue an assessment audit.

(e) appoint, discharge, discipline, transfer and issue instructions to employees under his or her direction.

Section 524: The Board of Commissioner shall have the power to appoint and remove.

This is and Independent Auditor? How big of a staff is authorized? VOTE NO!

Measure B: **bottom pg 36** Sec. 23.151 "These solar power installations shall be installed, owned, operated by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power."

General Meeting

February 25, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.
KAISER PERMANENTE HOSPITAL

Auditorium "A", Entrance 5

5601 DE SOTO AVENUE

WOODLAND HILLS, CA 91367

AGENDA:

What are the possibilities for Closed Schools in Woodland Hills. Guest Speakers Tamar Galatzan, School Board Member and John Creer, LAUSD.

This only creates jobs for the DWP employees.

Pg 39 Section 23.157 (b) The Plan at a minimum, contain the following only after it is approved will they come up with

1. Proposed timelines and benchmarks for the phased implementation ---
2. Proposed incentives, lease payments etc
3. Proposed financing of initial program start-up
4. Proposed timeline for development and implementation of an academy to train Dept. employees and others person hired
5. Proposed city wide outreach program to recruit, hire and train dept. employees and others to install solar power
6. Proposed outreach programs to potential program participants in the program

Note that there is nothing in place to tell you they know how or when this will happen, nor is there anywhere a cost estimate to let you know how well they are staying within budget. In fact there is no proposed budget because it appears to merely provide for DWP to hire friends, relatives and campaign contributors to do the job at inflated wages.

Pg 43 Sec. 23.166 All 3 section (a), (b), (c) all basically say they can do what they wish because of the clauses they have put in this section.

If the above is not enough to get you to vote NO on this measure then you like high electric rates which this guarantees

Measure C: This is a poorly written measure that with the wording open to interpretation may lead to wide spread abuse and become very costly. **I would suggest a NO and send it back for better and concise wording.**

Measure D: They don't tell you that you are really paying the majority because you pay the greatest portion of retirement benefits that come from the general fund. They also don't tell you what the percentage that the pension is reduced. It also doesn't tell you if the pension fund is currently fully funded and if it isn't you will pay for the needed funds to make up any short fall. Its your future money so decide if you want to sign a blank check. **I would recommend a NO**

Measure E: This one is a wonderful Blank Check. There are no limits set on this proposal. Like CRA which has written off multi-millions the reaches are unlimited to spend money without any guarantees. Remember DWP put a few million into an electric scooter which you have yet to see, and a quiet electric blower which you still haven't seen on the market. Like campaign promises, you will see much spent to promise but how often will you actually see what was said.

I would suggest a NO

GORDON MURLEY
President

The opinions expressed are those of the President and do not necessarily represent those of the Board of Directors or the members of the Organization.

THOUGHTS OF OTHERS

Politics: A strife of interest masquerading as a contest of principles.

AMBROSE PIERCE

Many of us spend half or time wishing for things we could have if we didn't spend half our time wishing.

ALEXANDER WOOLLCOTT

General good is The plea of the scoundrel, hypocrite, flatterer.

WILLIAM BLAKE

Pierce College President's Column

Green Stuff

There is much talk these days about one color in particular: the now very popular "green." Pierce College has been green for many years and community members often compliment the campus for its beautiful pastures and hills, as well as the gorgeous landscaping and gardens...all admirably green most of the time! With spreading urbanization, Pierce College is proud to provide a verdant oasis for the West Valley. As we are all aware, "green" also has other critical meanings to our society and campus:

Environment-friendly. Pierce College is a leader among educational institutions in transforming its operations from energy dependence to independence. By installing cogeneration and solar facilities, the campus has reduced its need for electricity generated by polluting sources. The College is currently expanding its solar electricity program by installing

The WTHHO is published in Woodland Hills California 11 times annually and reaches over 600 quality homes. Advertising rates are \$25.00 per quarter page per issue. Installation of this years Board of Directors

OFFICERS FOR 2009:

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- Brian McDonald (818) 716-6580
- Pat Patton (818) 348-6497
- Dorothy Smith (818) 887-6028
- Robert Veeck (818) 346-0855

2009 Meeting Schedule

| GeneralBoard | | GeneralBoard | |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|------------------|
| | Meeting 1 | Meeting 2 | |
| Jan. | 28 | 05 | Jul. no meeting* |
| Feb. | 25 | 02 | Aug. no meeting* |
| Mar. | 25 | 02 | Sep. 23 |
| Apr. | 22 | 06 | Oct. 28 |
| May | 27 | 04 | Nov. no meeting* |
| Jun. | 24 | 01 | Dec. 02 |

(1) All meetings are held at Kaiser Hospital on the 4th Wednesday 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise notified.

(2) All Executive Board meetings will be on the 1st Monday at 7:30 p.m. at Fire Station 84 Community Room on Burbank Blvd. unless otherwise notified.

additional panels in parking lots all over campus. In the not-too-distant future, Pierce may be "off the grid" and even supplying clean energy to the City!

Green technology education. Voters recently approved Proposition J, giving the College the go-ahead to construct the Green Technologies Building. This project will support our developing programs to prepare students for jobs addressing environmental challenges. Also, a new Alternative Fuels Automotive facility will train students to be participants in the effort to wean our nation off a dependence on fossil fuels.

Green building. New campus construction is LEED-certified, ensuring that our future buildings are constructed in an ecologically friendly manner and will operate with minimal impact on the environment.

Sustainable landscape. As campus renovations progress, drought-resistant landscaping is being installed to save water. Our Botanical Garden is used as a learning laboratory for those interested in landscaping practices compatible with Southern California's water limits.

Lastly, many of you have been wondering what impact the California budget crisis will have another very important "green": the money Pierce receives from the state government to run our educational programs. That necessary green stuff is obviously very critical to our students and community at large. At this time, Pierce College is fine but concerned as we await the inevitable bad news. In the meantime, our campus is committed to serving students with full Spring semester and Summer session class offerings.

Sincerely,

Bob Garber
Pierce College President

LAUSD Leaders to reveal plans for Oso, Platt Ranch and Collins St. schools at WHHO's Feb. 25 meeting.

After sitting abandoned for almost 20 years, three of Woodland Hills' vacant school facilities may be holding classes and parent-teacher conferences in the near future. Only, the majority of kids attending those schools probably won't be coming from Woodland Hills or the surrounding areas.

The decisions to refurbish and reopen Oso St. Elementary, Platt Ranch Elementary and Collins St. Middle School will be presented and discussed by LAUSD Board member Tamar Galatzen, who represents the West valley area, and John Creer, Director of Planning and Development for the school district. This will be the first time Woodland Hills residents will have an opportunity to face and question two of the key players in what has proven to be a highly controversial issue over the years.

The LAUSD, facing enormous pressures from Charter School operators and their legal counsels, and the continuing quandary of what to do with the derelict school properties, seems to have arrived at a decision to recondition two of the abandoned properties and offer them to two charter schools. The third, Collins St., would be turned into a Magnet School for the West Valley and other students from as far away as downtown LA.

It was only eight months ago that Ms. Galatzen and fellow School Board member Marlene Canter had presented an entirely different scenario for the four abandoned or under-utilized Woodland Hills schools (including Hughes Middle School.) In their proposal last year, the two LAUSD Board members along with Creer unveiled plans to turn Oso into the West Valley training center for LAUSD teachers, and use Platt Ranch Elementary and Hughes for specialized classes.

Collins Street, because of its poor condition, was to serve as a vocational work and training center for the LAUSD where students could repair the electrical, heating and air conditioning and plumbing systems as part of a work-study program. The students would earn apprentice status with the respective unions for their work and the school would be restored to a condition where it could revert to holding regular classes for students from Woodland Hills.

That has all changed, and the new plans have many Woodland Hills residents deeply concerned about traffic, bussing, safety and the "neighborliness" of some of the proposed new tenants. It is hoped that Ms. Galatzen and Mr. Creer can address these concerns at WHHO's Feb. 25 meeting at Kaiser Hospital's auditorium, and give residents answers that have not been forthcoming from the LAUSD hierarchy.

One of the main concerns is the arrival of charter schools that have been the source of a number of

incidents and numerous complaints in Woodland Hills in the past. Although Charter schools are under the auspices of the LAUSD, there are numerous problems impacting the proposals for the boarded-up campuses.

Since Proposition 39 was passed by the State's voters in a previous election and it obligates public schools to share seats with Charter Schools, it means that money for rehabilitating the schools will almost inevitably be coming out of City taxpayer's pockets.

Adding to the problems, Charter school operators and LAUSD officials are clashing over who should pick up the tab to rehabilitate the schools for Charter use. The District believes that the Charter schools should bear the full cost, while the Charter schools are pushing for the District to pay. The problem both sides face is that anticipated revenue sources, endowments and grants that might have been tapped for funds have either dried up or have been dramatically reduced due to the failing economy.

Of course, it isn't just the question of funding that has so many Woodland Hills residents so concerned. In the past, a number of Charter schools have operated in the community and several have records of causing serious traffic, noise and trash problems in the neighborhoods where they opened.

"There are certain operators of these charter schools who come into a neighborhood and completely change the character and feeling of the neighborhood," said WHHO President Gordon Murley. "They ignore zoning and safety regulations, dismiss neighbor complaints as "lies" and create traffic problems that the City doesn't address."

It should be pointed out the WHHO, the Woodland Hills Neighborhood Council and Councilman Dennis Zine had spent over three years trying to remove Ivy Academia/Academy for Kids from its quarters on Fallbrook Ave. because of all the complaints, problems and broken regulations. What has the WHHO Board concerned is that the operators of Ivy have been the most vociferous in their attempts to wrangle one of the abandoned properties from LAUSD.

We'll have to see what Galatzen and Creer can tell us about which Charter schools are at the top of the list to move into either Oso or Platt Ranch," Murley cautioned.

The idea of turning Collins St. into a Magnet Middle School also has a number of nearby residents concerned.

Although the school was apparently chosen to serve as a Magnet because it was the only abandoned Woodland Hills school located on or adjacent to a major thoroughfare (Shoup), the entrance of the school is still located on a quiet residential street and with the number of students it is expected to attract from considerable distances, there are worries about the number of cars dropping off and picking up students as well as the large number of busses needed to bus in students.

Many residents point out that Oso St. Elementary, Platt Ranch Elementary and Collins St. Elementary were built to serve the needs of their neighborhoods—not the needs of students from five, ten, twenty or even up to forty miles away. Because they drew their enrollment from nearby homes, most children attending those schools usually walked to class. Drop-offs by parents and bussing was minimal. Since Charter schools tend to draw students from outside the immediate area, it's a good bet that most students would arrive via car pool or most typically, by a parent on their way to work.

"Oso and Platt Ranch schools are both located in quiet neighborhoods served by 2-lane roads," observed one worried resident. "There are no major thoroughfares serving either of those properties. Adding a hundred cars in the morning that are jockeying to drop kids off, and another hundred in the afternoon jamming every available space as they wait for their kids to come out, would cause an onslaught of traffic problems for anyone who lives anywhere around those schools."

During the Feb. 25 meeting, homeowners will be able to ask specific questions about their concerns and potential problem from the new LAUSD plans. The WHHO meeting will be held in the auditorium of Kaiser Hospital on De Soto and Burbank and will begin at 7:30 p.m. However, because of space concerns, people interested in attending the meeting are urged to get there much earlier.

NOTE:— IF YOU WISH TO BE SURE THAT WE CAN CONTACT YOU BY EMAIL TO INFORM YOU OF HAPPENINGS BETWEEN NEWSLETTERS— PLEASE SEND US AN EMAIL SO WE CAN BE SURE YOU ARE IN OUR DATA BASE.

So, if you want to help us get started you can email us

and we will put you in the WHHO address directory.
Email to: g.murley@worldnet.att.net

WHHO'S WEB SITE

We have a Web site it is www.whho.com

There are links to other web sites for information on Government and Schools. It will greatly enhance the speed for finding important information for those wanting to interface with various government agencies.

USEFUL WEB SITES FOR OTHER INFORMATION

WHHO - www.whho.com
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL - www.whcouncil.org
CHARTER SCHOOLS - www.charterassociation.org
HUGHES MIDDLE SCHOOL - noonhughes.org
OSO SCHOOLS - no-oso-highschool.org

We invite you to frequently visit the above Web sites for updated information

COUNCIL OFFICE PLANNING AND COMMUNITY PERSONNEL

Council District #3 Dennis P. Zine, Councilman
(818) 756-8848
Chief Deputy – Cliff Ruff – City Hall
Field Deputy – Octaviano Rios
Planning Deputy – Jonathan Brand

POSITIONS TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

We have not taken a final position on a proposed development on the north side of Mulholland, across from Louisville High at Mulholland Highway that wants an exception to the Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific. The Draft Environmental Impact Report has been released and we are looking at what we need to do.

We continue to try and support the neighbors with developments in the Mulholland Corridor and we take positions both at Mulholland Design Review Board and scheduled hearings. All the hearings are supposed to be posted with large yellow (14x24) poster with the Hearing Notice attached. Pat Patton and Marty Lipkin attend most of the hearings and they work with the interested neighbors to help them get development that well work.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS

Officers: Chair: Joyce Pearson, Vice Chair: Steven Naczinski, Treasurer: Dorothy Koetz, Secretary: Scott Silverstein, Parliamentarian: John Anderson.

GENERAL MEETINGS: The second (2nd) Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at Woodland Hills Academy (formerly Parkman) in the Multipurpose Room. Agendas are available 72 hours in advance www.whcouncil.org

COMMITTEE MEETINGS: They are listed 72 hours in advance on the website. www.whcouncil.org

Many of the Committee meetings are held at the New Fire Station 84 at 21050 Burbank Blvd.

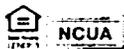
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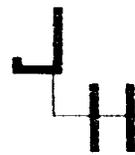
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