

An Environmental Affair

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The City of Los Angeles Environmental Affairs Department was established in 1990 to advise the city on environmental issues and provide a centralized source of environmental information. The Environmental Affairs Department seeks to protect and enhance the environmental quality of life for residents, workers and visitors in the City of Los Angeles.

City of Los Angeles Kicks off New Environmental Pre-School Program

In June, the Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) partnered with the City Attorney's Office to launch the "Green Team LA program," a program that will provide information, education, and resources to pre-schools regarding environmental toxics, health hazards, and ways to avoid and prevent them. The program will reach out to pre-school owners, their staff, and also to parents of pre-schoolers. Green Team LA's program will include workshops, expert speakers, on-site evaluations, and provide kits of information, videos, non-mercury thermometers, lead testing devices, and more to pre-schools. Additional program partners include the American Lung Association and Physicians for Social Responsibility.



EAD General Manager Detrich B. Allen and partner agencies kick off the new program with parents, caregivers, and pre-schoolers.

Green Team LA will begin with over twenty pre-schools in the San Fernando Valley, South Los Angeles, and Wilmington and spread to licensed preschool facilities citywide.

The program is an important addition to the Environmental Affairs Department's ongoing efforts to reach out to businesses regarding hazardous and toxic materials and pollution prevention. By partnering with these other agencies, EAD will be able to address a broad range of environmental and health concerns, such as covering pollutants to the air, water, soil and the harmful impacts to children. The Green Team LA program also will "send the message home," by educating and informing the pre-schoolers' parents on what they can do to rid their home of any environmental pollutants and health hazards.

In the upcoming year, EAD will be working with its Green Team LA partners to implement the first phase of the program at over twenty pre-schools, and then phase in additional pre-schools citywide. The Environmental Affairs Department also will be working with its partners on the development of targeted materials to support Green Team LA, including the creation of a 30-minute video to inform the public about the program and its efforts. Through the Green Team LA program, we all can look forward to healthier children and a safer environment.

Watch for more information on Green Team LA in EAD's upcoming newsletters.

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being healthy and resource-efficient.

An Environmental Affair is produced monthly by the EAD to inform residents about environmental issues and activities in Los Angeles. For questions, or to update or cancel your free subscription, call the Environmental Information Center Hotline at (213) 978-0888, send an e-mail to: eadinfo@mailbox.lacity.org, or visit our website at <http://www.lacity.org/ead>. TDD (213) 978-0899. You can also reach us by fax at (213) 978-0893. As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its

SMMNRA Offers New Shuttle Buses Taking Visitors to the Heart of the Santa Monica Mountains

ParkLINK Shuttle, a partnership to link several popular county, state and National Park sites with a public transportation system, will begin this summer in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA). The project will provide an alternative to the use of private cars, reduce trips, improve air quality, reduce vehicle impacts and parking demand, and provide a high-quality visitor experience.



The weekend and holiday-only public transportation

The ParkLINK Shuttle is a 'clean diesel' vehicle because it runs on ultra-low sulfur diesel (ULSD), is retrofitted with a catalyst and a particulate matter trap.

system is starting out with five 20-passenger, 'clean diesel' buses to operate during the three-year demonstration project. The buses will be fully accessible for wheelchairs, and will have room for recreational gear such as backpacks, bicycles, boogie boards, and picnic baskets. Bus seats are equipped with seat belts for passengers to wear. Riding the entire loop takes two hours and costs one dollar per ride.

The bus route includes Malibu Canyon Road, Pacific Coast Highway (PCH), Kanan Dume Road and Mulholland Highway. Along the route, the buses will stop at Malibu Creek State Park, Tapia Park, Malibu Lagoon State beach, Solstice Canyon, Zuma Beach, Peter Strauss Ranch, Paramount Ranch and two Backbone trailheads (Kanan Road and Malibu Canyon Road).

Buses will operate in a 'clockwise' and 'counter-clockwise' direction. Hours of operation are approximately 8 am to 5 pm. This month, ParkLINK Shuttle begins a 12-hour schedule to match the additional daylight hours (8 am to 8 pm). For the shuttle schedule, visit www.parklinkshuttle.org.

Bus stop improvements such as passenger shelters, benches, and signs have been built for each of the nine stops. Three smaller stops, known as flag stops, also are planned at key trailheads. Two of the flag stops will be shared with Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Route 434, which stops along PCH and in Malibu (at Cross Creek) to facilitate regional connections for bus riders.

The ParkLINK Shuttle will provide an excellent opportunity for visitors who are dependent on public transit to come and see these National Recreation Area sites. It also is an alternate way to explore and use the parks while saving gas and protecting the environment. Depending on the success of this three-year demonstration project, the shuttle may expand to include many other popular parkland sites.

The ParkLINK Shuttle is a multi-agency partnership which includes the National Park Service, California State Parks, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, and Los Angeles County Beaches and Harbors. Funding for the buses and the capital improvements is provided by a grant from the National Park Service's Transportation Program. For more information on the Santa Monica Mountains Recreation Area, visit www.nps.gov/samo, or call the National Park Service's headquarters office at (805) 370-2301.

Community Tree Planting in Sun Valley

Sun Valley community activists Vicky Burch and Phil Tabbi teamed up with Waste Management and the City of Los Angeles Environmental Affairs Department to plant new trees at the intersection of Sunland Boulevard and Glenoaks Boulevard. These two volunteers canvassed local businesses adjacent to the tree planting locations to explain their vision and get support for the project. The community agreed that trees would enhance their business district and beautify the area. The project culminated in a Community Tree-Planting Day on Saturday, June 4, 2005. Kids from the Jeopardy program, staff from the local Police Department, and volunteers from the Police Advisory Board participated in planting the trees. Store workers agreed to water the trees to ensure their survival.



Waste Management provided funding to remove concrete to plant trees and the Environmental Affairs Department provided trees and labor through its LA Green Corridors grant. A total of fourteen trees were planted through this community enhancement project. Participants plan to continue planting more trees along Sunland and Glenoaks. Trees in this area will reduce vehicle pollution on major streets and from the nearby Interstate 5 freeway.

Have an 'Energy Star' Summer

High temperatures are on the way, but that doesn't have to mean high energy bills this summer. The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Energy Star program has advice on smart ways to keep cool with energy-efficient products and practices.

The average family spends \$1,500 per year on energy bills, nearly half of which goes to heating and cooling. If just half of all American homes were cooled with Energy Star qualified products, the change would prevent nearly 70 billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions, equivalent to the emissions of nearly 6 million cars. To help protect against high energy bills and help the environment, EPA encourages the following:



- Look for the Energy Star on products such as ceiling fans, programmable thermostats, and room air conditioners.
- Schedule an annual checkup for your central air conditioner with a licensed contractor, and check or replace its air filter once a month.
- Replace an old or broken-down central air conditioner or heat pump with new, high efficiency equipment. Homeowners can save as much as 20 percent on annual energy costs if this new equipment is properly sized and installed, along with having properly sealed and insulated ducts.
- Seal up gaps and cracks in your home "envelope" (basement, attic, around doors and windows). Add insulation if needed. This will help reduce energy bills throughout the winter, too.
- Get informed. For more on year-round improvements to make your home more energy efficient, review the EPA's Guide to Energy-Efficient Heating and Cooling on the Energy Star Web site, www.energystar.gov, or call 1-888-STAR-YES for a free copy.

\$ \$ \$ FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES \$ \$ \$
Visit <http://www.lacity.org/ead> for more grant opportunities.

Lawrence Foundation Grants

The mission of the Lawrence Foundation is to make a difference in the world by providing contributions and grants to organizations that are working to solve pressing educational, environmental, health and other issues. Grants are awarded twice per year. Letter of inquiry required. Letters of inquiry are open to any organization that wishes to be considered for a grant that meets the grant guidelines. For more information, call (310) 451-1567, visit www.thelawrencefoundation.org or e-mail inquiries to info@thelawrencefoundation.org. For December grant cycle (two cycle periods), letters of inquiry are due **Monday, August 1**.

Liberty Hill Environmental Justice Fund This fund makes grants to grassroots organizations, which are working to decrease exposure to toxic substances in neighborhoods and workplaces, particularly in low-income areas and communities of color. Groups engaged in community organizing, applied research, policy advocacy, litigation, or popular education are eligible to apply. Awards range from \$7,000 to \$70,000. Applications are accepted from August to November. For more information visit www.libertyhill.org/ejf/

Submit a Lesson Plan to the Chemical Education Foundation and Win \$1,000

The Chemical Education Foundation (CEF) is sponsoring a You Be The Chemist (YBTC) lesson plan competition for educators in grades K-8. The Foundation will award \$1,000 for first prize and \$500 for runner-up entries in three categories: Scientific Inquiry, Structure of Matter, and Safety and Recycling. The six winning lesson plan entries and their authors will be published on the CEF Web site. Visit www.chemed.org/ or www.chemed.org/Lesson_Plan.html for more information. You also may contact comments@chemed.org. The deadline is **Friday, October 21**.

The National Science Foundation's Science and Society grant considers proposals that examine questions that arise in the interactions of engineering, science, technology, and society. Funding takes place for the following categories: Science and Society Scholars Awards; standard research grants and grants for collaborative research; Science and Society postdoctoral

fellowships; Science and Society professional development fellowships; doctoral dissertation research improvement grants; small grants for training and research; conference and workshop



awards; other funding opportunities. Applications are due by **August 23, 2005**. More information on this grant may be obtained by visiting www.nsf.gov/pubs/2005/nsf05588/nsf05588.htm.

The City of Los Angeles

Neighborhood Matching Fund Grant (NMF) is a competitive matching grant program that awards funding of up to \$10,000 for beautification projects to community-based organizations. The next NMF funding cycle (C9-2005) will begin **July 10, 2005**. New applications, updated guidelines, and a new citywide workshop schedule will be available for download at that time at www.lacity.org/bpw/ocs/nmf. The proposed due date for the C9 application will be late **October, 2005**.

The Discovery Corps Fellowship Program is a pilot program by the National Science Foundation (NSF) that is seeking new postdoctoral and professional development models to combine research expertise with service-oriented projects. Discovery Corps Fellows leverage their research expertise through projects that address areas of national need. Their projects enhance research capacity and infrastructure, contribute to workforce development and job creation and develop innovative linkages between chemistry and other fields. For this pilot program, successful Fellows will have research expertise in areas supported by the NSF Division of Chemistry. The Discovery Corps Fellowship Program comprises two categories of awards: recent doctoral recipients serve as Discovery Corps Postdoctoral Fellows; and mid-career professionals serve as Discovery Corps Senior Fellows. For more information, visit www.nsf.gov/pubs/2005/nsf05593/nsf05593.htm, or contact Katharine J. Covert, Program Director, Directorate for Mathematical & Physical Sciences, Division of Chemistry, at (703) 292-4950; by fax at (703) 292-9037; or by email at kcovert@nsf.gov. Deadline for submissions is **December 2, 2005**.

JULY AND AUGUST CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EACH MONTH:

EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)



Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed is a groundbreaking exhibit that examines how human societies have recognized or ignored—and solved or failed to solve—key environmental issues, including those that concern contemporary global society. A dynamic collage of images, graphics, and live interviews asks the visitor to consider the environmental challenges facing Southern California, and how decisions today may shape its future. **Collapse?** exhibits at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, located at 900 Exposition Boulevard in Los Angeles. For more information, call (213) 763-DINO, or visit www.nhm.org. Ends **January 16, 2006**.

Baldwin Hills Hikes are held on the 3rd Saturday of each month at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area. Sponsored by the LA Audubon Society. For more information visit www.LAAudubon.org or call (323) 876-0202.

Sundays at the River! Join Friends of the Los Angeles River (FoLAR) on the third Sunday each month through November. "Down by the River" walks are non-strenuous and open to all ages. Tours are free to FoLAR members with a suggested contribution of \$5 for non-members. Rain cancels. For

more information call FoLAR at (323) 223-0585, or visit www.folar.org.



Pavilion of Wings at the Natural History Museum The Robinsons-May Pavilion of Wings is open and will run through Labor Day, **Monday, September 5, 2005**. Enter a world of free flying butterflies and stroll through a beautifully landscaped temporary exhibit housed at the Museum's South Lawn. See a giant swallowtail, monarch, American painted Lady or even a California dogface - California's state butterfly. Over the summer, thirty different butterfly and moth species will call the pavilion home. Discover how butterflies interact with the plants and gain a new understanding of various environmental issues. Special ticketed admission applies: \$3 for adults, \$2 for seniors and students and \$1 for children ages 5 to 12. Tickets are sold in half-hour time slots throughout the day. The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County is located at 900 Exposition Boulevard in Los Angeles. Call (213) 763-DINO for more information.

Cabrillo Marine Aquarium's Special Exhibits: Did You Sea? and Seventy Years and Counting Back when bread was 8 cents a loaf and gas cost 10 cents a gallon, a retired dentist took over a collection of marine life collected by L.A. City Lifeguards that was moved to the Cabrillo Beach Bathhouse in 1935. What started as a card

The EAD website, located at www.lacity.org/EAD, contains updated information on this month's events. To ensure your event is included in our monthly newsletter, submit information to the editor by the 10th of each month prior to publication. After the 10th, events can be entered into our website calendar only.

The EAD reserves the right to edit all submittals and does not necessarily endorse the events listed. All events are subject to change, so call listed event contacts to verify information.

table display on Venice Beach back in the early 1930s has blossomed into a world-renowned educational aquarium. **Seventy Years and Counting** highlights the 70-year growth of Cabrillo Marine Museum and Aquarium in a special exhibit on display for six months. **Did You Sea?** is a photograph exhibit highlighting the beauty of Southern California marine life. Both exhibits are available for viewing at the Aquarium, located at 3720 Stephen White Drive in San Pedro. For additional information, contact CMA at (310) 548-7562, or visit www.cabrilloaq.org. The exhibits run through **January 6, 2006**. Free.

THIS MONTH:

EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)

Sat and Sun, Jul 9 and 10

28th Annual Lotus Festival sponsored by the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks. Featuring food,

THIS MONTH: (continued)



fireworks, entertainment, artisans, an international marketplace, community services, a children's courtyard, Taiko drummers, the famous dragon boat races, and much more.

The event runs from noon to 9 pm on Saturday (fireworks night), and runs from noon to 8 pm on Sunday. This year the Lotus Festival highlights the people and culture of Korea. To obtain more information, and general parking directions, visit www.laparks.org/grifmet/lotus.htm, or call Rec and Parks at (213) 485-1310. Echo Park Lake is located on Park Avenue between Glendale Avenue and Echo Park Boulevard, just north of the Hollywood (101) and Pasadena (110) freeway junction, near Dodger Stadium. Admission is free.

Sat, Jul 16

Desert As Home, Preserve or Wasteland?



This panel discussion, part of a new series that examines the impact that humans have had on the Western environment, looks at three interrelated desert venues and issues: Death Valley National Park as preserve; Las Vegas' unprecedented housing development for desert as home; and Yucca Mountain's nuclear waste site

for desert as toxic dump. Can these three seemingly incompatible futures coexist? Admission is free for Autry National Center members, \$10 for nonmembers. For reservations, call (323) 667-2000 ext. 354. The discussion takes place at the Museum of the American West in Griffith Park, located at 4700 Western Heritage Way from 2 pm to 3:30 pm.

Fri, Jul 22

Meet the Grunion at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium

Watch the silvery fish come up on the beach to spawn! Learn about the mating rituals and growth of this curious fish. The Aquarium opens at 8 pm and an auditorium program begins at 9 pm, followed by guided observation at the beach. Warm clothing and a flashlight are recommended. \$5 for adults, \$1 for seniors, students and children. For more information on this event, contact the Aquarium at (310) 548-7562. The Aquarium is located at 3720 Stephen M. White Drive in San Pedro.



Sat, Jul 30

Earth Works! Join National History Museum staff as they explore their newest exhibit, *Collapse?* and learn all about the world. Make earth friendly crafts and learn about making good choices to save the planet and make recycled art. Earth Works takes place from 10 am to 5 pm at the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum located at 900 Exposition Boulevard in Los Angeles. Free with Museum admis-



sion. For more information, contact the Museum at (213) 763-DINO.

Sat and Sun, Jul 30-31

Long Beach Dragon Boat Festival

One of the largest dragon boat competitions in California, the festival also will include Chinese traditional art demonstrations, Chinese Acrobats, traditional dance, music and martial arts performances, and more. The competition takes place at Marine Stadium, located at 5225 East Paoli Way in Long Beach. The Festival takes place from 9 am to 5 pm both days. For more information, visit www.lbdragonboat.com, or call (562) 570-3215. Sponsored by the International Culture Exchange Association. The Dragon Boat Festival is part of the 74th Annual Long Beach International Sea Festival. More about the Sea Festival can be found at www.longbeach.gov.

NEXT MONTH:

Tues, Aug 2

Orcas: Behavior and Ecology of Killer Whales

The Aquarium of the Pacific hosts a lecture on orcas by marine biologist Nancy Black, co-owner of Monterey Bay Whale Watch. Orcas, also known as killer whales, are large dolphins that are well known for their vocalizations and dialects. Presented in partnership with the National Marine Sanctuary System, the lecture will explain the differences in social behaviors be-



NEXT MONTH: (continued)

tween the three orca types—transients, residents, and off-shores. Since 1987 Black and her team have identified nearly 350 orcas by photographing their unique dorsal fin shapes and markings. Black has drawn on an informal network of researchers and commercial fishermen to track the behavior and movement of killer whales from Mexico to Alaska. \$7. For more information, or to make reservations, contact the Aquarium of the Pacific at (562) 590-3100, ext. 0. The Aquarium is located at 100 Aquarium Way in Long Beach.

Sat, Aug 6

Mothering Nature: Are Women Good for the Earth?

How have women's choices (or lack thereof) impacted the Western environment, and how have these choices differed from those of men? Admission is free for Autry National Center members, \$10 for nonmembers. For reservations, call (323) 667-2000 ext. 354. The panel discussion takes place at the Autry Museum of Western

Heritage located in Griffith Park, at 4700 Heritage Way, from 2 pm to 3:30 pm.

Fri thru Sun, Aug 12-14

39th Annual Watts Summer



Festival The Watts Summer Festival is one of the longest running African-American cultural festivals in the United States that promotes cultural awareness for children and families. This yearly event commemorates the past and celebrates the future of African American people through the sharing and exhibition of arts, crafts, theatrical presentations, music, culinary arts, and fashion. The event takes place from noon to 9 pm at 10950 S. Central Avenue in Watts. Free. Sponsored by the Watts Summer Festival, Inc. For more information call (323) 789-7304, or visit www.wattsfestival.org.

Sat and Sun, Aug 13-14

10th Annual Tofu Festival In addition to over 100 imaginative and delicious tofu and soy dishes, come and sample



various exquisite foods prepared by some of LA's finest restaurants. Enjoy the world class sounds of Taiko Drums, cultural music and dance performances, a Children's Pavilion, and an Arts & Crafts Marketplace. \$8 for adults, seniors and kids \$5. Children under five have free admission. Sponsored by the Little Tokyo Service Center. The Tofu Festival takes place on 2nd Street and South San Pedro Street in the Little Tokyo District of Downtown Los Angeles. For more information, visit www.tofufest.org, or call (213) 473-3030. The event takes place on Saturday from noon to 10 pm, and on Sunday from 11 am to 9 pm.

Annual Block Party and Arts Festival



A San Pedro tradition for more than twenty years—celebrating music, food, and interactive arts activities in a fun environment for the entire family. The party takes place at 1003 S. Beacon Street in San Pedro, from 11 am to midnight. Free. Sponsored by the Beacon House Association of San Pedro. For more information call (310) 514-4940, or visit www.beaconhouseassociation.com.

Recycling Cellular Telephones



Upgrading to another cell 'phone, and need to get rid of the old one? You can keep your old cellular out of the landfills and donate it to charity, or have it recycled. Visit any of the websites listed below and find out how you can keep that old 'phone from turning into e-waste.

- www.gsgracenter.org
- www.call2recycle.com
- www.recyclefree.com
- www.charitablerecycling.com
- www.lacity.org/san/ewaste.htm
- www.california.earth911.org
- www.wirelessfoundation.org/CalltoProtect



HOTLINE CONNECTION

The Environmental Information Center (EIC) serves as a referral source to the community. Our hotline connection offers a list of the most frequently requested numbers. If the number you need is not listed, please contact the EIC at **(213) 978-0888**, or toll-free in Los Angeles only at **(800) 439-4666**. You can also visit our website at <http://www.lacity.org/ead> and click on *Environmental Information Center*.

Air Quality

Calidad del aire
South Coast Air Quality Management District
(800) 288-7664

Asbestos

Asbestos
Environmental Hygiene
(626) 430-5440

Bulky Item Pick-up

Recogida de articulos grandes
L.A. City Bureau of Sanitation
(800) 773-2489

Hazardous and E-Waste Disposal

Desembolso de materiales peligrosos
L.A. County Dept. of Public Works
(888) 253-2652
L.A. City Bureau of Sanitation
(800) 988-6942

Housing and Building Complaints

Las quejas del construccion y albergar
Housing Code Enforcement
(213) 367-9411

Illegal Storm Drain Dumping

Depositos en los drenajes de desagües
Stormwater Management
(800) 974-9794

Indoor Air or Mold Concerns

Aire interior ó preocupaciones de moho
Environmental Hygiene
(626) 430-5440

Lead Poisoning

Veneno del plomo
National Lead Information Center
(800) 424-5323

Leaf Blowers

Sopladores de hojas
Leaf Blower Complaint Line
(800) 996-2489

Mosquitoes

Infestaciones de mosquitos
L.A. West Mosquito Abatement
(310) 915-7370

Recycling

Reciclaje
City of L.A. Public Works Dept.
(800) 773-2489

Smoking Violations

Infracciones de fumar
Office of the City Attorney
(888) 333-0730

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