



September 2007

**KEEPING OUR KIDS SAFE**

**THE BACK TO SCHOOL ISSUE:**

**WE LAUNCH SCHOOL SAFETY INITIATIVES**

Continuing my work to promote child safety, I committed to bringing a Safety Valet program to every interested CD 2 elementary school.



This Fall, I launched a series of school safety initiatives to protect our children and reduce congestion around schools. As children return to school, we once again see a whole host of traffic and safety issues arise in our neighborhoods.

**THE CITY DOES MORE TO PROTECT OUR CHILDREN**

I pushed City departments to update safety signage and improve traffic signals around schools.

Many of us have been dropping our kids off at their campuses or dodging that back to school traffic on our way to work. We fear for the safety of young children running across the streets by themselves, and feel frustration at parents who double park in front of our driveways.

**OUR KIDS ENJOY A CLASSICAL CONCERT**

I partnered with LAUSD and the Mr. Holland's Opus foundation to bring music to our students.

The dangers of the 8 AM traffic rush are real. In the last 2 years, 400 children citywide have been injured in traffic accidents while being picked up or dropped off from school. Last year, 58 children were injured around schools in the San Fernando Valley. I know we can counteract these statistics. Working in partnership with parents, principals and the Los Angeles Unified School District, we have created both systematic and specific changes.

**LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS**

The Fall Council session begins and we make progress on our legislative priorities.

**LAUNCHING SAFETY VALET**

As one solution to our school safety challenges, I am offering to fund and implement a Safety Valet program at every interested elementary school in Council District 2. Safety Valet is a win-win program. It reduces congestion around schools, provides parents with an opportunity to get involved on their child's school campus – and most importantly keeps our kids safe.

**UPCOMING CITY EVENTS**

When Safety Valet is successfully implemented at a school, morning traffic around the campus is directed into designated drop-off lanes



**October 2nd,  
10 AM**

THE CENTER FOR NON-PROFIT  
MANAGEMENT: FUNDING  
WORKSHOP

Councilwoman Wendy Greuel will sponsor a six week, bi-weekly workshop on securing funding for non-profits beginning Tuesday, October 2nd.

For more information visit:  
[www.cnmsocal.org](http://www.cnmsocal.org)

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**October 5th,  
10:00 AM**

CITY COUNCIL MEETS IN THE  
SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

The City Council will hold its scheduled meeting in Van Nuys in order to provide Valley constituents with more convenient access to public comment.

Valley City Hall  
Marvin Braude Building  
6262 Van Nuys Blvd  
Van Nuys, CA 91401

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**PLEASE JOIN US AT  
THE  
4TH ANNUAL**

**WENDY GREUEL  
CHILD HEALTH  
AND SAFETY FAIR**

**October 6th,  
10 AM**

Councilwoman Greuel sponsors an annual fair to provide free health and dental screenings, traffic safety tips, car seat inspections and arts and crafts to all families in CD 2.

Valley Plaza Recreation Center  
6451 Saint Clair Ave  
North Hollywood, CA  
91606

For more information call:  
(818) 755-7676

and parent volunteers walk children from their vehicles to their school doors. The route guarantees smooth drop-offs, prevents morning bottlenecks and often improves the school's relationship with the surrounding community.

We launched our new Safety Valet initiative at Kester Avenue Elementary School in Sherman Oaks in early September. I announced plans to provide equipment including signs, cones, and vests, to all interested elementary schools in our district. My office will work with parents to set up a training session with the Los Angeles Police Department and we will coordinate with the Department of Transportation to change any necessary signage. All we need is parents willing to volunteer. Becoming a volunteer doesn't require a large time commitment – schools often welcome parents who can participate as little as 30 minutes a month.

We have already worked to implement Safety Valets at 10 out of the 23 elementary schools in our district. Currently over 50 parents district-wide are committing their time to keep our kids safe each morning. I encourage you to speak to your child's principal or call my office for more information about becoming a Safety Valet volunteer.

#### **IMPROVING SCHOOL SAFETY ZONES**

As a City Councilwoman, I also have made it my mission to ensure that our City departments are doing their part to keep our kids safe. I recently learned that the safety signage around Los Angeles schools was not yet in compliance with Federal safety codes. I urged the Department of



Transportation and the Bureau of Street Services to update all the safety signage around schools in Council District 2 by this September. I am happy to say that on the first day of school, all of the signs around our community schools were up to code. Further, as Chair of the City Transportation Committee, I have demanded that the Department of Transportation prioritize updating this signage Citywide, and within two years all of our school safety signs will meet 2010 safety standards.

Some safety issues require that we go beyond the standard solutions and work with schools to implement specific measures unique to their location. Where extra risks are apparent, I have partnered with, LA DOT, LAUSD, and concerned parents to implement additional safety measures. For example, in response to traffic safety concerns around Carpenter Avenue Elementary School we secured a widened crosswalk, a crosswalk limit line, updated safety signs and a safety assessment that will lead to a new

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**October 14th,  
11 AM**

LA/VALLEY PRIDE CELEBRATION

The largest collection of community groups to gather in the San Fernando Valley join in the LGBT Awareness Festival with live musical entertainment, exhibitions and vendors.

CBS Studios  
4024 Radford Ave  
Studio City, CA  
For more information visit:  
[www.lavalleypride.org](http://www.lavalleypride.org)

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**October 20th**

OFFICE HOURS

To make an appointment to chat please call my office: (818) 755-7676

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**October 21st  
10 AM**

SHERMAN OAKS CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE STREET FAIR

Grand Marshall Wendy Greuel will kick off the Valley's largest street fair.

Ventura Blvd,  
Kester to Van Nuys  
Sherman Oaks, CA

For more information call:  
(818) 906-1951

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left turn signal.

I remain committed to keeping kids safe. Meanwhile, we ask drivers to stay cautious when driving in the vicinity of schools. Please drive safely and have a healthy and happy Fall season.

**BRINGING MUSIC TO OUR SCHOOLS**

This month I sponsored a classical music concert for 800 children from across the Valley. At the performance, I joined the Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation to present brand new wind instruments to 22 Madison Middle School music students.

It was truly inspiring to see an audience of children cheer and applaud the concert. Conductor Martin Guigui answered questions from the audience and even invited students on stage to try their hands at conducting. The volunteer orchestra comprised of retired professional musicians performed works ranging from a Beethoven Symphony to a Schubert vocal piece.

With declining graduation rates and rising gang activity, we need to use all of our tools to get our kids engaged in healthy activities. Numerous scientific studies demonstrate the link between early exposure to classical music and increased intelligence among children. A 2004 University of Toronto Study showed that six years of music lessons was associated with an increase in IQ of 7.5 points, compared with children who did not have the same amount of musical instruction.

The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation, an organization whose mission is to bring classical music to school children, is spreading the joy of music to children nationwide. The foundation donated \$22,000 worth of instruments to Madison students after the school successfully applied for a grant. I encourage parents and principals to apply for these grants and to spread the student excitement I witnessed at Madison Middle School this month.

**LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS**

We kicked off the legislative session in early September and are already making progress toward our Citywide goals – reducing congestion, improving the delivery of basic City services to Angelenos and protecting LA's neighborhoods.

As Chair of the City Transportation Committee, I successfully urged the City Council to take a critical step toward building a dedicated bus lane along Wilshire Blvd. We voted to direct City departments to apply for a \$27 million federal grant that would fund the bus lane construction by October of 2008. Previous plans had delayed funding for a dedicated bus lane along Wilshire Blvd until 2012, but I believe we need to reduce congestion now. We will know in the coming months if we will receive this funding.

As part of my work to improve City efficiency and save City

**FOR MORE  
INFORMATION**

**VISIT MY WEBSITE**

**CALL MY OFFICE**

Downtown  
(213) 473-7002  
North Hollywood  
(818) 755-7676  
Sunland-Tujunga  
(818) 352-3287

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dollars, I led the Transportation Committee to unveil a plan that will modernize Los Angeles parking meters. In a pilot program, the City will replace 15% of our 40,000 parking meters with more durable, more reliable and more user-friendly models.

Continuing my work to keep neighborhoods safe for families, I led my Council colleagues to take a critical first step toward the prohibition of smoking in farmers' markets across Los Angeles. Further, I introduced a new measure urging the City to expand incentives for recycling residential waste water known as grey water. In order to care for our children, it is critical that we protect natural resources like our hillsides and water.

For a complete listing of the legislation I've authored and the upcoming City Council agenda, visit our [Council File Index](#) at [www.lacity.org/council.htm](http://www.lacity.org/council.htm).

This message was sent to by:

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