Step Into the Afterlife with Beetlejuice

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Hiring Private Security for Your Home - See page 11

Valley Home Prices Hit Record High

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North Valley News

Volume 3, Number 12 August 29, 2024

Serving Porter Ranch, Northridge, Granada Hills & Chatsworth

News in Brief

Brad Sherman Hosts Town Hall

Congressman Brad Sherman will host a Telephone Town Hall on Wednesday, September 4, from 7 to 8 pm.

The Congressman will make opening remarks and then answer questions on any issues facing Congress. To participate call (855) 920-0548 any time during the Town Hall. RSVP at BradSherman.house.gov/RSVP.

Congressman Brad Sherman

Sherman is currently serving his 14th term in Congress and has served in the House of Representatives since 1997. He currently serves on two major House Committees. He is a senior member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and a senior member of the House Financial Services Committee. From 2019-2023, Sherman served as Chairman of the House Financial Services Subcommittee on Investor Protection, Entrepreneurship and Capital Markets.

PHOTO: LOS ANGELES RAMS

Rams Take the Field!

On Monday the Rams held their first practice on their new field at the old Anthem property in Warner Center This week the team also announced their 53-man roster, and named their captains: Matthew Stafford, #9 QB, Quentin Lake #37 DB, Cooper Kupp #10 WR, Rob Havenstein #79 OL and Kobie Turner #91 NT, The season begins Sunday, September 8, in Detroit against the Detroit Lions. There is a "Kickoff Watch Party" being held September 8 at Hollywood Forever Cemetery. Doors open at 4 pm. Tickets are $16 general public; $9 for season tickets holders, available at therams.com.

The transition team, above. Front row from left: Ron Clary, Past President Canoga Park-West Hills Chamber, Bill Ratner, Canoga Park Memorial Day Parade Chair, Mark Neudorff, Past President Canoga Park-West Hills Chamber, Nicolas Montano, immediate Past President Chatsworth-Porter Ranch Chamber, Joellen Ammann, Secretary, Canoga Park-West Hl\ills Chamber. Back Row from left, Julio Galvez, President, Chatsworth-Porter Ranch Chamber, David Phelps, Executive Vice President, Chatsworth-Porter Ranch Chamber, and John Parker, Past President, Canoga Park-West Hills Chamber.

Chatsworth-Porter Ranch Chamber Merges With Canoga Park-West Hills

Two longtime local chambers of commerce are joining forces.

A memorandum of understanding has been signed between the Chatsworth-Porter Ranch Chamber and the Canoga Park-West Hills Chamber to merge this fall and become one entity.

The Chatsworth Porter Ranch Chamber has been in existence since 1914, serving the North Valley community

The chamber most notably produces the annual State of the Community event with local elected officials, and the Blockfest outdoor celebration for the community and local businesses.

The Canoga Park-West

The Chatsworth Chamber was formed in 1914; the Canoga Park Chamber in 1912.

Hills Chamber of Commerce was established in 1912, soon after the Los Angeles Aqueduct was completed, to work with the government, businesses and community.

As an "All American City," Canoga Park and the chamber are known for their annual Memorial Day Parade, Dia de Los Muertos celebration and Walk of Hearts teacher honors.

The Executive Board of the Chatsworth-Porter Ranch Chamber includes Julio Galvez, President, David Phelps, Executive Vice President, Shelley On, Vice President of Membership, Ali Nowaid, Vice President of Marketing, Jon Fox, Treasurer, and Nick Montano, Immediate Past President.

The Canoga Park Chamber

(Continued to page 5)

COMMUNITY

Community Calendar

GRANADA HILLS: The Granada Hills Library will host The Peruvian Ensemble with music from Peru for the entire family. The event will be held Saturday, September 7, at 3:30 pm at 10640 Petit Avenue.

NORTHRIDGE: Northridge West Neighborhood Council will hold their general board meeting on Tuesday, September 10, at 6:15 pm. For agenda and Zoom link visit northridgewest.org.

CHATSWORTH: Join the Chatsworth Library on the first Wednesday of the month, September 4, at 11 am for a variety of board games and card games for adults. Games available include checkers, backgammon, Rummikub, Uno, Gin Rummy, and Monopoly. The library is located at 21052 Devonshire. For more information call (818) 341-4276.

NORTHRIDGE: Northridge East Neighborhood Council will present a Los Angeles Unified School Board District 3 virtual candidate forum on Saturday, September 14, at 9 am. The Zoom link for the forum is bit.ly/NENC_Education.

CANOGA PARK: The West Valley Playhouse presents what Director Jon Berry calls, "a musical knockout." With a concept by Berry and Marla Peppy Miller, written by Joanne Zahorsky-Reeves, *Saving the Mystic* will run through September 22. The West Valley Playhouse is located at 7507 Topanga Canyon Blvd. in Canoga Park. For tickets visit wvplayhouse.com or call the box office at (818) 884-1907.

GRANADA HILLS: The Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council will hold their board meeting on Tuesday, September 3 at 6:30 pm. The meeting will be held at St. Euphrasia School Auditorium, 11766 Shoshone Avenue. For agenda visit ghnnc.org.

SEPULVEDA BASIN: The San Fernando Valley Audubon Society will be holding a Sepulveda Basin bird walk on Sunday, September 1, from 8 to 11 am. There is ample free parking in the "amphitheater" area of Woodley Park, where the walk begins. For full details, visit sfvaudubon.org/events/sepulveda-basin-bird-walk-1222-3-5-2-6-3-4-3-2.

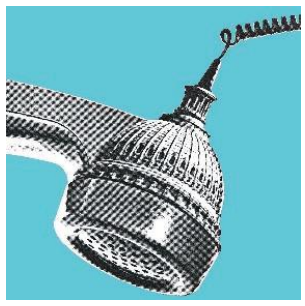
PORTER RANCH: The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council will hold their general board meeting on Wednesday, September 11, at 6 pm. The meeting will be held at Castlebay Lane Charter Elementary, 19010 Castlebay Lane.

Congressman Brad Sherman

TELEPHONE TOWN HALL

WEDNESDAY ✦ SEPTEMBER 4, 2024

7:00 – 8:00 pm



A Telephone Town Hall operates like a large conference call, where you will hear Congressman Sherman's opening remarks and then ask questions on any issue facing Congress.

To Participate call (855) 920-0548 any time during the Town Hall. RSVP at: BradSherman.house.gov/RSVP

People in the News

Distinguished longtime publicity professional **Holly Watson**, right, the founder of Los Angeles-based Holly Watson Public Relations, will be the in-person keynote speaker at the California Writers Club-San Fernando Valley branch for her presentation, "Book Publicity: The Basics and Beyond." The event will be held Saturday, September 7, at 1 pm on Zoom or in-person.

Watson, who has created campaigns for numerous best-selling, award-winning authors, will explain in detail how to get publicity for your book by thinking like a publicist and applying the basic tools of traditional and modern publicity. She will discuss how it all works by covering such topics as expectations of working with publishers, media coverage, and bookstores as well as when to hire a professional publicist, working on your own, using social media, timelines, blurbs, pre-book reviews and talks, and much more.

Visit cwc-sfv.org for instructions on how to register for Zoom 24 hours in advance, or attend in person at the Saban Center, Motion Picture and Television Fund, 23388 Mulholland Drive, Woodland Hills. Members are free and new members welcome. Guests: First in-person meeting is free, otherwise the Zoom and in-person cost is $10.

To learn more about the presenter, visit www.hollywatsonpr.com.

The cast of Thank You, Next at the West Valley Playhouse is ready to take the stage! At right is the cast, from left, **Robert Reeves, Marla Miller, Joanne Zahorsky Reeves, Tamarah Ashton, Steve Young, Sabina Rodriguez, Michael Pratt** and **Rob Rush**. The show, directed by Jon Berry, runs through September 22 at 7507 Topanga Cyn. Call (818) 884-1907 or for tickets or visit wvplayhouse.com.

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*The value listed is per booking and equals the total of the Tropical Days offer[1] plus the AAA Member Benefit[2]. [1]**Tropical Days Offer**: Valid on new Hawai'i, Mexico, Caribbean, and Continental U. made July 23, 2024 – September 22, 2024, for travel July 23, 2024 – June 30, 2025. Minimum five nights' accommodations at a participating resort or hotel and round-trip airfare required (exclu inter-island flights). Minimum two nights' accommodations at a participating Continental U.S. resort or hotel and round-trip airfare required (excludes Hawai'i inter-island flights). Savings of reflected in rates shown and applies to Hawai'i, Mexico, and select Caribbean destinations with participating resorts. Savings of up to $100 is not reflected in rates shown and applies to Cont destinations with participating resorts as follows: $50 off 2 – 3-night stays; $75 off 4-night stays; $100 off 5-night stays or longer. [2]**AAA Member Benefit**: Valid on new bookings made between De 2023 – December 31, 2024, for travel through December 31, 2024. Minimum five-night stay at participating *AAA Vacations*® properties required. $50 activity voucher is nonrefundable, nontransfer cash value and applies to the following destinations: Hawai'i, Mexico, Central & South America, and select Caribbean destinations. Savings applies to the following destinations: Continental U.S., C savings; Australia, New Zealand, Europe, Asia, Africa, Middle East, select Caribbean destinations (Anguilla, Bahamas, Bermuda, Bonaire, British Virgin Islands, Curaçao, Dominica, Grand Cayman, St. Barts, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Martin & St. Maarten, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, and U.S. Virgin Islands), Tahiti (French Polynesia), Fiji and Cook Islands – $50 savings. [3]Riu Palace Kukulkan resort c as follows for travel December 24, 2023 – December 23, 2024. Includes a Resort Credit per room, per stay for guests 21 and older to be used towards the following: Renova Spa (US $200): 2 US $15 80-minute Renova Combination Massage. 2 US $10 coupons for 80-minute Stress Cure Massage. 2 US $20 coupons Beauty Ritual. 2 US $30 coupons Ocean Harmony "Special for Couples". 2 US $15 80-minute Revitalizing Ixchel. 2 US $10 coupons Spa Pedicure. Limited to 1 coupon per service per person, per stay. Weddings by RIU (US $100): Applies towards Royal & Caprice Wedding Collection 1 coupon per wedding. Applies only for weddings paid directly at the hotel. Coupons cannot be used toward prepaid weddings. Romantic Dinner (US $30): 1 US $30 coupon per day for reservatio nights. 2 US $30 coupons for reservations of 7 nights or more. Limited to 1 coupon per service, per room. Photos (US $40): 1 US $30 coupon or 1 US $40 coupon. Discount of US $30 with a minimum US $140, and discount of US $40 with a minimum purchase of US $240. Riviera Golf Cancun (US $480): 6 US $80 coupons per stay of 3 – 6 nights. Includes: 25 practice balls for each round of golf, Tra Hotel – Golf Course – Hotel (restrictions apply). The guest can use 1 coupon per person, per day. Terms and Conditions: Now accessed through the RIU App, Resort Credits apply as discounts on selec only. The total of credits are per room, per stay, for guests 21 and older. This promotion is subject to availability and inclusions are subject to changes without prior notice. Resort Credits are nont noncumulative, nonrefundable, non-combinable and cannot be used for future stays or be exchanged for cash; some restrictions apply. [4]Guaranteed Lowest Hotel Rates for 2024 Hawai'i Vacatio Valid on new bookings for select travel through January 3, 2025 at the following participating resorts: 'Alohilani Resort Waikiki Beach, The Twin Fin, Aston Kaanapali Shore, The Westin Maui Re Ka'anapali, and Waikoloa Beach Marriott Resort & Spa. All offers require inclusion of round-trip transpacific air and accommodations in select room categories noted above. Certain restrictions a dates may apply. All offers and programs apply to a limited number of rooms and are subject to availability, change or cancellation without notice. [5]Guaranteed Room Upgrade: The Twin Fin ex requires inclusion of roundtrip transpacific air and accommodations in Partial Ocean View room for upgrade to Ocean View room. Certain restrictions and blackout dates may apply. Not combinat other offer. All offers and programs apply to a limited number of rooms, and are subject to availability, change or cancellation without notice. [6]AAA Exclusive Complimentary Breakfast at Marga Diego: breakfast for up to two people at Margaritaville Coffee Shop. No substitutions allowed. Value of breakfast cannot be exchanged for cash. Gratuities not included. Book and travel by Decem Rate Plan PLHADVP. [7]Waived Resort Fees: Applicable to The Royal Sonesta New Orleans. Book and travel now through December 29, 2024. Rate Plan FPHOLAAA.

Certain restrictions may apply. Rates, terms, conditions, availability, itinerary, taxes, fees, surcharges, deposit, payment, cancellation terms/conditions & policies subject to change witho any time. Advance reservations through AAA Travel required to obtain Member Benefits & savings which may vary based on departure date. Not responsible for errors or omissions. Your local AAA club acts as an agent for Pleasant Holidays®. CST 1016202-80. To learn how we collect and use your information, visit the privacy link at AAA.com. Copyright © 2024 Auto Club Services, LLC. All Rights Reserved.

Pleasant Holida

VIEWPOINT

English Channel

From the late Rodger Sterling...
English Channel offers the best of editor Rodger Sterling's columns that ran continuously in the local papers since 1968.

• Being wordsmiths,we love these sayings we use today that we owe to to the Bard, William Shakespeare:

"In a pickle."
"Baited breath"
"The game is up"
"Break the ice"
and of course, "Off with his head!"

• After years of wanting to thoroughly clean my house but lacking the time, this week I discovered that wasn't the reason.

• And one more timely joke... I'm not talking to myself, I'm having a parent-teacher conference.

• As election season looms, Marilyn Hankins checks in with this pithy observation on politics. "Giving money and power to government is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenage boys." P.J. O'Rourke said it first.

• A time-worn waitress at a well-known restaurant had a diner complain that there were no oysters in her oyster stew. "Well honey, if that bothers you," sighed the waitress, "You better skip dessert. It's angel food cake!"

• Now one for the little ones...What happens when you tell an egg a joke? Ans> It cracks up!

• Finally some puns... Could a librarian also be called a bookkeeper? A referee a game warden? A president a cabinet maker?

• Seen on a small, green Prius license plate - "Edamame."

• Every smart politician knows the best position to be in is to the left of the Republicans, right of the Democrats, and in front of the camera.

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Guest Editorial: Councilman Bob Blumenfield

The Future of Addressing Encampments in Los Angeles

Recently, the Supreme Court issued a decision regarding City of Grants Pass, Oregon v. Johnson, finding that cities may enforce rules pertaining to homeless encampments and the regulation of public spaces. I expect this decision will ultimately be impactful with regard to how Los Angeles addresses homelessness.

However, and contrary to the way much of the media has represented the Court's ruling, the Court's actual decision was fairly narrow in deciding that eighth amendment protections against cruel and unusual punishment should not prevent municipalities from prohibiting people from being on the public right of way. This gets rid of one of several arguments the federal Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has used in the past to prevent Los Angeles and other municipalities from removing encampments.

It is imperative that we get explicit legal guidance before potentially moving forward with new policy, because the City will inevitably get sued again and we need to ensure that we are best positioned to win the inevitable lawsuit. We don't want to end up with more draconian legal precedents that prevent the City from being able to do its job. We want to find a solution that is humane, allows us to prohibit and remove problem encampments, and is legally supportable. Also, given the political realities of the Council, we will have a much greater chance of passing meaningful policy if we have our legal ducks lined up. Even the common sense LAMC 41.18 which I co-authored to prohibit encampments in certain designated areas was difficult to pass and is still very controversial.

My office continues to address encampments by offering services to folks and removing items on the public right of way that are discarded or hazardous waste. Unlike many Council offices, my office fully utilizes LAMC 41.18 to keep certain designated areas clear.

We want to find a solution that is humane, allows us to prohibit and remove problem encampments, and is legally supportable.

Additionally, the City Council has recently moved to increase the ability for LADOT to enforce parking regulations and restrictions for RVs. While we need to lead with compassion for people who have chosen, or have resorted to, an RV to live in, City officials must also find reasonable limits to where RV dwelling is tolerated. We must continue to help find more appropriate housing for those RV residents that are willing to move.

Though the West Valley has the least amount of homeless people compared to the rest of the City, our community continues to face serious humanitarian and quality of life issues. I hear from and agree with constituents who feel that change isn't happening fast enough. I am hopeful that the decision will provide additional opportunities to expedite progress in getting people off the streets and into housing and services.

My team and I will continue to work proactively, and constitutionally, to address the issue locally within the powers of the Council office. As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to write to me at c03.foryou@lacity.org.

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BUSINESS

Do You Suffer From Toxic Productivity?

It's no surprise that the American work culture prioritizes productivity, but when does that pressure become a sign of "toxic productivity?"

For many, "toxic productivity" is the association of guilt for not constantly being busy or checking things off a to-do list. Those who struggle from this symptom even feel guilty when taking time to recharge and feel unaccomplished if they are not consistently productive. "Toxic productivity" can be associated with the millennial idea of "hustle culture," which can be beneficial, but most times leads to burnout.

"Toxic productivity" can not only be physically exhausting, but can wreak havoc on one's mental health. Those who classify as perfectionists, or having excessively high personal standards, typically suffer from "toxic productivity." Perfectionists measure their self-worth in terms of accomplishments and if they are not being productive, they feel as if they have failed. They become hard on themselves, berating their laziness and generally diminishing their own worth.

While "toxic productivity" is not only detrimental to one's mental health, it can negatively affect one's physical health. Those that overwork themselves typically suffer from exhaustion, anxiety, insomnia and irritability. If someone has always had high personal standards, these signs can be hard to recognize because they either creep up slowly or a perfectionist simply won't acknowledge potential setbacks.

So how do you know if you truly suffer from "toxic productivity?" Experts suggest taking a conscious break from productive activities and seeing how you feel. Do you feel shame or guilt? That could be a sign that your attitude toward your schedule is leaning towards being toxic. Constant hustle could be taking a toll on your well-being if you feel as if you should be doing more; getting more sleep, checking more things off your list or spending more time with loved ones.

In an attempt to combat "toxic productivity" ask yourself if the particular task is important for a long-term goal or if you are partaking in said task just because you feel you should? If "should" is the reason for the majority of your tasks, that is a sign that "toxic productivity" may be affecting you. While it may seem like an impossible habit to break, there are small steps that can lead to big differences.

"Toxic productivity" can be associated with the millennial idea of "hustle culture," which can be beneficial, but most times leads to burnout.

The first step is having awareness of the problem and accepting that one's schedule needs to change. Define work boundaries and build breaks into your schedule even if you have to pencil those breaks in like you would any other meeting. Whether that's a small break to take 20 minutes to stretch or a larger break like taking a few hours to go out with family, strategic breaks are the best ways to prevent overworking.

"Toxic productivity" is also often a manifestation of negative feelings that possibly haven't been addressed. Just as one would visit a doctor for physical ailments, it's imperative to prioritize one's mental health and talk to a doctor about what is causing these negative feelings. The more you can have control over your mental wellbeing, the more you can control your schedule.

While "toxic productivity" can be hard to break, it's still possible to be productive without running yourself into the ground. Work smarter, not harder and find a rhythm that can help you excel long-term.

VICA to Host Meeting With Metro Heads

The Valley Industry and Commerce Association (VICA) will host a Leaders Forum featuring the heads of L.A. Metro.

The event will be held on Friday, September 13, from 8:30 to 11 am at the Sheraton Universal, 333 Universal Hollywood Drive.

Cost is $75 per person and free to VICA Business Leaders members. Non-members can register by emailing yoko@vica.com. Participants include Metro COO Conan Cheung, Chief Planning Officer Ray Sosa, Chief Program Management Officer Timothy Lindholm and Chief Customer Experience Officer Jennifer Vides Hirsch.

Valley Industry and Commerce Association is Southern California's most influential business advocacy group devoted to advancing the economic interests and opportunities of its members through effective legislative correspondence, civic leadership representation and conscious community engagement.

Local Chambers to Merge

(Continued from page 1)

was inactive post-COVID. The prior board included Brian Mallasch, President, Mark Vetter, Vice President, Joellen Amman, Community Relations and board members Gloria Pollack, Phillip Imhoff, Babette Shade, Eric Solter and Craig Scher,

The two chambers will merge this fall and decide upon an official name change.

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VALLEY ENTERTAINMENT

Sonya Blake

Deputy Chief Alan Hamilton

"Cops & Cowboys" Event Honors Sonya Blake and Deputy Chief Hamilton

The 2024 "Cops & Cowboys" Gold Star Awards will be held Saturday, September 14, at the Leonis Adobe Museum in Calabasas. The Mid-Valley Community Police Council returns to this historic museum for their annual gathering, a perfect opportunity to meet and greet old and new friends and support the LAPD and the Mid-Valley Community

This year they will be presenting 2024 Gold Star Awards to Sonya Blake, President & CEO of Valley Economic Alliance, which helps address issues impacting the San Fernando Valley through its strong alliance with business, education, government, and community partners. Blake's dedication to revitalizing Valley businesses and the local economy, lifting all parts of the Valley towards prosperity and a better quality of life, follows her career serving in roles with the City of Los Angeles, State of California, USC Roski School of Fine Arts, NAWBO, and the LA County Museum of Art.

Also honored will be Deputy Chief Alan Hamilton, Chief of Detectives for the LAPD, who will be saluted for his three decades of dedication to the Los Angeles Police Department and especially his commitment to the San Fernando Valley for over eight years - serving as Captain in the West Valley and Topanga Patrol Divisions through his several years as Commanding Officer of the Valley Bureau. He is also known for his longtime commitment to mentorship of youth and cadets, along with sworn and civilian members of the department.

The fun-filled Cops & Cowboys evening, hosted once again by KTLA's Wendy Burch, will take you back in time where you can relax under the stars, mix and mingle with LAPD officers and other guests, check out the live and silent auctions, enjoy a tantalizing BBQ by Katz Craft

Host Wendy Burch

BBQ and great libations, dance to country/rock and roll music by the Mary White Band, and maybe play a few rounds of blackjack or poker with the Dealer Dolls before you head home!

You can support the honorees and the Council's programs with a sponsorship, congratulatory ad, or by attending. Funds raised have a direct impact on public safety in the community! As a 501(c)(3) non-profit, the MVCPC funds supplemental training for the officers at Van Nuys; station improvements; special equipment for the officers, and LAPD Youth Programs.

For more information, reservations or questions call 818-994-4661, email Info@theproperimageevents.com, or visit universe.com/CopsandCowboys2024.

Cigars and Casino at Havana Nights

The North Valley Chamber of Commerce will toast all things Havana at their gala Friday, September 13.

Enjoy whisky, small bites, wine, a cigar lounge and a casino - all under the stars at the Rancho del Cordillera, 9015 Wilbur Street. The event will take place from 7 to 11 pm.

Proceeds will benefit Fighting for Families which offers emotional support and resources to veterans and their families. For tickets and information visit nvrcc.com.

Take a Step into the Afterlife with Beetlejuice

Step beyond the screen and into the Afterlife where everyone's favorite bio-exorcist, Beetlejuice, is dying to see you!

In a ghoulish collaboration from now until the end of September, Warner Bros. Discovery Global Themed Entertainment and Fever are bringing the strange and unusual world of Tim Burton's *Beetlejuice Beetlejuice* to life. Fans will soon have the chance to step into "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice: The Afterlife Experience," opening at Los Angeles's Ovation Hollywood.

The one-of-a-kind 11,000-square-foot experience will open in anticipation of *Beetlejuice Beetlejuice*, the hugely anticipated sequel to the original film, which will open exclusively in theaters on September 6.

After an unexpected family tragedy, three generations of the Deetz family return home to Winter River. Still haunted by Beetlejuice, Lydia's life is turned upside down when her rebellious teenage daughter, Astrid, discovers the mysterious model of the town in the attic and the portal to the Afterlife is accidentally opened. With trouble brewing in both realms, it's only a matter of time until someone says Beetlejuice's name three times and the mischievous demon returns to unleash his very own brand of mayhem.

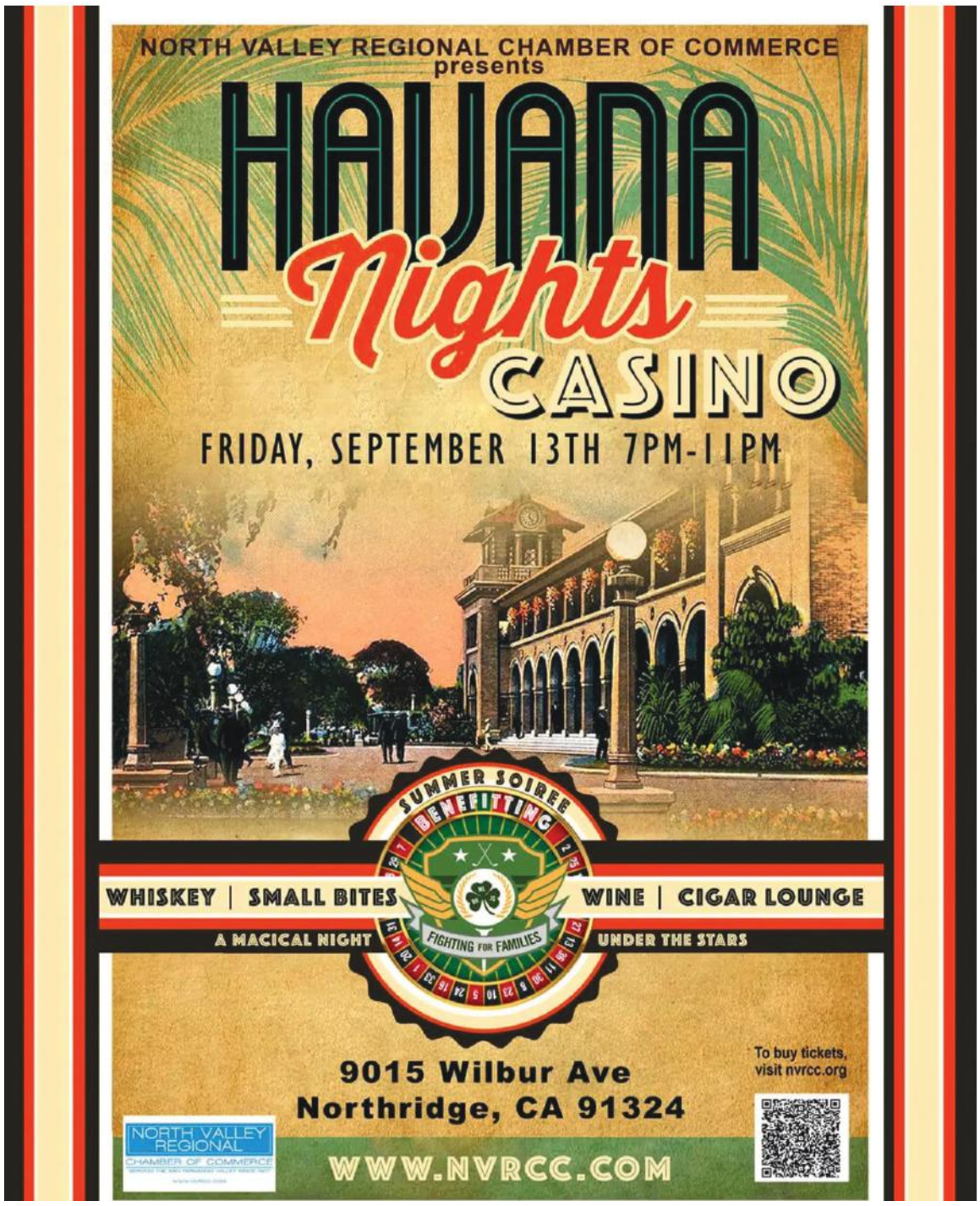
"Beelejuice Beetlejuice: The Afterlife Experience" will take guests on a journey into the iconic world of the recently deceased featuring recreated sets, live entertainment and various photo-ops. Inside the experience, guests will knock three times to reveal a portal and cross the threshold into the Afterlife, where the one and only Beetlejuice awaits alongside a cast of eclectic ghosts. Grab an exclusive passport and take a seat in the Waiting Room next to a pair of ghosts; take your place on the cover of the Handbook for the Recently Deceased; come face to face with a legendary sandworm; and so much more. Themed food and beverage offerings will also be available for purchase at the Afterlife Diner.

Go on a journey into the iconic world of the recently deceased featuring recreated sets, live entertainment and various photo-ops.

"Beetlejuice Beetlejuice: The Afterlife Experience" will also feature a selection of limited-edition merchandise and collectibles inspired by the film's distinctive imagery at the Afterlife Souvenir Shop, open to both ticketed and non-ticketed guests. Tickets for the experience start at $25 and can be found at BeetlejuiceExperience.com.

Soraya Season Starts September 28

The Soraya's 2024-25 Season is just around the corner, and it all begins Sept. 28-29 with Broadway's Reeve Carney and Javier Muñoz starring in Randy Newman's *Faust: The Concert*. The theatre is located on the campus of CSUN, 18111 Nordhoff, Northridge. For a full schedule of events at the theatre visit thesoraya.org.



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Dog Days at Northridge Hospital

Monday was National Dog Day. Founded in 2004 by animal welfare advocate, author and pet lifestyle expert, Colleen Paige, National Dog Day celebrates all breeds, mixed and pure, and serves to help galvanize the public to recognize the number of dogs that need to be rescued each year from public shelters. National Dog Day also honors family dogs and dogs that work selflessly to save lives, keep us safe and bring comfort, and Dignity Northridge Hospital on Monday celebrated their therapy dogs with day-long visits to patients.

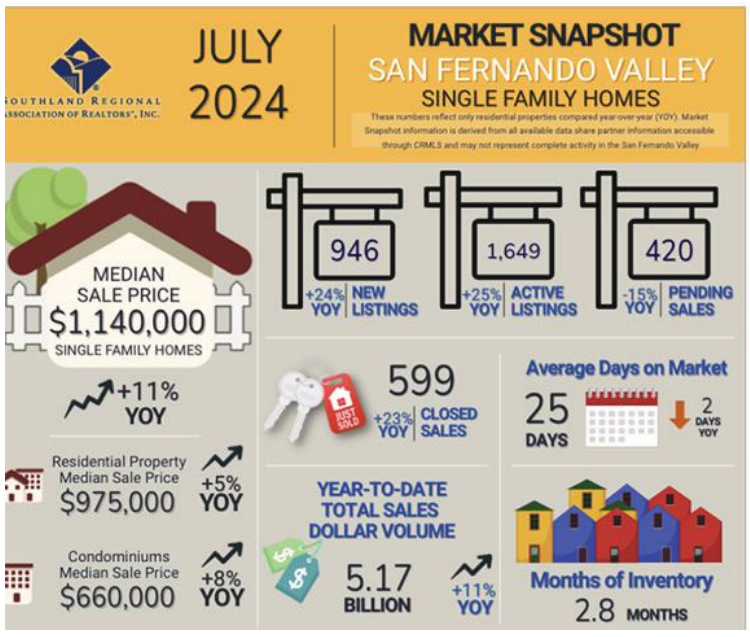
Above, on Dog Day patient Suren Asaryan shakes Dog-tor Summer's paw and enjoys the comfort and presence of the pet therapy dogs at Dignity Health - Northridge Hospital Medical Center.

Medicare 101 Seminar at Fairwinds

Fairwinds West Hills will hold a free "Medicare 101" seminar on Tuesday, September 10, from 2 to 3:30 pm. A licensed insurance agent who focuses on Medicare will help guests understand and review all of their available plan options to help themselect a plan that works for their needs and budget. The presenter can provide you with knowledgeable information at no cost.

Join them to get all your questions answered about Medicare Advantage plans, Medicare supplement insurance plans and more.

The event is for education purposes only, no plan information will be shared. For accomodations of persons with special needs at the meeting, please call TT711, 9 am to 5 pm. There will be appetizers, refreshments and a raffle. Fairwinds is located at 8138 Woodlake Avenue. RSVP to (818) 713-0900 by Thursday, September 5.



San Fernando Valley Single-Family Home and Condo Medium Prices Set Record Highs in July

The median price of single-family homes and condominiums that closed escrow during July in the San Fernando Valley set record highs, the Southland Regional Association of Realtors® has reported.

The median price - meaning half the homes that changed owners had a higher price and half a lower price - came in at $1,140,000, up 10.7% over a year ago. It beat the prior record of $1.1 million first set in June 2022 and repeated this April and May.

The median price of condominiums sold in July was record a $660,000, up 8.2% from a year ago. The prior record of $650,000 came in May.

"Home and condo prices in the San Fernando Valley continue to march higher even as the inventory grows slightly and interest rates on home loans still restrict the pool of potential buyers," said Bob Khalsa, President of the nearly 11,000-member Southland Regional Association of Realtors®. "Yet closed escrows reflect the depth of demand for local housing while the prospect of lower interest rates may boost sales."

Local Realtors® helped close escrow on 587 single-family homes, up 20.5% from July 2023 and above the 530 closed escrows reported in June. Condominiums closed escrows totaled 154 transactions, up 21.3% from a year ago.

The 1,619 active listings of single-family homes reported at the end of July were up 23.2% over a year ago, the largest inventory since November 2022.

There also were 463 active condominium listings reported at the end of July. That total was 46.5% ahead of July 2023 and the highest tally since October 2022.

"We're optimistic that recent declines in interest rates will give homebuyers more purchasing power," said Valerie Biletsky, the Association's Chief Executive Officer. "With interest rates trending downward since early July and the expectation of future reductions, the second half of 2024 could see a boost in home sales."

Pending escrows — an indicator of future sales — were down 15% for homes and fell 34% for condominiums.

Chartered by the National Association of Realtors® in 1920, the Southland Regional Association of Realtors® is the voice for real estate in San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys.

With nearly 11,000 members, SRAR serves as a trusted resource and partner to the real estate profession and the community at large. Realtors® are dedicated to the highest standards of ethics and professionalism and committed to championing real property rights and pathways to homeownership for all. SRAR statistics are compiled from all available data share partner information accessible through CRMLS and may not represent complete activity for the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys.

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Plan for Your Down Payment
Save some money from every paycheck for your home fund and get help from a professional to explore down payment assistance options.

Get Pre-Approved
Pre-approval from a lender helps you know how much money you can borrow for your home loan. That way, you can start figuring out your budget.

Decide What's Most Important to You
Make a list of things you want in a home and decide if they're Must-Haves or just Nice-To-Haves. Then, talk to your agent about it before starting your search.

Let's connect to so you have expert advice on how to reach your homebuying goals this year.

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VIP High School: Not Only Do Grads Attend Top Colleges, But Its Arts Programs Shine

VIP is a public charter school in Northridge.

Valley International Preparatory High School, better known as VIP, is one of the San Fernando Valley's best-kept secrets.

With a campus located at 18827 Roscoe Blvd., VIP stands out not only for its safe and beautiful campus, but also for its unique blend of college-prep academics and a strong emphasis on the arts. Often mistaken for a private institution, VIP is actually a public charter school, making it a free option for students while providing an experience that rivals many private schools.

VIP's mission is rooted in providing personalized, top-tier college planning and support for each of its students. The school's dedication to this goal is reflected in its impressive outcomes: each year, approximately 80% of VIP graduates go on to attend four-year colleges and universities across the United States, Canada, and even Europe. VIP alumni have earned spots at prestigious institutions such as Williams College, Brown University, UC Berkeley, NYU, and Tulane University, as well as a variety of smaller liberal arts colleges, arts/specialty schools, and large public and private universities.

This level of success is a testament to VIP's rigorous academic programs, including its highly regarded AP Capstone program, which boasts a consistently high pass rate.

However, VIP is not just about academics. The school also treats the arts as a central component of its curriculum, on par with subjects like English, math, social studies, world languages, and the sciences. Principal Michael Horne emphasizes, "At VIP, the arts are treated as a sixth core subject."

VIP's theater program is one of the school's flagship offerings. It features live productions each year, participation in DTASC competitions, and opportunities for students to showcase their talents in producing original works. Music Lab, another standout program, caters to budding singer-songwriters and performers. The twice-yearly Club VIP's live performances are a highlight, drawing large crowds for an energetic showcase of talent.

In addition to its strong theater and music programs, VIP boasts a highly successful speech-and-debate team, which has twice been named the #2 program in the nation by the National Speech and Debate Association. The school's Poetry/Slam team has also made its mark, winning 1st place in GetLit competitions for two consecutive years. Visual arts students at VIP have access to a broad array of courses, including AP classes, photography, drawing, and painting.

For those interested in exploring immediate enrollment opportunities, more information is available by emailing info@viphs.org.

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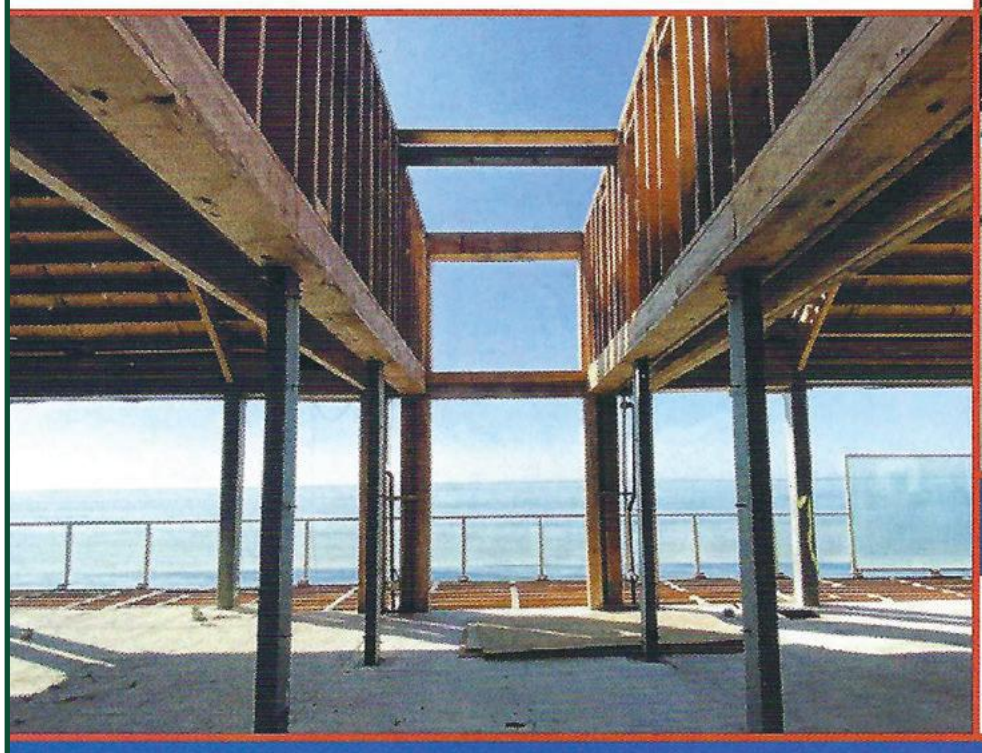

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Worried Homeowners Turning to Private Security Services for Protection

Burglaries. Follow-home robberies. Hidden cameras.

Valley residents are becoming more concerned about home invasion robberies than the homeless issues.

Homeowners are now realizing they need to be more proactive in protecting their homes and families.

Shorab Payind, owner of First Choice Security, specializing in commercial, construction and residential private security, says he is seeing more and more private citizens turning to his company for protection.

"It's not just celebrities anymore," said Payind. "Homeowners are hiring us to do drive-by security patrols once or twice a day to inspect their property."

First Choice can do perimeter checks, see that gates are locked, there's no forced entry points, all doors are secure and there are no signs of break-ins or foul play.

"We observe and report," he said. "If there is suspicious activity we can get plate numbers, descriptions and activity, and get that information quickly to police or fire as well as to the homeowners. We're an extra pair or eyes and ears on your house."

Payind said that many of his clients hire the company for vacation patrols when they are not at home. They have 24/7 availability to offer round-the-clock security tailored to a homeowner's schedule. "We ensure peace of mind," he said.

They use advanced equipment - from thermal cameras to mobile surveillance units, that can watch everything from an individual home to a large construction site. Their marked vehicles patrol and report. They also offer on-site guard services, parking enforcement and more for homeowner associations and commercial establishments.

"In the west and north valley one of the big concerns is fire safety," Payind told *Valley News Group*. "People learned after the Woolsey Fire that emergency services can't be everywhere - and in fact, the fire department didn't reach many of the homes in the path of Woolsey." First Choice therefore also offers fire watch for its clients.

Valley residents are becoming more concerned about home invasion robberies than homeless issues.

Payind has over five years in the security business, and started his own company to "do it the right way." They work with individuals and companies to scale their services to their needs, and are budget-friendly without compromising quality. They offer competitive rates and transparent pricing.

"The most important thing we offer is quick response," Payind said. "Time is of the essence in an escalating situation. Our rapid response protocols ensure immediate action in crisis."

First Choice Private Security is located in Calabasas, and serves the entire San Fernando and Conejo Valleys. For more information visit firschoiceguards.com, call (855) 625-SAFE or email info@firstchoiceguards.com.

Visit the Farmer's Market in Porter Ranch

Visit the certified farmer's market at The Vineyards at Porter Ranch, Sundays from 9 am to 2 pm.

Certified California Farmers Markets will bring together local vendors to Porter Ranch to bring fresh food and fun experiences. Please be kind to each other and the environment – don't forget to bring reusable shopping bags! Although they love them, other than service animals, pets are not allow ed at the Farmers Market because it violates county health codes. The Vineyards is located at 20065 Rinaldi Street.

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Join us to get all your questions answered about Medicare Advantage Plans, Medicare Supplement Insurance Plans, and more! Enjoy appetizers, refreshments, and a raffle.

RSVP to 818-713-0900 by Thursday, September 5th.

This event is for educational purposes only, no plan information will be shared. For accommodations of persons with special needs at meetings, please call <Phone>, TTY 711, 9a–5p PST. By calling the number above you will be directed to a licensed insurance agent.

8138 Woodlake Ave | West Hills, CA 91304 | 818-713-0900 | FairwindsWestHills.com

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