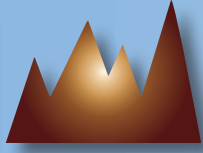


# SUMMIT LIFE

VOLUME IV, #38



NOVEMBER 2016



## “WADDA YA MEAN ‘MOVE MY CAR?’”

This whimsical photo was produced with the help of an overacting Summit resident and the kind assistance of Chatsworth Lake Manor Fire Station Number Five. The problem being depicted, however, is not whimsical. Summit streets are barely wide enough to meet County street-width codes that enable the passage of heavy fire fighting equipment in the event of a park blaze or other 911 emergency. By further narrowing that access with your vehicle, you are endangering yourself and others in the park. And that’s exactly why you’ll most likely find a costly ticket from the L.A. County Sheriff’s Department sitting on your windshield when you leave your car on a pretty but narrow Summit street.

Diane Brown/Summit Life photo.

## Keepers of the Gate:

# NIGHT MANAGERS FLETCHER ISLER AND STEVE VENABLE ARE PROUD RESIDENTS OF THE SUMMIT AND WORK HARD TO PASS THAT PRIDE ON TO OTHERS IN THE PARK

“Our job really boils down to helping people take pride in where they live,” says Summit Night Managers Fletcher Isler and Steve Venable. “If residents have that pride, good things follow...trees and bushes get trimmed, carports are left uncluttered, park traffic slows-down, people put their best foot forward.”

So how, in the middle of the night, can these two men help residents maintain that pride when things go awry, when dog’s howl and couples fight and insomniacs play the television too loud? The answer is staying cool, staying polite, never arguing and, above all, reaffirming to people how lucky they are to be at the Summit, safe above the fray, with modern and private view homes that are often no more costly than noisy, crowded apartments in the flats.

In any event, not many residents would want to argue with the Summit’s current night managers. Fletcher, a retired Army Sergeant, is over six feet tall and works as a calibration technician at Simco Electronics, Chatsworth. Steve is 6 feet two inches tall and will run you ragged in one on one basketball. He shared the job of night co-manager for the past three years with Madoline Gamble who has now retired. During the day, he’s manager of receiving operations for Medallion Enterprises, Chatsworth.

Both men want to change the order of the park’s **TEN COMMANDMENTS**, otherwise known in this publication as **TEN WAYS TO HELP KEEP THE SUMMIT SAFE AND PRISTINE**. The top four issues highlighted below are vital to the safety of all residents. The remaining six are important security and

housekeeping measures.

1. **Obey all speed limits and stop signs.** More and more children have come into the park and park streets are where they play most of the time. While both managers repeatedly warn children to play close to their homes and inside cul-de-sacs, the danger of these kids being hit by speeding cars and cars that fail to stop at stop signs is very real, especially at night, according to the managers. Slow down. Keep an eye out for children on skateboards. The park speed limit is 15 miles per hour.
2. **Do not toss cigarette butts into the street.** “You’d have to be crazy

to not understand that a lighted cigarette butt could send the entire park up in smoke in minutes,” the new management team points out. It’s been an unusually hot summer and the surrounding vegetation is extremely dry, so stamp out those butts. Retired Army Sergeant Fletcher, takes it one step further. “Field-strip those butts immediately,” he orders.

3. **Barbecue with gas fuel.** Do not use wood or liquid fire starters on open coals. Again, you’d have to be crazy to not understand that sparks from wood and coal fuels could send the entire park up in smoke in minutes.
4. **Keep pets on a leash and walk at night with a stick or flashlight.** You’re in the mountains now, not in the city, and there are things up here that really do go “bump in the night,” the co-managers warn. Because of an exceptionally hot and dry year, more and more coyotes are wandering the park streets looking for food and water. To a hungry coyote, cats and little dogs look like Fillet Mignonette. So don’t let your pets out at night and don’t leave infants alone outside at any time of the day or night.

5. **Keep your house doors and car doors locked.** Sadly, crime is on the rise nationwide and while the Summit is gate guarded and more difficult to reach than many other communities, petty thieves are finding their way up here. To help combat this situation, the co-managers are calling for the installation of gate mounted cameras that would allow ID footage



Remember to point your remote gate opener at the entrance kiosk rather than at the gate itself. Park managers have reportedly watched frustrated residents aiming their remotes ineffectively at the gate without realizing that the remote receiver itself is installed in the kiosk. Diane Brown/Summit Life photo.





As Summit co-night managers, Steve Venable (left) and Fletcher Isler are rapidly closing in on some of the park's safety and security concerns. They now patrol the entire area by car during the course of their nightly shifts, and will soon have the capability to remotely monitor all vehicles entering and leaving the park. Diane Brown/Summit Life photo.

of all vehicles entering and leaving the park. Aside from monitoring cameras, the new security team patrols the park by automobile several times per night.

6. **Have your neighbors collect your newspapers and mail while you're on vacation. Try to leave a car in your driveway while you're out for the day or evening.** Please report suspicious looking persons and suspicious looking automobiles to the park office at **818-340-7564** or to the night managers after 5 in the evening at **818-934-0476**.
7. **No doggy poop on the streets, use containers provided.**
8. **No clutter in the carports.**
9. **No street clothes in the pool and spa.**
10. **No ads on the entrance gate. ❖**

## SUMMIT PARTY... PLEASE RSVP

Help us celebrate the Summit's 38th year as the Valley's premier mobile home community at a festive dinner gala this January. We're a gated and gorgeous mobile home enclave in the foothills of the Santa Susana mountains. And we will soon be the first in the Valley to go solar.

You, our residents, are invited to our celebratory, 38th anniversary sit-down dinner in our clubhouse beginning at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, January 11, 2017. Philip Miller, park co-owner, will be available to greet you and answer your questions.

Please RSVP to our office manager, Debbie Berini, no later than Monday January 2. You can RSVP at 818-340-7564 or email us at [deb@summitmobilecommunity.com](mailto:deb@summitmobilecommunity.com).

# FIVE STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO INSURE YOUR LOST PET GETS HOME SAFE

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By Bill Kreke, Owner,  
Kahuna Dog Walking; LLC,  
(818) 806-WALK

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## 1. PET COLLAR AND ID TAG

A dog tag on a collar should be your first line of protection. This is the easiest step to do that anyone can use to help return your lost pet. A simple id tag can be made for your dog or cat at most pet stores. I would suggest your pet's name plus two current phone numbers. Some tags are large enough to fit an address but the tag is useless if you don't keep the information up to date and buy a new tag when you move or change phone numbers.

## 2. MICROCHIP

An inexpensive and good addition to your pet's id tag is having your pet micro-chipped. The process is easily

done at your vet's office. Collars can be removed and slip off but the microchip under your pet's skin is there for life. The microchip, about the size of a grain of rice, is a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) chip that when subjected to the magnetic field of a scanner will emit a serial number registered to your pet. The only weak link is you have to keep your contact information up to date with either your vet or the chip manufacturer. If you're moving updating this info should be done the same time you update your info with the DMV, bank, utilities, etc.

## 3. REGISTRATION WITH THE COUNTY

It is required by law to license your pet with the county and provide proof of rabies vaccinations. However, keeping your information up to date with the county is another step you can use

to ensure your pet come home safe. The number on your pet's county id tag works the same way as a license plate on a car. Once again you have to keep your contact info current if you move or change your phone number. A simple flier with a picture, name, description, and date can be left with animal rescue pounds to help your pet find its way safely home. Keep in mind; the pounds do not share these fliers information so you must drive to each local pound with fliers.

## 4. SUMMIT OFFICE ONE-CALL

Here at The Summit we are very fortunate to have the One-Call automated call system. This is a fantastic way to alert your neighbors if your pet goes missing. However, the weak link in this system is if your pet gets outside of the park or no one takes the time to look. I would like to urge

## SUMMIT POLLING PLACE



Higher than usual voter turnout was recorded November 8 at voting precinct #115 in the clubhouse of the Mountain View Mobile Home Park. The park uniquely serves as the polling place for residents of both the Mountain View and Summit mobile home communities as well as for residents of Mesa Place, a gated enclave off of Woolsey Canyon Rd. Poll workers from left are Inspector Hendrick Kiel, Ani Mendoza, Bob Dager and Jerry Cowan. Diane Brown/Summit Life photo



everyone the next time you get a message of a fellow resident's missing pet please take some time and look down streets and driveways, you never know you might get lucky and spot the missing pet. Also, don't waste a call to the office after a One-Call goes. Deb has informed me that every time a One-Call goes out several people will see a missed call from the office and instead of listing to the voice mail they immediately call the office... please take two seconds and listen to your voice mail instead.

#### 5. GPS PET TRANSPONDER

This is an exciting piece of technology that is by far the fastest way to not only find your pet but know exactly when your pet goes missing. There are several manufactures but they all

work on the same principal. A GPS transponder is attached to your pet's collar. Anytime your pet leaves the vicinity of the base station in your home you will be notified via a text message or email. If your pet is missing you can ping the collar on your smart phone and it will give you the location of your pet within six feet. The rechargeable batteries in the transponder are good for 8 to 10 days and it will automatically text or email you when the batteries need to be recharged. Each transponder costs between \$40 to \$70 and there is a nominal monthly service charge. ❖

## MAYO CLINIC HEALTH LETTER:

### Be F\*A\*S\*T\*

The acronym FAST is an easy way to remember stroke warning signs and symptoms and what to do:

- \* Face drooping
- \* Arm weakness
- \* Speech difficulty
- \* Time to call for emergency medical help.

# AROUND THE TOWN VALLEY HAPPENINGS, DECEMBER

#### SHARED HOLIDAY PARTY WITH GERARD'S GUITARS PRESENTS: THE BACK ROOM TRIO

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#### CARLOS ALAZRAQUI

Comedy in Burbank Date(s): 12/16/2016 to 12/17/2016 Day(s): Friday Saturday Time(s): Fri: 8pm-9:30pm & 10pm-11:30pm Il Sat: 8pm-9:30pm & 10pm-11:30pm Address: 102 E Magnolia Blvd, Burbank, CA 91502 Phone: (818) 845-9721 Cost: 20.00 + 2-item minimum per person. This is your chance to celebrate the holidays on a budget. Buy a regular ticket and purchase 2 items or purchase our holiday party dinner and show package: \$39 per person, includes: \*Premium Comedy Show Ticket \*Dinner Salad \*Choice of one of the following Entrées : Garlic Pasta, Meatloaf, Grilled Chicken or Roast Turkey Dinner (steak

or salmon, add \$6) \*Slice of Chocolate Cake or Cheesecake \*Unltd soft drinks, Coffee, Tea, Water \*Tax and gratuity not included. \*Cash Bar Available.

Carlos Alazraqui is not just the face of Deputy James Garcia on Comedy Central's "Reno 911!", he has also been a stand up comedian for over 15 years providing the voices of Rocko and Spunky on Nickelodeon's "Rocko's Modern Life, Mr. Weed and of course the voice of Gidget "The Taco Bell Chihuahua" just to name just a few. Hear him again as the voice of Nestor, the Latin Penguin in Happy Feet 2.

#### SANTASIA - A HOLIDAY COMEDY

Theater in San Fernando Valley Date(s): 12/02/2016 to 12/25/2016 Day(s): Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday Time(s): Select dates and times: Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays at 8pm, Sundays at 3pm and 8pm. Dec. 2 - Dec. 25 Address: 13500 Ventura Blvd. Phone: (818) 990-2324 Cost: Pre-paid online in advance: \$27; Pay at the door: \$40

"SANTASIA - A Holiday Comedy" created by Shaun and Brandon Loeser, directed by Shaun Loeser, is celebrating its 17th year.

This Off-Broadway Hit and Critics's Pick laugh out loud annual holiday romp, is the perfect blend of Yuletide snark and sentiment, and has been compared to "The Carol Burnett Show", "The Kids in the Hall", "In Living Color", "Saturday Night Live" and Vaudeville.

This multi-media holiday special has it all including classic Rankin and Bass claymation inspired movies, musical parodies, and heartfelt holiday moments December 2 - December 25. Select dates and times: Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays at 8pm, Sundays at 3pm and 8pm. Tickets purchased online in advance \$27. Pay at the door \$40 Buy tickets and info: [www.santasia.com](http://www.santasia.com) or (818) 990-2324 Whitefire Theatre, 13500 Ventura Blvd., Sherman Oaks

## A Dream Come True:

# CAFE DELLA VITA IS A REAL ITALIAN TREAT FOR THE SOUL AS WELL AS FOR THE APPETITE. AND IT'S RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER ON ROSCOE BOULEVARD

By Marci Wormser  
Staff Writer

Pasta and meditation. It might seem like an odd pairing to most, but to Antonio Bellissimo it's just second nature. In July, Antonio opened Cafe Della Vita and Wellness Center in West Hills as a way to combine his two longtime passions – owning an Italian restaurant and spirituality. The 2,400-square-foot restaurant boasts both a traditional dining area and a small metaphysical store where patrons can purchase such items as crystals, Native American flutes, books on astrology, drums and shakers, jewelry and love potions.

The cafe's focus, says the longtime West Hills resident, is on both physical and mental wellness, and its motto is "making the world a better place by making people feel good." "This whole place is just

about following my path, following my vision, following my dream," explains the Sicilian-born Antonio. That "dream," he says, began in 1990 when he and his brother opened the now-shuttered Italian restaurant Bellissimo in Woodland Hills.

The restaurant grew so much in popularity that five years later the siblings decided to open a second location in Thousand Oaks, which Antonio ran with his son. Despite the success of the Conejo Valley location, problems with the landlord forced the restaurant to close just four years later. Landlord issues also forced his brother to sell the Woodland Hills location in 2006.

"I believe everything happens for a very good reason," reflects Antonio. "You may not know it at the time." The Thousand Oaks closure, says the restaurateur, allowed him to spend the past decade and a half traveling and focusing on his spiritual growth. He says he first experienced a "spiritual awakening" in the 1960s, after he moved to the United States and someone did his astrological chart. "The astrological chart was so accurate in describing me," he says. "How could I ignore it?"

He also became unable to ignore having what he describes as past life memories and other psychic events. Already an aspiring entrepreneur by this time, Antonio says, his mission became clear: to open a wellness center that helped other "seekers" find answers to their questions and help them on their own spiritual journey.

Although a successful venture, he regretted that Bellissimo lacked a spiritual element. He knew his next restaurant would be different. So after his lengthy sabbatical, Antonio decided to give the restaurant

business another go. A landlord led him to the property near the corner of Roscoe Boulevard and Valley Circle, which previously housed a breakfast deli and some business offices at various times.

"I'd been looking (for a place) for a long time," he says. "I just wanted to have a place where people can just gather." Due to what he describes as an extraordinarily "taxing" process by the city, it took two years for the cafe to open after he closed escrow in August 2014. "City inspectors put us through hell on this thing," he says.

It took only seven months for his previous establishments to open their doors after closing escrow, but that wait time has increased three-fold due to more stringent rules and guidelines, more "red tape" and longer waiting periods, Antonio says. "It's driving business out of here. Someone has to do something about the process," says the businessman. "It's a very easy fix. (They should) simplify things."

The cost is now higher too. According to Antonio, the cafe cost him five times more money to build than he had estimated. In addition to re-doing the piping, he was required to do extensive upgrades



Cafe Della Vita owner Antonio Bellissimo stands in front of some of the paintings he created for his new restaurant. The artistic restaurateur also made the front door to the eatery, partially from a mixture of seeds, nuts and chocolate.



The metaphysical store inside Cafe Della Vita features a myriad of "healing" items, such as sage, incense, candles, crystals and a "singing bowl" to balance chakras. A selection of clothing and jewelry is also offered.



The front patio dining area features a zen fountain. The cafe will soon open a back patio area, which will increase total dining capacity to 130 guests.

to make everything compliant with Americans With Disabilities Act requirements. But the long wait, he says, has been worthwhile.

The cafe and wellness center has already yielded a number of good reviews on Yelp and other social media sites. While many of the customers to date have come from the surrounding area, the cafe has also attracted loyal Bellissimo patrons, who were happy to hear about Antonio's latest venture.

His secret, he says, is to create an atmosphere where people feel welcome and to treat them like family. And good food helps too.

The menu offerings, which include pasta, pizza, poultry, fish, vegan and vegetarian choices, are based on the same tried-and-tested recipes that were offered at Bellissimo. It's pretty much the same stuff. Most of the stuff we cook is similar to my mom's cooking," says Antonio, adding that all the vegetables used at the cafe are grown in his own garden.

Italian culture, Antonio explains, is rife with celebrations and parties, and Cafe Della Vita is no exception. "One of our specialties is parties," he says. "We are the celebration specialists, and we want you to feel extra special for your celebration."

"We are booking holiday parties now for small or large groups," he says. "When you have a party at

Cafe Della Vita, you will feel like you really had a great meal and a fun time, and your guest will never forget it. Just like all of the former people that used to come to celebrate at Cafe Bellissimo that now come in and tell us about what a great time they had and how much they missed it after we closed it."

His new property boasts patio dining with a zen fountain, a wine bar and a music area complete with a keyboard and drums. A keyboard player performs on weekends, and he and the waiters have been known to break out in song at any given moment.

Music, says Antonio, promotes healing and wellness. "Music touches your spirit," he explains. "It's the universal language." It's not uncommon for people to visit so they can join him in a jam session and even for entire families to join him on the drums and flute. "To me, that's wellness," he relates.

In addition to healing with food and music, Antonio plans on holding a myriad of events to promote spiritual health and well being. The cafe already played host in October to a renowned healer who Antonio credits with healing his severe leg pain. Her audience presentation was filmed and shown on a special episode of the Deepak Chopra show.

On the evening of every full moon, says Antonio, the cafe hosts a drum circle, in which guests are encouraged to come and sing, chant and play the drums in order to release their pent-up energies. Future plans include hosting cooking classes, psychic reading sessions, Native American flute and meditation lessons. He also plans on hosting yoga lessons, energy balancing and clearing sessions, reiki and astrological readings. Antonio says he's aware that not everyone embraces the spiritual side of life.

"Lots of people are confused about the wellness center part," he says. "But I won't give it up. It's part of my beliefs." Still, he says, most people have been welcoming. "I'm surprised that so many people are into this, older people too," he says. "People are so happy that we're here."

**Cafe Della Vita** is located at 23759 Roscoe Boulevard. It's open from 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday.

For more information, call the restaurant at (818) 340-7900 or visit [www.CafeDellaVitaWellnessCenter.com](http://www.CafeDellaVitaWellnessCenter.com). ❖



## MEET DIANE

Diane Brown has been named staff photographer for Summit Life magazine, succeeding Larry LaCom who has retired after three years of service. Diane is a professional photographer and a resident of West Hills. She is the wife of pastor Paul Brown of The Bridge Bible Fellowship church in Reseda. In addition to her talent with a camera, Diane is a professional vocalist, organizer and wedding planner.





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# SUMMIT LIFE

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Real estate at the Summit is subject to  
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