

**Linda Pruett**

**Vice President's Report**

**August 24, 2005**

**My report this evening will be just a bit longer than usual, but because of the seriousness of the issue, I hope the Board and the audience will indulge me in a couple extra minutes. Thank you.**

**As many of you know, I have spent most of the past several weeks since our last meeting in Oregon with family. But even there I could not get away from some of the problems Los Angeles is facing, including overcrowding, as evidenced by the article from the Sunday, August 14, 2005 *Statesman Journal*, of Salem entitled "Cities in wide-open West pack in residents." The article originated in the *Washington Post*, and was written by Blaine Harden. Board members please see attached, and for those of you in the audience, there are a few extra copies on the back table.**

**(Reading of Article)**

**(See attached)**

**In closing, I would remind the Board and our stakeholders that, while at this time, we are certainly not as densely populated as Maywood, neither do we have views of the ocean or the bay out our front windows;**

**nor are we lucky enough to have gardeners tend our yards each day. While I believe most of us wish to be welcoming to others who would come and share the "good life" most of us have here in the Valley, we must be ever aware and mindful of the far-reaching effects of our decisions as we become more involved with planning issues.**

**The tone we set as a Neighborhood Council (as we listen to and advise developers, planners, and our City Council of our concerns and wishes), will have on-going ramifications as to how our Valley grows and thrives in a thoughtful and well-planned manner, or how it sickens and dies from the effects of overcrowding. The very air we breathe, the water we drink, the sounds and sights we hear and see -- everything that contributes to our quality of life here -- is at stake!**