



# Text in the City® Newsletter

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## SPOTLIGHT

**Elevate Hope  
Foundation (EHF)**



Providing abused and abandoned children therapy through music and the arts.

[www.elevatehope.org](http://www.elevatehope.org)

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## HER STORY



**Her Story: A Timeline  
Of The Women Who  
Changed America**

[www.herstoryatimeline.com](http://www.herstoryatimeline.com)

One-of-a-kind history of women's achievements. Perfect for your daughters, nieces, cousins, mother, aunts and any woman on the path to success. Men love it too!  
**At Amazon.com or at above website.**

## Did you know there's a "real" lake in Toluca Lake?

A colony of Valleywood entertainers, among them Bing Crosby and Bob Hope, built homes in Rustic Toluca Lake, shown here in 1924



Toluca Lake started out as farmland but today is home to affluent residents. In the 1930s and 1940s, Stars staked out ranches in Northridge, Encino and Reseda and soon the Valley became widely known as a playground for celebrities. Toluca Lake became the most chic address.

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**Promoting** Self-confidence through music the arts, and human compassion!



**Elevate Hope Foundation (EHF)** is a non-profit organization that is near to my heart, and I feel an extremely worthy cause that deserves our assistance. Children, music, art, you can't go wrong!

EHF provides abused and abandoned children an alternative method of therapy through music and the arts, and they are dedicated to funding special services and programs that assist the needs of these children using these fundamental methods.



Donations and fundraisers enable EHF to continue its commitment to contribute to special programs and foster services that cater to the needs of these disadvantaged children. There are so many ways in which we can help as a community. Learn more by going to [www.elevatehope.org](http://www.elevatehope.org).

## Neighborhood Watch Special Events & Websites

**Northridge Farmer's Market**  
Wednesdays – **Starts in April**  
5PM to 9PM **FREE**  
Northridge Fashion Center

**North Hollywood Regional Branch Library** – First Run Film Series  
5211 Tujunga Ave. • 818.766.7185  
Sat. – Feb. 7 – 2PM – "The Trap"  
Sat. – Feb. 21 – 4PM – "Roger Corman: Behind the Scenes"  
Sat. – Feb. 28 – 2PM – Hemingway on Film "A Farewell to Arms"

**Northridge Branch Library Book Sale**  
9051 Darby Ave. • 818.886.3640  
Wed. - Feb. 11 - 2PM  
Paperbacks, hardcovers, CDs, videos, DVDs, etc.

**Big Sunday May 2 & 3 2009**  
Get Involved!  
Citywide projects for volunteers every weekend  
BigSunday.org  
[sherry@bigSunday.org](mailto:sherry@bigSunday.org)

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## SPOTLIGHT

### NEED A THERAPIST?

[www.therapybywanda.com](http://www.therapybywanda.com)

**Wanda Beierle** is the owner of Valley Grief Recovery & Counseling Center and is a licensed psychotherapist with 18 years of experience helping clients.

4419 Van Nuys Boulevard  
Suite 404  
Sherman Oaks, CA  
818-981-3043

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### LOW COST

Dog & Cat Vaccinations  
Red Barn (Tarzana)  
18601 Oxnard St  
Tues 9:30 am – 5:30pm  
Red Barn (Granada Hills)  
10142 Balboa Blvd.  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat.

2:30 – 5:30 pm  
Wed. 4:00 – 8:00pm  
House calls available by  
appointment

Call **Bryan Heimer, DVM**  
818-878-9599

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### HOUSE & PET SITTING

818-648-0746

**YNOT** call Tony if you're going away and need a watchful eye on your home or pet! Testimonials at [www.textinthecity.org](http://www.textinthecity.org)

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Some of the past and present residents include Bob Hope, W.C. Fields, Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, Gene Autry, Doris Day, Ozzie and Harriet Nelson, Andy Griffith, Goldie Hawn, Roy F. Disney, James Garner, Ron Howard, Amelia Earhart and Denzel Washington. Many celebrities played cricket or polo – studio boss Zanuck had his own field in Encino – but the pursuit of choice was golf. Lakeside Country Club in Toluca was the unofficial colony course.

Bing Crosby built a house at 4326 Forman Avenue and lived there for many years before moving to Beverly Hills. Bob Hope moved to Toluca Lake in the late 1930s and lived there until his death in 2003 at the age of 100. Hope's compound on Moorpark Street looks no different than other suburban estates in the area, except for high hedges and iron gates. Behind the fence is a sprawling house with a small golf course and offices for Hope's archives. Hope owns property at Ledge and Moorpark and several houses in the area. Hope's wife Dolores still lives in the house at 10346 Moorpark Street.

In 1955, my father was a postman, and delivered mail in Toluca Lake. We loved hearing stories about movie stars he had seen, one being that he hand-delivered a package to Jack Webb, then the star of *Dragnet*, Badge 714.

Toluca Lake's historic boundaries are Cahuenga Boulevard, Camarillo Street, Clybourn Avenue and the Los Angeles River. The six-acre body of water is located near the district's southeastern boundaries. Water originally came from springs, but currently wells at the lake's edges maintain the water level.

The bottom of the lake is surfaced with four inches of asphalt and concrete to halt water seepage.

The actual name has changed several times. Originally, a portion of the "ancient and historical" marshy pond (now Toluca Lake) was purchased by one of the wealthiest men in Nevada, General Charles Forman. Around 1893, he chose the name "Toluca" from a Paiute Indian word meaning "fertile" or "beautiful" valley. Later, after going through several name changes, a group of investors took over, and with a vision of creating a first "bedroom community" for Los Angeles in the San Fernando Valley, they formally changed the name to simply Toluca Lake, and adopted as their logo the "swan on rippled water" still associated with the community today.



Personally, I've seen the lake only once, when Johnny Grant, the late honorary mayor of Hollywood, took me to lunch at the Lakeside Country Club when I worked at KTLA – Channel 5. Johnny was an avid golfer and loved the grounds. He probably took me because it was free. Steve Allen once quipped, when asked about rewards of his tenure as the honorary mayor of Encino, "It amounts to one thing," he said, "free food!" Ah, yes, my fifteen minutes of fame!

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### *Neighborhood Watch*

[www.lapdonline.com](http://www.lapdonline.com) - community information for all Los Angeles cities.

[www.meetup.com](http://www.meetup.com) - cultural events, brunches, travel groups, singing, dancing, wine tasting

[www.nokiddingonline.com](http://www.nokiddingonline.com) - comedy clubs, dining out, casinos, parties, sporting events, concerts

[www.cert-la.com](http://www.cert-la.com) - the fire dept. trains people to help at disasters (Free). They provided help at the Chatsworth train wreck and fires.

*More information on [www.textinthecity.org](http://www.textinthecity.org)*