



“Accountability”
Glendale’s Watchdog

No Council Meetings

Happy New Year

Vanguard
Weekly News Vol IV
Week of December 28, 2008
City of Glendale, CA Edition
www.vanguardians.org
818 745 6770

Planning Dept Leaks New Design

The four stages of Vanguardians “**First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win.**”
Mahatma Gandhi describing the stages of establishment resistance to a winning strategy of nonviolent advocacy

When WE, the people, are complacent THEY win!



A pat-on-the-back-to city employee [Tom Brady](#) for getting the word out on recycling.

A special note to all the friends of Vanguardians and the readers of Vanguard Weekly News

As reported in The Insider’s section of Vanguard the lawsuit of DJM, the contractor doing the seismic retrofit of the Municipal Services building, vs. the City will no doubt be a judgment against the city for \$500,000 plus attorney fees and costs. Apparently the City had knowledge that DJM was putting in a temporary elevator because the scope called for it – but according to the City the contract did not. The City watched and said nothing hoping they would get a ride on a free elevator. The Court will say, “Unjust enrichment, City pay up.” Also the City has not responded to our public records request for the claim and the complaint.

WEAVER WATCH: Builders and Developers are complaining that CCM Weaver is trying to sell them 2 tickets to ride the Rose Float for \$10,000 each. The people he is asking are fearful of the results from turning him down. Who will get the \$20,000? Will it go for the addition on his Gregg/Gangi home? Will Caruso come through?

SAVVY CONSUMER



Jeff Green, our savvy consumer reporter, says that there aren’t too many days left in 2008 to take advantage of a charitable donation of your car, truck, RV or motorcycle in running condition to Vanguardians. They will handle all the details. Call Barry Allen at 818 745 6770.

All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good women & men to do nothing

**A once in a lifetime offer from Vanguardians – Vanguard will be sent to over 50,000 Glendalians...Your web site link or message can be included.
Call Barry Allen 818 745 6770.**

If you have issues with the City and fear retaliation, send them to Vanguardians and we’ll share them with the appropriate department assuring your anonymity.

City Council **On Vacation**

Council	1 -7	Annualized	Contact info
Drayman		B-	jdrayman@ci.glendale.ca.us;
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Quintero		B-	fquintero@ci.glendale.ca.us;



Weaver		D	dweaver@ci.glendale.ca.us;
Yousefian		B+	byousefian@ci.glendale.ca.us;



As the year comes to an end, I can look back and say it's been nothing short of

exciting. For me, it started off with the Phoenix Suns losing another playoff race and breaking my heart, (though not as badly as last year); then came the primary race where the outcome would guarantee either of a woman or a man of color as the presidential nominee; in the middle of all this, my first real Olympics in which I not only watched, but got into it; and finally George W. Bush and co. would be out of office, and people all over the country, (and the world) would come together to support a young

Senator from Illinois who, though still a politician, would be someone worth believing in.

As the year comes to a close, people, for the first time in forever, feel politics matter on the most local of levels – after all, everyone's vote finally counted. Perhaps a reason people distanced themselves from politics on any level, (even if deeply dismayed at what went on in the Bush administration) was simply that many of us weren't directly affected. Sure, we saw people lose their rights, (way over there in Guantanamo and Iraq); yeah, we heard the military was being privatized and Cheney's companies were benefiting from a war born of a lie, but it wasn't my brother that died. Hell, I don't even know a friend of a friend who gave his life for me. And even if we were affected, and decided to write or yell or organize we still ended up with another four years of Bush. It was only until there was a real alternative that resembled a better version of ourselves that we decided to have the audacity to hope, and get on our blogs, and talk to our friends, and wear our t-shirts, and dream big.

2008 was the first year in almost a decade I saw my formerly apathetic friends choosing a side, learning the facts and proselytizing without shame.

Deep down we like to be communal. We care when we see someone hurt, and we want to fight injustices we see done to our neighbors, even if we've never met them. It's in our nature, as social animals and beyond all the shameful policies George Bush was able to pass under the guise of protection and good intention, he was able to get us to stop being political, because it seemed pointless.

Obama's election put an end to apathy and the movement was largely made up of the hungry youth, who were inspired by a man that started changing things on the local level and told us we could (and should) do it to.

So, it goes, after finally being encouraged to indulge my political nature, I decided to get more involved in the community on a local level. That brought me to Vanguardians. Over the last few months, I have seen Glendale's citizens speak out bravely, bringing issues as big as Washington DC and as small as their own backyards to the city council meetings, demanding responsibility. These are people who have been active all along, Obama or not, never ashamed to speak up for what is right and wrong; I hope in 2009, younger people, like myself will get more involved in politics on a local level; and since we've already sacked Rome, Glendale can't be that tough a tackle.

LAUREL MILLER

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City Attorney's (CA) office screws up again by failing to provide accurate data on the GFD Telestaff Roster.

Response to CA from Vanguardians: 'The records provided were unresponsive as they did not include personnel assigned on those dates only job titles of suppression personnel. Also the pages stapled together were not in the correct order or possibly the second pages were for the wrong dates.' Everything was redacted from the Telestaff report. In fact it shows that two Engine Companies didn't operate on 11-15.

Provide the complete Telestaff report for the two dates previously requested.

Response from CA: I reviewed the documents provided to you in the City Clerk's office, and have made changes to the redacted portion. LV

LETTER: Richard was telling me that he was in a tavern the other night, somewhere near Temecula, where a fireman was pissing and moaning in his beer about being horribly underpaid -- it seems that in his town, he works three days on (including sleeping) and four days off and only gets \$130 thousand. "Oh, the inhumanity!" SJ [ED The amount didn't include OT]



2009 – Planning In Chaotic Times

Ready! Set! Design Yourself a Great 2009!



Too busy to plan? Hate to plan? In these chaotic economic times it is even more essential to be in the driver's seat of your business.

In just one focused morning you can take the steering wheel and create your roadmap for the year.

Don't let the year just happen - set it up for success.

Dates: Tuesday, December 30, 2008 **OR** Wednesday, January 7th, 2009
Time: 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Location: Acapulco Restaurant, 722 N. Pacific Ave, Glendale, CA 91203
Fee: \$250. Group Discount available
Includes: **FREE** Workbook OR CD if you prefer to bring your computer
FREE Lunch

[Email info@fieldworks.net](mailto:info@fieldworks.net) or call 818.243.4864

“An extraordinary experience, well worth the effort required to pry my fingers off an already extensive to-do list. Pauline provided the space, structure and inspiration to create a specific action plan for making my goals a viable reality” – Ria Severance, Business Owner/Participant

A great holiday gift for those on your list – they will remember you all year long!!!

Ask for the SPECIAL Vanguard discount

Vanguard is published independently by *Vanguardians, Inc.* Advocating for Accountability– Our vision is to live in a community where all people, regardless of geography, background or economic status, can enjoy accountability, integrity, effectiveness and responsiveness from our elected officials and each of the city's departments, through grass roots involvement, engagement and advocacy.

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1 You may agree or disagree with the views below. Feel free to comment on them.



Flaws in the Award Winning [Annual Financial Report](#)

First off there is a letter from McGladrey & Pullen, the outside auditors, not included in the public report, that shows the City has accounts payable employees that have access to the purchasing system, an undesirable process that had been reported to the City previously and not corrected. The City is also expensing items that should be capital assets which is inconsistent with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

Second, Vanguard, in its very limited access to City financial reports, found multiple bookings of expenses, car washes that were charged to construction projects and booking of expenses including the completed Chess Park years after the project.

As specifically related to the 2008 CAFR P.18 shows an item under ‘total general revenues’ as a ‘special item’ with no explanation. P. iii indicates that the City’s self-insurance funds do not have the funds available to fully meet losses in excess of claims payable as of June 30, 2008 an amount of \$20,000,000. P. 3 shows that of the decreased City government funds only \$97M is available for discretionary spending not \$500,000,000 as reported by one CCM. Debt increased by \$114,000,000. P. 6 the City booked the Gladys Street judgment as an asset because they were mandated to buy the houses that were destroyed. Public Safety expenses grew \$10M due to increases in salaries and benefits. P. 5 of the Auditor’s letter indicates that this audit would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in the internal control. Next week I will share the errors in the Statistics section that is also prepared by the City.

[I am a politician...I am here to help.](#) John Drayman delivered Rockhaven for his constituents now he wants us to approve a 6.5% tax on telecommunications. He wants to go where the Congress will not go...tax the Internet. Voice over the Internet Protocol (VOIP) would be taxed by Mr. Drayman so he can have more money for the payroll. CCM Yousefiiian asked the Council to negotiate reopening the union contracts. His colleagues didn’t want to go there. Today Yousefian said the Council put the ballot measure on the April ballot and we should let the people be heard. Will the Drayman supporters be saying, “Oh, John, you got us Rockhaven...we will pay you back...we’ll vote to tax the Internet...anything you want. If we do that can we have Mountain Oaks and the Verdugo Golf Course?”

The City has overspent the last 6 years by \$200,000,000. What do you think they will do with more money? Our downtown mid-Brand and Central are a blight. More retail going out of business many before the current recession. ‘Pannera and Porto’s are the economic engines that will drive our economy,’ according to Council and their staff. Restaurants are taking a major hit as was published recently in Vanguard.



Here is the pile of money the City said they couldn’t be bothered with. More next week

Tweedledum endorses Tweedledee for city Council



They say that politics make strange bedfellows. So on which side of the bed will Councilman Najarian sleep on when he gets under the blankets with Weaver? On the left side when it comes to spending your hard-earned money? On the right side when it comes to borrowing to pay for all that spending?

In the most bizarre pairing ever imagined, Ara Najarian, the ANC-blessed candidate for Council in 2005 gave David Weaver, renowned Armenian basher, a resounding endorsement in 2007. In a glossy campaign mailer, Ara Najarian endorsed Weaver in the most eloquent rendition of being blind, deaf, and dumb to all the obstinate, rude and conflict-of-interest riddled of Weaver's terms in office. In Najarian words: "Dave's steady hand in building consensus has created a council that works together for the betterment of Glendale."

That Najarian can say that without gagging is a testament to his political ambition. "Mr. ANC" had transformed into Glendale's mini-despot's side-kick. He went on to offer in that mailer: "Dave possesses a quality of getting things done without forcing his opinion on others." "Holy forced opinion. Batman!" Where did this guy go to law school? Or rather, who took the bar exam on his behalf?

Now Mr. "James" pairs up with his best-friend Dave: Tweedledee meets Tweedledum. Maybe they are just two peas in a pod of government waste. My, how we've gotten to know James Najarian – (The Anglicized campaign name of Ara-boy) these past few years!



Now, I can't rightly lay fault with the ANC on their endorsement of Ara-James. I too thought he would be a good councilman. On Larry Zarian's show four years ago, I accepted ex-mayor Carl Raggio's assessment of Ara-James. After all, he spent years at the Traffic and Parking commission, and he gave of his time (Two years and out) to serve on the community college board of trustees. An exemplary undertaking if ever I saw one.

Except that I hadn't checked to see what initiatives he proposed or what exemplary analysis he demonstrated on either assignment. It turns out that his fellow commissioners, at least the ones I talked to, can't seem to remember a single outstanding idea Ara-James proposed. I posed this same question to some of his fellow board members, (Who will remain in confidence) who simply rolled their eyes and chuckled at trying to find some worthwhile memory to recall about their colleague on the College Board. One said he simply played it safe – meaning that he simply went with the flow. No initiatives, no ideas, no-nothing-Najarian. Well, nothing new there.

Four years and a few hundred city council meetings later, we have all the proof we need. Ara-James went on his nearly patented – Staff can do no-wrong – mantra when he lauded the creation of the chess park, even though its purpose - to hold chess tournaments - would turn out to be an extremely rare event. He then went on to defend the staff for their actions in hammering some poor soul for trimming branches of his oak trees as demanded by the Fire Department. For weeks on end as the cacophony of protests and laughter went on around him, he continued his defense of that three-hundred thousand dollar fine. Heaven help us!

Early in his term, he favored the expenditure of hundreds of thousands of dollars for a system that will send the expected arrival of a beeline bus to the bus-rider's Blackberry phone. As if some hapless rider unable to afford a car would find enough money to splurge on that kind of communication device. Ara-James then re-justified that expenditure by claiming that the bus rider could look up the bus location on the Internet. No-one bothered to tell the councilman that such a service is available for free from Google. Oh yes, about that Next-bus-System – It's going nowhere. The city finally stopped payments on the monthly invoices.

And so Tweedledee might now expect a reciprocal endorsement from Tweedledum, or he might just top it by endorsing himself for city council (To the tune of Dragnet: dum-- dee-dum-dum.) In the mean time, don't be a Ninny and hold on to your taxes and your vote. Ara-James still has a warm seat on the MTA where he would surely follow prior massive squandering of taxpayer's dollars with a boondoggle or two of his own. **Herbert Molano**

BANK CEO's: Forget The Mercedes, We Still Have Our Private Jets



At the December 2nd meeting of the Glendale city council, I gave a brief commentary to the city council that addressed a skewed projection regarding the number of Glendale residential homes that have been foreclosed on. During my commentary, I stated that greedy, suit wearing; Mercedes driving banking executives could care less about the rising number of foreclosures while they sit in air conditioned offices and are fed gourmet lunches. That was a hit with many but a few took exception to my comment.

Councilman Bob Yousefian rebutted with: "I disagree with the gentleman who said all these bankers in their Mercedes." He continued, "I've got news for you, those bankers can no longer get their Mercedes because they got repossessed and considering all the banks that have foreclosed and closed, they don't even have a job." Although Yousefian is a member of the council that I truthfully admire and moreover respect, it is possible he didn't understand the entire context of my comment or the background of my opinion. In full disclosure, I was able to have a brief moment with CCM Yousefian and he explained the nature of his comment and where he was coming from. Maybe now the public can get a another sense of what the lenders and bank



CEO's do after they finish crying on CNN and beg congress to bail them out with your tax payer dollars. Do you know what they do once they leave the CNN stage?????????

They jet around the globe on Lear jets and corporate owned Gulfstream's !!!!

Isn't that nice and you (the taxpayers) just contributed an extra 25 BILLION dollars for their luxury travels! That's right, you paid for it! The bailout, which banks freely accepted, included an added 25 million in TARP money (Troubled Asset Relief Program). So let's forget my suit wearing, Mercedes driving job at city hall. Who needs the low level Mercedes when you can commute in a 47 million dollar G550 Gulfstream?

Allow me to brief you on some lender travel expenditures during 2008: A year when home foreclosures hit historic highs, nationwide home equity loss equated to approximately a negative 2 trillion dollars, and while hundreds and thousands of families were thrown out of their homes, banking executives could care less. Here's a bird's eye view of 5 of the nation's largest lenders and how they scrapped by in 2008. If you thought they trimmed the fat and traveled via commercial airliners at LAX, you're wrong. Why would they travel as common citizens when:

• **CITIGROUP:** has their own airline / flight subsidiary named, Citiflight Inc. Citiflight handles all air travel for their executives. Citiflight states that they have "reduced" their fleet by two-thirds over the past eight years. Nevertheless, 2008 FAA records show they still own four jets and one helicopter.

• **MORGAN STANLEY:** Has made a BOLD move !! They reduced their executive jet fleet size from three planes down to two since 2005. FAA records still show two Gulfstream G-Vs are registered to the company. In 2007, CEO John Mack's personal use of company aircraft totaled \$355,882, according to a February proxy filing. Mack is "required" to use company aircraft for personal trips for..... get this..... "security reasons". Michael Jackson he is not.

• **JPMORGAN:** is the registered owner of four Gulfstream jets, including a 2007 ultra-long range flagship G550 model, FAA records show. A G550 ordered for delivery that year would have cost roughly \$47.5 million. CEO Jamie Dimon is "required" to use company aircraft for personal trips. In 2007, his personal use of company jets totaled \$211,182, according to a May filing with the SEC.



• **BANK OF AMERICA:** Registered as the owner of **NINE** planes, including four Gulfstream's, FAA records show. B of A has refused to comment on whether the company has changed its policy on corporate aircraft use since taking \$15 billion in bailout money. CEO Kenneth Lewis is also "required" to use company aircraft for personal trips that racked up \$127,643 in travels last year, according to a March filing with the SEC.

• **WELLS FARGO:** Poor Wells Fargo - They only own one simple jet that is strictly for "business purposes and is to be used under appropriate circumstances only."



To date, these 5 lenders have so far received 120 BILLION DOLLARS in government cash infusions while the rest of the economy remains crippled. Just to give you an idea, a cross-country trip in a mid-sized jet costs about \$20,000 just for fuel alone. Forget maintenance, storage and pilot fees. All those included would put the cost much, much higher.

While an additional 365 + Glendale families are getting ready to be kicked out of their homes and foreclosed on during this holiday season, please take comfort in knowing that your bank executives and CEO's still travel in style. It seems that CCM Yousefian might find that these Mercedes driving lenders allowed their cars to be repossessed only to find that they've upgraded to a Rolls Royce. God forbid their champagne isn't chilled. What will we do then? Keeping you up to speed since ... I am the banks best friend.

Christian Arbid is a Glendale Resident, Real Estate Broker and Loss Mitigator. Dedicated to Assisting Homeowners and Saving Glendale Families with an Iron Fist www.ThisMarketSucks.com 818.232.7899 Questions Relating to Foreclosures, Short Sales, Saving Your Home, Loan Modifications.....Email Christian at christianarbid@gmail.com and your question will be answered in the next edition of Vanguard.

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THE END OF THE YEAR APPROACHES – DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE FOR A TAX DEDUCTION – SEND YOUR DONATIONS TO VANGUARDIANS TODAY

The only way to make sure people you agree with can speak is to support the rights of people you don't agree with.

[ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON](#)

TAKE ACTION – GET INVOLVED – BE INFORMED – SHARE VANGUARD – VOLUNTEER

Washington has been all abuzz with the phrase of the day: "stimulus package". As a web concierge, I know that having a web presence can be valuable but expensive. That is why I have decided to extend a very special offer. **From now thru Dec. 31**, all Concierge web hosting packages will be offered at **50% off!** That means for **as little as \$60/yr you can have business-class web hosting until 2010**. To take advantage of this special offer, contact me on the [Web Concierge Services](#) website. Fill in all the information requested, and mention **PROMO CODE: ONGUARD2009** in your comment section. I will call you to confirm your hosting requirements.

You don't have to be a Vanguard subscriber to take advantage of this offer. So, let your family, friends, and business associates know that *the cost of doing business just went down!* **BONUS:** A portion of the fee will go to support future Vanguardians.org web development costs. *Conditions: 1 YR. Prepaid Hosting. No Refunds. Domain name registrations not included.*

Moral cowardice that keeps us from speaking our minds is as dangerous to this country as irresponsible talk. The right way is not always the popular and easy way. Standing for right when it is unpopular is a true test of moral character. [Margaret Chase Smith](#)

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Potpourri ED – Letters published do not necessarily express the opinion of Vanguardians, this publication, the organization or Barry Allen.



Names are used only when requested. Initials are used as there are people, believe it or not, who are concerned with retaliation or have issues before a legislative body. Letters will be published that are signed and are not hate oriented.

We get mail:

A Dialogue....I see a lot of focus drawn to the city's employees and their incomes in response to our budget woes and, as an HR person that irks me. I think it's important to note that Glendale, like any other municipality, is a service delivery entity composed primarily of human resources; so of course their personnel costs will be substantial. The personnel salary and benefit costs of any city or county is and will always be the single largest budget item, typically upwards of 80%. It is the people who deliver the services.

In reviewing the budgets, salary schedules, and labor agreement materials Glendale and other cities have available online, I conclude that most - and I emphasize that "most" does not translate to "all" by any means - of Glendale's civil servants are not over paid by any stretch of the imagination. Looking at even Irvine (along with Burbank, Pasadena, Anaheim, and the like) the salaries and benefits seem very middle of the road. In fact, Glendale is the only municipality I could find that requires its employees pay their own full share of their public employee retirement, which is a pretty hefty 8 to 9 percent of their gross income. All of the other cities reviewed pay it for them and that can make a big difference in the employee's true salary. This seems pretty frugal on Glendale's part.

[ED INSIDER says: Yes that's true. Since PERS is based upon a percentage of what you make, Glendale pays its employees a higher salary to cover the employees cost of PERS. This set up leads to older employees sticking around longer since their retirement will be higher than from a different City that pays a lower salary, but picks up the PERS payments.]

Some Glendale employees, to include a number of professional, engineering, and even several police and water/power positions, seem to be visibly below the peer to peer labor market. While others are, of course, inexplicably at the very top of their market; and I need say no more there, as Mr. Philpott has addressed this issue so eloquently in the past.

I would simply hate to see our public servants attacked as being less worthy than they are. They deserve a fair and equitable salary for their toils. Let's please be selective when we point the finger at inflated salaries is all I say. These remain noble people serving a noble cause to keep those of us who choose to live and work in this community safe and warm.

Response-- I don't think they have been attacked as less worthy but as excessive in their numbers and the work assignments. The major problem lies with the Council and top management. For instance the City Manager when he came here 10 years ago doubled his staff the first year. There are way too many managers in each department...layers of government to wade through to get answers.

That perspective makes sense. I had read the situation as a focus on the employees versus their structure.

Response -- Because the city has increased city staff six times faster than the population in the last 10 years, the city has run deficit spending to the tune of \$237 million. Before that, the city always posted a surplus. To compensate for this huge gap between revenues and expenditures that have averaged about \$35 million per year, the city began to deplete reserves in Water and Power (the infamous transfers) that were created for investments

in our infrastructure. This, in turn, caused the city to take on more than \$400 million in long term debt (prior to that there is no record of any long term debt, we had a policy of pay as you go) and increase all sources of its revenues that it controls. (We are now paying the highest electric rates anywhere). All of this started during the year that the city began to spend more than it took in. As a result, we are seeing the city cut back services and at the same time the gap between revenues and expenditures is getting bigger. The only way to control spending is to reduce payroll. The other option is to cut our libraries; parks and recreation out completely and no longer have a full-service city. Most people would rather see a reduction in the workforce and retain our libraries and parks.

There is, of course, no simple or single solution. I agree these numbers are staggering. What needs to be done is a surgical dissection of who and what these increases consist of. Are they public safety or essential infrastructure support people? Or, are they window dressing, staff support, or planning functions that represent little in tangible community benefit yet are very pricey to sustain? My guess is, there's a lot of the latter. And even the public safety and infrastructure related positions need to be scrutinized for their active role in community stabilization. Are they static in nature, or are they dynamic functions actively engaged in community service deliveries? The dynamic roles are of course the most justifiable and desirable. Those that exist for purposes of waiting in the wings for something special or significant to occur are less essential.

A good example of this is the city removing police officers from our schools (dynamic) while retaining other resources at a desk (static) elsewhere in the city government. (Sorry, I am still upset we lost the officer from my daughter's middle school)

How do other cities (like-industries) compare with respect to costs of operation and their size? Local government is not rocket science and there are certainly industry norms if not standards. Glendale should fall within those norms. I would suggest looking at what is invested on a per-capita cost base on an operation by operation basis. **DN**

I watched and listened to Ara Najarian on the Larry Zarian Forum. He says that the Bruce Philpott letter in the News Press was wrong. Yet he could cite no specifics. He says that it is important that he be re-elected because he can bring money to the City as he sits on the MTA. While he brings in a Million Dollars he spends 10s of Millions as an elected official in Glendale. He said that the public is pushing to buy more open space yet the Flint Canyon, Smith Property and Murchison properties were all done behind closed doors while the Oakmont and Rockhaven were the only properties that the public clamored about. Besides that the actual cash layout by the City is considerably less than the annual city payroll. Najarian has not made a single accomplishment during his four-year tenure as a City Council member. His responses to Molano and you [Barry Allen] were disingenuous especially as a self-proclaimed economist. Sad but true. AC

I saw the Zarian show last week with his guest Council Member Ara Najarian. It was pretty boring overall, but it got better when Zarian read from Bruce Philpott's Community Commentary article published in the GNP the day prior. Zarian cited some of Philpott's financial data that, if true, is a terrible indictment of the policies of the current city council. Najarian told Zarian that Philpott's data was incorrect.

Najarian explained that the city, like a person buying a home, doesn't pay the full amount when making a major purchase, but rather borrows much of it on credit, "it's the American way", he said. In reading over the data in Philpott's article, Philpott's message is that the homeowner doesn't have enough income to pay the monthly mortgage premiums and has to keep refinancing to have enough money to keep making the payments. At some point, the home has lost all of its equity and there is no more money.

I have an idea, why doesn't Zarian invite Najarian back to debate Philpott live on the air so that the listeners can form their own conclusion as to which of the two financial pictures is correct. This is important for the financial health of the City and deserves greater clarification. Is the city in a good financial position as Najarian claims, or is the city headed for financial ruin as Philpott claims?

Chances are that Najarian won't debate a qualified candidate for Najarian's job. GK

According to the News Press Mayor Drayman will be talking to his supporters to encourage them to vote yes on a direct drain from their pocket-books and wallets. No doubt the Fire Chief will join Police Chief Adams in another letter supporting the need for this revenue. No matter how much we give these politicians and bureaucrats they will spend more. Bruce Philpott is right about how much they have borrowed and overspent. Cut off the life blood for a bunch of bloodthirsty vampires. When the time comes vote NO on the proposition that will strip more money from your pockets. OR

The audacity of Mayor John Drayman who the GNP says. "Has repeatedly committed to keeping the politicking at City Hall at a minimum, saying he would take a "fairly dim view of people using the [budget] process in any overt way to campaign. We will have a fair, forthright debate, and by doing so, we will move forward on a fair set of solutions." This is the same Mayor who wouldn't let CCM Yousefian discuss reopening city union contracts. The same Mayor that forgets there is no debate or back and forth between the community and the Council. The same person who sat idly by while members of the community spoke out against the spending of \$41,000,000 to retrofit two fire stations. The same Mayor who sets his own political agendas. Now he doesn't want to politicize by allowing members of the public to use the budget process to 'in any overt way to campaign.' Will Frank Quintero stop talking about how much the city

employees deserve or Ara Najarian on how he supports a swimming pool or Bob Yousefian on the rights of the public or Barry Allen and Herbert Molano on the vagaries of the budget or Michael Teahan on the Hillside Ordinance? I apologize for taking up so much space but reading that phrase really pi—ed me off. Thank you for providing a forum. KA [ED Justice WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS HAD THIS TO SAY TO THE MAYOR: Restriction of free thought and free speech is the most dangerous of all subversions. It is the one un-American act that could most easily defeat us.]

“I am an attorney, and can apply the law,” said CCM Ara Najarian as he voted to approve the Gladys Street lawsuit instead of paying the claim of \$4,000,000 for flood damage due to the faulty engineering of a fire road. The lawsuit cost the taxpayers \$10,000,000+. Ethics are important to the legal profession yet you did not see CCM Najarian join in the outrage expressed by CCM Yousefian and CCM Quintero over the lack of ethics by CCM Weaver in his use of city services, facilities and finances for private gain. Of course CCM Najarian did spring for a phone bank that helped Weaver win the last election. Najarian did nothing to defend the 1st Amendment when CM Starbird decided to deprive the public of an opportunity to view, obtain and exchange political documents in the People’s House. WS

Follow-up to your “roots” item. For most of today [12-23], the city was working along East Mountain, from Cedar to Rossmoyne, and down Cordova to Stocker. At certain intervals, they were digging 2’x4’ holes. As I passed by one of the diggings, workmen were busy pulling out some lengthy tree roots. Seeing your article, I now understand why. Why does it take a pedestrian/child to get killed before a crosswalk is put in, or a crossing guard assigned? Why does it take some big adverse verdict in court to get public works to do what they are obligated to do? The official policy of Glendale is to always be reactive, and never proactive, so it is easy to see why all this happens.

I wish that I had taken pictures of the “root patrol”, since (a) they were actually city employees, and (b) they were actually doing physical labor. Everyone thinks that I am making this up. CC

Surprise, surprise! The City of Chino Hills has a water problem, and we are on restrictions! How did that happen? Because the mental giants that run this city are victims to the manner in which this state is financed, meaning that the locals increase revenue not by property taxes or income tax -- we couldn't have either of those communistic approaches, now, could we? -- but by sales tax. And they increase sales tax by bringing in lots of business. They attract business by letting the home builders build whatever they want as much as they want (as long as the builders contribute to local political campaigns.) BUT THERE'S NO MORE WATER!!! (Please understand that I use the term "mental giants" as sarcastically and with as much derision as possible.) JS



We get calls: The Commentary by Laura Friedman in the GNP could have been written by John Drayman or at least written with his blessing. [Click here to read the Commentary.](#)

Bruce Philpott was right on in his Commentary in the News Press. [Read the Commentary by clicking here.](#)

Sort of a humorous tongue-in-cheek Commentary by a Vanguard columnist Christian Arbid. [Click here to read it.](#) I also want to thank Christian for helping out my family that was stressed over a real estate issue.

I think you are being kind to Dave Weaver; unless Conrad’s has a bar, there is no viable reason for him to be in there instead of being at the Council meeting until it is adjourned. [ED – There is a full bar at Conrad’s]



WE Get Questions: Do you read and respond to the Glendale Family Jewels Blog? [ED -- I look at it periodically when a Vanguard reader suggests there is something of interest. Whenever I have posted a response I sign it.]

In response to the questions about the Economic Interest Reports City Clerk Ardy Kassakhian got them back online. [Click here.](#)



We Suggest Articles: [How the Ongoing Transitions in Journalism May Affect the First Amendment's "Marketplace of Ideas"](#) "By JULIE HILDEN

In this column, I'll consider how First Amendment values may be affected by the media developments we've seen so far in 2008. The Supreme Court's ideal of the First Amendment's "marketplace of ideas" is that it should be "uninhibited, robust, and wide open" – as Justice Brennan wrote in *New York Times Co. v. Sullivan*, which famously recognized and addressed the First Amendment dimensions of defamation law. Here, I will argue that the transition taking place in journalism is likely to promote Justice Brennan's ideal in the long term, but inhibit it in the short term. Indeed, in the short term, with the transition artificially rushed by the recession, serious free speech costs are inevitable.

[In San Diego realism strikes:](#) General Growth's payment deadline is now Feb. 12. If it can't come up with the payment or new loan terms, it may be forced to file for bankruptcy protection. The good news? Not a glimmer of it. Many retail analysts predict that mall vacancies and retail and restaurant-chain bankruptcies will accelerate sharply in the first half of 2009 after companies – along with their lenders and vendors – get a cold, hard look at end-of-year sales numbers.

Vanguard of Davis: [WHITEWASHED: Davis Enterprise Downplays TCP Story at Target Site](#)

[The Vanguard ran an article reporting on a new discovery of TCP, at a level well over the reporting limit.](#) The local group, Frontier Fertilizer Superfund Oversight Group (FFSOG) is concerned enough that they want to see additional testing. Now the Enterprise ran a story with the same facts available to them that the Vanguard had, however, they completely bury the concerns of FFSOG and its president, longtime community activist Pam Nieberg, and place complete faith in the EPA and its spokesperson Bonnie Arthur. The headline itself displays the full bias of the article: "[Toxics won't impede Target: New contaminant deemed low-risk.](#)"

SAM ENGEL'S late response on the Brand Blvd. trees and interior plug strips: 'Parks and Recreation installed the Christmas lights on the trees on Brand Boulevard. I understand that the electric service for the outdoor outlets that are used for decorations is supposed to include GFI circuits. This would provide the needed safety check required for the light installation. I would check with this department to see if they made any special consideration for the use of Christmas light wiring you describe.' [ED – If Sam read last week's Vanguard he would have seen that the matter was corrected. I thought that regardless of whose 'mistake' it was, Neighborhood Services provides the Code Inspectors. This is just one more instance of a City that runs with no vision and no management from the top down.]

LINKS [Click here for Vanguard Archives by Hal Weber-- Open Government Guide](#) www.vanguardians.org
[Global Incident Map updated every 5 minutes](#) [ZIPskinny - Get the Skinny on that ZIP](#) [Vanguard in the Daily News](#)
[The Glendale California 100K Club](#) [Vanguard Weekly News Archive](#)
["Glendale Mayor Drayman and his acolytes" by Vanguardians](#)



Click to view the agenda [City Council](#) [Housing Authority](#) [Redevelopment Agency](#)
No City meetings will be held the week of December 29.

City Offices will be open regular business hours on Wednesday, December 31. City Offices will be closed on Thursday, January 1. All offices will be open during regular business hours on Friday, January 2.



Glendale Water and Power charges the most for electricity. See for yourself by [clicking here.](#)



Public Information

SOME GOOD NEWS:

REQUEST: Distributed with the Sunday Los Angeles Time for December 21, 2008 was a flyer titled Glendale Recycling News. Provide documents indicating the cost of staff time or outside contractors to prepare the flyer, the cost of printing and the cost of distribution.

Response: [Roughly once/year for the last few years, we have distributed "Glendale Recycling News" through the LA Times Selective Market Coverage Program.](#) The most recent issue was sent as an insert to 19,585 LA Times subscribers on 12/21 and mailed to 61,938 non-subscribers on 12/19 in Glendale zip codes at a total cost of \$2,567.97 (divided between \$1,487.79 distribution and \$1,080.18 printing). I wrote the entire edition on City time in my capacity as the City's Recycling Coordinator (and Sr. Integrated Waste Planner), spending perhaps 10 hours of time. Tom Brady

From Vanguard: I really appreciate the quick response. When I read the flyer I was quite impressed and was going to send Steve Zurn a note but first I needed to know the vitals that you have provided. Look for a 'pat on the back' next issue of Vanguard. Good job!

http://www.ci.glendale.ca.us/public_works/Refuse_Trash_Recycling_Services.asp. It is listed as "Green Building Newsletter" at the bottom under "Other Information."

Some bad news:

REQUEST: Rouhel Feinstein, 55, and Marilyn Slome were caught up in a 2001 investigation by Glendale police and the National Insurance Crime Bureau, and their home was raided in February of that year. **Please provide the complaint**

and the judgment in the case whose principals are above cited, the civil suit was concluded in 2006. If outside Counsel was used by CoG, please provide invoices.

RESPONSE: You have requested to inspect the complaint and judgment in the Rouhel Feinstein case. Copies of the complaint and the amended complaint are available for inspection in the City Clerk's office during normal business hours. You have also requested a judgment in this case; however, no responsive document exists.

Finally, you have requested invoices for outside counsel retained by the City of Glendale in the Feinstein case. Please be advised that the documents you requested are privileged and exempt from disclosure pursuant to Government Code section 6254(k) as they are protected by the attorney client privilege.

A disingenuous reply from the City Attorney:

REQUEST: Documents showing the policy of the City in charging for the use of City property for the installation and use of City property by AT&T (and others-Verizon, T-Mobile etc) for control boxes, antennas and other uses.

RESPONSE: Please review the Glendale Municipal Code for information responsive to your request below.

2nd REQUEST: What section of the code?

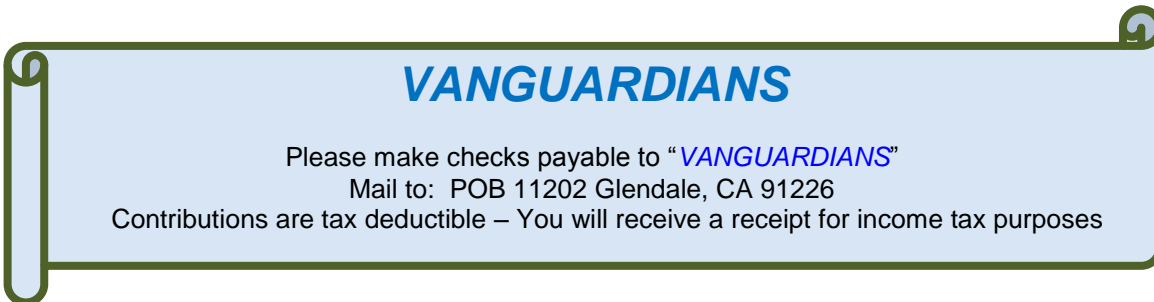
REQUEST: The City provides take home vehicles for certain staff members. Please provide documents showing the mileage driven and fuel consumption of those vehicles for the period of January 1, 2008 through and including September 30, 2008. Provide copies of accident reports and repair costs for any of those vehicles that were involved in collisions.

RESPONSE: Records responsive to your request are available in the office of the City Clerk on Monday December 29, 2008. Please be advised that the information requested is not presently maintained in a report, and therefore, for certain departments it could not be produced.

4 *Vanguardians*

Wanted: Young Volunteer Writers to interview candidates for elected office and write a series for Vanguard while working with a well-known news editor.

Become a critic...check out and report on our new website...a work in progress. Thanks to Diana Ringer. The best critique (good, bad, suggestions) will receive a gift from Vanguardians. www.vanguard-usa.org is the new site.



info@vanguardians.org to subscribe to the Weekly News on issues that impact Glendale. **The media with a voice; the organization that gets results you want; we encourage and support advocacy, involvement and engagement with government.** © 2008 Vanguard is intended for personal use by recipient and forwarding without change to recipient's personal email list. Vanguardians is a 501C3 charitable non-profit corporation Contributions are tax deductible. Vanguardians does not use commercial fundraisers. To ensure you receive Vanguard, please add our email addresses info@vanguardians.org, and ba@fieldworks.net - to your address book or Internet Service Provider safe list. **Annual subscription for email \$50, by US Mail \$75, Newsstand \$2 per issue** Copyrighted materials used with permission.



Dear Friends, Fellow Vanguardians, Watchdogs and the Vultures,

Our greatest accomplishments are the behind-the-scenes activities that keep us occupied day in and day out. They are the phone calls coming from people who have issues and want to know how they can get clarification, acknowledgement and resolution to their issue so that they can respond to officials with the confidence that comes with being informed. There is the Weekly Vanguard that we publish, which helps you keep abreast on what is going on around in Glendale and the region and prompt us to respond, when necessary. There are the meetings that we participate in with legislators, staff and residents to try to find ways to strengthen existing laws to provide you better means of enforcement when you are dealing with an entity that breaks the law (not everyone can afford the time or the attorney to go to court). You see, our greatest accomplishments aren't the ones that make the headlines. They are the ones that ensure that you have a place to go if you need help or support. They are the ones that quietly monitor the activities of your elected officials and their staff, and take action when action is required.

We all know that this economy has not been kind to Main Street, but it has been especially unkind to those of us who rely on you—you who are struggling to make ends meet—to keep our doors open. We know how hard it has become to give generously when you are likely making other financial sacrifices. But there has never been a time when our need has been greater. If you are not a subscriber, please show your support by subscribing today (for as little as \$25 or just \$5 a month). If you are already a subscriber, please tell your friends and family about us. Better yet, why not take

advantage of our gift subscriptions? You can give the gift of access to our services while supporting us at the same time. It's a win-win for all involved.

We hope you and your loved ones are safe and sound this holiday season and always. Wishing you all the best, Barry Allen

5   **the Insider** is a digest of information from city employees that care about the way the City is run. As they are concerned about retaliation, their identities are kept confidential. Vanguard provides them the opportunity to have this forum. The comments are their own.

Planning Department lets the cat out of the bag with a new 'economic engine design' for the Najarian Aquatic Center while Council considers a new location at either the Rockhaven property or in the open space that was acquired by the City. As Glendale has no ocean frontage the urban planners decided to bring the ocean to Glendale. In addition to the ocean frontage the property will include an amphitheater, museums and art exhibition galleries. A parking ramp for 10,000 cars and a connection to the Yousefian Downtown Light Rail Trolley. City Councilmember Quintero said that it will be built using only union labor. Council is negotiating with Caruso Affiliated to manage and own the entire development based on the financial success of the Americana. CCM Dave Weaver said that he will build the Rose Bowl Float right here in Glendale and was taking up contributions to move the Rose Bowl itself to Glendale. Mayor Drayman at press time was working with his scriptwriters and animation staff for his dancing Christmas Trees supported by Santa's Elves and said he would release his comments through the Glendale Family Jewels Blog. Next week you will be privy to the hotel that will be built in the open



space between Chevy Chase and E. Glenoaks Canyon that will support the Najarian World-Class Glendale Aquatic Center in Vibrant Award Winning 2nd runner up business friendly Glendale.

6 **Humor**



7 **For Candidates Only:**

Notice: Starting January 8th Candidates will be able to pick up election materials from the City Clerk's office in City Hall. Petitions must be returned by January 29th. One hundred Glendale voters' signatures are required. You will be required to

pay the City of Glendale \$25 when you pick up your packet. A deposit of \$1500 will be required if you want your ballot statement included with the voting materials.

Potential City Council candidates

Candidates...Please provide the missing data so potential voters may contact you. Pictures would be nice to post as well. If your name is missing please contact Vanguard. Please provide this request to your favorite candidate. Thank **YOU**

Name	Phone	Email	Web
Bertelson, Jerry			
Friedman, Laura	818-281-6942	Laura@votelaurafriedman.com	www.VoteLauraFriedman.com
Gharpetian, Vartan			
Kazazian, Aram			
Keuroghelian, Chahe			
Najarian, Ara James			
Philpott, Bruce			
Quintero, Frank			
Solis, Lenore			
Teahan, Michael			
Yousefian, Bob			

Check out <http://www.magicjack.com/9/index.asp> to cut your phone expenses

8 Jump

The Scorpion and the Frog

(Trust me...I am a politician)

One day, a scorpion looked around at the mountain where he lived and decided that he wanted a change. So he set out on a journey through the forests and hills. He climbed over rocks and under vines and kept going until he reached a river. The river was wide and swift, and the scorpion stopped to reconsider the situation. He couldn't see any way across. So he ran upriver and then checked downriver, all the while thinking that he might have to turn back.

Suddenly, he saw a frog sitting in the rushes by the bank of the stream on the other side of the river. He decided to ask the frog for help getting across the stream.

"Hellooo Mr. Frog!" called the scorpion across the water, "Would you be so kind as to give me a ride on your back across the river?"

Well now, Mr. Scorpion! How do I know that if I try to help you, you won't try to *kill* me?" asked the frog hesitantly.

"Because," the scorpion replied, "If I try to kill you, then I would die too, for you see I cannot swim!"

Now this seemed to make sense to the frog. But he asked. "What about when I get close to the bank? You could still try to kill me and get back to the shore!"

"This is true," agreed the scorpion, "But then I wouldn't be able to get to the other side of the river!"

"Alright then...how do I know you won't just wait till we get to the other side and THEN kill me?" said the frog.

"Ahh...," crooned the scorpion, "Because you see, once you've taken me to the other side of this river, I will be so grateful for your help, that it would hardly be fair to reward you with death, now would it?!"

So the frog agreed to take the scorpion across the river. He swam over to the bank and settled himself near the mud to pick up his passenger. The scorpion crawled onto the frog's back, his sharp claws prickling into the frog's soft hide, and the frog slid into the river. The muddy water swirled around them, but the frog stayed near the surface so the scorpion would not drown. He kicked strongly through the first half of the stream, his flippers paddling wildly against the current.

Halfway across the river, the frog suddenly felt a sharp sting in his back and, out of the corner of his eye, saw the scorpion remove his stinger from the frog's back. A deadening numbness began to creep into his limbs.

"You fool!" croaked the frog, "Now we shall both die! Why on earth did you do that?"

"I could not help myself. It is my nature."

Then they both sank into the muddy waters of the swiftly flowing river.

