

An Environmental Affair

Volume 17, Issue 5

May is Clean Air, Bike to Work, and Watershed Awareness Month

May 2006

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.

Grab Your Helmet and Ride! California Bike to Work Week is May 15-19, 2006

It's the biggest bicycle commute and alternative transportation awareness week in California and in the United States – 'Bike to Work Week 2006.' Be part of the solution and pledge not only to bike to work, but pledge for a better you and for a better L.A. Bicycling reduces traffic, improves the environment, improves your health, and even saves you money on gas.

Los Angeles County holds its event, 'Bike to Work Day,' on Thursday, May 18th. On this day, bikers taking MTA ride for free. Check with Metro at www.metro.net/biketowork, or call (213) 922-2811 for details and the locations of pit stops. Restrictions apply on some Metro Rail lines for bike commuters. Information on Bike to Work Day also is available on the LADOT's Bicycle Services website, www.bicyclela.org. The weekend before Bike to Work Week, follow the checklist for safe biking on the California Bicycle Coalition's website at www.californiabikecommute.com/.



(Grab Your Helmet and Ride...Continued on page 7)

L.A. County Asthma Coalition Observes World Asthma Day 2006

The Asthma Coalition of Los Angeles County is set to present their second annual "World Asthma Day" event on Saturday, May 6, 2006 from 9 am to noon. This event will take place at Hooper Avenue Elementary School located at 1225 East 52nd Street in the City of Los Angeles, and is planned to be a community day of action to unite children, adults, and advocates working to combat asthma in Southern California. This year's theme, "Breathe Clean," emphasizes the link between asthma outcomes and air quality, inside homes, schools and workplaces, as well as outdoors. World Asthma Day is a day of international remembrance held yearly in May. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) takes the lead in outreach this important day.

Los Angeles is home to thousands of people who suffer from asthma and many of these asthma sufferers are children. Research among school children in urban Los Angeles indicates that 14% are likely to have asthma. Asthma significantly impacts our society: it increases the number of emergency room visits, causes more missed school days than any other chronic

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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

EPA Extends Public Comment Period on Lead-Based Paint Proposal

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is extending the public comment period for the proposed federal rule, "Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting Program" from April 10 to May 25, 2006.

To reduce lead poisonings in children across the country, EPA is proposing new requirements for contractors and construction professionals when working in pre-1978 homes that contain lead-based paint. These requirements include that contractors must be trained in the use of lead-safe work practices, renovators and firms must be certified, providers of renovation training must be accredited, and renovators must follow protective work practice standards.

Although the Consumer Products Safety Commission banned lead-based paint for residential use in 1978, more than 38 million homes in the United States still contain some lead-based paint. Two-thirds of the houses built before 1960 contain lead-based paint. This proposal is one component of a comprehensive program that will also include training and an education and outreach campaign to promote lead-safe work practices. These efforts will help meet the goal of

eliminating childhood lead poisoning as a major health concern by 2010. For more information on the proposal and how to comment, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/lead/>. For more information or to obtain copies of the proposal and supporting materials, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/renovation.htm>.

U.S. EPA Honors Eugene Tseng among Environmental Heroes for 2005

In April, at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's eighth annual Environmental Awards Ceremony in San Francisco, U.S. EPA Regional Administrator Wayne Nastri presented plaques to three dozen organizations and individuals throughout the Pacific Southwest in recognition of their efforts to protect and preserve the environment in 2005.

Among the recipients was Eugene Tseng, consultant and advisor to the Environmental Affairs Department. Eugene was honored by EPA as a leader, innovator, a trusted advisor, and a mentor to all levels of government in the field of solid and hazardous waste, recycling and environmental management for the last 30 years. After Hurricane Katrina, he spent numerous hours over several weeks working with federal, state and local officials in New Orleans to establish procedures and provide technical assistance.



Congratulations, Eugene!

He has traveled all over the world to provide his expertise. Recently, he toured Europe with a delegation from Los Angeles, and consulted on the emerging use of conversion technology in Europe and in the United States for solid waste conversion into electric power, methanol and other products. Eugene has been a key innovator and technical expert in resolving critically important issues at solid waste facilities. In his notes, Administrator Nastri commented, "Tseng's efforts have benefited the public by making regulatory programs stronger, smarter and safer."

Thank you for your committed efforts, Eugene!

Progress: Alternative Fuel Vehicles, Fuel Economy Programs & Emissions Reduction

During 2005, the City of Los Angeles made significant progress in the use of alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) and fuel economy programs. The City's active fleet now includes over 2,250 alternative fuel vehicles, with 16 alternative fueling stations and almost 200 electric vehicle charger stations available. AFV use and fuel economy programs resulted in the conservation of over 9.6 million gallons of fossil fuel for the year. The City's AFV fleet and other emission reduction programs eliminated 7.8 million pounds of air pollutants from vehicles for fiscal year 2004/05, at an average cost of 34 cents per pound of pollutant reduced. City employees participating in fuel economy programs such as rideshare and subsidized transit, eliminated over 42 million vehicle miles this year by sharing rides, using public transit or riding or walking to work. These findings are from two annual reports, completed by EAD during the first quarter of 2006. They include 1) a "Clean Cities Annual Report" (i.e., an inventory of City of Los Angeles alternative fuel vehicle use, fuel economy programs, and fuel usage), and 2) the "SCAQMD Subvention Fund Program Annual Report" (i.e., a cost-effectiveness analysis of the City's emission reductions programs funded by State Motor Vehicle Fees). Progress details follow below.

Progress

Alternative Fuel Vehicles

- The City controls a growing fleet of **2,259 alternative-fuel vehicles** that run on propane, electricity, liquefied natural gas, compressed natural gas, and hydrogen fuels. Dual fuel and gasoline/hybrid models are also counted as a part of the alternative fuel fleet. The City has the largest municipally-owned alternative fuel refuse collection fleet in the nation.
- The City owns or is a partner in 16 alternative fuel dispensing stations and almost 200 electrical recharging stations, including 2 state-of-the-art fueling facilities for hydrogen vehicles.
- The City conserved **approximately 9.6 million gallons of gasoline** through alternative fuel use and fuel economy programs in 2005.

Cost-Effective Emission Reductions

- In 2005, the City reduced over **7.8 million pounds of air pollutant emissions** using State Motor Vehicle Fees distributed to the City via the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD).
- This annual reduction was achieved at an average cost of **34 cents per pound of air pollutant** reduced.
- The City operates a state-of-the-art traffic flow and signal control system, known as the **ATSAC** system, resulting in a reduction of more than **7.6 million pounds of air pollutants** for 2005. A total of **3287 City intersections** are under ATSAC control.

- The City is a designated "Clean City" under the U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Cities Program, a national program that promotes and supports the use of alternative fuels.

Conservation of Vehicle Miles

- City departments participating in the Bicycle Patrol Program traveled over **2.5 million vehicle miles** per year, replacing vehicles that would have been idling during this period or traveling these miles. The City's **Police Department Bicycle Patrols** lead the way by traveling over 2.2 of the 2.5 million vehicle miles during fiscal year 2004/2005.
- City employees participating in the City's **Carpool and Vanpool Rideshare Program**, conserve over **23 million vehicle miles** per year. City employees receiving a subsidy for using public transit or bicycling or walking to work, conserve over **19 million vehicle miles** per year.

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

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

The California ReLeaf 2006 Tree-Planting Grant Program

provides funding for community-based urban forestry tree planting projects and follow-up maintenance. Preference will be given to the planting of trees on public land that provide greater air quality benefits and to urban forestry projects that provide greater energy conservation benefits. Eligible applicants include incorporated nonprofit organizations and unincorporated community-based groups (with a sponsor) located in California may submit applications. Grants are for costs associated with the purchase and planting of trees, and the maintenance of those trees during the grant period. The minimum award is \$1,000. The maximum award is \$7,500. A cost sharing match of 1:1 is required. In-kind donations and volunteer assistance matching dollars are acceptable. Supporting documentation is required. Federal dollars cannot be used as the reported cost share. Applications must be postmarked on or before **May 12, 2006**. Faxed or emailed applications will not be accepted. Notification of grant award or denial will be mailed by June 21, 2006. Projects may be initiated upon execution of the grant agreement by the grantee and must be completed by October 12, 2007. Payments are made on a reimbursement basis and will be for actual expenses incurred based on receipts. Grant recipients will be required to use their own operating funds to cover expenses until invoices are reimbursed by the State. A progress report and a final report are required. The final report must be submitted within 30 days of project completion or by November 23, 2007, whichever comes first. http://www.californiareleaf.org/documents/2006TreePlantingGrantProgram_002.doc.

DO SOMETHING GRANTS The Do Something Grant will award funds to young people who submit creative proposals for solving local problems in three areas: community building, health, and the environment. Applicant must be 25 years or younger and have a mentor to apply. For more information, visit <http://www.dosomething.org/awards/grants/apply/>. The deadline is **Monday, May 15, 2006**.

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, 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 8, 2006**.

The Liberty Hill Environmental Justice Grant

This fund makes grants to grassroots organizations that 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. For more information visit www.libertyhill.org/ejf/. Liberty Hill will hold two workshops teaching potential grantseekers "How to Apply" for an *Environmental Justice Fund* grant. The deadline for applying is **November 1, 2006**.

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**.

The Healthy Sprouts Awards These awards support school garden programs that use the garden to teach about nutrition and the issue of hunger in the United States. In this grant cycle, awards will be presented to 25 schools or organizations. Each will receive a \$200 gift certificate to Gardener's Supply Company and a curriculum package from the National Gardening Association. For more information, visit <http://www.kidsgardening.com/healthysprouts1.asp>. Applications are due **Sunday, October 15, 2006**.

MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EACH MONTH:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)

L.A. River Reborn This timely exhibition at the Skirball Cultural Center features photographs of the Los Angeles River by internationally renowned contemporary artists Lane Barden, Anthony Hernandez, Helen and Newton Harrison, John Humble, Dana Plays, and Gary Schwartz. This highly-focused selection of twenty-six works captures the unexpected beauty of the River and documents the fragile relationship between society and the environment. Free admission to galleries. The exhibit runs from **April 6 through September 3, 2006**. The Skirball Cultural Center is located at 2701 North Sepulveda Boulevard in Los Angeles. Call (310) 440-4500, or visit www.skirball.org for more information.

THIS MONTH:

Sat, May 6

Storytime at the Museum of the American West

Determined to learn to fly, Rudy adopts a hawk hoping that their friendship will bring him closer to his goal in Byrd Baylor's *Hawk I'm Your Brother*. Then, journey with Amelia Knight and her large family across riverbeds and mountains as they travel to Oregon in 1853 in *The Way West: Journal of a Pioneer Woman* by Amelia Stewart



Knight. Storytime begins at 1:30 pm at the Museum of the American West, located at 4700 Western Heritage Way in Griffith Park. For more information call (323) 667-2000 or visit www.autrynationalcenter.org.

Arbor Day Restoration at Madrona Marsh



Participants will help restore various plant species on this special preserved natural area in Torrance. Free. The restoration work takes place from 9 am to noon. For more info, call the Nature Center at (310) 782-3989, or call the Friends of the Marsh at (310) 32MARSH. The Madrona Marsh is located at 3201 Plaza del Amo in Torrance.

**World Asthma Day
Observed in Los Angeles
on May 6
See page 1 for details.**

Sat, May 13

Native Plants in the Wild and in Your Garden: Habitat for Hummingbirds

Connie Vadhein, California State University Dominguez Hills instructor, will provide information on easy-to-grow wildflowers in the Southern California area, and will explain why they are useful for hummingbirds. Free. For more information, contact the Nature Center at (310) 782-3989. The Madrona Marsh Nature Center is located at 3201 Plaza del Amo in Torrance. The talk begins at 10 am and ends at noon.



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.

Sun, May 14

Second Science at Madrona Marsh: Water

Learn where water comes from on the Preserve and how and why it is



stored for later use. Observe examples of the use of water and look for living aquatic insects in a tour of the Preserve. Examine the new waterwise garden and how it is metered. \$5. For more information, call the Nature Center at (310) 782-3989. The Marsh is located at 3201 Plaza del Amo in Torrance.

Mr. D's Tiki Carving (grades 5 through adult)

Learn about the Polynesian cultural history and significance of the tiki and then carve your own "ku" (God of Strength) from palm wood. The class takes place from 1 pm to 4 pm. Class fee includes a set of chisels. No carving experience is required. Fee is \$39. Pre-registration is recommended as carving space is limited. The carving will be held at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, located at 3720

THIS MONTH: (continued)

Stephen White Drive in San Pedro. For more information, call (310) 548-7562, or visit www.cabrilloaq.org.

Mon, May 15

Beyond 'Chinatown' Water Politics Lecture at the Aquarium of the Pacific

As Southern California continues to grow, finding adequate sources of drinking water becomes a great challenge. This is especially true when the public assumes there is an endless, renewable supply of "liquid gold." Mixing history and policy analysis, Steven P. Erie will tell the compelling story of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD)—the region's giant water wholesaler with a service area extending from Ventura to the Mexico border and eastward into Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Erie's new book, *Beyond 'Chinatown': The Metropolitan Water District, Growth and the Environment in Southern California*, examines regional water development, growing water scarcity and fierce conflicts, and MWD's innovative plans for ensuring California's water future. No tawdry tale of secret backroom conspiracies, as depicted in the famed film noir *Chinatown*, Erie explores an unheralded regional institution, its entrepreneurial public leadership, and pioneering policymaking. The lecture begins at 7 pm. \$7. To make reservations, call the Aquarium at (562) 437-FISH (3474). The Aquarium is located at 100 Aquarium Way in Long Beach.

Bike to Work Day!

Thursday, May 18
(See page 1 for details)

Sat, May 20

Used Children's Book Sale and Family Program

Find bargain children's books for sale in the Taper Courtyard 10 am to noon. Sponsored by FOCAL, Friends of Children and Literature. Then, be entertained by Mika'ele (Michael) McClellan, who will introduce kids to Hawaiian music and instruments, along with the history of the Hawaiian Islands in the KLOS Theater at 2 pm. Central Library is located at 630 W. 5th Street in Los Angeles. Call the Library at (213) 228-7000 for more information.

Sat and Sun, May 20 and 21

20th Annual Bug Fair The LA County Natural History Museum will once again be crawling with bugs! Be sure not to miss the 20th Annual Bug Fair – North America's largest. Explore the world of insects and their arthropod relatives. See live spiders and scorpions, start your own collection of butterflies. Over 60 vendors will be on hand with books, entomological equipment and supplies, artwork, toys, clothing and more! The Bug Fair is included with Museum admission. The Museum is located at 900 Exposition Boulevard in Los Angeles. For more info, visit www.nhm.org, or call (213) 763-DINO.



This popular event will celebrate JPL's accomplishments with exhibits and demonstrations about the Laboratory's ongoing research and space exploration. Free. JPL is located at 4800 Oak Grove Drive in Pasadena, off the 210 (Foothill) Freeway at the Berkshire Avenue/Oak Grove Drive exit. Parking is available near the Oak Grove main gate and on the eastern boundary of JPL, accessible from Windsor Avenue via the Arroyo Boulevard exit off the 210 Freeway. For more information, please call (818) 354-0112, or visit www.jpl.nasa.gov.

Annual Country Fair For people who enjoy gardening, this event features exhibits, garden clubs, nurseries offering plants and gardening tools, as well as advice for anyone interested in starting a home garden. Free admission. Sponsored by the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks. The event takes place on both days from 9 am to 5 pm at the Sepulveda Garden Center, located at 16633 Magnolia Boulevard in Encino. For more information, visit www.laparks.com, or call (888) LA PARKS.



Sun, May 21

Sundays at Central Author Series for Children



FOCAL (Friends of Children and Literature) presents Joan Graham, who brings poetry

about water and light to life with props, pictures, and more. The event takes place at Central Library's KLOS Theater at 2 pm. Central Library is located at 630 W. 5th Street in Los Angeles. Call the Library at (213) 228-7000 for more information.

S i x t h Annual Los A n g e l e s R i v e r R i d e

Over 1,500



bicyclists attend this event that follows the LA River! T-shirts, goody bags, food, cycling and fun highlight the ride. Choose from the kid's ride, the 15-mile family ride, the forty- or the seventy-mile rides.

Rest stops with water and refreshments will be located along the route. The ride starts in Griffith Park. For more information, visit www.labikecoalition.org/.

NEXT MONTH:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)

Sat, Jun 3

16th Annual Kids' Nature Festival A day to play and learn about nature for toddlers to 8-year olds! Hands-on activity booths with arts and crafts,



storytelling, live music, and more. The festival takes place from 10 am to 4 pm at Temescal Gateway Park, located at 15601 Sunset Boulevard in Pacific Palisades. Fee. Sponsored by the Children's Nature Institute. For tickets and general information, contact CNI at (310) 680-9484, or visit their website at www.ChildrensNatureInstitute.org.

(Grab Your Helmet and Ride...Continued from page 1)

In addition to 'Bike to Work Day', the 6th Annual Los Angeles River Ride will take place on Sunday, May 21st. The Los Angeles River Ride raises public awareness of the Los Angeles River, and the Bike Coalition's efforts to make all of L.A. County a safe and enjoyable place to bicycle. You can find more information on the River Ride at the Los Angeles Bike Coalition's website at www.labikecoalition.org. Good Samaritan Hospital will host its 3rd Annual 'Blessing of the Bikes' on Tuesday, May 16th, from 8 am to 9 am. Light refreshments will be available for bike commuters. Good Samaritan is located at 1225 Wilshire Boulevard, between 6th and Wilshire. For more information, contact Good Samaritan Hospital at (213) 977-2121, or visit www.goodsam.org.

(World Asthma Day...Continued from page 1)

condition, creates untold anxiety for patients and family members, reduces physical activity, and has enormous economic ramifications on our health care system. The Asthma Coalition of Los Angeles County plans to bring together asthma prevention and clinical care stakeholders to provide a powerful voice toward addressing the asthma epidemic in Los Angeles County.

In order to bring the asthma crisis to the policy forefront, the Asthma Coalition has developed a "Call to Action," a policy document that provides evidence-based recommendations in six key areas (access to quality health care, indoor and outdoor air quality, health disparities, and strengthened research) to improve asthma outcomes countywide. The World Asthma Day event will mark the official release of this key document. The Coalition's goals for World Asthma Day 2006 are to raise the level of awareness about this widespread disease among policy-makers and to provide useful information to families who are affected by asthma. To this end, they have planned an event that has something for everyone. In addition to presenting the Call to Action, World Asthma Day activities will include a neighborhood march, a health education fair, and a press conference featuring policymakers, environmental experts, and health advocates.

The public is cordially invited and strongly urged to come out to support this event. Learn more about the asthmas epidemic in Los Angeles County and what you can do to help bring asthma under control in Southern California. This event promises to be very informative as well as very entertaining. For more information call Physicians for Social Responsibility at (213) 689-9170 ext. 109. See you there!



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**. 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) 430-5100

Bulky Item Pick-up

Recogida de articulos grandes

L.A. City Bureau of Sanitation
(800) 773-2489

Hazardous Waste/e-Waste

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
Los Angeles County Lead Program
(800) LA-4-LEAD

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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