

ENCINO SUN

FERCELY LOCAL

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SUNDIAL Community CALENDAR Community

Encino Community Center Classes

Winter classes run for ten weeks beginning the week of January 7. 4935 Balboa Blvd. Call Lee Marks, (818) 995-1690. www.laparks.org/valley/encino.htm

Encino Neighborhood Council

Meets the fourth Wednesday of every month. Next meeting, January 24. 7pm at the Encino Community Center. 4935 Balboa Blvd. (818) 255-1040. www.encinocouncil.org

MaturAbility: Working Stronger, Working Longer.

Free four week program to include: new career direction, debunking the stereotypical myths about ageism, dealing with change, skill assessment, effective resume writing, interviewing and how to conduct a successful job search. Valley Storefront Senior Center at 12821 Victory Boulevard, North Hollywood beginning Monday January 22. Space is limited (818) 984-0276 or (818) 464-3222.

Homeowners of Encino

Meets annually, or on an as-needed basis. Contact President Gerald Silver at gsilver4@earthlink.net

Encino Property Owners Association

Public meetings twice yearly. (818) 981-0474

Encino Chamber of Commerce Events

Business and Professional lunch, mixers and meetings. (818) 789-4711. www.encinochamber.org. (818) 704-0153

Campo de Cahuenga

A re-enactment of the signing of the Articles of Capitulation at Campo de Cahuenga. The event will feature fiesta dancers, firing of the Howitzer Cannon, a tour of the archeological dig and more. Jan 14, 1-2:15pm. 3919 Lankershim Blvd.

The Encino-Oaks Republican Women's Federated Luncheon

Monthly luncheons held on the second Wed. of each month at the Sportsmen's Lodge. Bring friends for lunch, meeting, speakers, and networking. Call Maria at (818) 501-3898

That New Network Meeting

Monthly business women's networking dinner and speaker. Jan. 17, 6:30-9pm. Jerry's Famous Deli. 16650 Ventura Blvd. Reservations recommended; \$33. Call Linda at (818) 995-4215.

San Fernando Valley Art Club

Club meets the first Tues. of each month. 6:30pm, refreshments served, 7pm program. 4935 Balboa Blvd. (818) 325-8337 or (818) 893-0269

Native Voices at the Autry

The Autry presents a series of free play readings, the Intertribal Arts Marketplace, *continued on page 16*

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Renowned "speaker impresario" elevates the art of lecture in L.A.

Dan Savage brings national figures and global icons to the Dorothy Chandler

BY RACHEL HELLER

He's the man behind the curtain, who, seemingly with the throw of a switch, conjures the likes of Bill Clinton, Dan Rather and Queen Noor before Los Angeles audiences of the thousands.

No ordinary magician, Dan Savage's wizardry extends beyond producing rabbits from a hat — he yearly co-produces the Music Center Speaker Series at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, giving local guests access to luminaries from the realms of politics, literature and the media.

"We present a program where you can come and learn something, and hopefully when you walk away, you'll continue to discuss it," said Savage at his Studio City home, reflecting on the Speaker Series' success as he and partner Alan Rothenberg prepare to launch his third promising season.

Of the myriad routes by which modern-day audiences receive information, few satisfy Savage. Podcasts lack human warmth; even television shows dull bright personalities with scripted prattle. To him, nothing beats the thrill of a thought-provoking speaker and a live audience coming face to face.

A lecture agent for the past three decades, Savage said he had wanted to create "an intellectually stimulating program in this cultural hub" since moving to Los Angeles in 1978. "It's always been a vision of mine to create a Town Hall setting here," he noted.

That vision took root ten years ago when Savage met Rothenberg. Renowned as a sports executive, he was the founder of Major League Soccer, Chairman and CEO of



Dan Savage, co-producer of the Los Angeles Music Center Speaker Series.

the 1994 World Cup, President of the U.S. Soccer Federation, and Chairman of the 1999 Woman's World Cup. Rothenberg was the perfect candidate for a World Cup-themed Heinz Ketchup lecture date Savage was organizing.

"We would have a lot of

breakfasts at Nate'n Al's in Beverly Hills," Savage recalled of their continuing friendship, "and we started to seed this idea."

Their program would be the first of its kind in L.A., touching the city with a tradition centuries old.

Citizens in the early 1800s would convene in Town Halls across the nation to discuss community issues. The Lyceum movement, born in New England in 1826, expanded these local meetings into gatherings of a more global scope; speakers such as Ralph Waldo Emerson, Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony convened to address developments in politics and culture, societal growth and self-improvement.

Lyceums gave way to the Chautauqua movement, which was founded in 1874 as a summer training assembly for Sunday school teachers in New York. A gradual trend toward secular topics broadened the movement into a summer-long sharing of ideas, providing courses and lectures to foster intellectual growth.

"People would sit around and have all summer to debate world politics, long before the internet and television came out," Savage said.

The Speaker Series, a collaboration between Savage and Rothenberg's SR Productions and the Music Center/Performing Arts Center of Los Angeles County, may lack the summer element of the Chautauquas — but each evening forum offers an escape from the winter chill under the warm lights of the lecture hall.

"You can't beat a live setup — you get to see how a performance *continued on page 9*

New Canoga Station, Park & Ride Lot Opens on Metro Orange Line

BY SUN STAFF

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, along with Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky and Council members Wendy Greuel and Dennis Zine, celebrated the official opening of the new Metro Orange Line Canoga Station and park and ride facility in Canoga Park on December 27.

The project is a one-third mile extension of the transit way that runs from Variel Avenue to Canoga Avenue, and includes a full-featured station with artwork, 611 free park and ride spaces, pedestrian and bicycle paths and landscaping.

"The opening of this new station is our holiday gift for Valley commuters," said Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors and Metro Board member. "Canoga Station now provides more West Valley commuters with a viable alternative to the congested Ventura Freeway. This station will be the launch point for future extensions that will make this transit line even better."

Canoga Station is the 14th station on the cross-valley transit way, which connects the Metro Red Line in North Hollywood with Warner Center in Woodland Hills. It is the *continued on page 6*

Candy Cane Lane Fundraiser ♦ LAVC Green ♦ All That Valley Jazz

BRIEFS



St. Cyril's students visit Skid Row

Students from St. Cyril's of Jerusalem Elementary School in Encino collected food, clothing, toiletries and blankets for the homeless on Skid Row—and with the assistance of sixteen vehicles driven by parents and staff, brought the donations along with 250 freshly made peanut butter and jelly sandwiches downtown last month.

The students are part of the school's Angel on My Shoulder club founded over 15 years ago by faculty adviser and science teacher Toni Stolo. Arriving at the corner of 4th and Towne, the students were able to live the club's motto—"the greatest gift you can give is the gift of sharing yourself with others."

Students spread out their goods on the tarp-covered sidewalk. Residents of Skid Row emerged within minutes and formed a line to benefit from the donations.

Although the club includes 35 students from fifth to eighth grades, this annual event also draws students from the second and third grades.

In order to raise money to make the sandwiches, students held a pancake breakfast earlier in the year and sold "Free Dress Day" passes. All the students spent the night before the downtown trip assembling food, personal hygiene kits and boxes of clothing.

Feuer introduces clean vehicle bill

Assemblymember Mike Feuer closed out 2006 by introducing AB 99, a bill which would require that by January 1, 2012 no less than 50% of all new cars made available for sale in California are powered by clean alternative fuels.



Mike Feuer.

"Petroleum emissions lead to significant degradation of the public health and environmental quality. The use of clean, alternative fuels will considerably reduce the impacts associated with the use of petroleum fuels and AB 99 is an important strategy for the state to attain its air, water quality, public health and economic goals. Requiring the auto industry to phase in alternative fuel cars will help curb our oil appetite and create new jobs and economic development," said Feuer. "We owe it to the children of my district and our state to have clean air to breathe."

—Sun Staff



NEWS

A fundraising tale on Candy Cane Lane

BY LYNN MILLS

Cruising through Woodland Hills' "Candy Cane Lane" area to look at the elaborate Christmas decorations was a holiday tradition for the Alch family. Despite the dazzling light displays, the bumper-to-bumper traffic would prompt a shake of the head and comments like, "Could you imagine living on this street?"

Ironically, when they were looking to move from Encino to Woodland Hills five years ago, the family realized that their "dream house" happened to be smack dab in the middle of Candy Cane Lane. Ignoring previous concerns, they went ahead with the purchase.

"We thought it would be fun," says Pam Alch.

Lights and decorations were bought and they soon became part of the neighborhood's 50-year-old tradition, along with an estimated 70% of their neighbors.

"We live on a cul-de-sac, and



West Valley Food Pantry's Alfred Trumpler is presented a big check by fundraising friends (from left) Jenny Alch, Beckie Alch, Veronica Huston, and Georglia Huston.

throughout the year my kids and their friends want to have lemonade stands, but no one drives down the street until Christmas," says Alch. So three years ago, they decided to sell cookies and hot

chocolate. "We felt that since it's a time of giving and we weren't in need of anything, we would give the money to charity."

A new tradition was started — every Saturday evening in De-

ember, Beckie and Jenny Alch, 9 and 12, and their friends — spent up to five hours at a time hawking hot chocolate and cookies, sometimes in the bitter cold or rain.

When people discovered the money went to charity, they often just made donations. Beneficiaries have included Union Rescue Mission, the Salvation Arm and the American Red Cross.

They raised nearly \$1400 this holiday season. The first donation of \$727.27 went to the West Valley Food Pantry, where mother-in-law Janice Alch volunteers. The girls used \$641 to fill four shopping carts full of toys to donate to the Spark of Love toy drive.

"It's fun and it gives you a good feeling inside. It's hard work, but it's totally worth it," says one of the Alch's fundraising friends, Veronica Huston, 10. "And you get all the hot chocolate you can drink!" *

METRO from page 1

sixth park and ride lot on the line.

Including the 6.5-acre Canoga station, extension of the transit way and extension of the multi-use bike and pedestrian path, the project budget totaled \$26 million.

In common with the other Orange Line stations, the Canoga station includes both an eastbound and a westbound platform. Each platform features four canopies, sheltering passengers from sun and rain. Stations also include emergency telephones, lighting, real-time electronic signage, artwork, seating, system and neighborhood maps, security cameras and ticket vending machines.

The Canoga Park station will also be the launch point for future transit way extensions now under review by Metro. In September 2006, the Metro Board approved commencement of environmental clearances and preliminary engineering for a six-mile extension of the service from the Canoga station north to the MetroLink station in Chatsworth.

The Metro Orange Line, called a train on rubber tires, runs 60-foot articulated buses on a dedicated right-of-way that parallels the Ventura Freeway and links the communities of North Hollywood, Valley Village, Valley Glen, Van Nuys, Tarzana, Winnetka and Woodland Hills.



Councilmembers Wendy Greuel and Dennis Zine assist Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky and Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa to officially open the new Canoga Station.

"If you take the Orange line once, I guarantee you'll want to take it again. Travel hassle-free to Hollywood or Downtown LA and forget the frustrations of traffic and parking," said Councilmember Greuel. "With the orange line park and rides we're one step closer to our vision of efficient public transportation in Los Angeles." *

LAVC facility "green" certified by the U.S. Green Building Council

BY SUN STAFF

The Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) has announced that the first "green" building constructed under the Proposition A/AA bond program has received LEED™ (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification from the United States Green Building Council (USGBC).

The Maintenance and Operations facility at Los Angeles Valley College, which opened in April of this year, has numerous features designed to reduce energy, water, and light impacts.

"Obtaining this LEED™ certification is both a final step and the first of many steps," noted Mona Field, member of the LACCD's Board of Trustees. "For the M and O Building this completes the LEED™ process, but it is only the first of many buildings we are constructing that will save resources while providing the facilities our students need and deserve."

The new \$6.6 million facility totals 28,000 square feet. The one-story complex consists of three connecting structures with an inner courtyard, housing office space, maintenance equipment, shipping and receiving, and warehouse offices, along with the campus's Sheriff's Station operations and personnel.

"The M and O Building is a physical manifestation of our Board's commitment to environmental stewardship,"

said Darroch "Rocky" Young, chancellor of the LACCD. "As we construct even more LEED™-certified facilities, both the Earth and our students will be the winners for decades to come."

Green buildings benefit not only the environment, but also the building's occupants and local community.

The Maintenance and Operations building has numerous design elements that optimize energy performance and efficiency: the interior contains low-emitting materials to improve the overall indoor air quality; the exterior includes skylights to maximize natural light and rooftop photovoltaic panels to generate electricity. When not in use, the power generated by the panels is redirected into the city's power grid.

The building's exterior landscaping includes a selection of drought-tolerant native plants and was designed to use water efficiently and to conserve it where possible. Water is distributed to landscaping with a bubbling type of head that doesn't spray, reducing water use for landscaping by 50 percent.

The LACCD is the first community college district in the nation planning to generate all its own electricity, with efforts underway to build photovoltaic panels that will produce enough electricity to meet daytime power needs at each of its nine colleges. *