

THE ZINE LINE

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Editor & Publisher: **Yvette Whitaker**

Frustrated by Water Damage at City Hall, Zine Proposes Changes to City Contracting Policy



After City Hall's new \$900,000 roof failed to keep my office dry during the recent rains, I called for a thorough investigation into the quality of construction for all City of Los Angeles buildings.

Leaks in the roof, which were repaired after a \$300 million retrofitting at City Hall, had members of my staff scrambling to find buckets. I am not amused. Los Angeles has a policy of awarding contracts to the lowest bidder, but if the lowest bid re-

sults in thousands of dollars in repairs to our City facilities, then the taxpayers are paying twice. Once for the construction, and again for the repairs. This is unacceptable.

In consideration of these leaks, and previous inquiries I have made to Public Works regarding construction problems at Police Stations and Libraries, I have proposed legislation to examine the awarding of City building contracts.

The City of Los Angeles is currently responsible for maintaining approximately 850 buildings. Since news of the damage at City Hall was revealed, employees at numerous City facilities have contacted my office to com-



plain of serious water damage and expressed concern over other structural defects.

After some preliminary research, it appears that many of the same contractors and designers who built defective buildings are continuing to be awarded City contracts simply because they offer the lowest bid. My legislation will examine the Contractor Responsibility Ordinance to make certain that contractors are responsible for their work long after the construction is complete.

(Cont'd. on page 2)

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"As your Public Servant, my Staff and I Pledge to..."

- 1. Improve The Quality of Life in our District.**
- 2. Maintain Public Safety.**
- 3. Follow up Your Concerns in a Timely Manner.**
- 4. Keep You Informed of Issues in the District.**
- 5. Attend Your Meetings and Events.**
- 6. Have the Communities Priorities Come First.**

**DENNIS P. ZINE
Councilman, Third District**



Frustrated by Water Damage

Best Roofing & Waterproofing Inc., who was contracted to repair the roof at City Hall in 2002, was also the contractor who replaced the roof at my district office in Reseda less than one year ago. According to staff members at that office, they have experienced eight leaks in just one week.

Additionally, my legislation will examine disciplining contractors who are proven responsible for shoddy work on City buildings, as well as creating a link on the City web page, which would allow citizens to examine the names and backgrounds of all contractors currently doing work for the City.

(Cont'd. from Page 1)



Zine shielding himself with an umbrella, checks the rain damage to the ceiling in his City Hall Office.

KUDO'S TO COUNCILMAN DENNIS P. ZINE & STAFF

Dear Councilman Zine,
(Dennis):

I am in receipt of your letter of January 19th. I can not thank you enough for acting in our behalf by sending my letter to Ron Deaton. I could not, of course, send such a letter directly to him myself.

Subsequent to your doing that for us we received calls from two of our NC city attorneys and we have met with them. They agree with our assessment of the responsibilities of the DWP in the MOU as we had originally presented them and recognize that there is, perhaps, a lack of good faith on the part of the DWP.

We are set to meet with our NC attorneys again this Wednesday

and with Mr. Deaton himself on Thursday to resume dialog for the implementation of the MOU.

I do not believe that these important meetings could have taken place, at least not as immediately, without your intervention.

Again, thank you so much for your assistance. We are extremely appreciative of the care and feeding you give to the Neighborhood Councils.

Warmest personal regards,

Jacque Lamishaw

Dear Councilman Zine,

Thank you so much for helping remove the billboard light pole banners from Valley Circle. They were terrible.

Sorry to be so late in thanking you...I hope "Better late than never".

For a review of this issue and a public "Thank you!", you can click on

<http://www.thesite.name/ValleyCircle/index.htm>

Thanks again for your help and that of your staff.

Best,
Robert Steward



**TOM HENRY,
CHIEF PLANNING
DEPUTY**

**MARIANNE KING,
ASSOCIATE PLANNING
DEPUTY**



Councilman Zine Reaches Compromise with Synagogue and Neighbors

In what was an extremely controversial - and at times emotionally charged case, Councilman Zine asserted jurisdiction over the South Valley Area Planning Commission decision to allow a single family house to continue to operate as a synagogue located at 5726 Fallbrook Avenue in Woodland Hills.

Councilman Zine decided it was important to meet with neighbors to discuss what conditions could be put in place to ensure privacy, reduce noise, and to address traffic and parking concerns. He also met with the leaders of the synagogue.

At first the synagogue leaders decided not to come to the table and participate in discussions regarding

their lack of proper fire, building and planning permits. Councilman Zine strongly supports houses of worship but also believes that they have to be good neighbors and follow the rules.

The neighbors were extremely helpful and dedicated to generating mitigation measures intended to protect their neighborhood. Those concepts were subsequently adopted by the Los Angeles City Council at the request of Councilman Zine.

There are a total of 31 conditions that were agreed to by all involved, and the synagogue leaders have promised to follow them or face having to close and move to a new location.

The most important condition requires the construction of a sound wall that must be built along the property lines adjacent to any single family homes. Another sound wall must be constructed in the northeast area of the property where the children's playground is to be located. The synagogue leaders also agreed to off-site parking which will be located across the street, with the appropriate traffic control device installed to make crossing safe.

Councilman Zine is hopeful that these and the other conditions will be followed and that the synagogue will be in harmony with the community.

"TAG this, RIDE this"

Councilman and LAPD Reserve Officer, Dennis P. Zine assisted LAPD, CHP, L.A. Sheriff, LAUSD School Police, Union Pacific Police and the L.A. County Probation Department with the round-up of individuals on probation for graffiti and related violations. A number of arrests were made and a variety of weapons were seized and taken into custody. This is the third combined law enforcement operation in the valley dealing with graffiti and vandalism.





**BY MARISOL ESPINOZA, FIELD DEPUTY
SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF
CANOGA PARK, RESEDA & WINNETKA**

Softball Game Promotes Peace in the Valley

On December 4, 2004, hundreds of people came to support the San Fernando Valley Coalition on Gangs 1st March for Peace and Softball Game at Woodley Park's Hjelte Sports Center to promote peace and condemn violence. The day commenced with speakers and a march at 9:00 a.m., taking them to the Hjelte Sports Center to play softball.

This event joined San Fernando Valley rival gang members - who played six friendly games of softball - with both the Los Angeles Police Department and the Los Angeles County Probation Department. Councilmember Wendy Greuel and Deputy Chief Ron Bergmann assumed the honor of throwing out the ceremonial first pitch.

Members of the Coalition also took time to hand out informational materials to at risk youth and families. Representatives included City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo's office, LA

Cares, the LAPD Jeopardy Program, LA Bridges, and the Child and Family Guidance Center. Education and prevention are the keys to reducing gang violence in our community and to safer neighborhoods.

The San Fernando Coalition on Gangs was created by LAPD Valley Bureau Deputy Chief Ron Bergmann and consists of a network of elected officials, Los Angeles Police Department representatives from all five Valley Divisions, the Los Angeles Unified School District, religious groups, and community-based organizations who meet regularly to discuss strategies for ending gang violence. The Coalition was formed in 2002 in order to foster dialogue amongst all participating agencies and to discuss actions taken against the proliferation of gang violence in the San Fernando Valley. One such organization is Communities in Schools, the community-based organization that

has played an integral role in fighting gang violence and promotion of peace on the streets. This partnership between law enforcement, government, schools and non-profits is working together to keep violence off the streets.

Currently there are an estimated 20,000 gang members in the San Fernando Valley. This example of community partnership is a giant step in the right direction toward reducing this number. The community looks forward to more successful events promoting peace and nonviolence in our neighborhoods. If you are interested in finding out more about the San Fernando Valley Gang Coalition, please call (800) 339-6993.

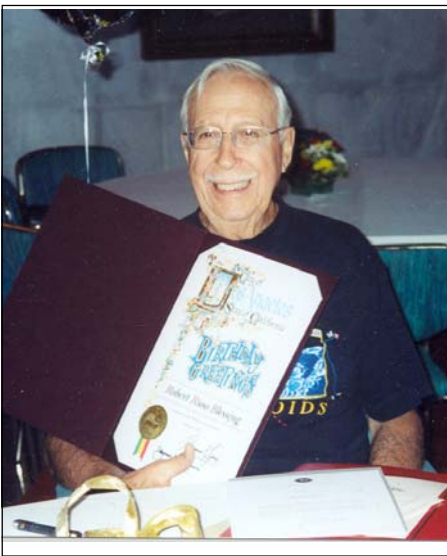




**BY GRETCHEN MARTIN, FIELD DEPUTY
SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF
WOODLAND HILLS**

Out and About in Woodland Hills

Councilman Dennis P. Zine was pleased to extend his congratulations to Bob Blessings as he celebrated his birthday while enjoying a cruise with his family. This special certificate is for a special constituent who celebrated his 80th birthday on November 21st. Bob and his wife Shirley are very active in the community and they are well regarded for their public service, to make our community the best! Congratulations and may you celebrate many more!!!



Bob Blessings showing-off his special certificate presented to him by Councilman Dennis P. Zine for his 80th Birthday.

Councilman Zine rode in the Code 3 Annual Holiday Toy Run Parade from Funrise Toy Company in Woodland Hills to Children’s Hospital, Los Angeles. This is the single largest donation of toys to Children’s Hospital for the entire year. Many local Fire Departments participated along with countless on and off duty Police Officers who volunteer their time to make this a smooth trip from the Valley to the hospital in Hollywood. Code 3 sponsors the Annual Toy Run and - although we had one of our rare December rain storms - the children were thrilled with the toys.

Pinecrest School in Woodland Hills is always eager to participate in important community events such as the **Pen Pals for Soldiers Care Package Day**. Dawn and Barry Thomas were the organizing sponsors of the event, which included getting donations, goodies, boxes, mailing labels and volunteers. Military sponsor, Army Sergeant First Class Timothy Waud, enthusiastically represented the Army. Elizabeth Peisner was in charge of the events organization and was overwhelmingly successful at creating a well coordinated day. Patty Patano, Princi-

hosted the event and helped sort and pack boxes to make this great project work. There were over 100 volunteers, sorting, packing, addressing labels, and writing letters to our deployed servicemen. The Girl Scouts of America and their troop leaders were also there to help, as were some who had loved ones serving overseas. It was a great show of community caring and sharing.



**A picture is worth a thousand words.
A job well done.**



Gretchen Martin from Councilman Dennis P. Zine’s Office, presents a certificate to Elizabeth Peisner for all of her hard work on behalf of our Military Personnel.



**BY NICOLE MOYE, FIELD DEPUTY
SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF
TARZANA & WEST HILLS**

KADIMA HEBREW ACADEMY MAKES WEST HILLS ITS PERMANENT HOME!

Councilman Dennis P. Zine was one of several government dignitaries on hand for the dedication ceremony of Kadima Hebrew Academy's Evenhaim Family Campus in West Hills. Holding the title of the oldest Jewish day school in the San Fernando Valley, Kadima Hebrew Academy has operated since 1970 and has called many places home. The school first opened its doors in West Hills, but was unable to purchase a permanent residence until local developer Shawn Evenhaim was able to secure the purchase of an unused facility in West Hills. The Evenhaim family made a significant donation that was the primary means of funding the project. In addition, several other private donations were made by other community members and parents.

After 34 years of renting various facilities, it is only fitting that Kadima Hebrew Academy now has a permanent home in West Hills, the very neighborhood in which they began.

In addition to standard academics, Kadima Hebrew Academy teaches Judaic studies, Hebrew, Jewish History, Rabbinic's and

about the State of Israel. The new campus features state of the art computer and science labs, a notable library, and a miniature kitchen where students learn how to make Challah bread and other Jewish foods for Jewish holidays.

Part of Kadima's mission is to teach children about donating their time to needy individuals both inside and outside their community. Throughout the year students are asked contribute Tzedakah and to perform acts of gemilut hasadim (loving kindness) in an effort to achieve this goal.

Councilman Dennis P. Zine was joined by Congressman Brad Sherman, Consul General of Israel Ehud Danoch, Los Angeles City Controller Laura Chick, Councilmember's Tony Cardenas, Greig Smith and County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky. Several other municipal employees, local religious leaders, community groups, parents and students were in attendance as well.

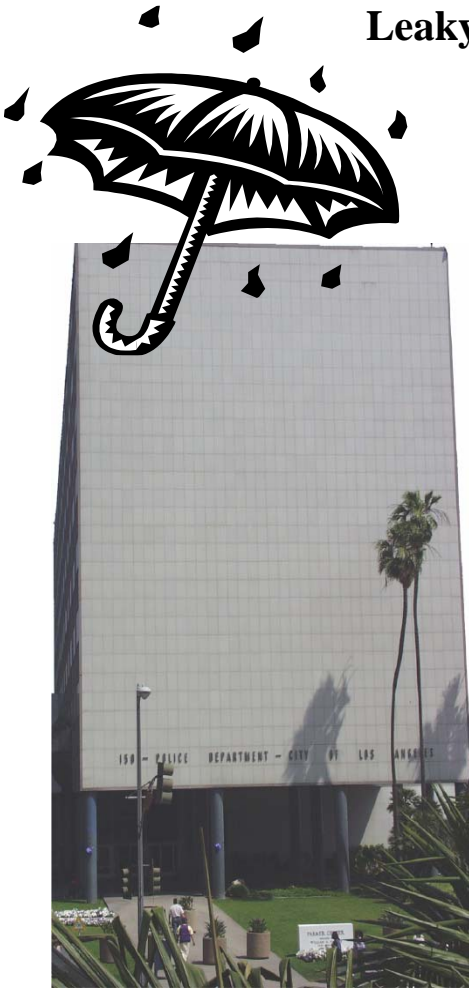
Currently, 185 students are enrolled and upon final completion, the school will allow for 500 students. For more information on Kadima Hebrew Academy, please visit www.kadimahacademy.org.



Mrs. & Mr. Shawn Evenhaim, the Principal of Kadama, City of L. A. Councilmember's Dennis P. Zine, Greig Smith & Tony Cardenas.

Leaky Police Station in Dire Need of Pricey Repairs

By Richard Winton - Los Angeles Times Staff



The Los Angeles Police Department's 77th Street station in South Los Angeles is only eight years old, but the roof leaked profusely Monday in the building, in which the heating has failed

and the doors of the lockup once opened all at the same time.

The city has already spent \$730,000 on repairs, but City Councilman Dennis Zine said Monday the cost would jump to \$2 million. "You folks are patching the ship that wasn't built right," Zine told LAPD and city officials at the City Council's Public Safety Committee meeting Monday.

Yvette Sanchez-Owens, head of the LAPD's facilities management office, said work was underway to repair the problems in the 104,000-square-foot station. The department managed to prevent any escapes last year as it repaired the lockup doors.

"The city was delivered a big fat lemon," Sanchez-Owens said bluntly in an interview. "There are numerous problems, beginning with the design." Zine, a reserve officer who served for decades with the LAPD, said the city should hold contractors who built the \$41.8-million station house more accountable.

Capt. Kenneth Garner, commanding officer of the station, said the problems never seem to end. "The AC doesn't work in the heat of summer. The heat barely works in winter. The plumbing is on its last legs. It is so bad all the showerheads leak," Garner said. "The rain is leaking in all over the place."

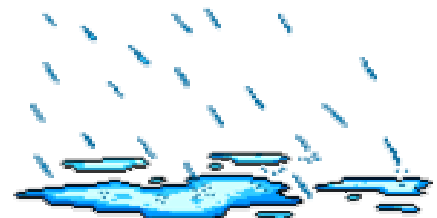
Visitors to the station Monday saw blankets on wet floors, leaking window frames and yellow warning signs to beware of wet flooring. There were 341 calls for repairs in 2003 and 271

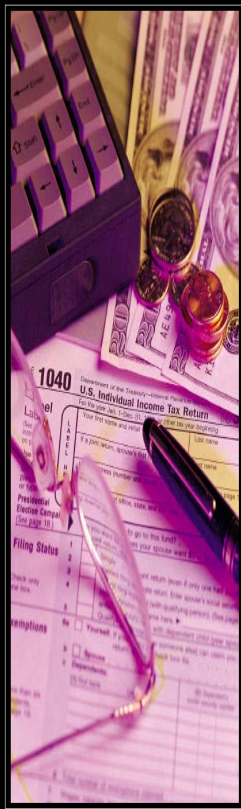
last year, records show. The air duct system was so bad that the state Division of Occupational Safety and Health initiated a review after LAPD employees complained about a lack of ventilation, officials said.

Water has leaked to the lower floors, office spaces, the 180-bed jail and the atrium. There is no hot water in the jail wing and boilers need to be overhauled. The roof, Sanchez-Owens said, was meant to be good for 20 years.

Lt. Roger Murphy said the station recently experienced power outages, dead phones and elevator breakdowns. "Very few people will ride the elevators here," he said. "They really don't make buildings like they used to."

The station was built in 1997 by Morley Construction and designed by Kennard Design Group. Morley Construction officials did not return calls. The council panel asked for a report on repairs in 30 days.





FREE Low-Income & Senior Tax Counseling!

Councilman Dennis P. Zine has once again offered the use of the West Valley Municipal Building to **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program** to prepare income taxes for low-income individuals & to **AARP Tax-Aide** for Senior Citizens.

They will be located in the Mayor's Small Business Advisory Office in Room 129 at 19040 Vanowen Street at the corner of Vanalden Street in Reseda.

LOW INCOME: Every Tuesday from 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM
SENIOR CITIZENS: Tues., Wed., & Thurs. by appointment only.
 beginning Tuesday, February 8th through April 5th.

**For more information or to schedule an appointment,
 Please call (818) 756-8217**



Los Angeles Police Department West Valley Area -Crime Analysis Detail Comparative Crime Statistics



	Total Year 2001	Total Year 2004	% Change
Homicide	13	11	-15.4%
Rape	63	50	-20.6%
Robbery	803	549	-31.6%
Aggravated Assault	1642	1355	-17.5%
TOTAL VIOLENT CRIME	2521	1965	-22.1%
Burglary—All	1979	2119	7.1%
BTFV	2702	2852	5.6%
Theft from Person	55	40	-27.3%
Other Theft	3158	2525	-20.0%
GTA	2187	1679	-23.2%
TOTAL PROPERTY CRIME	10,081	9215	-8.6%
TOTAL PART 1 CRIME	12,602	11,180	-11.3%

\$1000 REWARD



For any individual providing information to the police which results in the apprehension and conviction of vandalism suspects.

If you or any of your employees have any information which may be helpful in ending the current assault of graffiti and vandalism in your area, I urge you to contact **LAPD at (818) 756-9891 or call my office at (818) 756-8848.**

Please know that I am reviewing every possible option and will take appropriate action to end this attack on our neighborhoods. I appreciate your help and cooperation in this matter.

Together we can keep our community safe and beautiful.

**DENNIS P. ZINE,
COUNCILMAN
Third District**

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.



Donate Now 

"South Asia Tsunami Relief"

To donate by phone or for more information, contact the **American Red Cross Santa Clara Valley Chapter** at **(408) 577-1000**. Contributions can also be dropped off or mailed to the Santa Clara Valley Chapter Office - 2731 North First Street, San Jose, CA 95134. Make checks payable to the **"American Red Cross"** and write "South Asia Tsunami Relief" in the memo line.

Information about U.S. citizens in affected areas of Southern Asia may be obtained from the **U.S. Department of State, Office of Overseas Citizens Services**, at **1-888-407-4747** or **(202) 647-5225**.

The following Embassy websites include special information regarding the disaster: www.indianembassy.org/Tsunami/Tsunami.htm (Indian Embassy in DC) www.thaiembdc.org (Royal Embassy of Thailand in Washington DC)

Continue to try and contact your loved ones through normal means of communication. Phone and cellular service has been possible – though sporadic – in some parts of the area.

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

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Our Website Has Been Updated! Check It Out at: www.lacity.org/council.cd3

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213-473-7003 (P)
213-485-8988 (F)
8:30 am-5:00 pm

zine@council.lacity.org

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19040 Vanowen Street
Reseda, CA 91335
818-756-8848 (P)
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

ALL AROUND TOWN



John Schwada of Fox Channel 11 News interviews Councilman Dennis P. Zine at City Hall.



Councilman Dennis P. Zine thanks the organizers of the Dia de Los Muerto's Festival for doing an outstanding job.



Councilman Dennis P. Zine posing with the legendary Fabio.



Councilman Zine honors Rifkin Pro Karate Studio in Canoga Park.



Field Deputy, Nicole Moyer presents a certificate to Commercial Capital Bank at their Ribbon Cutting on behalf of Councilman Dennis P. Zine



The Tarzana Women's Network held a free forum meeting to discuss issues relevant to the women of the Tarzana community. Clockwise: Heather Dubin, Maryann Sobouti, Consuela Mackey & Victoria Allen.

ALL AROUND TOWN



Councilman Dennis P. Zine & Councilmember Jan Perry at a Press Conference in City Hall announcing Black History Month



Councilman Dennis P. Zine presents a Resolution to LAPD Senior Lead Officer Terry Webb on his retirement.



Councilman Zine, Congressman Sherman, Assemblyman Levine and Senator Alarcon present certificates to the owners of La Tortilla Loco at the Reseda Chamber of Commerce Annual Installation.



Councilman Dennis P. Zine presents a certificate to Helen Baker at the Tarzana Community & Cultural Center.



Regional Crime Lab Ground-Breaking attended by Sherrif Lee Bacca, LAPD Chief Bratton, L.A. City Councilmember's Cindy Miscikowski, Dennis P. Zine & Wendy Greuel.



San Fernando Valley Representatives visit Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Preserve (formerly Ahmanson Ranch) for a nature walk.