



COUNCILMEMBER ENGLANDER'S E-NEWS

Dec. 23, 2011

COMMUNITY NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Happy Holidays from Councilmember Mitchell Englander and the Council District 12 Staff!

From Councilmember Mitchell Englander and the staff of Council District 12, we wish you a happy Chanukah and Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year in 2012!



Temporary Hold on Street Sweeping...



The City's Bureau of Street Services will not perform street sweeping during the week of December 26, 2011 through January 2, 2012. Street sweeping services will return to normal operations starting January 3, 2012.

The Department of Transportation has announced that it will not be enforcing street cleaning parking violations during that time period because no street cleaning will

occur.

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For additional information, please call 3-1-1.

PALS Holiday Toy Give Away Helping Struggling Families...

The 2011 Devonshire PALS (Police Activity League Supporters) Youth Center Toy Drive ended with a huge toy give-away on Saturday, Dec. 17. There were 875 families whose children received holiday gifts on the day of the event.

Devonshire PALS also adopted thirty local families with a special toy delivery. Families stated lining up around 5:00 am and toys were distributed until 1:00 pm.

Our thanks go out to all the people who generously donated gifts, money or worked as volunteers to help make sure that struggling families had holiday gifts for their kids.

PALS offers valuable after-school programs, including sports, education, and mentoring with LAPD Officers to give at-risk youth in our community positive alternatives to crime, gangs and drugs. Please visit www.devonshire-pals.org.



Families and kids were lined up around the block for the PALS 2011 Toy Give Away.



Thanks to the generous donations by community members, community based organizations, houses of worship, schools and businesses, hundreds of families were able to have holiday gifts for their kids.

Submit Your Nomination for Citizen of the Year in Granada Hills...

**Submit Your
Nominations for
Citizen of the
Year**

The deadline for submitting nominations for the 2011 "Gil Benjamin Citizen of the Year Award" is coming up on January 6, 2012, so send in your nominations to the Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce.

For individuals to be considered they must reside, work or have performed a community service or

Community Resources

[Request Service or Information, Report a Problem](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Every Sunday
Encino Farmers' Market**

Come shop for farm fresh produce, delicious prepared food and arts and crafts every Sunday at the Encino Farmers' Market.

8:00 am to 1:00 pm
ONEGeneration Center
17400 Victory Blvd., Lake Balboa. [Click for map.](#)

Most farmers' markets are closed during the winter, but Encino Farmers' Market stays open year round, so you can find those delicious items that are in season during the winter, such as mushrooms, clementines, root vegetables, brussel sprouts and cauliflower.

This certified farmers' market features a wide variety of California grown fruits, vegetables, fresh flowers, eggs and chicken, honey, mushrooms, plants, and more!



[311 Online](#)

have been involved in community affairs within Granada Hills. A nomination for the Gil Benjamin Citizen of the Year Award recognizes the nominee for putting forth superior volunteer community service. All nominees will be honored at the Granada Hills Chamber's Installation and Awards Ceremony Dinner on Friday, Feb. 24, 2012 at the Odyssey Restaurant, where the Citizen of the Year will be announced.

To obtain a nomination form, contact Bonnie Bursk at (818) 368-8646 or savinbursk@aol.com, or email the Granada Hills Chamber at ghcoc@verizon.net. Fill out the form and fax it to the Chamber Office at (818) 366-7425, or scan it and email it to ghcoc@verizon.net and to savinbursk@aol.com.

Congratulations to Granada Hills Charter High School Highlanders Marching Band!

Our heartfelt congratulations go out to Granada Hills Charter High School Highlander Marching Band and their parents, teachers, and fellow students for winning the 2011 LAUSD Marching Band Competition.

The Highlanders Marching Band took the 2011 Sweepstakes award at the annual LAUSD Band Competition last Saturday, Dec. 17 at East L.A. College.

This is the Highlanders' second consecutive City Championship and the 20th in the school's history.

The Highlanders are the only high school in Los Angeles that competes at the very high "5A" level. They compete with schools from all over the western United States and were the only LAUSD band invited to compete in the Western Band Association championships.

We are proud to have such talented young musicians in our community!

Re-use, Recycle, Rejoice! Make it a green holiday this year and recycle your tree!

In addition to gift wrapping paper, boxes and gift packaging, you can recycle your Christmas tree. Every year, the City of Los Angeles offers residents the



In addition to calling 311 to report problems or request services, you can use 311 online.

Visit <http://tiny.cc/311LACity> and find the appropriate service.

ONGOING

Free Mulch for Your Garden

You can get free mulch for your garden from the City's Mulch Giveaway Program! The free mulch is made from recycled yard trimmings and other "green waste" from the green bins.

Recycling green waste is an important way to reduce the amount of organic material that goes into landfills. When plant materials go into landfills, they emit large amounts of the greenhouse gas methane, which contributes to climate change. The City turns that green waste into mulch which is available to L.A. residents for free.

Free Mulch Locations in the San Fernando Valley

16600 Roscoe Pl., North Hills (near Van Nuys Airport)
Mulch delivered to this location Wednesdays & Fridays. Open daily 7:00 am to 6:00 pm.

15800 Victory Blvd., Van Nuys (near D.C. Tillman Plant). Entrance: turn south on Densmore Ave. from Victory, follow curve.
Mulch delivered to this location every Monday. Open Monday - Friday, 7:00 am to 3:30 pm.

For more info [click here](#).

opportunity to recycle Christmas trees. Dead, dry trees can be a fire hazard, and when they go to landfills, they release greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. When the trees are recycled, they are turned into mulch and re-used for gardening and landscaping. You can even get free mulch for your own garden!

Remove all ornaments, decorations and the tree stand. Cut the tree into pieces and place it in your green waste bin. If it does not fit, place the whole tree at the curb and the Bureau of Sanitation will pick it up. You can also bring it to one of the City's drop-off locations. To see a list of all of the Christmas tree drop-off locations, [click here](#).

Gift Wrapping & Packaging

Please do not burn gift wrapping in the fireplace once the holiday gifts are opened. They often contain dyes and plastics that release toxins into the air. Most gift wrapping can be recycled in the blue bin. You can also re-use gift wrapping to wrap other gifts.

Police Commission Meeting in Northridge...

Join the Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners, Councilmember Mitchell Englander, and LAPD Chief Charlie Beck on January 17, 2012 for a community meeting in Northridge to discuss public safety issues in the Devonshire Area and the City of Los Angeles.

Tuesday, January 17, 2012
6:30 pm
St. Nicholas Greek Church
9501 Balboa Blvd. (at Plummer St.)
Northridge



Under the City Charter, the Board of Police Commissioners is the head of the Police Department. Established in the 1920's, the Board consists of five civilian volunteer Commissioners who set overall policy while the Chief of Police manages the daily operations of the Department and implements the Board's policies or policy direction and goals.

Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices and other auxiliary aids and/or services are available upon request. To ensure availability, all requests for reasonable accommodation must be made at least three business days (72 hours) in advance.

For more information, please call (213) 236-1400.

Help Care for Animals in Shelters - Operation Blankets of Love

With winter upon us, it's a great time to support the efforts of Operation Blankets of Love, a San Fernando Valley-based non-profit organization that provides blankets to help keep animals in shelters warm and comfortable.

Drop off donated blankets, towels, pet beds and other pet items! at Pet People, located at 18040 Chatsworth St. in Granada Hills.

For more information, call Brad Smulson (818) 402-6584 or [click here](#).

Neighborhood Public Safety, Crime, and Emergency Information Updates from LAPD on NIXLE

The LAPD offers a free service that allows L.A. residents to sign up to receive messages directly from the LA Police Department. The LAPD uses NIXLE to send updates on crime trends, public safety and crime prevention tips. It also uses NIXLE to provide crucial information to the public in case of emergencies or disasters.

Residents can sign up for to receive updates directed toward one or more specific neighborhoods, and can receive it by text message on their phone, or by email. To sign up or learn more, visit www.NIXLE.com.

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Councilmember Mitchell Englander

18917 Nordhoff Street, Suite 18
Northridge, CA 91324
(213) 473-7012

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