Granny Flats

Fees for Granny Flats

By Brian CHERNICK

Glendale City Council members have given the go-ahead to contribute $30.5 million of the city’s general fund into the Pension Rate Stabilization Trust in an attempt to help mitigate increasing pension contributions.

The deposit of funds will be designated as irrevocable, preventing council or anyone else from using the allocated funds for anything other than the city’s retirement plan obligations.

The city expects to receive a higher net rate of return, 5.07%, by investing in the fund as opposed to the city’s own investment pool.

In conjunction, the council adopted a new General Fund Reserve Policy that reduces the city’s minimum fund level from 30% to 23%.

“The City will strive to maintain a General Fund Reserve (including the Charter required reserve) of 35% and not less than 20% of the annual operating budget,” according to City Manager Marc Lurie.

Travel Back in Time with Silent Movie Night at Two Strike Park

By Joanna KIM, intern

Projectionist Joe Rinaudo will bring his vintage equipment to Two Strike Park to share silent films from the past.

With the digitalization of movies and videos in the modern age, silent films of the 1920s and ’30s are often forgotten. Joe Rinaudo, a local silent cinema historian and founder of Silent Cinema Society, is on a mission to preserve those early films by putting on shows for children and adults in parks and museums.

Rinaudo works with the Library of Congress and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences to present early films and younger generations. He restored a 1909 Powers’ 35mm motion picture machine hand-crank and runs the movies as they were over 100 years ago.

Joe Rinaudo will take the audience back when motion pictures were not readily available, projectionists traveled to small towns with hand-crank projectors and pianos and provided the townfolk with entertainment.

Rinaudo hopes to resurrect these old projectors and allow children to enjoy these once-adored silent films.

Back when movies started at the hundred dollar a month theaters, silent movies werebasically a part of the entertainment; once they were over 100 years old, they were over 100 years old.

Survey Asks: Does Community Want to See the Light?

By Julie BUTCHER

The Outdoor Lighting Community Survey went out in the mail to Los Angeles County residents of the Crescenta-Montrose area at the request of the CV Town Council.

Since then, the committee and council have studied, researched and debated the issue, engaged the County’s professionals, and finally determined that a comprehensive survey of the affected residents was necessary.

Those who support more street lights argue that the lights increase the feeling of safety in the neighborhood and make it possible to see when walking at night; those advocating for a “Dark Sky” approach claim that reduced focused light pollution is better for wildlife, reduces light pollution and is reported to be healthier for the circadian rhythms of humans.

At public meetings on Jan. 5 and March 2, the LUC heard extensive public testimony on the
Permitting Process Being Reviewed by GUSD

By Mary O’KEEFE

At Tuesday’s Glendale Unified School District board meeting, two parents asked the board to take another look at the permits that had been rejected from Franklin Elementary School, a magnet school.

They spoke of when they first arrived in Franklin and had signed an agreement to stay through sixth grade, something both parents said they had planned to do until recently when they received a notice their permit would not be approved or extended.

One student was a fifth grader while the other was a second grader; however, both had an IEP (Individualized Education Program) due to learning disabilities. Both parents said they had been strong supporters of the school, felt they were part of the community and were concerned their children would be negatively affected both emotionally and academically if they would not be allowed to continue in the school they had promised to attend through sixth grade.

“Both families are in the appeal process,” said Kristine Devine, communication director for GUSD.

Devine expressed being in favor of square footage rates, with Devine arguing it would not be overburdening to the landowner and would benefit those who would develop ADUs smaller than 500 square feet.

“We don’t want the fee to be counterintuitive,” Devine said.

The intent of this legislation was to bring about affordable housing and for more people to have to live in the area if it has to be lower than what we are charging for single family units.”

“The difference between what [Glendale] charges and what the bulk of other cities charge is draconic,” Councilmember Zareh Sinanyan said. “I think that it is indicative of the fact that these cities are not trying to create artificial impediments to the creation of ADUs.”

Should Glendale adopt the staff’s recommendation of $7,324 per capita DIF it would be virtually tied for second highest with Santa Monica’s $7,809 for a single-family unit, beat only by Pasadena, which has a DIF that ranges from $17,000 to $33,000.

According to the staff’s report, most other cities’ DIF averages at $3,200, with Los Angeles having no DIF for single-family units.

Councilmember Ara Najarian argued that Glendale’s character is unique and that comparisons to other cities is not a fair comparison, but stressed that a per capita fee is fair and that the city is “severely under-parked.”

“Citywide Crime Blotter

July 15

500 block of Foothill Boulevard in La Cañada, a safe and cash were stolen from a business. A door appeared to be pried open with a blunt object. The theft occurred overnight.

July 14

2900 block of Freeman Avenue in La Crescenta, a wallet with personal information, keys, router detector, dashboard camera, tools, cell phone and cash were among the items stolen from a vehicle at 3:51 a.m.

2300 block of Janet Lee Drive in La Cañada, a camera, cellphone and makeup bag were stolen from a vehicle at 2:36 a.m.

July 11

700 block of Forest Green Drive in La Cañada, paperwork was stolen from an unlocked vehicle between 3:30 a.m. and 7:30 a.m.

700 block of Greenridge Drive in La Cañada, two thumb drives were stolen from an unlocked vehicle at 2:40 a.m.

July 10

3000 block of Santa Carlotta Street in La Crescenta, a resident awoke to the sound of what he believed were footsteps in his home. Since he was home alone he was concerned someone had broken into the house. He climbed out of a window and, as he went through the wall of his home, he saw the silhouette of an unknown person peaking around another corner of the home. When the person (suspect) saw the resident the suspect fled the area.

The incident occurred at 11:30 a.m.

July 9

Ocean View Boulevard and Burton Lane in Montrose, the front passenger window was smashed and a wallet with personal information was stolen from a vehicle overnight.

4400 block of Ocean View Boulevard in Montrose, the front passenger window was smashed on a vehicle overnight.

800 block of Greenridge Drive in La Cañada, two locked vehicles were stolen from the front of a business while parked at the location. Tools were stolen from one of the vehicles between July 9 and July 11.

Light from Cover

MOVIE NIGHT from Cover

Night like you would have done back in the ‘20s, and have live pianist Cliff Retellick,” Rinadno said. “We set the projector up, and we do a show just like you would have a hundred years ago.”

The benefit of hosting a silent movie in the park was the brainchild of Joanna Linckhorst and Mike Lawler, both members of the Historical Society of Crescenta Valley.

“(The HSCV) has done a movie night in Two Strike Park years ago celebrating [actor Dennis Morgan], who founded the park,” Linckhorst said.

Joe Renadno is known by the Historical Society.

“We have a real treasure in our community in Joe Renadno,” said Lawler. “Joe is a living history.” The Historical Society tries to bring a sense of amazement that keeps audiences coming back for more, like in those early days of Hollywood.

“In the Crescenta Valley, we’re close to Hollywood. This silent movie presentation shows us how Hollywood was born,” Lawler said. “Many of those silent movies were shot nearby. It’s fun to watch the backgrounds and try to guess where they were filmed.”

Attendance to the movies is low but Linckhorst said the admission is free, and baked goods and popcorn will be on sale. So bring your picnic blankets and folding chairs to Two Strike Park and travel back in time to the 1920s with Joe Rinadno.

The movie titles have yet to be announced.

The HSCV survives on donations. Anyone who would like to help can do so by donating at the event or at www.cvhistory.org.

Permitting Process Being Reviewed by GUSD

According to the report presented to community members, Councilmembers also approved an imposition of fees on the development of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) would be used to offset an increase in population and provide the city with additional revenue to develop new parks and public spaces and rehabilitate and improve those that already exist.

While council agreed the fees would be lower than a single-family home, there was disagreement regarding if the fee should be applied on a per capita basis—which would assume one person lives in each dwelling—or at a rate reflectin smaller square footage of the ADU.

Mayor Vartan Gharpetian and Councilmember Paula Devine expressed being in favor of square footage rates, with Devine arguing it would not be overburdening to the landowner and would benefit those who would develop ADUs smaller than 500 square feet.

“We don’t want the fee to be counterintuitive,” Devine said.

The intent of this legislation was to bring about affordable housing and for more people to have to live in the area if it has to be lower than what we are charging for single family units.”

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