



Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

April 2006 • Volume 1 • Issue 1

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Join the Chamber!

Want to make a difference in your business community? Then become a member of Sylmar Chamber of Commerce! Annual membership includes a subscription to our monthly printed newsletter, which features news on community affairs, important business information and upcoming events. Call our Chamber office to learn more on how you can be active in enhancing our community.

Valley Economic Development Center Reps will Address Friday, Apr. 21 Chamber Event

Learn how to enhance your business or non-profit at the April Chamber luncheon. Guest speakers Abel Ramirez Magaña and Davida Moore Blackwell of the Valley Economic Development Center, will share their knowledge at our monthly meeting on Friday, April 21, at the Mission Area Police Station Community Room, 11121 Sepulveda Bl., Mission Hills.

Both will educate Chamber members and guests on free one-on-one business consulting for start-ups and growing companies, free business loan packaging, specific SBA business loans and the "four C's" that bankers look at to qualify you for a business loans.

They will also share information on the history and services of the VEDC, such as business workshops, in-depth business training and the Entrepreneur Training Program.

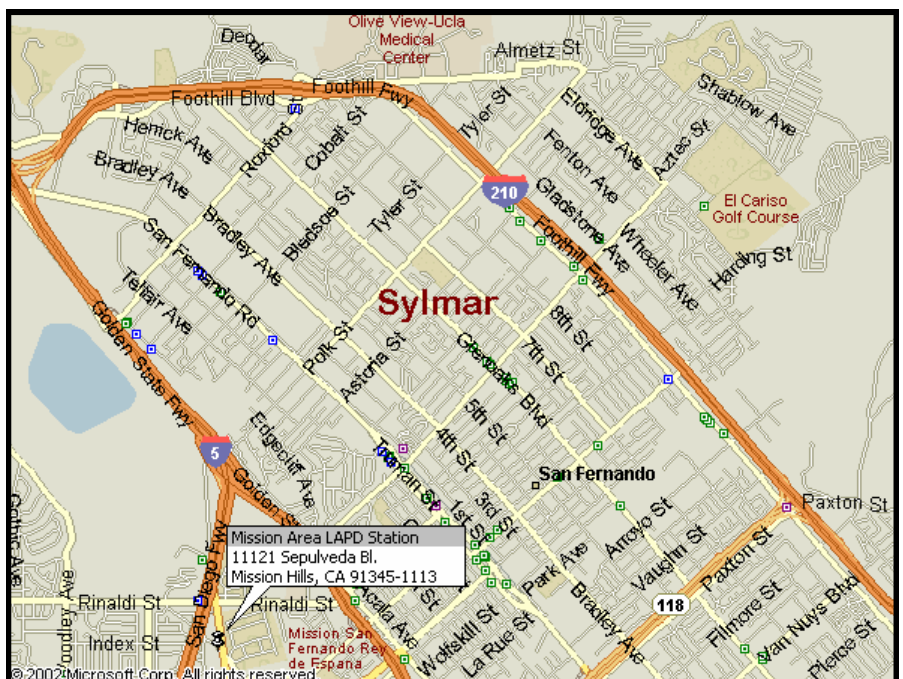
Tickets for the event are \$15 for Chamber members and \$20 for non-members and guests if you RSVP to

(818) 367-1177. Add \$5 if you come at the last minute without an RSVP.

Abel Ramirez Magaña is Program Manager for the VEDC Business Assistance Center. He is a frequent speaker at market and Internet conferences and has served as Director of Online Content and Associate Managing Editor for Hispanic Business Magazine in Santa Barbara.

Davida Moore Blackwell is a Loan Consultant for VEDC and is currently managing the Innovative Bank Community Express Loan program.

Since 2004, over 300 small business owners have applied for over \$4 Million worth of loans through this program. Formerly with the U. S. Treasury Department, where she worked with the Savings Bond Marketing Office as an Area Manager, with work experience with the Defense Contract Audit Agency, Ms. Blackwell is currently completing her degree in Business Administration.



Chamber Luncheon to be held Fri., April 21, at Mission Area LAPD Comm. Room



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Mission Statement

The mission of the Sylmar Chamber of Commerce is to resolutely foster, promote and ensure progressive and orderly economic, industrial, commercial and agricultural development, to proactively address civic issues, and support social interests in order to make the community a better place in which to live and work.

Nuestra oficina emplea una plantilla bilingüe para servir la comunidad hispana.

"It All Comes Together in Sylmar!"

Volume 1 • Issue 1 • April 2006

Sylmar Chamber Community News

New Bus Line Connects Sylmar with Valencia

A new Route 8 bus link between Santa Clarita and the San Fernando Valley started Sun, March 5, with daily service from the McBean Transfer Station and College of the Canyons in Santa Clarita to the Sylmar Metrolink Station.

The new route, operated by Santa Clarita Transit, runs daily with buses departing about every 30 to 60 minutes from early morning to mid-evening.

Over the past two years Santa Clarita Transit held public meetings, polling residents on what services they felt would best benefit the area.

Participants consistently asked for a bus route between Santa Clarita and the San Fernando Valley, which was developed through efforts of the City of Santa Clarita and Metro, with funding from the Job Access Reverse Commute Grant program.

This would be the first local service line to operate between the two valleys. The fare is \$1 each way, or \$25 with purchase of a Santa Clarita Transit local monthly pass.

The Metro EZ Passes and interagency transfers are accepted at full fare. Bus schedules are available at www.santaclaritatransit.com or by calling (661) 294-1287.

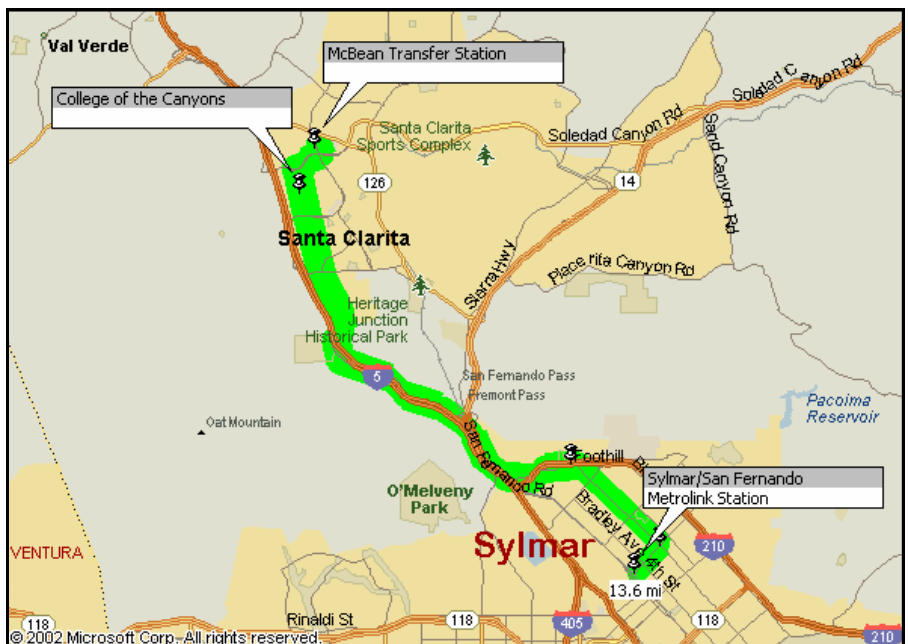
High School Festival to Showcase Local Business

Sylmar High School will produce the third annual Community Showcase on Thursday, May 11 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Over fifty local businesses and agencies will participate in a fun-filled evening designed to increase community awareness, showcase local high school activities and feature local food and entertainment.

Various school clubs, departments and academies will present their activities to the public. Folklórico, Cheerleading, Band, Chorus and a local *mariachi* group will provide entertainment. Class demonstrations from the Auto Technology, Agriculture & Metal and Culinary Arts Programs will be featured.

Booth spaces for the event are available. The School invites local businesses to either participate with a booth or provide information about their business. This event gives employers an opportunity to meet students and their families to tell them about their business or agency.

The event will help students prepare to enter the local work force by interacting with employers and learning their needs. The school is also interested in developing internships and job-shadowing programs. For more information, please call Nancy Martin at (818) 367-1971 ext. 364.



Santa Clarita Transit Line 8 offers 7-day service between Sylmar and Santa Clarita.

Board Members Needed

The Chamber is actively seeking members of the business community who wish to help foster a better business atmosphere in Sylmar to serve as a Chamber Board member. The Board is composed of volunteers who place a minimal amount of time per month to manage policies of the Chamber and community activities. If you are interested, contact Cheri Blöse at the Chamber office. Your input is important to the community.

Chamber Partners Work to Produce Local Parade

The Sylmar Neighborhood Council is hosting the next Celebration of Sylmar Parade, to be held in October 2006. The Chamber will be a partner with the Council in making this festive event possible. A search for a parade Honorary Sheriff to officially serve at community events is on. This can be a great fundraising opportunity for your non-profit organization. Each organization can purchase a set of tickets

to be sold for the parade and designate a candidate for the Honorary Sheriff position. Each ticket sold is a vote for the candidate.

When ticket sales end, the candidate of the organization that sold the largest amount of tickets wins.

The winning candidate will be introduced before the parade and will be chauffeured in a special car bringing the Sheriff around the community.

The Chamber is also asking business owners to consider advertising in the parade programs. Details upcoming.

State Senate Candidates Speak at May Luncheon

The Chamber features presentations by candidates running for State Senate District 20 at the Fri., May 12 Chamber luncheon from 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. at the LAPD Mission Station Community Room, 11121 Sepulveda Bl., Mission Hills. Invited candidates

include State Assemblymember Cindy Montañez, City of Los Angeles Councilmember Alex Padilla, economics professor Pamela Brown and business owner Donnie Adlen.

Chamber Lends Help to a Local Resident in Need

The property of a recently hospitalized man has been saved thanks to the efforts of the Sylmar Chamber.

Mike, a low-income man residing at a single-room occupancy hotel on San Fernando Road, was hospitalized at Providence Holy Cross Medical Center due to a fall. Mike's social worker contacted the Chamber to express concern that the motel owner would dispose of his property. Chamber office manager Bart Reed worked with Mike's social worker as well as Sylmar Neighborhood Council Board member Louis Perry to secure Mike's possessions until he could return to the community from the convalescent hospital.

Has Your Business or Non-Profit Complied with Assembly Bill 1825?

Assembly Bill 1825 requires all California employers with 50 or more employees to provide an approved 2 hours of Sexual Harassment Avoidance Training to all supervisors as of January 1, 2006. Additionally, newly hired or promoted supervisors must receive this training within 6 months of hire or promotion.

Recent interpretation of AB 1825 concludes that employers doing business in California must comply whether they are located here or not, if they have 50 or more employees total, including temps and consultants.

AB 1825 requires that the training be conducted by knowledgeable trainers in the subject; providing information

regarding the difference between federal and state law, harassment prevention and means of correction. It must be held in an interactive environment, with someone present who is available to answer any questions from the employees. Simply putting a tape in the VCR for 2 hours will not suffice.

The United Chambers of Commerce is now offering Chamber Members an approved 2-hour training the second Thursday of every month from 8-10 a.m. at the Build WorkSource Center, 20500 Nordhoff St., Chatsworth.

The training is available to Chamber members at \$10 per person. If

you cannot spare your supervisors for this training, Build can come to your site and train onsite for an additional charge. The training is available in both English and Spanish.

The training offered by Build WorkSource Center meets all the requirements of AB 1825 and consists of a PowerPoint presentation, case studies, audience participation and two short quizzes. After successful completion, each participant will receive a certificate and a handbook containing practical information.

For questions, call Jorge Mier, Client Service Manager at (818) 701-9800 x122, email jmier@buildonestop.com or www.buildworksource.com.

SYLMAR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWSLETTER
Photography, Maps, Writing, Editing & Design produced by



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Executive Director

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Communications Director

Interested in a newsletter to promote your business or non-profit?
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Events

Mondays of April 17-May 22: Watershed-U Tujunga, 6:30-9:30 p.m., Los Angeles Valley College, 5800 Fulton Av., Van Nuys, CA 91401. Cost: \$30 per participant.

April 20: Sylmar Block Captain's LAPD Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Sylmar Chamber of Commerce Office, 13867 Foothill Bl. #104, Sylmar, CA.

April 20: Kiwanis Club Meeting, 12 noon, Denny's Hubbard at Gladstone, Sylmar. Call: (818) 367-9310.

April 21: Sylmar Chamber Luncheon. 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Mission LAPD Station Community Rm. 11121 Sepulveda Bl., Mission Hills.

April 24: Sylmar Civic Association Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Chamber office.

May 2: Chamber Board Meeting. 6:30 p.m. Chamber office.

May 6: Sylmar Woman's Club "Spring Fantasy" Fashion Show Luncheon, 10 a.m., Odyssey Restaurant, 15600 Odyssey Dr., Granada Hills.

May 9: ETI Corral 12 Dressage Horse Show, 9 a.m. Stetson Ranch, Sylmar.

May 11: Sylmar Neighborhood Council, 6:30 p.m., Hubbard Street Elementary School Auditorium, 13325 Hubbard St., Sylmar.

May 12: Sylmar Chamber Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. Mission LAPD Station

A Message from the President

The Sylmar Chamber of Commerce enters the spring season in full bloom. The gloom of winter fades away as the sun bursts through the clouds and brings sunshine to the trees and flowers. The community is ready to blossom with economic growth. The growth reflects on the various events the Chamber will participate during the season.

The Chamber invites you to two important Chamber events. First is a Luncheon for guests and members on Friday, April 21 at the Mission Area Police Station Community Room. The featured program speakers are Abel Ramirez Magaña and Davida Moore Blackwell representing the Valley Economic Development Center whose mission is to support small business, non-profits and entrepreneurship.

Chamber members will learn about various issues affecting the local economy and learn how they can engage in activities designed to help Sylmar businesses grow. Tickets are \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members, and an \$5 additional without an RSVP. Another luncheon will take place on Friday, May 12 featuring

candidates currently running for the State Senate District 20 seat, which represents most of Sylmar and the northeast Valley.

If there is a subject or topic you would like to see us present to the Board at a future event, please call the Chamber office. As always, the Chamber encourages businesses to consider hosting business-to-business "mixers". In May, the Chamber will add an evening mixer to the monthly schedule. This event is an opportunity for businesses and employers to meet and know each other. Inquire, if you wish to sponsor a future mixer. The Sylmar Chamber of Commerce wishes you the best in this flowering Chamber season.



iBienvenido a la cámara de comercio en Sylmar! Le invito a reunir con nosotros en nuestra próxima junta mensual el 18 de abril. Aprovechese de esta oportunidad de conocer negocios en nuestra comunidad y aprender mas de lo que nuestra cámara puede hacer para su negocio. Si usted tiene preguntas, por favor no dude en llamar a nuestra oficina.

-Cheri Blose, President