

Date: March 11, 2004

To: Neighborhood Council Leaders

From: Greg Nelson, General Manager, Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment

Subject: NEIGHBORHOOD CAFÉ'S THIRD SEASON IN THE CAN.

PREVIOUS SHOWS REPEATED. STAFF REPORTS FOR BONC AVAILABLE.

NEIGHBORHOOD CAFÉ'S THIRD SEASON IN THE CAN (SO TO SPEAK)

The third round of Neighborhood Café shows were just taped. Nine in three days. That's 25 shows in total. We know some of the air times on Channel 35, and the rest will be announced soon. Tune in and hear from some of your favorite Neighborhood Council leaders.

Monday, March 28, 10:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

"Tree Planting with the TreePeople"

Planting trees is good for people, neighborhoods, the environment, and birds, so what's holding you back? Diann Corral (Mid-Town North Hollywood) and Terri Davis (Greater Toluca Lake) describe their tree planting projects, and how they got city grants to leverage their money. Jim Summers from TreePeople explains how they train Neighborhood Council leaders to become "Citizen Foresters."

Tuesday, March 29, 8:30 a.m.

"Two Great Neighborhood Improvement Projects: Vincent Thomas Bridge Lighting and Wilmington Gateways"

Wilmington is revitalizing itself in many different ways. Dennis McCarbery (Wilmington) talks about the Vincent Thomas Bridge Lighting project, a 17-year collaborative effort by many organizations including the Wilmington Neighborhood Council. Jack Babbitt (Wilmington) is working on improving Wilmington in a different way. Together with the Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative (LANI), the Neighborhood Council is working hard on creating 10 gateways around Wilmington.

Thursday, March 31, 8:30 a.m.

"Creative Ways to Involve People and Youth Outreach"

Outreach is one of those things that is on each Neighborhood Council's "to do" list. The Greater Griffith Park and Atwater Village Neighborhood Councils are no exception. Charley Mims (Greater Griffith Park) describes their outreach while preparing to be certified. Perla Miranda (Atwater Village) illustrates the various outreach activities and methods that all Neighborhood Councils are currently adopting to reach out to stakeholders. How is the youth involved? Maribel Ramirez, a youth specialist, and Johnny Godinez (Boyle Heights) convey the importance of involving youth in a meaningful way. Joe Gatlin (Central San Pedro) explains his grass-roots approach at informing housing project residents of issues in their community.

Coming soon to a theatre or drive-in near you:

“A Great Neighborhood Improvement Project: Grand Avenue”

“We’re trying to make Downtown Los Angeles the living room of the city!” said Brady Westwater (Downtown Los Angeles) explaining the concept of the Grand Avenue Project. Along with Bill Witte of the Related Companies of California, they describe the extensive outreach that all parties are taking at making this project a true community effort.

“L.A. SHARES and Equipping Neighborhood Council Offices”

Neighborhood Councils are beginning to find and occupy office spaces ... a place to hang their shingle. The City of Los Angeles has streamlined its system especially for the Neighborhood Councils. Bert Ball from L.A. SHARES explains how his nonprofit helps provide free supplies and equipment for the offices. Nicholas Krall (Sylmar) talks about his experience in getting their office set up, and Jackie Mendez from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment describes how the City helps cut the red tape.

“Why We Love Our Senior Lead Officers”

When the Neighborhood Councils in the Harbor Area and their Senior Lead Officers started talking about how to do better prevent crime in the 60-acre Peck Park, they decided that the Neighborhood Councils would share in the cost of buying three ATVs so the police could patrol the park more easily. It was a major investment in public safety. Officer Steven Muirhead (Harbor Division), Ralph Galante (Coastal San Pedro), and Howard Uller (Central San Pedro) explain this exciting partnership. Officer Amanda Serrano (Rampart Division) tells viewers what Senior Lead Officers do and why everyone is so happy that they’re back.

“An Outsider's View”

Raphe Sonenshein, former Executive Director of the Los Angeles Charter Reform Commission, and Craig Summers from Coro recall their original expectations of the new Neighborhood Council system, describe their current observations, and talk about the potential of the Neighborhood Councils. It’s a refreshing viewpoint from two people who aren’t associated with any Neighborhood Council, but who are able to analyze the system objectively from the outside.

“The Making of the Los Angeles Mayoral Debates”

The evolution of the Neighborhood Council system took another big step forward when leaders organized themselves to sponsor two debates involving the five major candidates for mayor. Working through the Los Angeles Citywide Alliance

of Neighborhoods and CityWatch, an online newsletter for Neighborhood Councils, these leaders designed the debates working with KCBS Channel 2 and KCAL Channel 9, which agreed to televise two commercial-free 90-minute forums. It wasn't easy, but it was an unforgettable experience. Bill Christopher from the Alliance, and Ken Draper, CityWatch editor, explain how it all came together and the value that it had for the Neighborhood Council movement.

“A Candid Discussion with the General Manager”

Host Brad Pomerance hosts this special program and interviews Greg Nelson, the General Manager of Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. Greg talks about the past, present, and future of the Neighborhood Council system. (Note: This wasn't my idea. There was a last minute cancellation and I just happened to be standing there in the studio – GN)

PREVIOUS NEIGHBORHOOD CAFÉ SHOWS REPEATED

Here are the air times for last round of Neighborhood Café shows which are being repeated.

Monday, March 14, 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

“The People Sound Off”

The Official Neighborhood Café Cam caught up with several Neighborhood Council leaders at the Congress of Neighborhoods and recorded their thoughts and suggestions about the future. Among those who had an opinion and gave it freely were: Dan Bernstein (Hollywood Hills West), Ken Wyrick and Candy Tanamachi (Boyle Heights), and Daniel Andalon (Historic Highland Park). Greg Nelson, General Manager of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment comments on the comments.

Tuesday, March 15, 8:30 a.m.

“A Great Neighborhood Improvement Project: Bee Canyon Park”

Mary Ellen Crosby (Granada Hills North) is the kind of energetic and devoted person that any Neighborhood Council would be proud to have promoting its parks projects and programs. The Neighborhood Council matched a contribution from Councilman Greig Smith with a significant amount of its money to reopen a playground in Bee Canyon Park. The Department of Recreation and Parks explains how it all came together.

Thursday, March 17, 8:30 a.m.

“A Great Neighborhood Improvement Project: Broadway-Manchester Streetscape”

(You won't be celebrating St. Patrick's Day this early will you?)

A top priority of the community was to create a landscaped median down Manchester Avenue, and to create other improvements as part of a million dollar project. Elizabeth McClelland from the Empowerment Congress Southeast Area Neighborhood Development Council, and representatives from the city's Bureau of Street Services explain how this was done, and how other Neighborhood Councils can do the same thing.

Monday, March 21, 10:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.
"Fight Blight"

Broken windows, dilapidated houses, and junk on the front yard sends a message that the residents of the area have given up on their neighborhood. That's not acceptable to the Mayor's office or to Neighborhood Council leaders like Leslie Evans (Empowerment Congress North Area Neighborhood Development Council). An inspector from the Department of Building Safety joins Leslie on a tour of his neighborhood as he explains how much more effective the fight against blight has been since the Neighborhood Council got started.

Tuesday, March 22, 8:30 a.m.
"The Trauma Centers Crisis"

The closing of the King/Drew trauma center has not only created a crisis in South Los Angeles, but its domino effect is creating problems throughout the entire county. Dr. Richard Baker, and Robert Cole (Empowerment Congress West Area Neighborhood Development Council) explain the situation and what can be done.

Thursday, March 24, 8:30 a.m.
Graffiti Prevention, Part II

Graffiti consultant Tim Kephart goes into details about his innovative tracking system. Before the graffiti is eliminated, it's photographed and put into a database. Captain Pat Gannon (Harbor Division) explains how this process helps the police catch the bad guys and reduce crime. The Harbor City Neighborhood Council and other cities have contracted with Tim to deal with this problem.

STAFF REPORTS FOR BONC POSTED

[Click here](#) to view the staff reports that have been prepared for the next meeting of the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners on March 15.

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