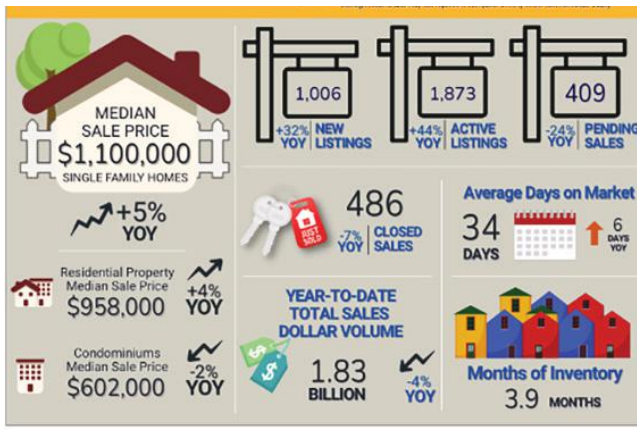
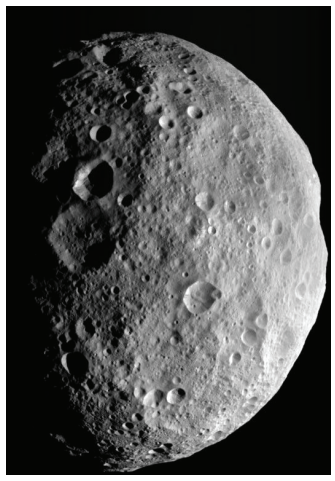
Everyone Pitched in at SOLID's Pancake Fundraiser

See page 9




Valley Home Sales Jump - See page 10

Nighttrek Report: What to See in the May Sky



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# North Valley News

Volume 3, Number 23 May 1, 2025

Serving Porter Ranch, Northridge, Granada Hills & Chatsworth


## News in Brief

### Chatsworth BlockFest Set for May 10!

**The Northwest Valley Chamber of Commerce, in proud partnership with My Valley Pass, is thrilled to announce the exciting evolution of one of the San Fernando Valley's most anticipated community events. Formerly known as the Chatsworth BlockFest, the newly rebranded Valley BlockFest will take place on Saturday, May 10, from 11 am to 5 pm, now along bustling Nordhoff Blvd.**

**Now in its fourth year, Valley BlockFest has grown into the biggest party in the Valley - expanding across three full blocks and showcasing over 200 vendors. Guests can explore six themed zones, including two beer gardens, a dedicated kid zone, live music, and even professional wrestling. With a projected crowd of more than 10,000 attendees, this free, family-friendly event offers high-energy fun and a powerful celebration of Valley life and local businesses.**

**"This is an incredibly fun-filled day for the entire family that celebrates not only the Northwest Valley but the whole San Fernando Valley," said Julio Galvez, President of the Northwest Valley Chamber and owner of We Can Be Heroes. "You don't want to miss this party! If you are a small business - or any size business - join us in our Business Expo Zone. Get out there. Get seen. Get your business on!"**

**Vendor and sponsorship opportunities are still available. Don't miss your chance to be a part of this dynamic community celebration. To learn more or to register as a vendor or sponsor, visit myvalleypass.com/valley-blockfest or call the Northwest Valley Chamber office at (818) 341-2428. On Monday, May 5, chamber members will be at Los Toros Restaurant (21743 Devonshire) to sell tickets for the kids' zone at Blockfest.**

### L.A. City Council to Explore Legal Action Against Edison for Hurst Fire

**The Los Angeles City Council voted this week to explore legal action against So Cal Edison for sparking the Hurst Fire, which burned 800 acres in the north valley in January. According to the Fire Department, the blaze began in the area north of Saddle Ridge Road, where Edison's transmission Tower 6 is located. The city council motion, authored by Councilmembers Monica Rodriguez and Katy Yaroslavsky states that Tower 6 was damaged and in need of repair. "SCE is retaining this material as incident-related evidence. The cause of the Hurst remains under investigation and SCE has stated it will continue to cooperate with fire investigators," the motion reads. In a regulatory filing, Edison acknowledged its equipment may have been linked to the ignition of the Hurst Fire, which caused no deaths or structural damage -- unlike the nearby Palisades and Eaton fires, which together killed 29 people.**

## Local Educators Honored by North Valley Chamber

The North Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce on April 23 honored their "Heroes in Education" from local schools. The honorees are teachers, administrators and parent volunteers, chosen by students, parents and administrators who noted the exceptional educators.

Shown above are the winners, from left, Joanna Khayatpour, Teacher of the Year Elementary from Topeka Drive Charter School for Advanced Studies; Diego Martinez, STEM Teacher of the Year from Granada Hills Charter; Kathy Jamiso, Principal of the Year - Secondary from CHIME Charter Institute; Jozelda Escresa, Special Education Teacher of the Year from Granada Hills Charter; Claudia Alvarado, P.E. Teacher of the Year from Sven Lokrantz Special Education Center; Juan Rodriguez, Arts Teacher of the Year from Robert Frost Middle School; Mary Melivn - Golden Apple - Regional Director; George Fuentes, Principal of the Year - Elementary from Dearborn Elementary Charter Academy; Darlin Setouda, Parent Volunteer of the year from Beckford Charter for Enriched Studies and Lexi Tippings, Teacher of the Year - Secondary from Valley International Preparatory High School.

"As Chair of the Board of the Chamber, I am honored to celebrate our heroes in education, recognizing the educators' work shapes the minds that will lead our businesses, drive innovation and strengthen our local economy. Education is the bridge between community and commerce," said Andreas Farmakalidis.

## Asian Pacific Islander Festival Dances Into Valley May 10

The West Valley Warner Center Chamber of Commerce's fourth annual Valley Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Festival will be held on Saturday, May 10 at Pierce College.

The event from 11 am to 5 pm will celebrate art and culture with traditional food, music, dance and art.

There will be special dance, martial arts and other performances from Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, Korean, Pacific Islanders and Filipino artists.

In addition there will be a shopping market set up with a variety of vendors, children's activities, live music, delicious food and preparedness information.

The event is sponsored by Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, the Gaspar family, Councilmember John Lee, Supervisor Lindsey Horvath and the Southern California Preparedness Foundation.

For more information visit woodlandhillscc.net or call the chamber of commerce at (818) 347-4737.

PHOTO: JAY ROSS

# Community Calendar

**PORTER RANCH:** Realtor Jessica Miller of Pinnacle Estate Properties will hold a neighborhood "Shred Day" on Saturday, May 3, from 10 am to 12 noon at 11710 Doral Avenue. Bring up to six boxes per household of residential shredding only - white and colored paper, newspapers junk mail, sticky notes and papers with staples. No plastic, x-rays, CD's, tapes, binders or blueprints.

**NORTHRIDGE:** The L.A. Parks Department will hold a salute to recreation on Friday, May 16, from 5 to 10 pm, Saturday, May 17, and Sunday, May 18, from noon to 8 pm at Northridge Recreation Park. Enjoy two stages of entertainment, a beer garden, carnival rides, senior dance, sports tournaments, a kids zone, marketplace and community booths, food trucks and more - fun for the entire family! The park is located at 10058 Reseda Blvd.

**CHATSWORTH:** The Chatsworth Neighborhood Council will hold a general meeting on Wednesday, May 7, at 6:30 pm. The in-person meeting will be held at Ernest Lawrence Middle School Library, 10100 Variel Avenue. For more information visit chatsworthcouncil.org.

**NORTHRIDGE:** Deadline for voting for Northridge West Neighborhood Council is May 12 at 11:59 pm. Ballots are only available on request. Visit clerk.lacity.gov/ncelections, click on the NC Portal logo and create an account to access the NC Portal. Log into your account and select the "voter" option to vote for your candidates.

**SIMI VALLEY:** Lourdes Simons, licensed insurance agent, will offer a free Medicare workshop on Thursday, May 8, from 6 to 8 pm. Learn about Medicare A, B, C and D and different healthcare plans available. The workshop will be held at Junkyard Cafe, 2585 Cochran Street. RSVP to lourdes.simons@syndicatedins.com or call (323) 673-7613.

**CHATSWORTH:** Classic Chevy of So Cal, Rydell Chevrolet and Monty's Steakhouse will hold their 42nd annual Classic Chevys Car Show on Sunday, May 4, from 7 am to 2:30 pm. The show will be held at Rancho San Antonio Boys Home, 21000 Plummer Street.

**NORTHRIDGE:** Long before citrus groves, two Isaacs owned the southern half of the Valley. Moses arrived later. Who were these trailblazers that helped transform the Valley into our enormous suburbia? Join SAGE Learning in Retirement (CSUN Alumni) for a free presentation to discover the "sale of the century" and why a massive development was labeled a payoff, bringing metropolitan grandeur and future prosperity few cities could hope to achieve. It will be held May 15, from 6:30 to 7:30 pm at the Northridge Library, 9051 Darby Ave. For more information visit sagelearninginretirement.org or email: sagelearners@csun.org.

**GRANADA HILLS:** LAFD will begin CERT training classes on Monday, May 5, at 6:30 pm. The classes will be held for eight weeks at Granada Hills Charter High School's Rawley Hall, 10535 Zelzah Avenue. To register visit eventbrite.com/e/lafd-cert-granada-hills-tickets-1280688015329?aff=ebdsoporgprofile.

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COMMUNITY

# People in the News

**Congressman Brad Sherman,** above, held an in-person town hall last Saturday at CSUN, attended by over 1,000 valley residents. The theme of the meeting was "Chaos Causes Corruption," with references to the current administration's policies, tariffs and economic influences. Questions drawn from the audience pertained to Social Security, education, undocumented workers and the economy. Sherman also addressed concerns about the current administration, and said the three ways to combat their actions were to legislate, demonstrate and educate. To legislate he said that the 2026 election for House and Senate is extremely important and the way to beat Trump. To demonstrate he said make your voice heard and to educate tell voters that Trump 2.0 is different than his first term. Most of the attendees were respectful and listened to designated audience members and their questions, though towards the end of the event several residents shouted their frustration with the pace of change in Washington.

In a powerful celebration of legacy, leadership, and community, The Valley Economic Alliance commemorated its 30th Anniversary with the Valley of the Stars Awards Gala on April 17 at the Hilton Los Angeles/Universal City. Emceed by beloved Los Angeles television personality and comedian Fritz Coleman, the evening began with a reflective look back at The Alliance's founding in the aftermath of the 1994 Northridge Earthquake. A stirring video tribute welcomed guests, spotlighting The Alliance's enduring commitment to advancing economic vitality across its five partner cities—Burbank, Calabasas, Glendale, Los Angeles, and San Fernando. Shown above from left are **Randy Witt**, Past Chair of The Alliance, **Maria Camacho**, Director of Government Affairs for the Los Angeles Rams, who were awarded the Business Leadership Star of the Valley Award, **Terry Walker**, Director of Administrative Operations and Community Engagement - Providence St. Joseph's Medical Center, which was awarded the Community Builder Star of the Valley Award, **Armida Colmanares-Stafford** of Pacific Premier Bank and VEA board member, actor **Ray Wise**, winner of the Entertainment Star of the Valley Award, **Sonya Blake**, VEA President and CEO, **Dale Surowitz**, President and CEO of LA Jewish Health and winner of the Humanitarian Star of the Valley Award, comedian and emcee **Fritz Coleman**, VEA Vice President of External Affairs **Greg Martayan**, and attorney **Fred Gaines**, immediate Past Chair of The Alliance.

# Students in the News

**Nonna Milyavskaya** of Chatsworth was recently elected to membership into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society, at CSUN.

**Noam Mendelsohn** of Northridge has been named to the Knox College Dean's List of distinguished students for the 2025 Winter Term.

Knox College is located in Galesburg, Illinois.

**Andrew Papazyan** of Northridge was recently elected to membership into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society, at USC.

**Benjamin Coen** of Northridge, majoring in Business Creative Enterprises and a member of the Class of 2025, was named to Emerson College's Dean's List for the Fall 2024 semester. Emerson is located in Boston, Masschusetts.

**Sabine Asanger** of Chatsworth was recently elected to membership into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society, at San Jose State.


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# VIEWPOINT

## English Channel

**By Rodger Sterling**

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

• So true. A sage told us, "10% of the people make things happen, 80% of the people watch and 10% have no clue what's happening."

• Did you hear about the butcher who backed up into his meat grinder and got a little behind in his work?

• My coffee drinking buddy Mary Kathleen says that being over the hill is much better than being under it!

• Didja' hear about the thief who stole a calendar and got 12 months?

• Max Turrell, a regular contributor to this column, announced a new policy for himself. He's only going to dread one day at a time.

• Another Turellism: What's the difference between anxiety and panic? Anxiety is the first time you can't do it a second time, and panic is the second time you can't do it the first time.

• A prominent couple here in Warner Center are getting a divorce. The wife says it's over religious differences. "He thought he was God and I didn't."

• Chloe Humes tells us about the scientist who put a knocker on his front door. Humes said the scientist wanted to win the "no-bell" prize.

• After his divorce, Jones realized poker isn't the only game starting with holding hands and ending with a financial loss.

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PHONE 818.313.9545 FAX 818.302.1417
Email: ValleyNewsGroup@gmail.com
22025 Ventura Blvd. #303 Woodland Hills CA 91364
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## Rantz & Ravez from Dennis P. Zine

It's time for a reality check and reflection on the economic conditions and future financial strengths of the city of Los Angeles - an American city facing a monumental financial crisis that will impact each and every business and person living and visiting Los Angeles far into the future and for years to come...

I was invited to attend the Mayor's State of the City 2025 at Los Angeles City Hall on April 21. To save time and avoid the traffic congestion on the 101 freeway, I used the Orange Line Bus to the Red Line Rail to Los Angeles City Hall.

What I noticed along the Orange Line ride was the presence of uniformed security personnel. Both LAPD and security were at the stops and visible to the riders on the bus. Since it was an early ride the line was not busy and seats were available for everyone. The rail ride to City Hall was safe and smooth. Many LAPD and other security personnel were also very visible.

There is no question that Los Angeles Municipal Government is facing some very difficult financial times moving ahead. It is estimated that the city has a current gap close to ONE BILLION DOLLARS short of what is needed to run all the current city operations. When the expenses exceed the long list of revenues collected from the assortment of taxes, fees, fines and other municipal dollars generated by the residents, business and general population, a problem occurs that impacts everyone governed by the elected and appointed officials who manage the vast operations of the city. Operations that include everything from A to Z. We can start with the airports and go down the list of the alphabet to the zoo. The list includes many important functions like fire and police and building and safety and some not so recognized to the average resident and business owner. While many of the listed departments perform specific functions, some question why not consolidate them to where it is a reasonable and a cost saving to the city. I did a bit of research and pulled up the entire list of documented Los Angeles City Departments. Believe it or not, there are 41 individual departments listed from A to Z. Here is the current list of Los Angeles City Departments, Bureaus and an assortment of city operations that serve Los Angeles. I am sure that some of the current listed departments may surprise you as you ask the question - are they all necessary for the Los Angeles City government to serve the assortment of residential and business neighborhoods scattered throughout the vast territory of Los Angeles? In alphabetical order here they are:

Department of Aging. Airports, Los Angeles World. Animal Services Department. Building and Safety. Cannabis Regulation Dept of City Administrative Officer. City Tourism Department. Civil + Human Rights and Equity Dept. Clerk, Office of the City. Community Investment for Family Dept. Contract Administration Bureau (Public Works). Cultural Affairs Dept. Disability Dept. Economic and Workforce Development Dept. El Pubelo de Los Angeles Historical Authority. Emergency Management Dept. Engineering, Bureau of Public Works. Finance, Office of. Fire Department. General Services Dept. Housing Authority. Housing Department, Los Angeles. Information Technology Agency. Library, Los Angeles Public. Neighborhood Empowerment, Department of. Pensions Dept, Fire and Police. Personnel Dept. City Planning. Police Department. Port of Los Angeles, Public Accountability/Ratepayer Advocate (OPA), The Office of. Public Works. Recreation & Parks. Retirement System, Los Angeles City. Sanitation Bureau (Public Works). Street Lighting Bureau (Public Works). Street Services Bureau (Public Works). Transportation Department. Water and Power, Department of. Youth Development Department. Zoo, Los Angeles.

As you can see, Los Angeles has a large number of bureaus and departments that were all established for a purpose. Each of the operations require personnel and the necessary equipment to carry out the many

*(Continued to page 11)*

## Need to Pick Up a Paper? Visit These Merchants

Northridge Library
Chatsworth Library
Nat's Diner
Brent's Deli
Ralphs Markets
Vons Markets
Albertsons
Logix Credit Union
Jon's Market
Starbucks Vineyard
IHOP
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NORTH VALLEY NEWS

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# Legal Considerations When Selling Your Business

**By Janice L. Miller, Esq**

Selling a business is a complex process requiring careful legal, financial, tax and operational planning. To navigate this journey successfully, sellers must know the legal landscape governing business transactions. Here are a few legal considerations when selling your business.

*1. Asset Sale vs. Stock Sale*

The structure of the transaction sets the foundation for the entire sale process. Sellers and buyers must decide whether the deal will be an asset sale or a stock sale (equity sale)—each with its implications for taxation, liability, and business continuity (IRS, Publication 544. https://www.irs.gov/publications/p544).

In an asset sale, the buyer acquires selected assets and assumes certain liabilities, while the seller retains ownership of the legal entity. This lets buyers cherry-pick desirable assets and minimize exposure to potential unknown liabilities. However, sellers may face double taxation in asset sales if the business is a C corporation. The entity is taxed on the sale of its assets, and shareholders are taxed again when proceeds are distributed. Buyers have the advantage of greater control over which assets and liabilities to assume and reduced risk of inheriting unknown liabilities.

A stock sale transfers ownership of the company's shares or membership interests, allowing the buyer to acquire the entire entity with all its assets and liabilities. Stock sales tend to be more advantageous for sellers, as they generally result in capital gains treatment and limit post-sale tax exposure. However, buyers may hesitate to pursue stock deals due to the risk of inheriting hidden liabilities. Sellers have the advantage of capital gains treatment (lower tax rate) and simpler transfer of business continuity.

*2. Due Diligence*

Due diligence is where the buyer investigates every aspect of the business to assess its value, risks, and compliance history. (Tirosh, Ofer. American Bar Association. "Due Dilgence Done Right: How Legal Translations Help Close Global M&A Deals", April 2023.https://www.americanbar.org/groups/business_law/resources/business-law-today/2023-april/due-diligence-done-right/). Sellers should conduct pre-sale due diligence to identify and address potential red flags before they become deal breakers. These include corporate governance, financial records, contracts and agreements, intellectual property (IP), and regulatory compliance.

*3. Valuation and Purchase Price Allocation*

Determining the right valuation is necessary, as it affects the purchase price and how it's allocated among the business' assets. Purchase price allocation (PPA) can impact tax liabilities for both buyers and sellers. These include earnings multiples, asset-based valuation, and discounted cash flow (DCF). IRS regulations require buyers and sellers to allocate the purchase price across different asset classes, including tangible assets, goodwill, and non-compete agreements. Improper allocation can lead to audits and penalties. (IRS Form, Instructions for Form 8594. November 2021. https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/i8594.pdf ).

*4. Employee and Stakeholder Considerations*

The sale of a business impacts employees, key executives, and stakeholders in multiple ways. Failure to address their interests can lead to operational disruption, reputational damage, and even litigation. Review existing employment agreements to identify change-of-control clauses that may trigger severance payments, stock option acceleration, or termination rights.

Buyers often require sellers to sign non-compete and non-solicitation agreements to prevent them from starting a competing business or poaching clients post-sale. Courts may enforce these agreements if they are reasonable in scope, duration, and geography but there is a general disfavor for non-compete and non-solicitation clauses.

*5. Negotiating the Purchase Agreement*

The purchase agreement is the definitive document that governs the terms of the sale and protects the interests of both parties. This includes representations and warranties, indemnification provisions, and earnouts an contingent payments.

*6. Regulatory and Compliance Considerations*

Regulatory compliance is important, especially in finance, healthcare, and telecommunications. For larger transactions, compliance with the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act (HSR Act) is mandatory to prevent anti-competitive practices. Failure to comply can result in substantial fines and delays. (Federal Trade Commission. "FTC Announces 2025 Update of Size Transaction Thresholds for Premerger Notification Filings". Jan 10, 2025. https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2025/01/ftc-announces-2025-update-size-transaction-thresholds-premerger-notification-filings).

*7. Post-Closing Obligations and Transition Planning*

Even after closing, sellers may have ongoing obligations, such as Transition Services Agreements (TSAs), escrow arrangements, and non-compete agreements. TSAs ensure operational continuity by allowing the seller to provide support during the handover period.

Selling your business is a multi-layered process requiring strategic legal guidance. By proactively addressing these legal considerations, sellers can maximize the value of their business while minimizing post-sale risks. Engage experienced corporate attorneys, tax advisors, and M&A consultants to ensure your sale is legally sound and optimized for your long-term goals.

*Disclaimer: This article is not meant as legal advice. It is solely for educational purposes.*

*Janice L. Miller, Esq. is the managing partner of Miller Haga Law Group, LLP in Calabasas, CA. She is a highly recognized legal advisor, published author, noted speaker, and panelist with over 25 years of experience as an innovative general counsel in business, real estate, entertainment, and intellectual property.*

# VALLEY ENTERTAINMENT

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THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 1933

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J. Lintner, Managing Editor

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DIBLE'S MONTH-END SALE
See Last Page

## Piece of the Past: 1930's West Valley Paper

Before there was a *Valley News Group*... before there was the *Green Sheet* (that morphed into the *Daily News*)... there was the orange *Shopping News* serving the west valley.

The first issue was published in 1933, and served the communities of Canoga Park, Reseda, what was called North Los Angeles (Northridge), Chatsworth, Girard (Woodland Hills) and Calabasas.

Going to "every home in the west end of the valley" the circulation was a whopping 12,000. Today the valley's total population is 1.8 million!

Long before American Express pushed it, the *Shopping News* promoted spending local, with the slogan "You Can Keep Your Dollar Home by Spending it at Home."

Note that in 1933 the Madrid Theatre was hosting live theatre, including the play *Looking Forward* starring Academy-Award winner Lionel Barrymore, who went on to star in *It's a Wonderful Life*.

*Photo from the CSUN University Library Digital Collection*

## Enjoy a Weekend of Plants, Pottery and Family Fun at Cactus Sale

The Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society is excited to announce its highly anticipated Spring Cactus Sale at the Tarzana Community & Cultural Center on Saturday, May 17, and Sunday, May 18 This vibrant event is set to offer something for plant enthusiasts, collectors, and families alike.

The Spring Cactus Sale will feature a remarkable selection of cacti, succulents, and handcrafted pottery. Whether you're looking to add to your collection, find a rare plant, or discover the perfect planter, there's something for everyone at this premier event including plant sales. A diverse range of cacti and succulents will be available for purchase, including rare and unique varieties perfect for any garden or collection.

Discover beautifully crafted pots and planters to complement your plants. Attend expert-led talks at 10 and 11 am on Saturday, covering topics such as landscaping with cacti and succulents, plus valuable tips for planting in large containers.

At 1 pm on Saturday, don't miss the exciting live auction featuring rare and hard-to-find plants. Savor delicious offerings from local food truck vendors throughout the event.

Sunday, May 18, from 10 am to 2 pm, will be dedicated to families with children, offering fun, hands-on activities designed to inspire a love for plants.

Whether you're a seasoned gardener, a plant lover, or simply looking for a fun family outing, the Spring Cactus Sale is the perfect way to celebrate the beauty of cacti and succulents.

Admission is freefor all attendees. Don't miss this unforgettable weekend! For more information and updates, visit lacactus.com or follow them on Instagram at @lacssclub.

# Classic Chevy Car Show to Benefit Boys Home

Men and their cars... in this case men and their classic cars and getting them together for a worthy cause!

Classic Chevys of Southern California, based here in the valley, will hold their 42nd annual car show on Sunday, May 4 in Chatsworth.

The annual event brings classic car lovers together from all over Southern California to showcase their classic cars, models, hot rods, vintage autos and more.

The event includes the car show, a silent auction, vendors, food served all day and awards for the top cars.

Major sponsors include Rydell Chevrolet and Monty's Steakhouse.

All proceeds from the day's event benefit Rancho San Antonio Boys Home, which has been offering trauma-informed therapy to children and families since 1933.

The car show will be held on the grounds of the Rancho at 21000 Plummer Street. The show itself runs from 7:30 am to 2:30 pm with the awards show at 2 pm.

Classic Chevys of Southern California was founded in 1975 by Steve Kershuk, who got together a group of '55, '56 and '57 Chevy lovers to form a club. The non-profit now boasts over 100 members. For more information on the club and the upcoming car show visit classicchevysofsocal.com.

# Annie Sings Her Way to Dolby Theatre

The sun will come out... from May 7 to 18 when *Annie* comes to the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood.

The musical tells the story of a red-headed orphan girl who dreams of finding her parents and a new life. After being taken in by a wealthy businessman, Oliver Warbucks, Annie's determination and charm help her find not only a family, but also a way to overcome the challenges she faces. The musical is set in 1930s New York City during the Depression and explores themes of hope, perseverance, and the importance of finding a family, whether biological or chosen.

Holding onto hope when times are tough can take an awful lot of determination, and sometimes, an awful lot of determination comes in a surprisingly small package. Little Orphan Annie has reminded generations of theatergoers that sunshine is always right around the corner, and now the best-loved musical of all time is set to return in a new production – just as you remember it and just when we need it most. The play features popular songs like "Tomorrow" and "It's the Hard Knock Life."

Tickets are available at broadwayinhollywood.com. The Dolby is located inside Ovation Hollywood, 6801 Hollywood Blvd. at Highland.

# HEALTH & BEAUTY

## Blood Donation Drive in Northridge Sunday

The American Red Cross will hold a blood donation drive on Sunday, May 4, from 10 am to 4 pm.

Help save a life and donate blood and plasma. The event will be held at LAPD Devonshire PALS, 8721 Wilbur Avenue. For more information or to register visit redcrossblood.org.

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Friedman and Markus

## Free Seminar on Simplifying Senior Moving

Ask the experts about senior issues on Thursday, May 8, from 10:30 to 11:30 am.

Scott M. Friedman with Coldwell Banker Realty in Sherman Oaks will lead a team discussion on senior real estate issues.

Friedman is a Seniors Real Estate Specialist, Short Sale and Foreclosure Resource and Certified Negotiations Specialist and will discuss taking the scary out of senior real estate.

Thomas P. Christopher, Esq., of the Christopher Law Group, will address the importance of having an updated will and trust for seniors. Michael Resiner, CPA and senior taxation specialist with Resiner Accountancy, will cover saving taxes. Professional organizer Dina Braverman will discuss simplying and downsizing.

The event will be held at Ivy Park at Studio City, 4610 Coldwater Canyon. RSVP to (818) 505-8484.

Scott Friedman and Margie Markus, a number one team at Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Sherman Oaks, enthusiastically bring over 25 years of experience assisting clients in the San Fernando Valley and Westside of Los Angeles.

Guided by the unwavering principles of concierge customer service, Friedman and Markus are dedicated to delivering outstanding results by focusing on the objectives of their clients. Buyers and sellers value their strong negotiation skills, market knowledge and detailed focus throughout every transaction. As top producers, they continuously earn the International President's Circle Team award for excellence and have Certified Negotiation Specialists and Short Sale Foreclosure Resource designations.

Friedman and Markus can be reached at (818) 317-2011 or scottmfriedman@yahoo.com.

## Try Holistic Remedies for Pesky Pollens

Spring is in the air and so are the pesky pollens that cause allergy flare-ups. While many over-the- counter drugs are adept at putting symptoms at bay, not everyone is eager to pop a pill or antihistamine for relief. Rather, certain homeopathic remedies are used to ease the varying symptoms that come with springtime. If you need relief, try one of the following methods.

1. Water: Needless to say, hydration is always the number one factor for keeping your body running properly. When you are dehydrated, your allergy symptoms are heightened and your body has a harder time dealing with them since the lack of water causes sluggishness and exhaustion.

2. Apple Cider Vinegar- Vinegar helps reduce mucous production and cleanses the lymphatic system. While not that appetizing, the quickest solution for allergy sufferers is to swallow a tablespoon straight. For a more palatable option, add to a cup of hot water.

3. Exercise-Working out for at least 30 minutes is proven to be a health booster, not only releasing endorphins but helping to produce an anti-inflammatory effect in your nasal passages. Though if pollen is high, work out indoors!

4. Neti Pot and Nasal Sprays- The inner nostril is unfortunately filled with nooks and crannies for pollen to get trapped in. By flushing out the system with a saline solution through a neti pot, the pollen has a better chance of being completely dispelled. Those not so comfortable with a neti pot can get similar results with a spray once a day.

5. Local Honey and Bee Pollen- Runny noses and watery eyes are your body's attempts to dispel the foreign substances in your system. Local honey

### Vinegar, honey and bee pollen can give relief...

contains trace amounts of the same pollen that is making you react. Like a flu shot, exposing yourself to a small strain of what is making you ill will help your body better fight the irritant in the long run.

6. Acupuncture- Studies show that this health tool is beneficial for a variety of health issues including depression, digestive issues, pain, immune deficiency and allergy symptoms.

7. Probiotics- In some cases, allergy symptoms are a response to your immune system being imbalanced. Probiotics help boost the inner workings of your digestive tract to aid beneficial bacteria running smoothly and be better able to fight against foreign stimuli.

## ONEgeneration Senior Symposium Set for May 17

ONEgeneration is excited to host its 16th Annual Senior Symposium & Health Fair on Saturday, May 17, from 9 am to 12 pm. Join them for a morning of exciting vendors and sponsors, health screenings, community exercising and giveaways. This is event is free and open to the general public and those of all ages. Although the Senior Symposium is focused on health and senior care, they encourage families with aging loved ones to attend.

In addition to community resources, health screenings and presentations, there will also be an opportunity to learn about utility bill savings programs. See their ONEgeneration booth at the event to learn about water conservation programs and if you qualify for discounts on your LADWP bills and other utility savings.

Some of the attending organizations include UCLA Health, Health Net, Valley Presbyterian Hospital, Optum, Anthem, California Health Advocates, Paul Davis Insurance Services, Scan Health Plan, Kaiser Permanente, United Healthcare and Brandman Centers Senior Care. Community organizations include the Reseda Neighborhood Council, Encino Neighborhood Council, Tarzana Neighborhood Council, Winnetka Neighborhood Council and Northridge South Neighborhood Council.

The event will be held at ONEgeneration's Senior Enrichment Center (17400 Victory Blvd.) and registration for the event is open at eventbrite.com under search term "ONEgeneration."

# A Storm Couldn't Keep Community Away from SOLID Fundraiser

These two rode over to the breakfast.

**By Mark Hovater**

For 31 years, the CD12 community has shown up rain or shine to support the LAPD Devonshire Division at the annual S.O.L.I.D. All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast - and this year was no different. With a major rainstorm looming, organizers didn't take any chances, setting up a giant circus tent to shelter the eating area. Right on cue, the skies opened an hour into the event, just as the radar had promised. But true to tradition, neighbors showed up in force, proving that a little rain was no match for their devotion.

"It warms my heart to see how many people came to support the Devonshire Division under these weather conditions," said Dianne Kartiala, President of S.O.L.I.D. Councilmember John Lee even got in on the fun, flipping pancakes

Girl Scouts got into crafting for the day.

Scout Troop 92 volunteered at the event.

Friendly volunteers served up the pancakes for hours.

Councilman John Lee flipped a few!

PHOTOS: MARKHOVATER

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## Turning 65? Attend a free New-to-Medicare Seminar

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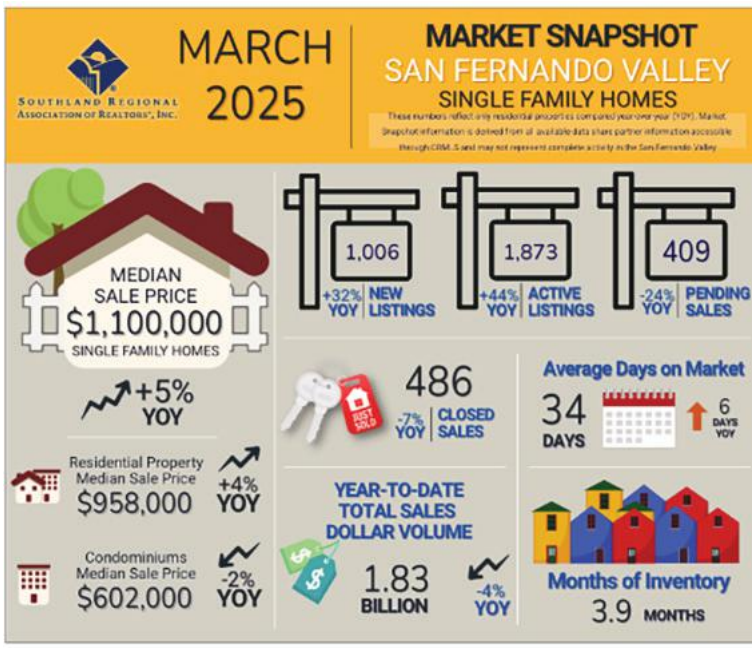



## Home and Condo Sales Jump First Quarter

The number of homes and condominiums listed for sale in the San Fernando Valley during the first three months of 2025 jumped higher than any year since 2019 while closed escrows declined slightly and prices of homes that changed owners in March continued to rise, the Southland Regional Association of REALTORS® reported today.

The association reported 1,873 active single-family home listings on its Multiple Listing Service plus 533 condominiums. Active home listings in March were up 43.6% over a year ago and came in higher than any month since October 2022. Condominium active listings at 533 were up 40.3% over a year ago.

At its current trajectory, home listings are on pace to equal the total reported in 2019, just as the Covid pandemic gripped the nation. The initial three months of 2025 have posted combined home and condominium listing numbers that have not been seen since 2011.

"Local, state and national residential real estate markets are gaining momentum with the arrival of spring, yet market conditions remain murky due to the lingering impact of local wildfire tragedies in January and uncertainty over the direction of the national economy," said Anthony Bedgood, President of the 10,000-member Southland Regional Association of REALTORS®.

"Continuing increases in home and condo listings suggest busy days ahead and provide an abundance of choices for prospective buyers and benefits for sellers," Bedgood said. "The robust growth in listings is a reassuring sign for the market and an opportunity especially for buyers."

The median price of homes that changed owners last month came in at $1.1 million, up 6.0% from a year ago, but below the record high $1.14 million first set in July and repeated this January. The condominium median price – meaning half the March sales had a higher price and half a lower price – was $602,000, down 2.1% from March 2024. The condominium record high $660,000 was set in July.

"A rise in active listings also translates into an increase in the months of inventory at the current pace of sales and the time each listing stays on the MLS before finding a buyer," said Valerie Biletsky, SRAR's Chief Executive Officer. "Both categories are on the rise."

**Active home listings in March were up 43.6% over a year ago and came in higher than any month since October 2022.**

The 3.9-month inventory at the current pace of sales reported this March was closer to the 38-year average of 5.3 months, according to association statistics. That span saw the supply rise to 9.8 months in 2007 with the peak at a 16.5-month supply reported in 1992 — both periods of high inventory emerged because of deep national economic recessions. Over the last five years, the inventory has hovered at an average 2.6-month supply.

The association reported 486 homes closed escrows in March, down 7% from a year ago, while 138 condominiums changed owners, down 4%.

SRAR's Income-to-Loan guide for January found that an income of $292,065 was needed to qualify for an 80% loan of $880,000 on a San Fernando Valley median-priced single-family home of $1.1 million. With the median price up and the national average interest rate at 6.92%, the income needed to qualify was up 7.1%. The monthly PITI — principal, interest, taxes and insurance payments — totaled $7,302.

REAL ESTATE

# NIghttrek Report: What to See in the May Sky

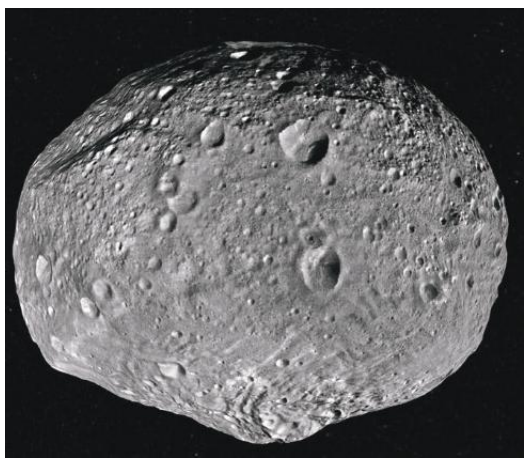
**By Neill Simmons**

The highlight of May is a very rare event starting on Thursday, May 1. The second biggest asteroid, named Vesta, shows up in our night sky. It has a diameter of 326 miles and is one of the brightest asteroids. Vesta is also "differentiated," meaning it has a crust, mantle, and core, similar to terrestrial planets like Earth. It will be located in the south within the constellation of Libra and then travels through the constellation of Virgo. Binoculars will greatly help to spot Vesta.

Griffith Park Observatory will have its monthly Star Party on Saturday evening, May 3, and will have over 50 telescopes on the front lawn. Many of these will be focused on the Vesta Asteroid. This is a FREE event!

Sunday night, May 4, will bring a beautiful crescent Moon. Look low in the west and it will be next to the planet Jupiter. Enjoy this event as Jupiter will be leaving the night sky in June. Jupiter is the largest planet in our Solar System with 79 known moons. The four largest moons are Europa, Io, Ganymede, and Callisto. Jupiter is composed mainly of hydrogen and helium gases and have no solid surface. Jupiter's visible bands are colder than the rest of the planet.

Monday night, May 5, the Eta Aquarids meteor shower will occur. The best chance to see meteors will be in the early morning hours of May 6, when the Moon is below the horizon. A "fireball" occurs when the meteor is large enough and fast enough to last at least four seconds before burning up in the Earth's atmosphere.



The asteroid Vesta.

On May 12, the full "Flower Moon" will appear. The Flower Moon is named after the abundant flowers that grow in the Northern Hemisphere in May. The moon is slowly drifting away from our planet by about 1.5 inches (4 centimeters) per year. While this isn't much, it will cause the moon to become notably more distant from Earth over millions of years. The Moon is a dusty ball of rock, roughly a quarter of the size of Earth. Its surface is made up of huge craters, large mountains, and flat planes call "seas" which are made up of hardened lava.

Each night in May, look high in the west to spot the constellation Gemini's twin bright stars, Castor and Pollux. Close by the red planet Mars will be visible. At this time, Earth is pulling away from Mars which causes Mars to appear dimmer. Also each night, the giant constellation of Leo the Lion will be straight up.

The Big Dipper, one of our favorite star patterns, will be high in the north. It is part of the Ursa Major Constellation, which is the third largest constellation in the sky. Its brightest star, Alioth, is over 100 times brighter than our Sun. The Big Dipper has been used as a navigational tool for centuries as two of its stars function as pointers to the North Star. The North Star, located in the Little Dipper, is the only star in the sky that does not move.

Dawn Patrol: The planet Venus is putting on a show in the early morning from 4:30 am until sunrise. Venus is the second planet from the Sun and is known as Earth's "sister planet" due to similar size and mass. It's rocky, terrestrial and is the hottest planet in our solar system, with a surface temperature hot enough to melt lead. It is the third brightest object in the sky after the Sun and Moon, making it easily visible from Earth.

*When not stargazing,* Neill *Simmons is a Wealth Advisor with LPL Financial in Woodland Hills. If you have any astronomy or financial questions, he may be reached at (818) 936-2626 or emailed at at neill.simmons@lpl.com.*

# Rantz & Ravez: The City Budget

*(Continued from page 4)*

functions of the department. This all adds up to millions and millions of dollars for equipment and the maintenance of the equipment. For example, a trash truck can cost up to $400,000 per unit. Los Angeles has a fleet of over 750 trash trucks. The expense is massive. The city plans on going with electric trash trucks by 2035. How much will those trucks cost? Another huge expense that will be paid by the city residents in their DWP/Sanitation bill. A bill that will be increasing shortly for all city residents and business operations. It is time to look into the future anticipated bills and increased taxes for the residents and owners of property in the City of Los Angeles.

The proposed 2025-2026 Los Angeles City Budget presented by Mayor Bass is just the beginning of the funding process for Los Angeles. The budget will be reviewed a number of times by members of the City Council until a final budget is approved and reviewed again until the votes are cast to finally approve the 2025-2026 city budget. It is expected to be a very long process. What we know is that there are currently over 1,600 proposed job eliminations. The consolidation of various departments and jobs is possible along with many other options that will all be explored. While the city budget is being reviewed the city will continue to operate with may employees concerned about their future. It will be a stressful time for many waiting to find out their future employment with the city. We can all hope for the best to come from those elected to serve all of us at Los Angeles City Hall.

*Dennis P. Zine is a native Angeleno, LAPD veteran and former L.A. City Councilmember. He can be heard on KABC Radio, Fox 11, Spectrum TV and other media outlets discussing current affairs in Los Angeles.*

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