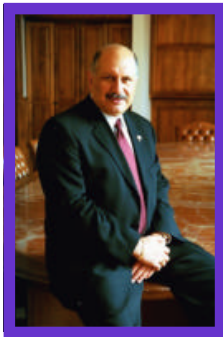


# THE ZINE LINE

Volume 3: Issue 10  
April 2004

Editor & Publisher: Yvette Whitaker

## Zine Votes "NO" to DWP's 18% Increase!



I opposed the recent request by the Department of Water and Power to increase water rates 18 percent over two years. My opposition is based, not just on my own fiscal conservatism, but on the fact that the process followed by the DWP to get to this point has been troubling to say the least.

The DWP has stated that it needs the water rate increase, or what it terms a "security and water quality surcharge" to insure the safety of the City's water supply. The Department states that the "wake of September 11<sup>th</sup>, brought with it a need to change the way the water system is secured." While I understand and support our need to be sure our water supply and its many water delivery facilities are secure, I object to the method the Department has chosen to present its request and justify its needs.

•DWP has **NOT** sought the counsel and support from the many Neighborhood Councils now operating across our City.

•DWP has **NOT** gone into the communities, to neighborhood associations, chambers of commerce or civic organizations to educate the public and justify the need for a "security and water quality surcharge."

•DWP has **NOT** embraced the spirit of the new, voter approved, Los Angeles City Charter, but has chosen to do business as usual and simply impose a rate hike on the residents and businesses of the City.

Clearly, I cannot, in good conscience, support such a fee increase.

The Department of Water and Power is viewed by many as an arrogant, wasteful and excessive City department divorced from the realities of our City's budget, unsympathetic to the economic facts faced every day by our residents and businesses and unresponsive in the face of successive audits detailing areas within the Departments needing improvement.

That is why I was please to second the motion by my colleague Greig Smith. That motion, approved by the Council, requires DWP to be the subject of an independent financial review and analysis to determine if a rate increase is warranted, and if so, what amount would be appropriate. The motion also requires the Department of Water and Power to honestly face the several communities making up our City by giving all Neighborhood Councils ample opportunity to review the findings of the independent reports and submit their comments on the matter before it comes to the full Council for final action.

Don't get me wrong, I am very proud of the Los Angeles City Department of Water and Power. For more than a century DWP has served the needs of our City faithfully. Through earthquake, war, depression and ever changing technology, the Department of Water and Power has been a world leader in water conservation technology, clean & efficient electric power generation and distribution. For its efforts the residents of Los Angeles pay some of the lowest rates in the state for both water and electricity.

But that does not mean rate payers should pay more because others across the state are paying more.

I will continue to demand that the Department of Water and Power, along with every other City department, provide verifiable economic accountability and a transparent process in all of its operations.

The public trust cannot and must not to be taken lightly.

I will continue to scrutinize each and every rate and fee increase that comes before me and will withhold my support until I am confidence that our neighborhoods have been fully heard and that any increase is both needed and fully justified.

### Articles of Interest:

- Zine Votes "NO" to DWP's 18% Increase .
- CD3 has 3 High School City Champions!
- Zine's POSSE Re-trained.
- Tarzana Community Talks Ethics in Politics.



# Council District THREE City Champions!!!



By: Brian Perry, Legislative Deputy

On March 6, 2004 High Schools in Council District 3 completed a rare trifecta: Three City Championships won on the same day:

**TAFT High School Boys' Basketball**

**EL CAMINO REAL High School Girls' Soccer**

**CANOGA PARK High School Boys' Soccer**

**CONGRATULATIONS to all Three from CD-3!!!**

**TAFT TOREADORS are the first Valley team to win the major Boys Basketball City Championship in 40 years.**



Taft High School took the final lead of the game with 43 seconds to play in a see-saw battle at the Los Angeles Sports Arena. Lead by UCLA-bound Jordan Farmer's 29 points, the Toreadors secured a 64-60 victory over top-seeded Fairfax High School.

In a playoff run that also included victories over Monroe, Crenshaw and second-seeded Dorsey, Taft High School won its first basketball title since winning the City 3A trophy in 1980.

After two games in the State Playoffs, Taft's season came to an end with a remarkable 28-3 record and a date at City Hall to celebrate their Championship!

**EL CAMINO REAL CONQUISTADORES win Fourth Consecutive Girls Soccer City Championship.**

Outscoring opponents 29-2, El Camino Real High School reasserted their domination in Los Angeles. In an amazing display of offensive power, the Conquistadores defeated Chatsworth 6-1 in the Champion-

ship game. The march to the championship went through Eagle Rock, Taft, Birmingham, and San Pedro. Senior Kandice McLaughlin achieved her fourth hat-trick in five playoff games and lead the team to a final season record of 22-4-1 to earn their trip to the City Council Chambers.

**CANOGA PARK HUNTERS win First Boys Soccer City Championship**

The Canoga Park High School Boys' Soccer team won its first ever City Championship in a thrilling 1-0 victory over LA Jordan. The lone goal was scored by Freshman Salvador Hernandez. Starting the playoffs as the #1 ranked team, the Hunters were able to defeat Venice, LA Jefferson, Fairfax, and San Pedro before being presented the championship award at East Los Angeles College. Canoga Park compiled an impressive 19-1-2 season mark to be recognized by the City Council. **See page 11 for photos.**

## MY TOWN

BY Michael Levine of Entertainment Today March 5-11, 2004

**Let's face it- life could be worse. You could be married to Bobby Brown...City Councilman Dennis Zine, an ex-traffic cop wants to perform "shock therapy" on speeders: putting wrecked vehicles at Los Angeles' most dangerous**

**intersections. Unusual and distracting as it sounds, other cities have tried such tactics and the Los Angeles Police Department is taking Zine's suggestion seriously. To me, it shows some level of creativity that is almost**

**totally absent from most hack politicians.**

**Bravo Zine!...**



## Councilman Zine's POSSE Around Town

By Michael Besem, District Director

On Saturday March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2004, Councilman Zine's POSSE (People Organizing Safe, Secure Environments) held a round-up where they teamed up with the Los Angeles Police Department to clean up our neighborhoods. Participants were assigned grids in West Hills, Woodland Hills, Reseda, Canoga Park, and Tarzana to locate illegal dumping, illegally posted signs, graffiti, potholes, uplifted sidewalks, and anything else that looked out of the ordinary. Participants came back with hundreds of locations to report, that the area Field Deputies have addressed with City departments.

The partnership between the POSSE, LAPD and City departments is proving to be a success in improving the quality of life for all in the Third Council District. Councilman Zine was an active participant who teamed up with Building & Safety's, Principal Inspector, Frank Bush, where he personally cited a fruit vendor on Valley Circle

and Bell Canyon.

POSSE roundups are held quarterly and are open to active POSSE members. To learn more about Councilman Zine's POSSE, or to sign up for a future training class, please call (818) 756-8848. Councilman Zine invites all residents of the Third Council District to get involved and take back their communities.



### A Refresher Course for Councilman Zine's POSSE

On Saturday March 13, 2004 Councilman Zine's POSSE members met for a refresher course at Kaiser Hospital, in Woodland Hills. The 3 hour retraining brought out additional City departments to inform POSSE members how to best report concerns to the City for prompt attention. We were honored to have Board of Public Works Commissioner,

Cynthia Ruiz, present with representatives from the Resurfacing Division of Street Services, and Street Use Inspection. Each bureau and division addressed common complaints that POSSE members have such as sidewalk repair and reporting procedures for alley dumping. This retraining also brought out Building & Safety's, Principal Inspector, Frank Bush, who was there to make sure that POSSE members were getting prompt attention when reporting locations for inspection.

This retraining unified POSSE members who gave positive feedback to Councilman Zine about the program. Members shared ideas with each other and success stories on how they have cleaned up their neighborhoods. This refresher course will be held annually for existing POSSE members to communicate ideas directly to Councilman Zine and staff, to continuously improve the program.

# COMMUNITY UPDATES!



By Marisol Espinoza, Field Deputy  
Serving the Communities of Tarzana & Winnetka

## Student Art Show Brings Community Together

On Sunday, March 21, the community came together to show its support for education and the arts. The Arts in Education Aid Council, Inc. in conjunction with the Canoga Park Youth Arts Center hosted its 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Valley Wide Student Art Show. Over two hundred schools in the San Fernando Valley were invited to participate in this exhibition. Thirty seven schools responded to the invitation to participate and had their artwork on display at the Canoga Park Youth Arts Center.

The mission of the Arts in Education Aid Council, Inc is to promote education in the arts in the Los Angeles Unified School District in the San Fernando Valley. Some of their programs include music education, cultural field trips, family events, school site murals and an art docent program. This exhibition is a celebration of the young, creative talent in San Fernando Valley schools.

Many community members, students, parents, teachers and artists came together on this warm day to admire the student's artwork. Councilman Zine, speaking to a large group, said that the

Youth Arts Center provides a space for our kids to be creative and productive, which in turn will keep them away from drugs and gangs. He also presented certificates to the participating schools, as well as to Spike Dolomite Ward, Executive Director of the Arts in Education Aid Council.

In addition to the myriad of talent that was displayed on the walls of the Canoga Park Youth Arts Center, one of the greatest highlights of the event was the amazing performance by Alejandra Vargas. She belted out some *ranchera* classics, like *La Cigarra* and *Se Me Olvido Otra Vez*. Alejandra is a 10 year old singer whose stellar voice and star quality are examples of the great talent that the kids in the San Fernando Valley have to offer.

## Tarzana Community Talks Ethics in Politics

On Tuesday, March 23, 2004, the Tarzana Property Owners Association held its annual Town Hall meeting at El Caballero Country Club. The subject of this year's meeting was Ethics in Politics. The panel for this meeting included City Controller Laura Chick, Councilmembers Zine, Miscikowski, and Greuel, City Ethics Commissioner Bill Boyarsky, and Lobbyist Steve Afriat. About 100 people turned out to hear what City Hall insiders had to say about this very

important issue.

Councilman Dennis P. Zine, a veteran LAPD officer, stressed the importance of keeping a clean system of politics, and that pay to play politics is inappropriate in our government. He mentioned that if there are no ethics or principles, then corruption and scandal are likely to happen.

On April 2, the Los Angeles City Council voted unanimously to ban City Boardmembers and Commissioners from political fundraising for City officials. This motion was introduced by Councilmembers Wendy Greuel and Cindy Miscikowski. This ordinance will take effect on April 11. The issue of City contracting and political fundraising has been in the works for years. However, this is the first Controller, City Council and Ethics Commission to take proactive steps towards auditing some of these Commissions, and towards reforming the system.

The Tarzana Property Owners Association Town Hall meeting allowed for the community and for City Hall officials to openly dialogue on this issue. Residents had the opportunity to ask questions of the panel, and the meeting will be televised on Adelphia's Channel 10 over the next couple of weeks.

By Sherree Adams, Field Deputy  
Serving the Communities of  
West Hills & Woodland Hills



### **CALVERT STREET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CELEBRATES**

I had the honor and privilege of reading a couple of stories to the Calvert Street Elementary School, kindergarten class on Thursday, March 4<sup>th</sup> in celebration of the famous Dr. Seuss' 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday. The festivities began at 8:00 a.m. with the students involved in various activities and making breakfast. Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Director of Elementary School Services, Madelyne Coopersmith and myself read to the students in their new "Wonder of Reading Library", which has been a success thanks to their Principal, Shirley Grodsky. The celebration included a birthday cake donated by the Calvert Street School PTA. The party culminated that afternoon with a production of "Loose With Dr. Seuss" presented in conjunction with the Arts Prototype program.

### **33rd OPENING SEASON FOR WEST HILLS BASEBALL LEAGUE**

On Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, Councilman Dennis P. Zine celebrated the 33<sup>rd</sup> Opening Season of the West Hills Baseball League. There were a total of 54 Teams ranging in age from 5-14 years old. West Hills serves more than 650 families in the Spring Program and more than 350 families in the Winter Program. Councilman Zine proudly threw the opening ball. There were more than 1,000 people present. West Hills Baseball, known as "Mini Dodger Stadium" by the L.A. Times, is much more than a beautiful baseball complex. West Hills alumni populate the baseball rosters of our local high schools, major colleges, and minor and major league professional teams. The most publicized of West Hills alumni are the major league players, but everyone who participates at West Hills Baseball are equally proud of the great young men and women who "graduate" from their program with the ideals of community and friendship.

Don Moriarity, President and Steve Kolodny, Board Member of the West Hills Baseball League proudly received the West Hills Baseball League Achievement Award for all of their hard work. Guest Speaker's in addition to Councilman Zine were Matt LaCour, El Camino High School Varsity Baseball Coach; Mark Gubicza, Chaminade High School Varsity Baseball Coach and Scott Muckey, Crespi High School Varsity Baseball Coach. The children really enjoyed Roger" the Peanut Man from Dodger Stadium.



By JENNIFER FORKISH, Field Deputy  
 Serving the Communities of  
 CANOGA PARK & RESEDA



**CANOGA PARK CELEBRATES ST. PATRICK'S DAY WITH 2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL PARADE**

Saint Patrick's day cheer spread throughout the community of Canoga Park on March 17<sup>th</sup> as the Business Improvement District organized their second annual Saint Patrick's day parade.

Councilman Zine kicked off the festivities in front of the Madrid Theater located on Sherman Way in Historic Old Town Canoga Park. Clad in green garb, approximately 100 local residents, business owners, and children braved the unusually warm weather to celebrate. As participants marched along the streets of Canoga Park, a Celtic band and storyteller provided entertainment. However, Irish heritage shared the stage with mariachis as they played "When Irish Eyes are Smiling." Saint Patrick himself made an appearance thanks to the costuming and acting skills of BID member Don Sanelli.

Councilman Zine looks for-

ward to the continued success of this annual event.

**HAVEN HILLS CELEBRATES GRAND REOPENING**

On March 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilman Zine joined the staff of Haven Hills Domestic Violence Shelter to celebrate the grand opening of their newly refurbished intake center in Canoga Park.

Over the past 24 years, Haven Hills has served over 80,000 women and children through their many forms of support.

- Telephone counseling 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

- A 30-day program with 36 beds.

- An 18-month transitional living and employment program

While it is commonly known that Haven Hills is a refuge for battered women, this organization is not only a place for victims of domestic violence

to live. The newly remodeled intake center is a safe place for those seeking help to receive counseling, fill out paper work, and attend meetings in addition to additional space for administrative offices. A major highlight of the new center is a children's play room featuring brightly colored murals and toys where children can play while services are being provided.

If you would like more information about Haven Hills, or the services they provide, they can be reached at,

Haven Hills, Inc.  
 P.O. Box 260  
 Canoga Park, CA 91305

Business Office:  
 Phone (818) 887-7481  
 Fax (818) 887-4796

Haven Two (Transitional Housing Program)  
 Phone (818) 346-7640  
 Fax (818) 346-9371

## Our Legislative Team



Bruce Whidden  
Chief Legislative Deputy



Brian Perry  
Legislative Deputy

## LEGISLATIVE ISSUES: AGENDAS, RESOLUTIONS, MOTIONS

The on-going efforts to increase on-the-street presence of the Los Angeles Police and Fire departments has been a top priority for the City Council and Mayor.

However, the projected budget deficits the City is facing in the coming years, have impacted this effort, forcing the City to adopt a hard hiring freeze as a measure to control costs in all departments, including limitations on hiring and academy training schedules for sworn personnel of both departments. Decision makers at all levels of the City are seeking creative solutions to ease the burden caused by the fiscal situation and the effects of some of the steps taken to address the situation. One such creative solution is for the Fire and Police departments to utilize the "return to duty" provisions of the City Charter Section 1410. This provision permits retired members of the police and fire department to return to active duty upon meeting a specific set of criteria, including the expressed approval of the department chief. While the restrictive criteria under which such a return to duty would be possible will naturally limit the pool of possible candidates, it is still a possibility which should be reviewed.

Currently the Charter only includes the return to duty provision in Tiers 1 and 2 of the Fire and Police Pension Plan. The City should replicate the return to duty policy throughout the five tiers of the Pension Plan. There are retirees in Tiers 3, 4, and 5, who may qualify as a return to duty candidate, if not for the absence of the policy in all five tiers of the Pension system. Replicating the provision as stated in Tiers 1 and 2 for Tiers 3, 4, and 5 would maximize the number of retirees who may potentially return to active duty. A Charter amendment would be necessary to implement these changes.

The Charter also states that retirees in Tiers 1 and 2 can only be considered for return to duty if the original retirement period is less than 3 years. There are a few officers and firefighters in Tiers 3, 4, and 5 who would be excluded from consideration by the time this Charter change is considered by the City's electorate in 2005. To maximize the pool of possible candidates, any Charter amendment should allow these retirees to be considered under the return to duty provision.

In order to maintain fiscal responsibility and cost neutrality, the proposed Charter amendment should contain restrictions on the return to duty status. The following guidelines should be incorporated in the return to duty provision:

- Return to Duty candidates will not gain any subsequent retirement credits for the period in retirement;
- Candidates will not have the right to any retroactive payments for benefit increases during the retirement period;
- Candidates will retire in the same Tier from which they have already retired;
- Candidates cannot be a member of, or enter, the Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP).
- Candidates whose 3 year retirement span ends during the period between January 1, 2004 and the certification of the 2005 Citywide election, will still be a qualified candidate under the return to duty policy.

I THEREFORE MOVE that Council instruct the Department of Fire and Police Pensions and the City Administrative Officer, with assistance from the City Attorney, to prepare a report with the appropriate language to amend the City Charter to allow, under the authority and discretion of the chief, retired members of the Police and Fire Departments to return to active duty. Presented by Dennis P. Zine, Councilman, Third District.

# PIERCE COLLEGE

6201 Winnetka Avenue/Woodland Hills, CA 91371

## CAREER FAIR - May 12, 2004

Contact Person: Richard Skidmore- Job Center/Housing Office/ (818) 719-6453

The Job Center offers a **Career Fair** for the Community and Students. Our next **Career Fair** will be May 12 2004. The hours open to the public are 9:00am to 1:00pm and it is held on the Campus Mall. Parking for Clients is in Parking Lot #7. Enter the Mason Street entrance off Victory Blvd.

**Employers** wanting to participate in the **Career Fair** should register before April 21st to receive information in the mail **Call (818) 719-6453.**

Employers have found the **Pierce College Career Fair** to be an excellent venue to advertise their company and prospect for excellent employees. Companies that have participated in our Job Fair include:

**Macy's**  
**Sears**  
**LA County District Attorney**  
**Federal Express**  
**Time-Warner**  
**SouthWest Airlines**

**K-CAL9**  
**UPS**  
**Adelphia**  
**Washington Mutual**  
**LAUSD**  
**United California Bank**

**Daily News**  
**Ventura Sheriffs Dept.**  
**Nordstrom's**  
**Washington Mutual**



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## VALLEY CULTURAL CENTER'S

### Concerts In The Park—2004 Season Schedule

#### DATE



#### ARTIST

June 6	Jack Jones	
June 13	California Beach Girls & David Lee Marks	
June 20	San Fernando Valley Symphony & The VCC Music Competition Winners	
June 27	Captain Cardiac & the Coronaries	
July 4	<b>Councilman Dennis P. Zine's FREE FIREWORKS SHOW!</b> Don Sweeney & the SRO Band, Steve Piazza and The L.A. Pierce Symphonic Winds	
July 11	Preservation Hall Jazz Band	
July 18	Young Dubliners	
July 25	Internationally Known Artist (To be Announced)	
August 1	Juice Newton	
August 8	Beatle Tribute Band—TICKET TO RIDE	
August 15	Main Street Disneyland Band—SIDE STREET STRUTTERS	
August 22	Ink spots	
August 29	Glenn Yarbrough and the Folk Reunion	
September 5	Chuck Negron (Formerly from the Three Dog Night)	



13TH ANNUAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FAIR  
APRIL 24, 2004 AT WESTFIELD SHOPPINGTOWN

The 13th Annual Emergency Preparedness Fair will be held on April 24, 2004 at Westfield Shoppingtown Topanga Plaza located at 6600 Topanga Canyon Blvd.

Participating Departments and Agencies include: Fire, Police, Emergency Preparedness, Building and Safety. Public Works, Water and Power, Disability, Housing, Community Redevelopment Agency, Aging, Participating Departments and Agencies include: Fire, Police, Emergency Preparedness, Building and Safety. Public Works, Water and Power, Disability, Housing, Community Redevelopment Agency, Aging, Airports, Recreation and Parks, American Red Cross, County and State Agencies.

The Emergency Preparedness Fair provides important preparedness information for individuals, families, businesses and neighborhoods of Los Angeles. This is your opportunity to learn how to create a family disaster plan, put together your disaster supply kit and find out about available services. Free sample emergency kits, limited to the first 300 households (one per household) as well as prizes and emergency preparedness literature will be given out to participants.

For additional information, please call (888) 356-4661.


**Emergency Preparedness...**  
**...It's an L.A. Thing**



**311**


**Make One Call To City Hall**

Residents may access information and any non-emergency service 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The 311 call center is equipped to serve the hearing impaired and information is available in more than 150 languages.




**Zine At Nine**

Join Councilman Zine  
At Nine on Live Call In Program




Watch



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Let your voice be heard:

Contact Us! We love the emails we receive from you and would like to hear from more.

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**Our Website Has Been Updated! Check It Out at: [www.lacity.org/council.cd3](http://www.lacity.org/council.cd3)**

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818-756-9179 (F)  
8:00 am-6:00 pm

**Committee Assignments:**

**Chair:** Personnel Committee  
**Vice-Chair:** Education & Neighborhoods  
**Member:** Public Safety  
**Member:** Rules & Elections & Intergovernmental Relations  
**EERC:** Executive Employee Relations Committee  
**NLC:** National League of Cities  
**ICA:** Independent City Association - Treasurer  
**LAPD:** Line Reserve Officer  
**LAUSD:** Reserve Motorcycle Sergeant