



# Woodland Hills Warner Center Neighborhood Council

Fall 2017

[www.whcouncil.org](http://www.whcouncil.org)

## Growth is Change

### Mega-Developments and Woodland Hills: Huge advantages or huge headaches?

Changes are coming to Woodland Hills—big changes. And questions about what those proposed changes will have on virtually every aspect of living and working in the community have yet to be answered.

Three massive developments totaling over 90 acres are being proposed to take the places of three of the community's long-time landmarks: the now deteriorating Promenade Shopping Center on Topanga Canyon Blvd. in Warner Center, the 12-building Office Park at Burbank and De Soto and the soon-to-be closing Boething

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*at Development*

### Westfield Promenade



*Plans to replace the decaying mall feature a mix of office towers, luxury residences and a 15,000 seat Sports/Entertainment Center—all permitted in Warner Center's Downtown District.*

### Inside this Issue:

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## Birthing Our New Baby



*Area 7 Representative Aaron Williams puts the finishing touches on the new WH Council website. It has been designed to have more information and be more responsive to the community.*

### New Council website is a darn sight better than anything in the past.

“We’ve been working on this for a long time, and we think the residents and businesses of Woodland Hills-Warner Center are going to like what they see, and recognize that it was all worth it,” smiled Peter Fletcher who chairs the Woodland Hill-Warner Center Neighborhood Council Outreach Committee.

Fletcher (CBO Rep-Area 7) and Aaron Williams (Residential Rep-Area 7) were the driving forces in bringing the Neighborhood Council’s website into the 21st Century. Addressing the positives

*Cont. on Page 3*

*at Website*

## Personally Rewarding Opportunities



A Message from Joyce Fletcher, President

## Looking for Rewarding Community Connections? Want to Make a Difference? Then Be A Joiner!

Woodland Hills is truly a wonderful place ... where else can you live where you can be at the ocean in the morning, the mall at noon and the mountains in the afternoon. Woodland Hills has a diversity of culture, business, landscape and neighborhoods.

However, 2017 is a time of both tremendous opportunity and tremendous challenges in Los Angeles and Woodland Hills. Our community is undergoing unprecedented growth while at the same time experiencing increases in crime, homelessness and traffic congestion. 2017 is a time when we must work together to maintain our diversity, environment and history while embracing new development and change.

Twenty-five years ago, I moved from Texas to Woodland Hills seeking my own version of La La Land and I wanted to make friends and to be involved in my community to make a difference. At the time, a very smart person told me to "be a joiner." I took this advice to heart and joined various organizations and eventually ran for a position on the Woodland Hills-Warner Center Neighborhood Council. I made wonderful friends and I started to be able to make a difference in the community ... one small step at a time.

### Become Involved.

I urge you to "be a joiner" too, and become involved in your community. If you're looking for rewarding challenges,

there are many interesting and fun opportunities available to you.

**We welcome you to attend and join or participate in the Woodland Hills Warner Center Neighborhood Council and committees. The WHWCNC is made up of residents, business people and community-based organization members just like you, who have come together and made a positive impact on all aspects of the community.**

The WHWCNC advises CD3 Councilman Bob Blumenfield and City agencies with recommendations on important issues. Through our 10 standing committees, we examine and recommend action to positively impact development, education, transportation, public safety, the environment and much more. If you are concerned about changes in your neighborhood, join in and make your voice heard.

### Help our entire community.

Of course, you might also join other organizations. Join the West Valley – Warner Center Chamber of Commerce and advocate for commercial growth so we bring more local jobs to Woodland Hills. Volunteer at organizations who work to resolve homeless issues, or create a committee at your local school, participate in neighborhood clean-ups to remove graffiti and trash. Join or create a Neighborhood Watch Program to protect the safety of your neighborhood.

To stay current you can join Nextdoor (<https://nextdoor.com/city/woodland-hills-ca/>) for daily updates on activities, crime and events happening in your neighborhood. The WHWCNC uses

Nextdoor.com to connect neighbors. We have setup a Woodland Hills video network through the Ring Video Doorbell app to connect neighbors.

Besides news from WHWCNC, if you want to know more of what's going on in our community, sign up to receive email newsletters from City Councilmember Bob Blumenfield (The Blumenfield Buzz), the Mayor's office (LA 360) and the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment whose sole purpose is to support projects and activities that benefit neighborhoods ([empowerla@la.city.org](mailto:empowerla@la.city.org)). All these newsletters will notify and advise you of what is happening in LA and your community. They will also provide you with opportunities and information about how YOU can make a difference.

### You can make a difference ... "Be a joiner"

Now, if you're ready to join in the fun, go and view our website committee and calendar pages for all meeting dates and committee projects ([www.whcouncil.org](http://www.whcouncil.org)). We know many residents and stakeholders can't attend meetings at night so we make it possible for you to attend our Board meetings from the comfort of your home over your internet connection. Visit our website to find links to watch Facebook Live streams of our monthly Board meetings and PLUM (Planning, Land Use and Mobility) meetings.

Warmest wishes,

**Board President, Joyce Fletcher**

**Contact me at: [j.fletcher@whcouncil.org](mailto:j.fletcher@whcouncil.org) or call 818-639-9444**



## Your Neighborhood Council

### Executive Officers

President: Joyce Fletcher  
Vice President: Sheppard Kaufman  
Secretary: Linda Kouy-Ghadosh  
Treasurer: Heath Kline  
Parliamentarian: Aaron Williams

### Governing Board Representatives

#### Community-wide

At-Large: Sheppard Kaufman

#### Area 1

Residential: Dennis DiBiase  
Business: Linda Kouy-Ghadosh  
Com. Based Org: Karen DiBiase  
Area 1 Alternate: *Open Seat*

#### Area 2

Residential: Brian Drapkin  
Business: Raymond Cole  
Com. Based Org: Sean McCarthy  
Area 2 Alternate: Paul Lawler

#### Area 3

Residential: Nancy McLean  
Business: Herb Madsen  
Com. Based Org: Marty Lipkin  
Area 3 Alternate: Eva Morris-Huffman



#### Area 4

Residential: Don Patterson  
Business: Albert Saur  
Com. Based Org: Cameron Gil  
Area 4 Alternate: *Open Seat*

#### Area 5

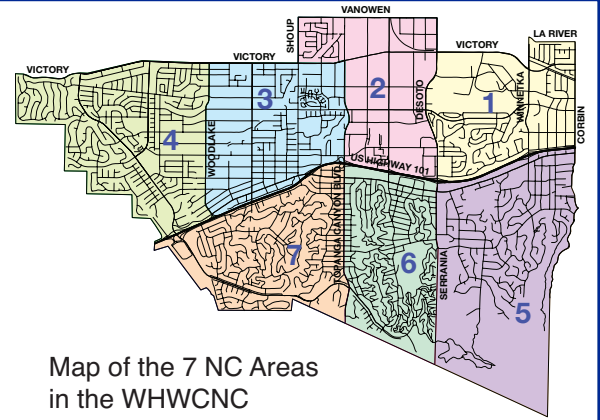
Residential: Dorothy Strackbien Koetz  
Business: Richard Hollander  
Com. Based Org: Mercy Alpert  
Area 5 Alternate: *Open Seat*

#### Area 6

Residential: H.D. "Pat" Patton  
Business: Gilbert Yablon  
Com. Based Org: Heath Kline  
Area 6 Alternate: Lauren Coffman

#### Area 7

Residential: Aaron Williams  
Business: Joyce Fletcher  
Com. Based Org: Peter Fletcher  
Area 7 Alternate: Marie Pierre



Map of the 7 NC Areas in the WHWCNC

The Council's Board meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Visit [www.whcouncil.org](http://www.whcouncil.org) for the time and location. Find our calendar page and click on the date to see when the Board and Committees meet along with agendas.

To contact committees or your area representative, call **1-818-639-9444**.

Join in on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/22046220814/>

## Website

*Cont. From Page 1*

and negatives of the old website, the Committee worked with a web-design company to build a completely new state-of-the-art site that's a benefit to the entire community. "We achieved our goal," believes Williams. "We designed the site to be much more attractive, informative and user-friendly for the community and anyone else who visits the website. The new site allows the council to post videos for the first time as well as link to the Facebook live streams of our monthly meetings."

The new site also makes it possible for information to be posted by members of the Neighborhood Council in a more accessible way. The site has search functions that make it easier for our stakeholders to access the information they are looking for.

"Aaron really did most of the heavy lifting," said Fletcher as he created the graphics designed for the landing page, the various committee pages, and the

**"The new site allows the council to post videos for the first time as well as link to the Facebook live streams of our monthly meetings."**

Council Library. "There's a captivating video of Woodland Hills that greets site visitors, and a user-friendly menu that gets you wherever you need to go quickly."

He also pointed out that a new Calendar gives you easier access to meeting dates and agendas and any other support documents for reference before the meeting. The Library section makes available current and past NC Committee meeting minutes, case reports, and other pertinent information. "That's in addition to every Committee now having its own page on the website where information for upcoming meetings are posted for public access," Peter Fletcher quickly added. "Since our Committees are the ones who actually have the most contact with the commu-

nity, we felt it was critical that there be better access to event information, plans for future events, and special information for anyone interested in whatever the Committee was created to address."

According to Fletcher, the new website went live last February. Since then, the various committees have worked with the Outreach Committee on a daily basis to fine-tune features, assess user responses and populate the pages with updates, new content and other important information. The goal is to provide stakeholders with an informative and responsive resource.

The new design, ease-of-use features and increased library of minutes, documents, by-laws and information can give site-goers consistently updated input of factors impacting their neighborhoods, as well as the entire community and even the West Valley.

**Community members and guests who are a member of our Facebook group** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/22046220814/> can respond to posts with information and photos. We encourage our stakeholders to join our Facebook page and Twitter feed at <https://twitter.com/WHCouncil>

**The new design, ease-of-use features and increased library of minutes, documents, by-laws and information can give site-goers consistently updated input of factors impacting their neighborhoods, as well as the entire community and even the West Valley.**

## Promenade Today



*What was once the Valley's most celebrated high-end mall has fallen into disrepair, but it is projected to become the new "Downtown" for Warner Center. When completed, the project will feature a 24-story tower and a 15,000-seat sports/entertainment center.*

## Development *Cont. From Page 1*

Treeland nursery at the junction of the 101 Freeway and the Mulholland/Valley Circle exit and overpass. Two property owners—Westfield for the Promenade and the Boething family for the nursery—filed development plans for projects on their sites last October. Since then, Michael Adler's firm, the business park owner, filed this past April.

**With declining retail shopping patronage and a new Specific Plan for Warner Center specifying what could be built on the site, Westfield made the determination to pursue building the residential/commercial/retail/entertainment mix as a replacement for the Promenade.**

### The Westfield Plan.

The Westfield plan for the 34-acre Promenade site which is bounded by Topanga, Oxnard, Owensmouth and Erwin Sts. calls for \$1.5 billion of construction and development. Their mixed-use plans propose 1,400 units of residential, two large hotels of 272 and 300 rooms, a 24-story, 470,000 square foot office tower, a grocery store and retail complex, plus a large entertainment and sports center on the Topanga/Oxnard corner which would seat up to 15,000 spectators.

**Westfield maintains that the proposed project meets the Warner Center 2035 Specific Plan guidelines and proposes to complete it in four phases from 2021 to 2033.**

Also included in their proposal is a one acre "square" that Westfield envisions being used for community activities like holiday events, evening movies and family picnics. In their initial filing, Westfield proposes to complete their plan in four phases beginning in 2021 and continuing through 2033.

### The Treeland Plan.

Proposed for the 32.4 acre Boething Treeland nursery site is a mixed-use project that includes 26 single "estate" family homes, 95 "Garden Homes" in two separate areas that fall under Small Lot Subdivision rules, and a 72-room Assisted Living/Memory Care facility with up to 87-beds. Their site plan map shows that over 400,000 square-feet of the property will be left as undeveloped open space.

### The Adler Plan.

The Adler plan for the 24.4-acre business park site across Burbank Blvd. from Kaiser Hospital and Firestation 84 calls for an 8-phase demolition of 12 buildings primarily single-story steel and glass structures to build 9 new structures up to 350 feet in height. This mixed-use master plan proposes 2.65 million square-feet of development that includes 1,029 units of residential, one hotel

of 228 rooms, two 16-story office buildings and a 24-story, 350-foot-tall office tower, and 82,964 square-feet of restaurant/retail space. Since the project is in the early phases of approval and design refinement, site and building designs are in flux as problems and issues are worked out.

### The Treeland proposal: Sort of "déjà vu."

This isn't the first time development has been proposed for the Treeland Nursery site. In 1985 a 22-building office, hotel and condominium complex was submitted that would have built 1.1 million square feet of office space, 45,000 square feet of retail space, 71 townhomes and a three-story, 200-room hotel near the entrance to the gate-guarded Hidden Hills community, which is not in the City of Los Angeles.

However, according to old newspaper clippings, that project was abandoned after the real state market plunged, coupled with growing protests from homeowners in Hidden Hills and Woodland Hills who cited increased traffic congestion, noise, and even air pollution as reasons for the City not to green light the plan.

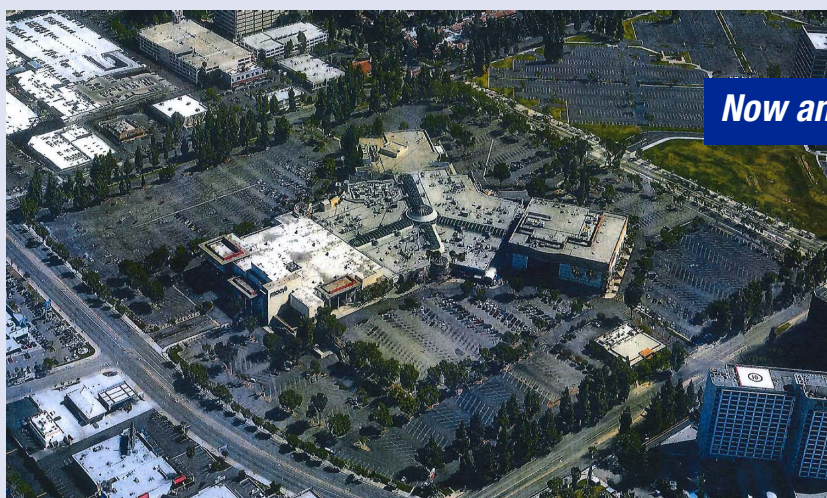
### Time brings changes to Woodland Hills

Today, many factors have changed for these three sites, along with changes in the Specific Plans and our Community Plan, including several ordinances that govern them.

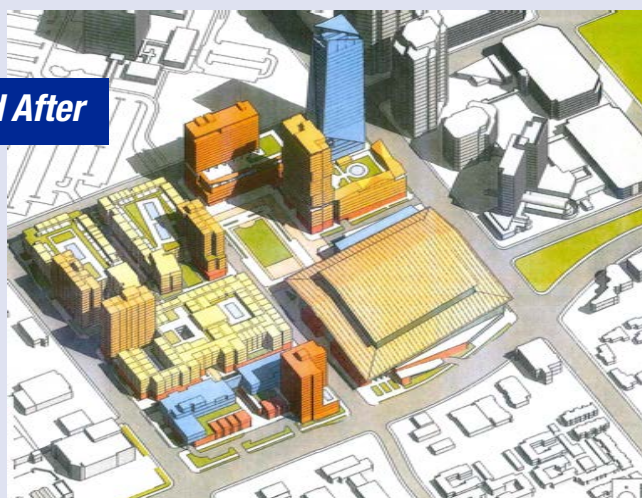
With the passing of the Boething family's patriarch, the family made the financial and operational decision to consolidate all their nursery functions in Ventura County. That meant their site on Valley Circle Blvd. and Long Valley Rd. would be available for development under the existing Community Plan. While currently zoned A-1, RA-1 and C-2, the Community Plan allows the owners to file for rezoning as commercial and residential property. What makes the situation even more complicated is that the State and the City have passed Eldercare laws that permit the construction of Eldercare (and Assisted Living) to be erected in virtually every Planning zone of Los Angeles. The City's Small Lot Subdivision Ordinance has also paved the way for denser residential housing in areas that once were limited to developments of traditional single-family home structures.

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**Now and After**



**Surface parking took up the majority of the old Promenade Mall site. The new plan proposes a series of connected parking garages under most of the site with additional wrapped parking structures for residential buildings.**

Westfield cites the need to replace the decaying and ghost town-like mall that had once been the area's premier shopping center. Following the Northridge earthquake and Macy's numerous mergers with competing department stores, the Promenade fell out of favor with retailers and shoppers even before the majority of the property was sold to Westfield, at a time when it was fully-focused on refurbishing their Topanga Canyon mall. They also had plans for another Warner Center shopping center that eventually became The Village.

In the case of the Adler project, the single-story buildings, like many found in Warner Center, can no longer serve the needs of businesses looking to locate here. The WC 2035 Plan was crafted to address this problem. Newer buildings will have the space and amenities that corporations and their employees are looking for.

### **City will weigh issues possibly impacting the community's welfare.**

Of course, the issues of greater density, increased water use during droughts, additional air pollution, and the need for adequate public transportation and parking are expected to be brought up by residents of adjacent neighborhoods and area businesses during public meetings. However, if the project is shown to meet the detailed requirements of the 2035 Specific Plan, then most of those issues will have been previously addressed

and mitigations factored into calculations the City made before officially adopting the new Specific Plan into law.

"What a lot of people may fail to realize is that almost all of these concerns and issues were raised during the series of open "Town Hall" presentations held at Kaiser Hospital by the Planning Department and urban planner Patricia Smith in 2008 and 2009 when the new Specific Plan was first being formulated," commented August Steurer, former Chair of the land use committee. "Over a thousand Woodland Hills residents took advantage of the open invitations to evaluate the basic proposals of the 2035 Plan and to submit their comments, observation and concerns. All of that input was analyzed, evaluated and factored into the final Specific Plan."

### **The 2035 WC Specific Plan was planned to accomodate all of this.**

The Promenade and Adler site developments are governed by the Warner Center 2035 Specific Plan, which was initially drafted by a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) comprised of an urban planning and landscape design firm, Warner Center property owners, representatives of the Neighborhood Council, homeowner groups, business owners and other concerned and involved Woodland Hills individuals. Over a period of 8 years and dozens of publicly open meetings and Town Hall presenta-

tions, the CAC hammered out a Specific Plan that divided the Warner Center Area into 8 defined "Districts" which have specific rules and formulas governing development in each area. Any development proposal needs to conform to those guidelines or face rigorous challenges for variances or exceptions that may be requested. As long as they comply with the Specific Plan, these mega-development projects as initially submitted will only need administrative approval from Planning before starting construction. Due to their complexity, this can still take months to years before problems are found and ironed out.

### **Promenade is "Downtown WC."**

The Promenade site is located in the "Downtown District" of the WC 2035 Plan that is identified as Warner Center's primary employment and entertainment center. The plan for the District was to feature a mix of residential, restaurant and specialty retail uses, along with commercial centers and pos-

**There is no limit to building height in the "Downtown District" where residential high-rise buildings must be included if residential is proposed. The amount of residential allowed is based on the total size of the project.**

*Cont. on Page 6 at Development*



## A rising future for Promenade?



**Westfield has plans to revitalize the old Promenade Mall site in four phases. Up first are apartments, shopping streets, a hotel and a major grocery followed by 15,00-seat Entertainment Arena. They'll be served by underground parking and "wrapped" parking with buildings hiding the cars from view.**

## Development *Cont. From Page 5*

sibly an entertainment venue. In the Downtown District, all projects must have a minimum percentage of non-residential floor area, and no ground floor residential use is permitted for any project. There is no limit to building height in the "Downtown District" where residential high-rise buildings must be included if residential is proposed. The amount of residential allowed is based on the total size of the project.

The Westfield proposal would construct several residential towers across from the Marriott Hotel on Oxnard St., and build "entrepreneurial office space" near Topanga Canyon Blvd. behind a row of new retail stores and one of the proposed hotels. The plan's high-rise office tower would face two of the existing office towers on Oxnard. Westfield's residential plans for the project

call for "luxury villas," apartments, lofts and live-work spaces.

### Adler Site is in "Commerce WC."

The Adler project is located in the "Commerce District" of the WC 2035 Plan that is identified as Warner Center's primary commercial center. The plan for the District was to focus on commercial and allow some residential. Like the Promenade project, it has a mix of residential, restaurant and specialty retail uses, along with commercial centers. In the Commerce District, all projects must have a minimum percentage of non-residential floor area, and no ground floor residential use is permitted for any project. There is no limit to building height in the "Commerce District" and no minimum height if residential is included. The amount of residential allowed is based on the total size of the project. The apartment buildings are only seven floors in Adler's Plan.

## What's Ahead in Pursuit of the Proposals.

All three proposals must go through a lengthy and complex vetting process that includes close scrutiny by one or more layers of City government. It includes gathering comments at public hearings and through mailed and emailed comments on the Treeland redevelopment. Planners are factoring in neighborhood concerns and Community Plan regulations. Warner Center projects are being evaluated for compliance to the existing Specific Plan and the supplemental EIRs if required. Critical community concerns like increased traffic, parking requirements, accessible public open space, impacts on air quality, future water and electric usage, noise levels, and many other environmental concerns will also be taken into account.

These proposals also raise critical issues concerning the rate of growth in Woodland Hills

*Continued →*

## Commerce District becomes a community



**Adler has plans to convert an existing business park site in eight phases. Up first are apartments and live-work units. Eventually a hotel, commercial office towers and restaurants will fill out the multi-use development along with new private streets.**



## Promenade Mews with Live/Work



**Initial plans for the Promenade's Phase 1 residential section call for mews-like streets with artisan shops and restaurants fronting cobblestone-like pedestrian walks and vehicle thoroughfares. The WC2035 Plan mandates commercial and live/work use on the ground floor with residential above.**

and Warner Center, as well as the City's ability to handle increased traffic loads on existing streets and the State's ability to service additional traffic on the 101 Freeway and service ramps.

Since the projects are situated near key junctions of the Ventura Freeway, automobile congestion, traffic flow, and mitigation measures promise to be a primary concern. But the increased density will also need to be addressed in public hearings and in any Environmental Impact Reports that are mandated for these projects.

The City Planning Commission, City Council and the Mayor will also have to answer the question of whether existing and any future capacity and capabilities of the area's mass transit services can provide a realistic alternative to personal vehicles, and help relieve traffic on key commuter routes such as the 101 Freeway, Topanga Canyon Blvd., Ventura Blvd. and Victory Blvd. The Community Plan Review process underway needs to consider these issues as Planning updates the Community Plan. (See page 10.)

**Another "déjà vu" arena is at the center of many discussions.**

**Anchoring the development site, Westfield is proposing to construct a 15,000-seat entertainment and sports center. Parking and traffic mitigation for the venue are key issues that need to be addressed before the City acts on the Westfield proposal.**

Anchoring the development site, Westfield is proposing to construct a 15,000-seat entertainment and sports center that they have initially proposed using for professional, youth and community sports contests as well as for live music, performing arts and speakers.

This is the third time that a major sports center and entertainment venue has been proposed for Warner Center. Previously a private developer proposed constructing a 9,000-seat event center in 1996 on a piece of the demolished Rocketdyne facility on Canoga Ave. The proposal was not well received and Councilperson Laura Chick quashed it.

Ten years later, the same developer proposed building a 10,000-seat Oasis Sports and Entertainment Center on the grounds of the Litton/Northrop-Grumman campus near the 101 Freeway/Canoga exit. That proposal also failed to gain approval from the public or from Councilman Dennis Zine.

In proposing this new iteration of a large-scale sports and entertainment center, Westfield will face concerns about placing the arena on one of the major street corners in Warner Center. Parking and traffic mitigation for the venue are key issues that will need to be explored and publically aired before the City acts on Westfield's proposal.

As indicated in the initial plans that Westfield submitted, the Sports and Events Arena would primarily feed traffic out to the Topanga/101 interchange—an area that already experiences major traffic clogs during rush hour commutes.

Westfield also proposes to add a grocery store to the Promenade site, giving Warner Center shoppers and residents two new supermarket options. Earlier this year, a mixed-use residential development on Variel Avenue that proposes housing a grocery store was approved.

### The Community Plan and Treeland.

The Boething Treeland proposal is not governed by a Specific Plan, but instead falls under the jurisdiction of the existing Canoga Park-Winnetka-Woodland Hills-West Hills Community Plan. That Plan was created in 1984 and was last updated in 1999.

The Community Plan addresses the need to preserve existing single-family residential neighborhoods, and concerns itself with "cumulative affects" if permitted development exceeds infrastructure capacity. It also highlights the need for more affordable senior housing, the compatibility between commercial and residential uses, and lack of open space in many apartment projects. Additionally, residential mixed-use development and affordable housing opportunities are also supported in the current Community Plan.

**The Community Plan specifically highlights the Treeland Nursery site (Page I-8 of the Community Plan) stating that it is "of a size and configuration to accommodate substantial commercial development."**

The current Community Plan specifically highlights the Treeland Nursery site (Page I-8 of the Community Plan) stating that it is "of a size and configuration to accommodate substantial commercial development." There are specific conditions noted if the existing General Commercial zoning is changed, and there may be some additional issues since the Community Plan was adopted in 1987 and projected only through 2010. That may become a problem that the City, surrounding communities like Calabasas and Hidden Hills and the adjacent neighborhoods will have to resolve.

"There has already been a steady stream of concerns, and comments about the Treeland proposal on the website blogs that serve as

*Cont. on Page 8*

*at Development*



**Treeland is closing,  
opening a lot of  
concern**



## Development

*Cont. From Page 7*

grapevines and information centers for the West Valley area,” stated Karen Koe, former Neighborhood Council Planning and Land Use Committee Chair. “What everyone must recognize is that there are City Plans, land-use laws and ordinances which are already in-place and which already govern many project sites. People need to educate themselves on what rights they have, and what rights the land-holders and developers have.”

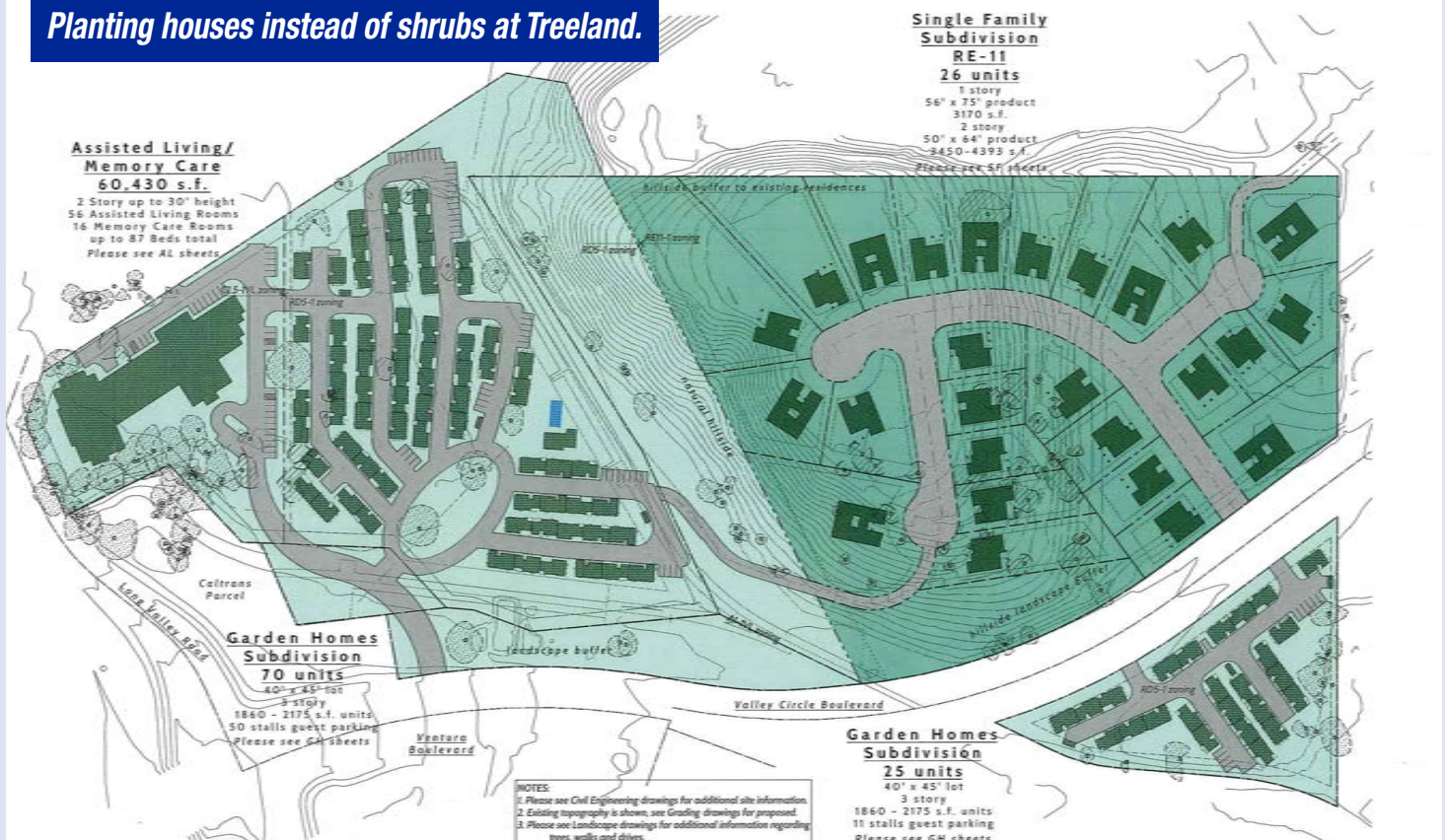
Also—as stated earlier in the article—the inclusion of an Eldercare / Assisted Living facility and a proposal to create one or two Small Lot Subdivisions (referred to as “Garden Homes” in the plans) will need to be examined. Both represent issues that the State and City have already rendered decisions on by adopting ordinances governing their location, size and usage. Questions over the zoning legalities and size could lead to loggerheads on both proposed developments.

**Traffic, density, lifestyle quality, water use and parking probably will top the key issues needing to be addressed.**

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*With Boething's Treeland Nursery set to consolidate their operations in Moorpark, issues of traffic, noise, densification and housing mix will all have to be resolved before surrounding communities can feel comfortable with the development plans.*

## Planting houses instead of shrubs at Treeland.



*The initial plans for developing the Boething Treeland site proposes an Eldercare facility, a subdivision of large homes and two areas of dense “Garden Homes.” Neighboring communities and adjacent homeowners have criticized the plan as too big for the area.*



I ?

A significant issue raised by the on-going residential development in Warner Center as well as the planned residential facilities in Treeland, is the question if existing public and charter schools in the community can accommodate a potential explosion of new elementary, middle and high school students in their existing facilities and campuses?

Although the LAUSD governs public and some charter schools in Woodland Hills and abutting communities, there have been no public statements as to how the School District intends to accommodate any anticipated increased student counts tied to development in Warner Center or at Treeland.

Recently, the dilapidated Oso Street Elementary School was torn down. That site was the closest elementary facility to Warner Center—although the building could not be refurbished due to years of neglect. Collins Street and Hughes schools are partially used, and the LAUSD has not made any comment addressing those facilities. Platt Ranch Elementary School near El Camino High School remains in usable condition, although neighborhood residents have come together to tell LAUSD that they want the site to be used for its original intended purpose—a neighborhood elementary facility.

Both Taft and El Camino are Charter High Schools that operate under the oversight of the LAUSD. Both schools draw numerous students from out of the area due to their exceptional educational and sports programs. Increasing numbers of students actually living in the Woodland Hills district could complicate the enrollment regulations of both high schools and spur LAUSD to write new requirements for student admissions.

## Still at the Beginning...

While the three mega-development proposals are in their infancy, the Woodland Hills-Warner Center Neighborhood Council is on the front lines of assessing the pluses and minuses of each proposal and giving the community a forum where they can air their views.

"We intend to make our review meetings and evaluations as accessible to the public as possible," WHWCNC President Joyce Fletcher asserted. "We will list all of our meetings on our website calendar at least 72-hours in advance. We will hold public comment meetings that follow the City's procedures. We will make every effort to post reports, documents and any other important information on our website as soon as we possibly can."

Ongoing updates on key Woodland Hills-Warner Center issues will be made accessible on the WHWCNC website: [whcouncil.org](http://whcouncil.org) as soon as they are available.

**PLUM Meetings: 1st and 3rd Thursdays of every month. Check the NC website calendar for PLUM Agendas.**

**To comment on the Westfield project send an email to [promenade2035@whcouncil.org](mailto:promenade2035@whcouncil.org)**

## Council is part of a ROCKIN' RESCUE STORY



### Animal Service Committee works with local rescue group to save shelter animals and find them homes.

Helping turn unwanted dogs and cats into wanted pets is a main mission for a Woodland Hills non-profit animal rescue organization that has created an asylum and showcase adoption center for the animals in the old Woodland Casuals showroom on Ventura Blvd.

The organization is Rockin' Rescue animal adoption center according to Area-1 Representative Linda Kouy-Ghadosh who co-chairs the WHWCNC's Animal Services Committee with Area-5's Dorothy Koetz. She notes that there are a significant number of animals—both pets and wildlife—in the Woodland Hills area that may need assistance or a good home. The Committee works with community groups and various humane animal organizations to help provide public education and increased awareness of problems by arranging for presentations by various animal experts.

"We may get help from shelter representatives or Park Rangers who are familiar with the various animal situations affecting neighborhoods," Dorothy Koetz said. "That may be information on the best ways to deal with feral cats or insights on how homeowners can better co-exist with coyotes in their neighborhood." She also noted that the Committee is working to reduce the number of dogs and cats who are homeless or have been impounded for one reason or another. That's where Rockin' Rescue comes in.

### Our Committee is always looking for ways to get animals off the street and into peoples' homes.

Located across from the OSH Center on Ventura Blvd., the Rockin' Rescue animal adoption center is part of Ady Gil World Conservation—an animal rights group. Their self-supported Woodland Hills adoption center proclaims that "for every one animal adopted, two lives are saved," and it rescues dogs and cats from various area shelters that are facing euthanization.

"A large number of the dogs and cats up for adoption were rescued from foreclosed owners, over-crowded shelters, or were simply abandoned on the streets," Kouy-Ghadosh emphasized. "Our Committee is always looking for ways to get animals off the street and into peoples' homes. We appreciate the work Rockin' Rescue has done for needy animals. And we also appreciate how they are helping the community." She pointed out that the rescue center provides healthful exercise outings for community volunteers by having them walk the animals daily. "Plus, they also work with the justice system to provide Court-approved community service hours for individuals who are required to provide public service as part of their Court mandate," she added.

## How will your neighborhood change by 2040?

City Planning is updating the City General Plan and Local Community Plans.

What will Los Angeles look like in 2040? What will your neighborhood become by then? If you want a say about what happens over the next 20+ years, now is the time to get involved with the process

### Two major efforts that will affect our community and the City of Los Angeles.

The first is the update of the **General Plan** for the City of Los Angeles—the master plan for development throughout the entire City—plus all of the **35 Community Plans** which have been fast-tracked for update by Mayor Eric Garcetti. The Mayor signed an executive directive (ED-19) that will bring long-awaited improvements to the City's development process in response to the defeat of the slow-growth Measure S by the City's voters last March.

The **General Plan** has 9 Elements — three of which, Health, Housing and Mobility, have recently been updated. The other six elements are being addressed over the next 18 months. Workshops are periodically being held across the city for each element.

Among the first of the Community Plans to be updated will be the Canoga Park-Winnetka-Woodland Hills-West Hills Community Plan which has not had a major revision since the late 90's.

To find out about General Plan workshops and surveys, you can go to the website [OurLA2040.org](http://OurLA2040.org)

### Updating Southwest Valley Community Plans

Second, as part of the Mayor's Directive ED-19 and City Council approval, the City's Department of Planning has prepared a schedule to update over the next six years all of the 35 Community Plans not already updated in the last few years. This is important because they govern development and set the goals, policies and requirements for all zoning and construction within each Plan area. The Planning De-

*Continued on next page*

## General Plan ELEMENTS

Includes Chapters on

### Open Space

(Spring 2017-In Progress)

Parks and Recreation  
Rivers & Beaches  
Wildlands  
Connections

### Community Assets

(Summer 2017)

Community Services  
Historic Resources  
Cultural Resources

### Conservation

(Fall 2017)

Energy  
Pollutants  
Solid Waste

### Water

(Early 2018)

Potable Water  
Stormwater & Watershed  
Wastewater

### Land Use & Economy

(Spr2018)

Population & Demographics  
Economy  
Land Use  
Urban Form

### Resilience

(Summer 2018)

Emergency Services  
Seismic & Geologic Disturbances  
Adapting to a Changing Climate

### Health

(Completed 2015)

Health & Equity  
City Built for Health  
Parks & Open Space  
Nourishing Food  
Thriving Environment  
Safe Neighborhoods

### Housing

(Completed 2013)

Housing Needs  
Maintenance  
Development  
Goals, Opportunities  
Conservation

### Mobility

(Completed 2016)

Safety First  
Transportation Access  
Infrastructure  
Informed Choices  
Clean & Healthy Environment



partment has chosen the Southwest Valley, which has three Community Plans, to be among the first to be updated concurrently.

Overall, the process for updating our Community Plan is expected to take approximately three years before it will be

invited to attend community workshops for the plans. The objective will be to formulate the goals and policies that serve to beneficially direct planned growth and development for the next 25 years and serve as the foundation for updating the zoning codes

**It should be noted that development projects filed before the updated Community Plans are signed into law will most probably be regulated by the existing Plans.**

ready for the Mayor to sign it into law. According to Principal City Planner Craig Weber, they are targeting a date of this coming October to gather all of the stakeholder's input from the four communities in our Community Plan and start preparing the updated plan for a 3-year journey through City bureaucracy.

In an effort to modernize and better reflect each community's vision, the public will be

across the plan to meet those projections, while still attempting to maintain the integrity of the West Valley's unique communities.

The critical initial public input portion of this process is currently underway. The Planning Department staff is gathering opinions and ideas from the communities. According to Weber, additional input is being gathered at smaller meetings with various groups, emails and through an on-

line questionnaire.

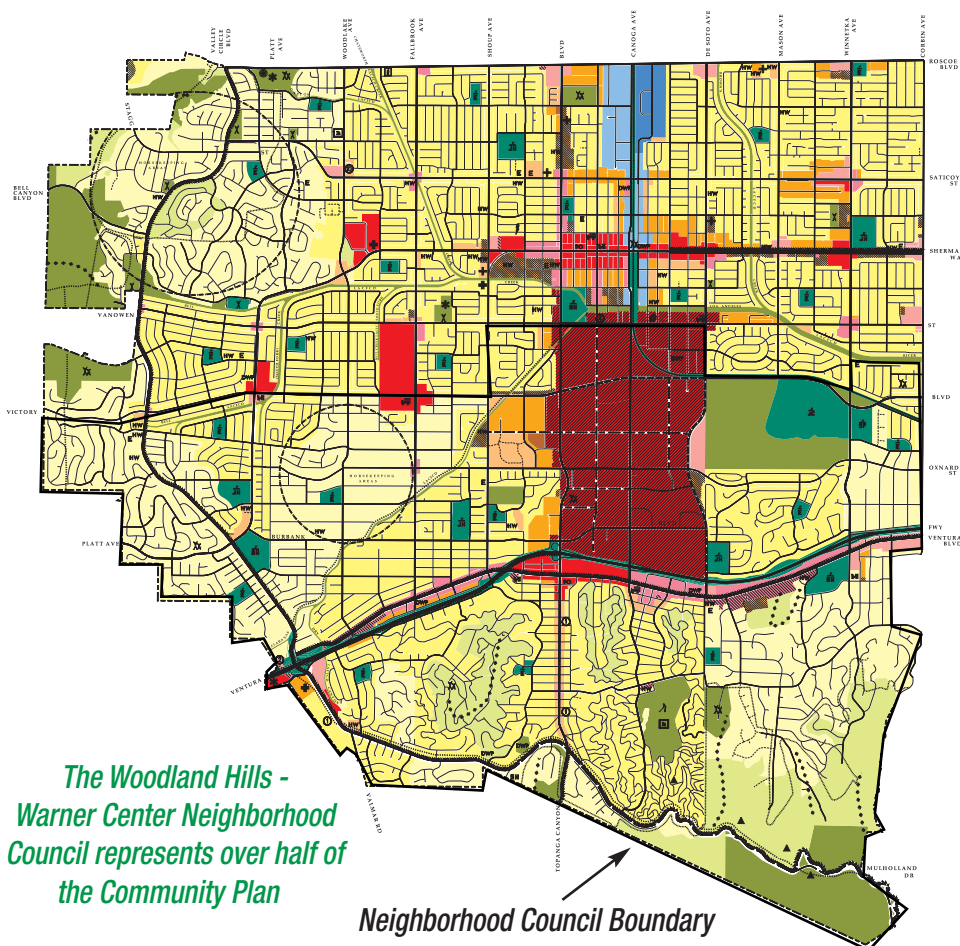
## First Phase: Initial Draft Happens Quickly

Once the neighborhood workshop has been held, the input from that session will be gathered and assessed, and an initial draft of our updated Community Plan goals and policies will be compiled and internally evaluated. **The goals and policies of the new Community Plan draft need to address all of the nine elements found in the Framework of the General Plan as listed on page 11.** Then, after the draft has been refined and tweaked, the Planning Department will begin vetting the Plan and each community will be asked for additional input to modify and strengthen specific aspects of the revised document.

## Second Phase: Zoning and Environmental Impact Report

The next phase will be the assignment of new zoning using the expanded system of zones established by the 5-year ReCodeLA process. The new zones designate the building form, the type of frontage, the allowed use(s), and the number/size of units allowed on the lot.

## Canoga Park-West Hills-Winnetka- Woodland Hills Community Plan Current Land Use Map



Cont. on Page 12

at Plans

### LAND USE

#### RESIDENTIAL

##### LOW DENSITY

MINIMUM	OS, A1, A2, RE40
VERY LOW	RE20, RA, RE15, RE11
VERY LOW II	RE15, RE11
LOW	RE9, RS, R1, RU, RD6, RD5

##### CORRESPONDING<sup>3</sup> ZONES

##### MULTIPLE FAMILY

LOW MEDIUM I
LOW MEDIUM II
MEDIUM
HIGH MEDIUM

#### COMMERCIAL

NEIGHBORHOOD	C1, C1.5, C2, C4, RA3, RA4
LIMITED	CR, C1, C1.5, RA3, RA4, P
GENERAL	C1.5, C2, C4, RA3, RA4
COMMUNITY	CR, C2, C4, RA3, RA4
REGIONAL	CR, C1.5, C2, C4, RA3, RA4, R3, R4, R5

#### INDUSTRIAL

LIMITED
LIGHT

#### OPEN SPACE, PUBLIC FACILITIES

OPEN SPACE
PUBLIC FACILITIES <sup>5</sup>

## Plans

*Cont. From Page 11*

At the same time, the City will prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Report for each of the 3 Community Plans underway. Then the public can make comments regarding the DEIRs. The Final EIRs will then be issued addressing those comments and make any necessary changes to the Community Plans.

### Third Phase: Review and Approval

During the third year of the process, each Plan will go to the City Planning Commission for review and possibly more changes and edits. The Plans will then be turned into ordinances by the City Attorney. The approved version of each Plan from the City Planning

**Community stakeholders interested in helping shape the new Community Plan should check the WHWCNC website for updates and schedules when they become available. To get on the notification list, register at [www.swvalleyplans.org](http://www.swvalleyplans.org).**

Commission is finally sent to the City Council for Review and Approval. It must then get the final approval of the Mayor. The entire process is expected to yield a new Plan in 2020 or 2021.

*Continued →*

## Public Safety Committee



### New efforts to put more emphasis on community safety

*With a rise in crime in the Woodland Hills area, the WH Council's Public Safety Committee has been reenergized to help the LAPD regain lost staffing, and to get Traffic Enforcement more involved in monitoring streets that are becoming increasingly unsafe.*

The Neighborhood Council's Public Safety committee was reinvigorated this past year and has taken major steps forward on several critical issues facing the community according to Sheppard Kaufman, Chairman of the committee. He notes that the committee is actively engaged with the area's LAPD lead officers—advising them about community concerns and devising ways to help the police make the community safer.

Unfortunately, crime within the Topanga Division has suffered double-digit percentage increases in all categories since 2014. But Kaufman went on to explain that some of those increases can be attributed to changes in state laws, increased population in the district, and more visitors to our community for shopping and dining. At the same time, the area has experienced lower police staffing levels as LAPD has shifted resources to combat increasing violent crime in other sectors of the city.

Due to the rising crime numbers here, the Public Safety Committee is pushing the city and LAPD to return Topanga Division staffing levels to at least meet the minimums established in 2009.

Traffic enforcement has also been a major casualty of the reduction of available patrol officers, Kaufman added. "We have engaged the Council office, the Department of Transportation, the LAPD and others in an attempt to create solutions to the increasing number of unsafe driving incidents," he stated. "We don't want to tie-up police resources monitoring traffic violations, so, part of the Committee's initiative has been trying to marshal the key agencies in this area to improve road safety before the start of the coming school year. We'll also be reaching out to the community in an attempt to determine the areas of greatest need for action concerning road speed violations," he added.

The Public Safety Committee was also a participant in the Department of Trans-

portation's community outreach efforts to implement "Vision Zero" – an international initiative to eliminate pedestrian and cyclist deaths caused by vehicles. Los Angeles' goal is a 20% reduction in those figures by next year, and zero pedestrian and cyclist fatalities by 2025. (For more on Vision Zero, visit: [visionzero.lacity.org](http://visionzero.lacity.org))

Last October, the Neighborhood Council's participation in the Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair was spearheaded by Area 5's Richard Hollander, and it provided WHWCNC representatives an opportunity to meet with, and learn from, emergency services providers, preparedness specialists, other Neighborhood Councils, and Woodland Hills residents on a variety of mutual safety-related issues—from crime to street racing to disaster preparedness.

As part of the committee's efforts, they created a Public Safety Resource Guide which will be available on the WHWCNC website. The guide includes police, fire and area hospital information, as well as a list of disaster preparedness resources.

One of the Public Safety Committee's biggest goals is to expand its community connection by reaching out to all stakeholders for input on a range of public safety and preparedness topics. The goal is to more quickly and accurately communicate neighborhood needs to the Council Office, police, fire, transportation and other agencies.

In addition, the committee plans to utilize the gathered ideas to plan a comprehensive public safety fair for Woodland Hills. Kaufman said, "We need residents, businesses and the City of Los Angeles all working together to improve the public safety environment for our community."



## BBBBBTBO

Planning Assistant Alycia Wiltzing will be in charge of updating the Canoga Park-Winnetka-Woodland Hills-West Hills Plan, and will be working with the Council District-3 staff as well as with the Neighborhood Councils in each of those four communities.

Because the Community Plan governs all future development (with the possible exception of the areas with their own Specific Plan) it is crucial that homeowners make an effort to identify very specific issues, make detailed recommendations and offer solutions. Possible unaffected or less affected areas are the Warner Center 2035 Plan, the Girard Tract Specific Plan, the Mulholland Scenic Parkway Plan and the Ventura Blvd./Cahuenga Blvd. Corridor Plan. Stakeholders

in the Community Plan areas can access the official “Feedback Questionnaire” on Planning’s website, [swvalleyplans.org](http://swvalleyplans.org), to leave their ideas and concerns for the community. The website also contains a map of the current zoning and land uses (see pg. 11), the current Community Plan, and explanation of the process and other data. People can also sign up there for email updates and notification of future workshops and meetings.

The Woodland Hills-Warner Center Neighborhood Council will help City Planning coordinate workshops for this area, and it is recommended that community stakeholders who are interested in helping to shape the new Community Plan check the WHWCNC website for updates and schedules when they become available.

## Your Committee Opportunities

**The work of the WHWCNC Board starts at the committee level — and there’s a committee to work on every key issue.**



When the City created the Neighborhood Council system, it was envisioned that the NCs would serve as advisory groups to each District’s City Councilperson. Today, the NCs still fill that role. But with neighborhoods seeking a greater voice into how their communities are governed and how their homes and businesses are impacted by City decisions, today’s Neighborhood Councils are charged with providing other elected officials with more detailed data, greater stakeholder insights and possible solutions to their community’s most pressing issues.

### Who conjures up all this critical information?

For the Woodland Hills-Warner Center Neighborhood Council, that task falls on the shoulders of our committees. Depending on their specific area of focus, it’s the committee’s duty to survey the needs of the community, assess neighborhood impacts, organize action groups if necessary, and give the WHWCNC Board guidance so that they can provide the Council District-3 Councilperson with accurate insights and well-reasoned recommendations. Each Neighborhood Council is the responsible party for relating how their community feels about key decisions and factors impacting their homes, businesses and organizations.

**Each committee has a number of voting seats on their panels that are left open for community volunteers to serve and allow them to make a significant impact on important decisions.**

Each committee has a number of voting seats on their panels that are left open for community volunteers to serve, and allow them to make a significant impact on important decisions. Community stakeholders are invited to also participate and contribute their ideas and abilities without holding a voting seat.

We have listed our committees and the roles they play in shaping the direction for the community and the WHWCNC. If you have an interest in volunteering for a WHWCNC committee, you can contact the listed committee Chairperson by e-mail, or by attending an actual meeting of that committee. The WHWCNC committee schedules are posted on the Council’s website calendar at [whcouncil.org](http://whcouncil.org), and committee agendas and locations are posted at least 72 hours before each meeting.

### PLANNING, LAND USE AND MOBILITY COMMITTEE

Co-Chair- Lauren Coffman ([l.coffman@whcouncil.org](mailto:l.coffman@whcouncil.org)), Co-Chair- Don Patterson ([d.patterson@whcouncil.org](mailto:d.patterson@whcouncil.org))

The Planning, Land Use and Mobility Committee (PLUM) facilitates Planning decisions and offers a forum for public discussion and input on individual development projects shaping the Woodland Hills-Warner Center landscape. With the recent increased development activity in Warner Center, and along Ventura Boulevard and the surrounding neighborhoods, now more than ever, this committee’s work, is a critical component of the WHWCNC’s mission and the effects on the community as a whole.

*Continued on Page 14*

*at Committees*

## Committees

Cont. From Page 13

### WOODLAND HILLS IMPACTS AND POLICIES COMMITTEE

*Chairs- August Steurer (a.steurer@whcouncil.org)*

This committee concentrates on researching policies and preparing reports related to existing and proposed City, State and Federal ordinances that impact land use, transportation and other topics in our community. Part of the WHIP effort includes attending jurisdictional public hearings, keeping abreast of notifications and formal updates from appropriate agencies and maintaining open communication with other Neighborhood Councils in order to take advantage of joint policymaking recommendations where appropriate.

### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS / PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

*Chair- Sheppard Kaufman (s.kaufman@whcouncil.org)*

The committee focuses on ways to improve the overall safety and health status of the community by recommending and implementing needed safety initiatives. The committee also increases community awareness of safety issues by maintaining a close relationship with the LAPD/LAFD and by serving as a forum for community input on their safety concerns and possible solutions.

### COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

*Chairs- Joyce Fletcher (j.fletcher@whcouncil.org), Mercy Alpert (m.alpert@whcouncil.org)*

The mission of the Community Services committee is to foster community improvements and collaboration on projects, and to brainstorm and implement ideas that encourage greater community involvement in our neighborhoods. The committee works to assist and empower all residents, organizations and business owners to obtain services that the City and County of Los Angeles provides.

### BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

*Chair- Sean McCarthy (s.mccarthy@whcouncil.org)*

This committee encourages broader community involvement in projects related to the improvement and maintenance of our streets, parkways, parks, sidewalks, landscape and to the general aesthetic of our neighborhoods. They organize neighborhood cleanup events along business corridors and in residential neighborhoods, and alert City Departments to areas in need of immediate City services. Elimination of graffiti blighting public property is a major area of concentration of their efforts.

### ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

*Chair- Karen DiBiase (k.dibiase@whcouncil.org)*

The Environmental Committee addresses local issues related to the environment that are associated with development projects, proposed City, State and Federal ordinances impacting the quality of life, sustainable design and policies, and local infrastructure improvements and maintenance.

### ANIMAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

*Chairs- Linda Kouy – Ghadosh (l.kouyghadosh@whcouncil.org), Dorothy Koetz (d.strackbienkoetz@whcouncil.org)*

Overseeing the welfare of animals and assessing the treatment of both pets and wildlife in the community is the major thrust of the committee's efforts. Providing education and awareness to the NC Board and the community by organizing public forums, arranging presentations by experts in their field at Board and committee meetings, providing articles for the NC newsletter, and producing flyers for distribution at events will be important contributions of this committee.

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE

*Chair- Aaron Williams (a.williams@whcouncil.org)*

The role of the Community Outreach Committee is to inform the public about WHWC Neighborhood Council actions, its meetings and important community events. Outreach has a mission to enhance public knowledge of key issues impacting the community and the City of Los Angeles; and to facilitate participation by shareholders in the affairs and programs of the WHWCNC. The committee uses and maintains a variety of resources and social media including—but not limited to—the NC website, Twitter, Constant Contact, NC newsletters, Face Book, news releases and ads.

### GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

*Chair- Chair- Don Patterson (d.patterson@whcouncil.org)*

The Governance Committee maintains oversight and undertakes comprehensive evaluation of the WHWCNC's Bylaws and Operating Procedures to make them more complete and defined for the NC Board and all stakeholders. The committee anticipates potential ethics questions so that future WHWCNC Board members and stakeholders will have a sound and understandable framework for rendering decisions.

### BUDGET COMMITTEE

*Chair- Heath Kline (h.kline@whcouncil.org)*

Evaluating needs and costs, the committee proposes an operating budget to the WHWCNC Board of Directors and recommends financial controls and authorization levels for expenditures. The Budget Committee also reviews and insures that expenditures are in line with the purposes of the Neighborhood Council, as provided in its Bylaws. Its membership is limited to the Officers of the NC and the Chairs of the committees, but meetings are open to the public and attendance is highly encouraged.

### AD HOC COMMITTEES

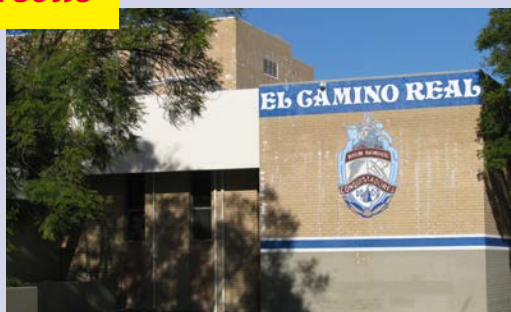
Special efforts or issues may require the temporary formations of an Ad-Hoc Committee in order to investigate a situation, create a specialized work product, or represent the insights and goals on an issue of the Neighborhood Council. Examples of these committees are The Newsletter Ad-Hoc, The Website Ad-Hoc, and The Senior Ad-Hoc Committees.

**WHWCNC's 10 standing committees often provide well-reasoned solutions that douse small problems before they ignite into major lifestyle-impacting issues.**



## Area High Schools STEM Focus

Area high schools refocus on the future with STEM and STEAM curricula.



The high schools in the West Valley have turned their sights to achieving more futuristic educational goals than just getting good grades. Taft Charter H.S., El Camino Charter H.S. and Canoga Park H.S. have re-oriented and refocused much of their curricula to provide students with the capabilities to maximize 21st Century opportunities.

By developing and applying the technical and artistic skills required—and desired—in our rapidly evolving society, our community's high schools have become even more proactive in providing the educational resources that the newest generation will find crucial for success. The programs are better known by their acronyms: STEM and STEAM.

STEM is the application of skills in science, technology, engineering and math that have been carefully designed to help solve today's technical problems, and then to create tomorrow's new capabilities. STEAM incorporates elements of art, design, and humanities into that core STEM education, further advancing the opportunities to conquer tomorrow's challenges.

There is a continuing academic debate on the relative emphasis to be given to each, on the specific value to students, and on the educational techniques to be used. But our local high schools aren't waiting for the debate to end or for the optimum balance to be discovered.

Using different approaches at each school, they are actively bootstrapping their curricula, facilities, and faculty training in order to improve student skill sets using interdis-

ciplinary application of science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics on real life projects.

The objective of all is to provide students the opportunity to learn the skills that employers and colleges seek.

### Taft Charter High School (TCHS)

TCHS initiated a new Science Technology Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) Gifted and Highly Gifted Magnet Program this school year.

The program focuses on "magnet-wide multi-disciplinary cross-cutting content standards" for students who have demonstrated academic success working two years above grade level. Initially, the program limits current participation to 9th graders, but will be expanded into a full four-year magnet school core by 2019. Currently the Magnet program consists of an Engineering Design pathway. A Computer Science pathway will start this year.

The program was developed in conjunction with Project Lead the Way, a national non-profit organization that provides teacher training and resources to enhance student learning experiences, knowledge, and skills in engineering, computer science, and biomedical science. Supplementing a core set of classes, each student will take classes selected after counselor consultation addressing the individual student's needs and objectives.

Year-long classes in the Engineering pathway offered are Introduction to Engineering Design (IED— use of the engineering design process that is required for all ninth

graders), and Principles of Engineering (POE), among others. The Computer Science pathway will be available to be selected by students in their tenth year, and offers three-year long, sequential courses in Computer Science.

Federal grants in excess of \$100,000 have been obtained to date to implement these innovative new programs.

### El Camino Real Charter High School (ECRCHS)

ECRCHS is a California Distinguished School (ranking in the approximately top five percent of California high schools) that seeks educational excellence. Individual teachers integrate STEAM activities into traditional classroom subject matter as a method of increasing student engagement rather than building on separate, identifiable STEAM programs.

ECR's focus is on identifying real-world challenges and creating problem/solution thinking using inquiry-based, student centered learning approaches, emphasizing teamwork and communication. In addition, project-based activities are frequently used to promote student design based thinking and to apply the technical and artistic principles in an integrated STEAM manner to achieve a defined objective.

### A Canoga Park Magnet curriculum has programs attractive to Woodland Hills students.

Neighboring Canoga Park HS is also offering a group of magnet programs that could draw in students from Woodland Hills communities.

An Engineering, Environmental, and Veterinary Sciences magnet program will provide hands-on experience in architecture, engineering, manufacturing, and veterinary support services. And a \$1 million grant was recently received to transform an old shop classroom into a home for a new Building Trades Multi-Core Curriculum, a pre-apprenticeship program designed to lead to a well-paid job in the building trades.

For more information on the new educational opportunities at these community high schools, you can contact the curriculum coordinators at each school, or Christopher Sims, the STEAM expert at LAUSD Northwest

([christopher.sims@lausd.net](mailto:christopher.sims@lausd.net))

Taft Charter H.S., El Camino Charter H.S. and Canoga Park H.S. have re-oriented and refocused much of their curricula to provide students with the capabilities to maximize 21st Century opportunities.

## Ventura Blvd. Diagonal Parking Update

Consultant plots two new routes to revitalize Ventura Blvd. parking and traffic and satisfy businesses, residents and drivers.



*The idea was to add diagonal parking to the west end of Ventura Blvd. to create a street that invited more restaurants and better shopping.*

Traffic engineers say there's more than one route around a roadblock. And the consultants hired to map out a new configuration for the western end of Ventura Blvd. unveiled two new attempts to solve a perplexing and often contentious problem that has led to heated debates among neighborhoods, businesses, bicyclists and commuters. They were charged with creating a plan that introduced diagonal parking, and considered crosswalks, landscaping, mitigated traffic speeds and patterns, and more.

The task was to realize a concept that has worked in dozens of cities throughout California: Add diagonal parking and pedestrian and bicycle-friendly concepts to make this

part of Ventura Blvd. a safer driving street and a more inviting area for new restaurants and shops to populate.

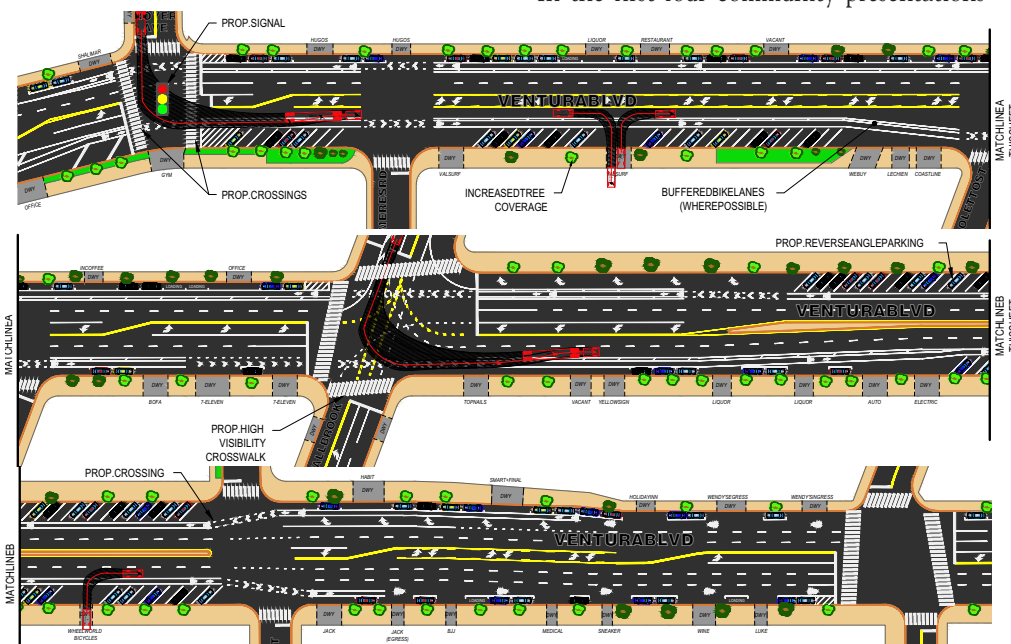
The idea originated in the Neighborhood Council, and the Plan Review Board for the Specific Plan provided the funds collected from developers while Councilmember Bob Blumenfield convinced the LA City Council to allocate funds to initially study improvements on Ventura Blvd. between Royer Ave. and Sale Ave. Under the direction of the Department of Transportation, an independent design team was hired to investigate diagonal parking, enhanced streetscapes, and crosswalks.

In the first four community presentations

and workshops, attended by hundreds of from the community, it was difficult to build consensus, with each interest group having very distinct objectives they wanted to see out of any street reconfiguration. In the most recent presentations that stretched from Sale to Royer, the consultants showed Plan "A" that added 8 additional parking spaces and incorporated "back-in diagonal parking," bike lanes and some new landscaping. Plan "B" had 23 additional parking spaces, along with the "back-in diagonal parking," bike lanes and other potential changes. The latest proposals will have to factor in requests for landscaped medians, diagonal parking in the center median instead of along curbs, problems with bike and pedestrian safety and many other comments and suggestions from those who attended the presentation.

The consultant's "final plan" will still have to pass before community groups, the Plan Review Board that oversees the Ventura Blvd./Cahuenga Blvd. Corridor Specific Plan, the CD-3 Council District and the Department of Transportation.

The initiators of the project are still hopeful that the revised plan will get the area on its way to achieving the same kind of vibrancy now being seen in Warner Center and in other communities along the thoroughfare. "I think everyone can agree that this part of Ventura Blvd. needs to be revitalized and re-thought," stated Dennis DiBiase, an architect and a member of the Ventura/Cahuenga Plan Review Board. "With a little determination—and some adjustments—I still think we can achieve the goal of adding new life to a relatively forgotten commercial area."



*The western, middle section and eastern sections of Alternative B, as shown above provide the most new parking spaces, trees and bike paths at the loss of some travel lanes.*

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