

COUNCIL / COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT

The Zine Community Center Opens

The Dennis P. Zine Community Center has grand opening ceremony.



Councilman Dennis Zine, left, helps to cut the ribbon to open the facility named for him.

Story and photos courtesy Councilman Zine's Office

On Feb. 18, approximately 500 enthusiastic community members, government officials, and nonprofit leaders celebrated the grand opening of the Dennis P. Zine Community Center in Canoga Park. Councilman Dennis P. Zine was joined by Congressman Brad Sherman; City Controller Wendy Greuel; LAPD Police Chief Charles Beck; Chairman of the Community Redevelopment Agency Board Bruce Ackerman; Community Development General Manager Richard Benbow; and Chief Executive Officer of New Economics for Women Bea Stotzer.

The celebration kicked off with poetry readings and a live band performance by New Academy Charter School Students. A video presentation then followed, inspiring those in the audience to witness firsthand how Tierra Del Sol and Councilman Zine

have made a difference in the lives of the many children and families living in the local community. One of the program's most touching moments came as the Child Care Resource Center's tiniest participants presented Councilman Zine with several hand-painted pieces of art, which will now be displayed at his City Hall office.

Councilman Dennis P. Zine has spent his entire career serving the public as both a member of the LAPD and as a Councilman.

Under the direction of New Economic for Women (NEW), this two-story, 12,000-square-foot community center will offer adult learning classes and provide asset-building programs to help residents and the surrounding community become economically self-sufficient. This project marks the completion of the award winning Tierra Del Sol five-acre planned community, comprised of Tierra Del Sol, quality affordable housing, and the New Academy Canoga Park Charter School. Funding, \$6.6 million, was made possible by Community Redevelopment.



Councilman Dennis Zine (center, holding picture), poses with some of those who will enjoy the new community center.



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3. Travel directly related to the prevention of liabilities for the City or the degradation of its financial position.

The memorandum also directed departments to immediately move allotment amounts of non-salary General Fund account appropriations from March, April and May accounting periods to the June accounting period. Departments can submit requests to reallocate funds back to March, April, or May to the City Administrative Officer (CAO) for review. The CAO may then submit recommendations to the Mayor's Office for approval or disapproval.

"We understand that the above actions are extraordinary measures that will certainly limit the discretion general managers have enjoyed with regard to department expenditures," the memorandum concluded. "Nonetheless, these actions are necessary to address our projected year-end deficit and our diminished cash balance."

CHERRY TREES ABLOOM:

The 2010 blooming of cherry blossoms at Lake Balboa should be at peak viewing in early April. Situated in the heart of the San Fernando Valley, the trees present a breathtaking drive, bicycle ride, walk, or photo opportunity.

The lake is in a picturesque portion of Anthony C. Beilenson Park, a Rec and Parks facility in the Sepulveda Dam Recreation Area. With daylight saving time having started March, there is an additional hour of sunlight.

At lakeside and in the surrounding area are nearly 1,000 Japanese cherry blossom trees of the Pink Cloud variety, which are ornamental flowering trees and not fruit-producing; the flower has a single row of bright pink petals in a circular shape.

Donated by an anonymous benefactor from the Far East nation, the trees originated from a single parent tree and were developed to grow in warm climates. Rec and Parks began planting them in 1992. Visitors can enter Beilenson Park on the east side of Balboa Boulevard, between Burbank and Victory Boulevards. Features include a path for bicycling and another for walking/jogging, picnic areas and a children's play area, as well as pedal boats, kayaking, fishing, and more.

The location is also easily accessible using public transportation, with an Orange Line stop at Balboa and Victory Boulevards; the park is a short distance from there. The Orange Line connects with the Red Line, which travels to Union Station in downtown Los Angeles.

The 2,000-acre Sepulveda Recreation Area also has three 18-hole golf courses, two sports centers, an off-leash dog park, a garden center, wildlife refuge, archery range, a model airplane field, and more. For more information about the recreation area, call (818) 785-5798.