



## Residents gather to discuss Warner plans

By Jerry Berrios, Staff Writer

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WOODLAND HILLS - Martina Turner is concerned about overdevelopment and a lack of convenient transportation and green buildings in her Woodland Hills neighborhood.

That's why she was one of more than 350 Woodland Hills residents and activists who gathered at a Kaiser Permanente Hospital auditorium Saturday for a community forum sponsored by the Woodland Hills-Warner Center Neighborhood Council.

"We can do better," Turner said. "We have the resources. We have the talent."

The event was a jumping-off point for residents to get involved in the future revamping of Warner Center's specific plan, which outlines what will be built in the area.

"It is up to us. We must come together with a vision for the future," Neighborhood Council Chairwoman Joyce Pearson told the standing-room-only crowd.

Public workshops about the plan will be held in July and September.

Woodland Hills resident Philippe Willems said he plans to distribute the fliers about the future workshops to his neighbors.

The event's featured speakers were Denny Zane, a former Santa Monica mayor and councilman; Bart Reed, executive director of The Transit Coalition; and Larry E. Smith, executive director of North East Trees.

Zane spoke about creating the Third Street Promenade, Santa Monica's walkable downtown.

"We weren't trying to bring the world to Santa Monica," Zane said. "We were trying to serve our own needs."

Reed recommended a people mover - what he called a horizontal elevator - to connect the Woodland Hills area.

Smith is working on Green Street projects that divert runoff water from the Los Angeles River. The runoff irrigates neighborhood trees and parks and eventually reaches the river without contaminants.

Elected officials - including county Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky and City Council members Dennis Zine and Wendy Greuel - stopped by to lend their support and encourage residents to call their local government with any problems, including graffiti and code enforcement issues.

"It is not going to get done unless you make the call," Zine said.

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Mark Seigel, treasurer of the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council, attended Saturday's forum to support the Woodland Hills council. Plus, he grew up in Woodland Hills.

He called the event "inspiring" and lauded the council for being proactive about development issues.

"It renews your spirit," Seigel said.

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