

SUMMIT LIFE

VOLUME 3, #29

DECEMBER 2015



*Best Wishes for a Happy, Healthy and
Prosperous New Year.*

-Philip and Louis Miller-



Ameci's Pizza:

ROLLING IN DOUGH ISN'T AS MUCH FUN AS IT USED TO BE FIRST TOSSED PIZZAS AT HIS AMECI FRANCHISE

Nick Andrisano lives at the Summit and co-owns Ameci Pizza in West Hills, one of the oldest and most successful Italian franchise restaurants in the San Fernando Valley. But serving a long line of customers from morning to night isn't as gratifying as it once was.

"Mama, Mia," complains Mr. Andrisano, "Many of my customers were friends. I used to listen to their problems when they came in and offer personal advice. And I loved flipping pizzas. Now I depend on my staff to do most of the work. A lifetime of pizza making has taken its toll. I'm getting long in the tooth."

Despite a physical slowdown, Mr. Andrisano's taste in Italian cuisine remains in perfect alignment with the demands of California pizza lovers year after year after year. "You could say that pasta is part of my DNA," he proudly explains.

Mr. Andrisano grew up in New York City where he worked part-time in an Italian restaurant founded by his father in 1931. In fact, his mother and grandmother labored over pizza ovens in the same family restaurant. In 1979, the budding entrepreneur moved to Los Angeles where he introduced his family's authentic Italian recipes to the Southern California market.

By the early 1980's Mr. Andrisano and partner Angelo Falato began



Nick Andrisano flips pizza dough like his father and grandmother before him. He's co-owner of Ameci pizza & Pasta in Westhills, one of the valley's most successful pizza take-outs.

Larry LaCom/Summit Life photo.

opening multiple restaurant locations as well as signing up for an Ameci pizza franchise. "It was one of the smartest things I ever did," Mr. Andrisano said. In a short few years there were 42 Ameci Pizza and Pasta restaurants in

operation. Some of the operations had dining rooms and table service, but the majority remain smaller operations with limited seating and carryout service.

All menu items are hand made

SED TO BE WHEN A YOUNG NICK ANDRISANO



Nick Andrisano's grandmother operates pizza oven in New York restaurant circa 1932.

with huge portions of TLC to ensure a quality dining experience, according to Mr. Andrisano. The proprietary New York style pizza crust is made fresh daily and hand tossed just like Mr. Andrisano's grandmother used to do. The restaurant chain works from a central Ameci Pizza Kitchen (APK) located in Canoga Park. Many dishes and sauces are cooked there and shipped daily to the franchises including fresh-pack tomato sauces for all pizza and pasta dishes. These dishes and salads are made from scratch with whole milk, and with Wisconsin Mozzarella or Italian style Provolone cheeses.

"While there are many, many items on our menu, there's one that's unseen," explained Mr. Andrisano. "It's our special attention to



Ameci Pizza & Pasta Kitchen is located in a mini-mall at the corner of Platt and Vanowen Streets in Canoga Park, about four miles from the Summit. To order, call 818-710-9424. Larry LaCom/Summit Life photo.

Summit residents, the same special focus my family gave to our neighbors in New York almost 85 years ago. So when you come to Ameci's, just say the word 'Summit' and you'll be transported back to

a more friendly, more frugal time in America where sliced pizza was a real value." You can call Ameci's Canoga Park store at (818) 710-9424 or visit Ameci on line at Amecipizzakitchen.com. ♦

After Christmas Pointers:

TIPS FROM LOWE'S ON HOW TO DISPOSE OF YOUR XMAS TREE

TREE REMOVAL

Don't wait for your tree to dry out before removing it. As trees dry out, they become more likely to cause house fires. First, remove the tree stand, tree skirt, all ornaments and lights before throwing out your live Christmas tree. Have a bucket or other large container nearby to dump water that may have collected in the tree stand.

Next, use a large, plastic tree bag to cover the tree before removing it from the inside of your home. You can also use an old blanket or sheet to wrap around the tree. This will prevent needles and sap from making a mess on your carpet or hardwood floors. Finally, carry the tree to the curb, making sure not to obstruct any roads or sidewalks. Arrange for pickup by your local yard waste management program if you don't already have this service.

CLEAN UP

Dry trees begin to drop their needles, creating a larger mess for you to clean up. Sweep up scattered pine needles with a broom instead of vacuuming. Needles can clog and damage vacuum cleaners. Check for water damage to your flooring after removing the tree. Overwatering during the holidays may have caused water to spill over or collect at the base of the tree stand. If there's water damage, clean and steam carpets to prevent mold buildup.

RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

Many communities offer curbside pickup of Christmas trees after the season is over. Check with your local county waste management department for specific guidelines.



Dispose of your live Christmas tree in a safe, environmentally-friendly manner using these tips, and get ready for a fresh start in the new year.

General best practices include:

- Clean the tree of all ornaments, tinsel and lights.
- Cut the tree into 4 ft. portions for easy curb pickup.
- Cut smaller trees into chunks to fit inside your yard waste container.

Also, check with your local recycling center for free drop-off locations. Oftentimes these centers will chip and shred your tree for use as mulch or as part of soil erosion programs. Your Christmas tree mulch can be used as an erosion barrier for lake and river shoreline management or as soft bedding for parks and playgrounds in your community.

GET CREATIVE WITH YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

With a little imagination, your

Christmas tree can be used for a multitude of purposes after the holidays are over.

- Pond Feed — Sink pieces of your tree into a backyard pond as a refuge and feeding area for fish.
- Decorate — Cut pieces of this year's tree to use as ornaments on next year's. Thin slices of the trunk create a blank canvas that can be decorated and then strung with a piece of ribbon.
- Bird House — Stand your tree or a few of the larger branches in your yard as an organic feeder and sanctuary for birds. Place pinecones filled with peanut butter and birdseed in the branches along with strung

popcorn and fresh orange slices. The birds will appreciate the food, and you can enjoy some great winter bird-watching from your window.

- Coasters — Cut and treat discs from the tree trunk to use as coasters.

- Mulch — Chip up the trunk and branches to create mulch for your garden come spring. You can also place entire branches under trees and shrubs as temporary winter mulch.

- Plant — Purchase a rooted tree so that you can plant it in your yard when the Christmas season has passed.

Never burn a pine tree in your fireplace or stove. Evergreen trees contain high levels of flammable turpentine oils and may cause flare-ups and chimney fires. ❖

MODEL HOME CONSTRUCTION IN THE PULTE TRACT WILL BEGIN NEXT MONTH. RESIDENTIAL SALES ARE SLATED FOR MID YEAR, 2016

Got an extra \$800,000? You may be able to make a killing by investing the money in one of the lowest priced new homes scheduled for completion next July or August in the 373 acre Pulte residential housing tract at the corner of Valley Circle and Roscoe Boulevards in West Hills.

The low-end model measures a mere 2,469 square feet with only three bedrooms and two baths. But not to worry. Five single-level and two-level home designs are also planned. They climb in cost to one million dollars plus for a 4,326 plus square-foot model with five bedrooms and 5 ½ baths. According to Pulte spokesperson Jacque Petrolakis, all discretionary site permits have been approved and the company



is now going through the process of pulling permits for the houses themselves. That means 143 new homes will soon adorn the local landscape in the first

major residential development in West Hills in more than 10 years. Ms. Petrolakis believes the new homes will be in great demand.

The tract, termed Sterling at West Hills, is not your father's residential development, as someone famously said about a new, improved automobile. It took Pulte ten years to weave its way through a host of new environmental regulations before it could reach the developmental phase. ♦



NEGLECTED ANIMALS RESCUED IN TRACT NEAR SUMMIT



The Los Angeles Department of Animal Control (DOAC) is shown seizing more than two dozen animals believed to have been mistreated in a Woolsey Canyon Ranch. Summit residents said they occasionally saw animals from the ranch roaming Canyon roadways. The DOAC explained that the animals went without sufficient food, water or shelter since the agency first asked the ranch owner to improve their living conditions last June. The animals included emus, horses, goats, pigs and kittens. The owner can fight in court to get the animals back or allow the county to adopt them, a DOAC spokesperson said.

New Summit Life Designer:

WHILE I WORK IN THE DIGITAL AGE, I PREFER CLASSIC ART, SAYS DAN SHANNON

Daniel Shannon, the new graphic designer for *Summit Life* magazine, became interested in computers relatively late in life. “I was an illustrator who believed that computers were for ‘wannabe artists’ who couldn’t draw a straight line” Dan explains. Then one day he ran into an old friend, also an artist, who had jumped on the computer bandwagon. He had a small studio office in Tarzana and yelled to Dan from his upstairs window to come on up. Dan checked out his computer set-up and told his buddy that he had “sold out.” He told Dan to just go ahead and play around with it and check out the cool things you can do on a computer. After that day, he was hooked. “Computers rule!” he exclaimed.

His friend had Walt Disney and Universal Studios as clients so Dan was introduced to entertainment



industry work early on. Back then, they created VHS packaging for the studios movies. Together they created “clamshell” design work for major film titles along with full page ads and other collateral elements. That was the start of Dan’s long-standing relationship with Hollywood movie

advertising and packaging, and eventually, the creation of the now familiar DVD packaging.

After several years as a studio freelancer, Dan went to work full time for Warner Bros. “I finally got some real insight into how the studios operate and loved working right next door to the Warner Bros. lot. I had lunch there almost every day. It was great seeing famous

“Creativity is the artist’s long suit, whether you’re a graphic designer or an actor.”

actors and directors sitting outside having lunch with us regular folks. I had hoped to retire there,” Dan said. But after six years, he was laid-off along with much of the creative staff. He found work at Sony Studios but there too, the layoffs continued. He eventually ended up working at places like DesignTown U.S.A. where they create props and “hero” products that were used for the close-up shots in commercials on TV and in the movies.

“Creativity is the artist’s long suit, whether you’re a graphic designer or an actor,” Dan emphasizes. “It’s always nice to be complimented on your work, recognized for your talent



and hard work, but then you realize that as nice as the pats on the back and the ‘that-a-boys’ are, you need stability in the long run.”

That stability was found at Creative Age Publications, a publisher of seven beauty and medical magazines located here in the San Fernando Valley. His distinctive page design will hopefully be reflected in this and subsequent issues of *Summit Life*. A native of Tarzana, he lives at the Summit in a home with an artist’s view of the Valley. There’s Kota, his Boxer dog to keep him company and a



philosophical calmness that comes with having been through the Hollywood mill. ♦

Larry LaCom/Summit Life Photo.

AROUND THE TOWN

VALLEY HAPPENINGS, JANUARY



CARNEY MAGIC AT THE COLONY THEATRE

Theater in Burbank
Date(s): 01/09/2016 • Day(s): Saturday
Time(s): 7:30PM
Address: 555 N 3rd St. Burbank, 91502
Phone: 818-558-7000
Cost: \$29 - \$59

SANTA CLAUS IS COMIN' TO MOTOWN

Theater in Burbank
Date(s): 12/02/2015 to 01/17/2016
Day(s): Wednesday, Thursday, Friday,
Saturday & Sunday
Time(s): Wed. – Fri. at 8pm, Sat. at 4pm & 8pm,
Sun. at 4pm & 7pm
Address: 4252 Riverside Drive, Burbank, 91505
Phone: 818-955-8101
Cost: \$29 - \$59

A FAERY HUNT AMAZING MAGICAL ADVENTURE

Performance in San Fernando Valley
Date(s): 01/23/2016
Day(s): Saturday
Time(s): 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Address: 16756 Moorpark St.,
Encino 91436-1068
Phone: 818-324-6802
Cost: \$12.50

THAT LOVIN' FEELIN'

Theater in San Fernando Valley
Date(s): 12/11/2015 to 01/24/2016
Day(s): Friday Saturday Sunday
Time(s): Fridays/Saturdays at 8:00 PM;
Sunday Matinees at 2:00 PM
Address: 10900 Burbank Blvd.,
North Hollywood 91601

Phone: 818.763.5990

Cost: Admission: \$25; Seniors/Students: \$20;
Groups 10+: \$15

MIX IT UP!

Art in Burbank
Date(s): 01/08/2016 to 01/28/2016
Day(s): Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
Thursday, Friday & Saturday
Time(s): Monday - Thursday, 9:00 a.m. -
9:00 p.m.; Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.;
Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.;
Sunday, Gallery is closed
Address: 1100 West Clark Avenue,
Burbank, 91506
Phone: 818-238-5397
Cost: Free

BOOK'D IN BURBANK: THE ULTIMATE BIBLIOPHILES' NIGHT OUT

Books in NoHo Arts Dist.
Date(s): 01/28/2016
Day(s): Thursday
Time(s): 3:00-5:00 P.M.
Address: 10900 Burbank Blvd,
North Hollywood, 91601
Phone: 310-433-2581
Cost: \$10.00

THE LALAS VALENTINES DAY THEMED BURLESQUE SHOW

Dance in NoHo Arts Dist.
Date(s): 02/12/2016
Day(s): Friday
Time(s): 7:00pm Doors / 8:00pm Showtime
Address: 5303 Lankershim,
North Hollywood, 91601
Phone: 562-344-5252
Cost: \$15 - \$32.50



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TEN WAYS TO KEEP THE SUMMIT SAFE AND PRISTINE

1. NO ADS ON THE ENTRANCE GATE.
2. NO CLUTTER IN CARPORTS.
3. NO STREET CLOTHES IN POOL OR SPA.
4. NO DOG POOP IN THE STREET. PLEASE
USE THE BAGS THAT ARE PROVIDED.
5. WALK PETS ON LEASH.
6. WALK AT NIGHT WITH A STICK OR
FLASHLIGHT.
7. KEEP PETS INSIDE AT NIGHT,
ESPECIALLY BARKING DOGS.
8. DO NOT BARBEQUE WITH WOOD FUEL.
9. DO NOT TOSS CIGARETTE BUTTS INTO
THE STREET.
10. OBEY ALL SPEED LIMITS AND
STOP SIGNS.

SUMMIT LIFE

Summit Life is a monthly publication of the
Summit Mobile Home Community

24425 Woolsey Canyon Rd., West Hills, CA,
91304-6898

Phone (818) 340-7564

DECEMBER 2015

Publishers/Owners - Louis and Philip Miller

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Graphic Design - Daniel V. Shannon

Photography - Larry LaCom

Real estate at the Summit is subject to the
Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 and its
amendments.

Please visit us at

www.summitmobilecommunity.com.