

An Environmental Affair

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March 2005

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.

Construction Kick Off at Taylor Yard Park

Bulldozers are now rolling on the construction of Los Angeles's newest park. Taylor Yard, in the Cypress Park area near downtown Los Angeles, is a joint project between the City of Los Angeles and California State Parks. The forty-acre site includes soccer fields, tennis courts, baseball fields, basketball courts, hiking trails, children's play areas, and picnic and natural areas.

For the past year, State Parks and City Officials have worked with hundreds of community members to design the innovative new park. The plan that has emerged combines the need for sports fields with restoration of the Los Angeles River and hiking and bicycle trails. State Parks' Director Ruth Coleman explains "this community has pushed for something unique in its beauty and use, something



(Taylor Yard... Continued on page 2)

Air Quality Almanac

The California Air Resources Board's Almanac of Emissions & Air Quality - 2005 Edition recently has been released to the public. The almanac was prepared and published by the staff of the Air Resources Board (ARB) Planning and Technical Support Division. This document gives the reader an excellent overview of the levels of air pollutants in different areas of our state, the sources of these pollutants, and the progress being made in reducing them. Air pollution is one of our state's most serious problems.

The almanac was prepared and published by the ARB staff to aid air quality professionals and the public in evaluating air quality in California. The ARB, as part of the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), is the State board responsible for achieving and maintaining healthful air quality in California. This responsibility is shared with local air districts and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA).

This is the sixth edition of the almanac, which is updated annually as additional air quality and emission inventory data become available. Copies are only available online and can be downloaded at: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/aqd/almanac/almanac05/almanac05.htm>.

For general air issues or issues related to air quality data, contact Paul Cox with the ARB at (916) 327-7609 or pcox@arb.ca.gov. For issues related to emissions data, contact Andy Alexis at (916) 323-1085 or aalexis@arb.ca.gov.

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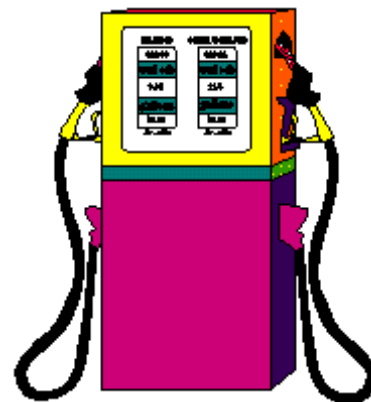
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An Environmental Affair is produced monthly by the EAD to inform residents about environmental issues and activities in Los Angeles. For questions, or to update or cancel your free subscription, call the Environmental Information Center Hotline at (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 programs, services and activities.

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PLEASE POST

The City's General Services Department Making Environmental Sense

The City of Los Angeles General Services Department (GSD) has made great strides toward protecting the quality of the air we breathe with its aggressive policies to purchase environmentally friendly vehicles. In addition to protecting the environment, this program has helped GSD with its bottom line finances. GSD has purchased and put into service 455 hybrid gas/electric vehicles for general fleet use. The integration of these vehicles into the fleet has decreased fossil fuel consumption by about 6 % in the 2003 fiscal year, leading to bottom line cost savings. In addition, GSD has developed a proactive maintenance standard. It also offers tips for conserving fuel through its participation in the state-wide program "Flex your Power at the Pump". The tips are simple actions that can be easily used with one's personal vehicle as well as City vehicles.



These tips include:

- Not topping off fuel tanks
- Keeping the vehicle properly maintained
- Combining errands into one trip
- Visually checking the tires for proper inflation
- Lightening the load of the vehicle
- Accelerating and braking smoothly and gradually
- Observing the posted speed limit
- Minimizing vehicle idling
- Minimizing air conditioning use

These proactive measures help to further increase fuel economy and save money.

To learn more about the City's Alternative Fuel Program visit the GSD website at www.lacity.org/GSD

(Taylor Yard...Continued from page 1)

with multiple recreational uses and natural areas, something that will enhance their neighborhoods. We are proud of what they have done and delighted to begin building it."

Taylor Yard park emerged in the early 1990s through a community planning process. State Parks purchased the property in December 2001 and final planning began on the park. In August 2003 the City of Los Angeles and State Parks unveiled their agreement for developing Taylor Yard. Half the park is leased to the City for a sports park and State Parks is responsible for the natural and environmental park portion.

Funding for the park is from State park bonds plus the federal community development block grant. For more information contact the City Department of Recreation and Parks at (213) 928-9191. Park completion is expect by the end of this year.



TransitPeople

Have you ever packed up your family and taken the bus to the Zoo? Or taken the subway to Central Library? Have you ever thought that maybe using public transportation could be a part of the adventure?



Photo courtesy of Tim Adams and Anthony Vasquez

Meet TransitPeople, an all-volunteer non-profit organization that takes schoolchildren and their teachers out on Fridays and weekends to museums and places of interest all over Los Angeles. The organization advocates the merits of public transportation, and familiarizes the young riders and their caretakers with Los Angeles' transit system. Trips enable the children to explore the City's cultural and science attractions, parks, and more. By taking excursions using the bus or train, group leaders empower the children to also take their families out to the same sites using the same mode of transit, and to assist teachers with incorporating museum visits into their curriculum.

The idea was conceived back in 1999 by Tim Adams, an educator and also a supporter of public transportation. With funding for field trips being cut, most schools were not able to afford one field trip per year. Many of his students had few stimulating activities on the weekends. Adams organized Saturday field trips out to places that they had never visited, and they traveled in a way that enabled them to see more of the life within Los Angeles.

To date, TransitPeople has taken over 9,000 school-aged travelers all over Los Angeles, even heading south down to San Juan Capistrano, and also going as far north as Ventura. Volunteers stress safety, and supervise 15 to 20 children in a group. Due to increased demand, outings now range from 12 to 18 trips per month. Private donations cover the children's admission and transportation fees. People interested in finding out more or volunteering with TransitPeople can visit their website at www.transitpeople.org, or call (213) 637-0409.



Photo courtesy of Tim Adams and Anthony Vasquez

City's Recycling Program Expands to Multi-Family Housing

The Department of Public Works Bureau of Sanitation is expanding the City's recycling program to reach hundreds of thousands of residents living in multi-family buildings such as apartments and condominium complexes. Phase One of the program, launched in early February, will reach 100,000 units of the City's 600,000 multi-family dwellings. Currently 21,000 units are participating in the program, with more units being added to the program as contractors add recycling routes. For more information on the program contact Sanitation at (213) 473-8228.

Goodbye Laurel

The Environmental Affairs Department congratulates Laurel Gollong on her new landscape architecture design position with a leading Southern California firm. Laurel has worked with the Water and Natural Resources Division on tree-planting, Gardens for Kids and other citywide greening programs. Laurel joined the department in 2002 as a Student Professional Worker. She will be missed at EAD, but we wish her well in her new endeavors.

\$ \$ \$ **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES** \$ \$ \$

Visit <http://www.lacity.org/ead> for more grant opportunities.

CAPCO Science Class Challenge Participants in the CAPCO Science Class Challenge can win \$500 to \$5,000 for their schools. The competition is meant to encourage students and teachers to learn about the Earth's protective upper ozone layer, CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons contained in some aerosol cans), and the environment by using provided activities or their own creative methods. Eligible applicants are students and teachers in grades 4th through 9th. For more information, visit www.nocfcs.org/scc/scchome.htm. The application deadline is **Friday, May 13, 2005**.

National Science Foundation Graduate Teaching Fellows in K-12 Education This program supports fellowships and associated training that enable graduate students in NSF-supported science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines to acquire additional skills that will broadly prepare them for professional and scientific careers in the 21st century. Through interactions with teachers in K-12 schools, graduate students can improve communication and teaching skills while enriching STEM instruction in K-12 schools. In addition, the GK-12 program provides institutions of higher education with an opportunity to make a permanent change in their graduate programs by including partnerships with K-12 schools in a manner that is of mutual benefit to their faculties and students. Expected outcomes include improved communication, teaching, and team building skills for the Fellows; professional development opportunities for K-12 teachers; enriched learning for K-12 students; and strengthened partnerships between institutions of higher education and local school districts. For more information, visit the program's website at www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf05553. The letter of intent deadline is **May 4, 2005**.

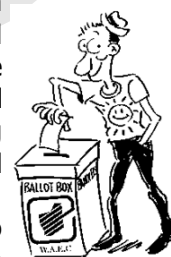


The Wetlands Recovery Project's Small Grants Program The 2005 Small Grant Program is now posted on the Recovery Project's new Web site at <http://www.scwrp.org/> under "What's New." The WRP Small Grants Program provides funding for community-based restoration projects in coastal wetlands and watersheds in the region. The purpose of the program is to further the goals

of the WRP Regional Strategy, build local capacity to plan and implement wetland restoration projects, promote community involvement in wetlands restoration activities and foster education about wetlands ecosystems. The RFP includes application guidelines and an application template. It also provides background information about the Small Grants Program, the criteria that will be used to evaluate proposals and the schedule for review and approval of potential projects. Contact Shawn Kelly at (805) 984-9531 or skelly@scwrp.org if you have any questions about the program or application process. Deadline is **March 11, 2005**.

Melinda Gray Ardia Foundation Grants K-12 teachers worldwide are invited to apply for grants of \$1000 to develop or implement environmental curricula that integrates hands-on ecology exercises into the classroom. Curricula that encourage the integration of multiple disciplines (such as integrating art and science) and that include cooperative work with multiple school districts will be given special consideration. For more information, visit www.mgaef.org/. Deadline is **April 9, 2005**.

The James Irvine Foundation offers grants for engaging the California public in critical decision-making and governance. Specifically the foundation seeks to educate and motivate voters while promoting dialogue between underrepresented communities and public officials. Nonprofit organizations are invited to apply throughout the year. For more information visit www.irvine.org.



Liberty Hill Foundation offers grants for lasting social change in Los Angeles. The Environmental Justice Fund provides funding from \$5,000 to \$70,000 for grassroots organizations to decrease exposure to toxic substances in neighborhoods and workplaces, particularly in low-income areas and communities of color. For more information visit www.libertyhill.org.

MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EACH MONTH:

All Month Long

IMAX Theater Presents Forces of Nature

From volcanic eruptions on the island of Montserrat and trembling fault lines in Turkey, to storms ripping through the notorious "Tornado Alley" of America's Midwest, National Geographic captures atmospheric and geological events, then takes audiences behind the disasters with scientists willing to risk their own lives to understand these forces and increase our odds of surviving these events. The IMAX Theater is located at 700 State Drive in Los Angeles. More information can be obtained by calling the Theater at (213) 744-7400, or by visiting the website at www.californiasciencecenter.org/Imax/Features/Features.php.

Garden Sprouts: Saturday Kids Gardening Club at the LA Arboretum

Come and spend the days planting and tending our garden, playing nature games, and learning gardening crafts! Just for you!! (Kids ages 5-8) Parents - This is a "drop off" program. Dates: 1st Saturday of each month through June 2005 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am at the Roots and Shoots Garden on the Old Ranch Rd. Entrance to The Arboretum (off of Colorado Blvd.) \$12. For more information contact the arboretum at (626) 821-3222.

**Shark Sundays at the Santa Monica Pier Aquarium**

Every Sunday at 3:30 pm. Listen to an informative presentation about these often misunderstood animals while our horn and swell sharks cruise around the tank, noses out of the water, mouths open, anticipating the meal to come. Everyone is invited to make a shark craft, or watch a short film on sharks in our classroom following the feeding. For more information contact the aquarium at (310) 393-6149.

**Charles R. Knight Bringing Fossils to Life**

Exhibition at the Page Museum at the La Brea Tar Pits



During the first half of the 20th century, Charles R. Knight's paintings and drawings forever changed the way that we conceive of prehistoric life. He showed that saber-toothed cats like those from the La Brea Tar Pits, dinosaurs, and other extinct beasts were more than static fossil bones and single handedly created the "modern" view of fleshed out dynamic animals interacting in naturalistic environments. Free with museum admission. For more information call the Museum at (213) 763-DINO. This look at art and fossils ends May 30, 2005.

Saturday Crafts at the Los Angeles County Arboretum

First Saturday of the month meet under the BIG oak tree in front of Ayres Hall. The program is led by adventure guide Lisa Beach. The cost is

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.

\$15 per family for members; \$20 per family for non-members) Pre-registration required. In the event of rain, the program is cancelled. Each Saturday will have a different theme relating to nature or the environment, and will include a variety of activities such as a short story or talk, a walk to a special part of the Arboretum, and a take-home nature craft activity. For more information contact the arboretum at (626) 821-3222.

Charles Knight Drawing Fun

Family Weekends at the Page Museum at the La Brea Tar Pits feature drawing fun for the whole family. This interactive drawing class will take place every other Saturday throughout 2005. Lead by working artist Brandon Strathmann, this interactive class explores extinct ice age animals from an artist's point of view. Please join the fun! This program is free with museum admission and promptly begins at 12:15 pm. Participants should



meet at the Page Museum information desk. Supplies are included. **ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!!!** Remaining program dates include: March 5, March 19, and April 2. Free with Museum Admission. For more information call (323) 857-6300.

Cabrillo Whalewatch Go to sea on any day to observe gray whales on their migration along Southern California's coast. Whalewatch volunteers, trained by Cabrillo Marine Aquarium and the American Cetacean Society, lead two-hour boat trips from various landings. Join the fun by calling Cabrillo Whalewatch at (310) 548-8397 Tuesdays through Fridays, 8:30 am to 1 pm. Fee.

And Grunion at Cabrillo. The first of a series of "Meet the Grunion" programs begins in March and continues through July. Watch the silvery fish come up on the beach to spawn. Learn about grunion and the interesting mating rituals of this curious fish. The aquarium opens at 8 pm and an

auditorium program begins at 9. Warm clothing and a flashlight are recommended.



Tickets are \$5/adults, \$1 seniors and children, sold at the door. If you are planning to catch any fish, a California fishing license, which must be displayed, is required unless you are under 16 years of age. During open season (March, June and July) grunion may be taken only by hand. In closed season (April and May), only observation of the spawning fish is allowed. Program dates and pre-

dicted times for the fish to run are: March - Open Season Saturday, March 12, 2005 from 10:40 pm to 12:40 am, and Sunday, March 27 from 9:55pm to 11:55 pm. Call the aquarium at (310) 548-8397 for more information.

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. Walks feature brief presentations from guest speakers on natural, historic, artistic, and political aspects of the L.A. River. 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.



THIS MONTH:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsors prior to events)

Thurs Mar 3

Art Walk in San Pedro, visit the downtown district between Fourth and Eighth Streets from 5 pm to 9 pm for open galleries, studios, street vendors and live entertainment. Fun for the whole family in this seaside community. Free. For more information, visit www.1stthursday.com, or call (310) 831-6245. Brought to you by the San Pedro Peninsula Chamber of Commerce.

Sat Mar 12

Tree planting with the Tree Musketeers. Create a green noise and pol-



lution barrier between LAX and the surrounding community, all to celebrate Arbor Day. Volunteers should check in at 9 am on Imperial Highway, call (310) 322-0263 or e-mail info@treemusketeers.org to participate.

Watery Wonders of the Earth

at the Natural History Museum. Critter club presents the wonders of the underwater world through huge saltwater fish tanks, sea anemones feeding, stories, and crafts. Free with museum admission, 10 am to 11 am. For more information visit www.nhm.org or call (213) 763-3466.



Sun Mar 13

Keep Trash Off the Beach by cleaning up Lincoln Boulevard. Join Santa Monica Baykeeper at their monthly cleanup. Meet at 3100 Washington Boulevard at 9:00 a.m. For more information visit www.smbaykeeper.org or call (310) 305-9645.

Sun Mar 20

Is that a bear over there?

Join the Autry National Center to explore the wildlife of the American West. Learn to identify animal tracks by making your own plaster molds of animal tracks. At Griffith Park. For more information call the Autry National Center at (323) 667-2000

Thurs Mar 24

History of taste! Explore history in a mouth-watering way with this



palatable program. We pair historians with local chefs to examine the hidden stories of Mexican cuisine. *All Things Tequila* by Anthony Dias, Beer, Wine and Spirits editor of *Bon Appetit* magazine, Carolyn Baer, owner of Cheers Catering, explore the history of this traditional Mexican drink. Tickets are available at the Visitor Services Desk in Griffith Park, or contact TicketWeb at (866) 468-3399 or www.ticketweb.com. Admission per program: \$30 (\$15 for members). Couples' special per program: \$50 (\$25 for members).

Fri to Sun Mar 25-27

Big Bunny's Spring Fling at the Los Angeles Zoo. Celebrate spring with rabbits, bunny ears,



crafts and special entertainment for the whole family. Free with zoo admission. For more information visit www.lazoo.org or call (323) 644-4258.

Sat Mar 26

Blessing of the Animals at the El Pueblo Historical Monument (Olvera Street.) This centuries-old tradition of blessing the animals is celebrated with food and music. Families and pets are welcome, all free. Sponsored by the Olvera Street Merchants. For more information visit www.cityofla.org/elp/ or call (213) 625-5045.

Sat to Sun Mar 26-27

Art Attack! The Natural History Museum celebrates its new exhibits with a weekend of family events. Explore the connec-

tion between art and science, natural crafts, scavenger hunts for kids, and live animals. Free with museum admission. For more information visit www.nhm.org or call (213) 763-3466.

Thurs Mar 31

Celebrate César E. Chávez Day. The fifth annual celebration is held at 10 a.m. at Olvera Street. This free event is sponsored by the Mexican Cultural Institute and includes videos, workshops, art exhibits, storytelling and distinguished speakers. For more information visit www.mexicanculturalinstitute.org or call (213) 624-3660.

Earth Day is Coming April 22nd!

The Kyoto Treaty

Last February, the Kyoto Protocol went into effect in which 140 nations signed a treaty obligating them to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) by 2012. Adopted in December 1997 in Kyoto, Japan, the Protocol sets binding targets for developed countries that would reduce their emissions on average 5.2 % below their 1990 levels.

The key goals that the Protocol sets forth in reducing emissions are:

- § calling on all treaty nations--developed and developing--to take a number of steps to formulate national and regional programs to improve "local emission factors," activity data, models, and national inventories of greenhouse gas emissions and "sinks" that remove these gases from the atmosphere;
- § committing to formulate, publish, and update climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, and to cooperate in promotion and transfer of environmentally sound technologies and in scientific and technical research on the climate system;
- § emissions trading, with the proviso that a nation cannot entirely fulfill its responsibility to reduce domestic emissions by relying primarily on emissions trading or joint implementation to meet its targets. Joint implementation is project-based activity in which one country can receive emission reduction credits when it funds a project in another country where the emissions are actually reduced.

The United States is not currently a signatory to the Kyoto Protocol, but the City of Los Angeles has implemented a Climate Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 30% from 1990 levels by 2010. For more information on the City's Climate Action Plan visit www.greenla.com. For more information on the Kyoto Protocol visit <http://unfccc.int>.



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

The City of Los Angeles
Environmental Affairs Department
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