An Environmental Affair

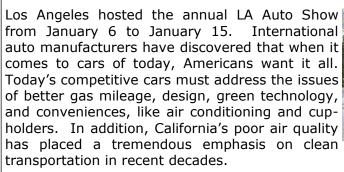
Volume 17, Issue 2

February is African-American History Month and National Hot Breakfast Month!

February 2006

2006 Greater Los Angeles Auto Show: Design and the Environment

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.





2006 Mercury Mariner: Green Car of the Year

The first ever Green Car of the Year award was given to the gasoline-electric hybrid version of the 2006 Mercury Mariner. Sponsored by the Green Car Journal — a leading eco-friendly publication - the Green Car of the Year program recognizes environmental leadership in the automotive industry. The other four finalists included the Honda Accord and Civic Hybrids, the Lexus RX 400h, and Toyota Highlander Hybrid. Gasoline-electric hybrids, near-zero emission gasoline models, advanced diesels, and several vehicles capable of operating on alternative fuels were considered. Judges focused on vehicles that advance overall efficiency and functionality, while decreasing environmental impact.

Inside this issue:

Neighborhood Council Holds Holiday E-Waste Collection	2
WRCCCC Conference and Expo	2
New Lead Paint Removal Regulations Proposed	3
Grants	4
Calendar of Events	5-6
No Bird Left Behind: The 9th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count	7
California Energy Commission Alternative Fuel Vehicle Assistance	7

Most of the new gasoline-electric hybrid vehicles are California Air Resources Board certified as Advanced Technology – Partial Zero Emission Vehicles (AT-PZEV). Several gasoline cars are certified as Partial Zero Emission Vehicles (PZEVs). Vehicles that are certified as PZEV, AT-PZEV, or Zero Emission (ZEV) have near-zero evaporative emissions and their emission control equipment has a 15-year/150,000 mile warranty. Vehicles receiving the AT-PZEV credit also make use of "ZEV-enabling" clean technologies such as alternative fuel, electric drives, or other advanced technology systems. PZEVs have come to us as a result of changes to California's Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) mandate, an integral part of the state's low emission vehicle program crafted in 1990.

Beginning this November, the LA Auto Show dates will change from January to a date in November or December. The next auto show for calendar year 2006 will be the 2007 LA Auto Show open to the public from December 1-10, 2006. Those interested in purchasing an environmentally friendly vehicle can visit the California Air Resources Board's "Buyer's Guide to Cleaner Cars" at http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/ccbg/ccbg.htm; CARB's "Guide to Zero and Near-Zero Emissions Vehicles" at http://www.driveclean.ca.gov/; and the United States Environmental Protection Agency's "Green Vehicle Guide" at http://www.epa.gov/autoemissions/.

An Environmental Affair is produced monthly by the EAD to inform residents about environmental issues and activities 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.

> Printed on recycled paper. PLEASE POST



SORRO, LAFD staff, and community members gear up for their fight against e-waste at a Goodwill Donation Center.

Neighborhood Council Holds Holiday E-Waste Drive

in Los Angeles. For questions, or to In the United States, one of the largest types of gifts are home electronics. But what happens to old or broken electronics? Are they thrown out, clogging the landfills with recyclable materials, or like many places in Los Angeles, do they sit on the curb—only to be broken and washed into waterways?

> This question disturbed the members of the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council (SORONC). To find a solution, E-waste continues to be a big envi-SORONC contacted many of the new ronmental problem in the U.S. electronic waste recyclers to see what could be done.



SORONC partnered with Goodwill of Southern California (whose ewaste recycling program is expanding to work with other organizations) to hold an e-waste collection event. Supported by the Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) and the Los Angeles City Fire Department (LAFD), the neighborhood collection was held on December 18, 2005. More than 100 computers, 50 Monitors/TVs, and many other electronic items such as VCRs, stereos, shavers, and lamps were collected. The event also launched a new campaign by SO-RONC to promote awareness of environmental issues, and introduce its new mascot SORRO, an all green, masked hero who, with his trusty and accurate blade, can pick up litter throughout their community.

All Goodwills of Southern California will accept e-waste. If you would like more information, please contact Albert Montanez of Goodwill of Southern California at (323) 539-2130, or visit www.goodwillsocal.

org. The City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation also recycles and disposes of e-waste. For more information, visit www.lacity.org/san/recycle.htm.

The Western Riverside County Clean Cities Coalition's (WRCCCC) "Advancing the Choice with Your Next Heavy Duty Vehicle" Event

The WRCCCC's "Advancing the Choice with Your Next Heavy Duty Vehicle" event is Southern California's leading conference and expo focused on air quality, alternative fuels, alternative fuel vehicles, and technology. The one-day conference and expo will be held on Thursday, February 9, 2006, from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm at the Moreno Valley Conference and Recreation Center adjacent the Moreno Valley City Hall.

Advancing the Choice expects to draw an audience of 250 - 300 attendees including elected officials, manufacturers, operators, and many others. The conference and expo will showcase the innovative programs, policies and technologies now being implemented in cities and companies in the Inland Empire, Southern California, and across the nation to improve efficiency and reduce the air quality impacts to residents. For more information, contact Barbara Spoonhour at spoonhour@wrcoq.coq.ca.us or (951) 955-8313, or Rosa Washington at washington@wrcog.cog.ca.us or (951) 955-8306.

EPA Proposes New Regulations for Lead Paint Removal

To reduce lead poisonings in children across the country, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing new requirements for contractors and construction professionals when working in homes that contain lead-based paint.

Lead is a highly toxic metal that was used for many years in paint. Lead can cause a range of health



effects, from cognitive impairment and learning disabilities, to seizures and death. Children under six years of age are most at risk because their developing nervous systems are especially vulnerable to lead's effects and because of their more frequent hand-to-mouth behavior.

Preventing the creation of new lead-based paint hazards from renovation activities in housing where children under six reside is one purpose of this proposed regulation. EPA's analysis indicates that renovation, repair, and paint-

ing projects in housing that is likely to contain lead-based paint affects more than 1.1 million children under age six annually. In the absence of this regulation, lead-safe practices are not likely to be employed to perform the renovation projects.

EPA is proposing that contractors must be trained in the use of lead-safe work practices, renovators and firms be certified, providers of renovation training be accredited, and renovators follow protective work practice standards. These work practices include posting warning signs, restricting occupants from work areas, arranging work areas to prevent dust and debris from spreading, conducting a thorough cleanup, and verifying that cleanup was effective. The rules would apply to all persons who do renovation for compensation, including renovation contractors, maintenance workers in multi-family housing, painters, and other specialty trades. The new requirements would apply to most renovation, repair, or painting activities where more than two square feet of lead-based paint is disturbed.

EPA is proposing a two-phased approach. The first phase would apply to renovations in rental and owner-occupied housing built before 1978 where a child with an elevated blood lead level resides, in rental housing built before 1960, and owner-occupied housing built before 1960 where children under six reside. The second phase, to start a year after the first one takes effect, would apply to renovations covered in the first stage plus renovations in rental housing built between 1960 and 1978. The second stage also would apply to owner-occupied housing built between 1960 and 1978 where children under six reside.

In 1978, there were three to four million children with elevated blood lead levels in the United States, but significant progress has been made to reduce lead poisonings. As of 2002, an estimated 310,000 children had elevated levels of lead in their blood, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. However, 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 also will include training and an education and outreach campaign to promote lead-safe work practices. EPA will take public comment for 90 days following publication of the proposal in the Federal Register. For more information or to obtain copies of the proposal and supporting materials, visit: http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/renovation.htm.

SCAQMD 1st Annual Conference: Asthma Impacts of Air Pollution

This one-day conference features guest speakers who will present solutions impacting air quality for children in Southern California. Fees vary. The event takes place at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles on Friday, February 17, 2006. Lunch is provided. For more information, contact the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) at (800) CUT-SMOG, or visit www.aqmd.gov.

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

Arbor Day Poster Contest This contest is open to all California fifth grade children assisted by their teachers, parents, youth or club leaders. The free curriculum kit contains suggestions for activities and projects that will increase student awareness and appreciation of the importance of trees and conservation of forests. The contest theme for 2006 is "Trees are Terrific...in All Shapes and Sizes." These activities are correlated to California's science standards! To request a kit, contact Kay Antunez at the California Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection at (916) 653-7958 or Antunez@fire.ca.gov. For more information, log on to The National Arbor Day Foundation Web site at www.arborday.org/. The deadline for applications is Wednesday, March 1, 2006.

Corporation for National & Community Service, Learn and Serve America Grant The purpose of this grant competition is to promote the development and sustainability of high-quality community-based service-learning programs in youth-serving community organizations. Funds will be used by intermediary organizations to create support curriculum materials; training technical assistance activities; make subgrants to local organizations that will implement servicelearning programs for youth ages five to seventeen; and strengthen, expand, and anchor a network of youth-serving community-based that implement service-learning organizations programs. The application deadline is Tuesday, March 7, 2006. For more information, email Brad Lewis at LSAcommunity@cns.gov, or call (202) 606-7510.

Water Conservation Field Services Program The purpose of WCFSP is to fulfill its water conservation-related obligation to encourage and implement water conservation measures on Federal Reclamation projects. The four major components of the WCFSP are to: Assist in developing effective water management and conservation plans; encourage and promote implementation of water efficiency measures; demonstrate conservation technologies; and promote and support water education and training. The objective of this request for proposals is to invite agricultural and Municipal and Industrial (M&I) water user entities, states, local governments, water providers, universities, nonprofits and other entities to leverage their money and resources, by cost sharing with Reclamation, on projects/activities that make more efficient use of existing water supplies through water conservation and efficiency in Southern California. The deadline to apply is **March 3, 2006.** For more information, call 702-293-8570 or email mfridmann@lc.usbr.gov.

National Science Foundation Informal Science Education (ISE) The ISE program invests in projects that develop and implement informal learning experiences designed increase interest, engagement, and understanding science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM) by individuals of all ages and backgrounds, as well as projects that advance knowledge and practice of informal science education. Projects may target either public audiences or professionals whose work directly affects informal STEM learning. ISE projects are expected to demonstrate strategic impact, innovation, and collaboration. The deadline to apply is March 21, 2006. For more information, www.grants.gov/search/search.do? mode=VIEWREVISIONS&revNum=0.

National Science Foundation Undergraduate Collaboratives The Undergraduate Research Research Collaboratives (URC) Program seeks new models and partnerships with the potential (1) to expand the reach of undergraduate research to include first- and second-year college students; (2) to broaden participation and increase diversity in the student talent pool from which the nation's future technical workforce will be drawn; and (3) to enhance the research infrastructure, and culture capacity, participating institutions. Collectively, these outcomes will substantially strengthen nation's research enterprise. For this program, research should be in the chemical sciences or in interdisciplinary areas supported by the chemical sciences. Projects should allow students to create new knowledge that is potentially publishable by providing exposure to research of contemporary scientific interest that is addressed with modern research tools and methods. The deadline to apply is **March 21, 2006.** For more information, http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2006/nsf06521/ visit nsf06521.htm.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EACH MONTH:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)

Healthy Children, Healthy Planet This discussion course, sponsored and held at the El Dorado Nature Center, is to understand the pervasive



effects of ads, media and consumer culture upon a child's view of the world. Participants will

discover to create ways meaningful family times and healthful environments for kids. Explore ways to develop each child's connection to nature and to foster creativity. Each participant will help lead the conversation. Tuesday evenings 7 to 9 pm, through March 7, 2006. \$20 materials fee. For more information, call the Center at (562) 570-1745. The El Dorado Nature Center is located at 7550 E. Spring Street in Long Beach.

Cabrillo Whalewatch Go to sea any day of the week through the end of March in

search of gray whales on their migration along the Southern California coast. Whalewatch



volunteers will lead two-hour boat trips from various landings. Join the fantastic viewing by calling Cabrillo Whalewatch at (310) 548-8397. The trips take place Tuesdays through Fridays, from 8:30 am to 1 pm. Fees vary by landing.

Encounters: The Fur Trade at the Museum of the American

West Using computer media, hands-on sets, interactive displays, and rich eyewitness accounts, this fascinating and unique exhibit depicts the political, ecological, sometimes disastrous costs of trade between indigenous peoples and the new explorers of the American West, as the latter ventured to capitalize on the richest of America's natural resources. Runs through October 8, 2006 at the Museum of the American West, located at 4700 Western Heritage Way in Griffith Park. For more information, call (323) 667-2000.

THIS MONTH:

Sat, Feb 4

Help Clean Up the Streets and Protect the Ocean: Third Annual Street Cleanup Join the



Aquarium of the Pacific as they take environmental stewardship to

the streets during their third annual street cleanup! Volunteers will clean up an urban neighborhood and help reduce ocean pollution. In Long Beach and many other cities, trash and run-off that enters the storm drains goes directly into the ocean. Bags, gloves, and a spirit of camaraderie will be provided. Each participant will receive a free ticket to the Aquarium. The cleanup will take place from 10 am to noon at Burbank Elementary School, 501 Junipero Avenue in Long Beach. For more information, call (562) 951-5347.

Thur, Feb 9

WRCCCC "Advancing the Choice with Your Next Heavy

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

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.

Duty Vehicle Event See page 2 for details.

Sat, Feb 11

Sustainable **Communities** through Sustainable Living: **Green Building** Inspired by environmentally-friendly design and features of the new Main Library in Santa Monica, community interest in and sustainable issues, this fourpart, bi-monthly series begins with local architects and experts sustainability discussing materials and techniques for green building and remodeling. Saturday, February 11 from 2 3:30 pm. For information, visit www.smpl. org, or call (310) 458-8600. The Main Library of the City of Santa Monica is located at 601 Santa Monica Boulevard.

Planting Supervisor Training

Join the TreePeople team of planting supervisors and make a difference for Los Angeles! Have you planted trees with us before? Do you want to teach others to do the same? Planting supervisors regularly attend tree plantings and are vital members of the volunteer

THIS MONTH:

(continued)

team, representing TreePeople all around Los Angeles. There are additional opportunities to TreePeople help with community planting and tree care on this date. To register or receive more information, send a n email volunteer@treepeople.org or call (818) 623-4879.

Sun, Feb 12

Woo at the L.A. Zoo Looking for a way to drive your valentine 'wild'? Bring your mate to "Woo at the Zoo." Tickets cost \$75 per person or \$125 per couple. Refreshments



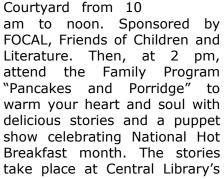
are provided. For more information, or reservations, make please telephone the Zoo's Special Events hotline at (323) 644-The LA Zoo is 6042.

located at 5333 Zoo Drive in Los Angeles' Griffith Park. The event takes place from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm.

Sat, Feb 18

Kids' Book Sale, and Family Program "Pancakes and

Porridge" Central Library presents bargain children's used books for sale at the Taper



KLOS Theater. Free. Central Library is located at 630 W. Fifth Street in Los Angeles. For more information, call Central Library at (213) 228-7000.

Sat and Sun, Feb 18-19

Black History Month Celebration Journey into the heart of Africa with this year's Black History Month Celebration at the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens. During this experts and explores current



special weekend, selfwill tours quided focus on African plants and animals in the Zoo's collection; quests will also enjoy

a vibrant array of entertainment and activities. Musical festivities, African drumming demonstrations, different foods, and special arts and crafts will be environmental), featured. Come celebrate the rich diversity of African-American culture and the wonderful variety of African flora and fauna. Free with paid Zoo admission. more information, call (323) visit www.aquariumofpacific.org/ 644-4200, or visit www.lazoo. org. Festivities take place from htm. Fee. Location TBA. 10 am to 4 pm.

Sun, Feb 19

Friends of the L.A. River Conference (FoLAR) Down by the River Progress Walks: Amble along the **Arrovo Seco** Walk along the lower Arroyo Seco as it meanders through Montecito Heights and Highland Park, and visit the award-winning Audubon Montecito Heights Recreation Center parking lot (4545 Homer manufacturers. Street in Los Angeles) at 3:30 pm, located at the end of Mosher Avenue in Montecito Heights. Sponsored by FoLAR. Free. For Air Quality Management District, more information, contact FoLAR at (323) 223-0585.

NEXT MONTH:

Thursdays, Mar 9, 16, 23, 30

Water" "California and Course Learn about the latest on water, one news



California's limited most resources. This course is taught industry by

issues relating to California's water budget, threats to water quality, desalination, and the allocation of water resources such as the Colorado River Basin. In this course, you will find out where California's water comes from, how it is allocated among competing uses (municipal, industrial, agricultural, how it is distributed from sources to users, where the wastewaters go, and much more. For more information and to register, call For (562) 590-3100 extension 0, or EDUCATION/ADULT/cal water.

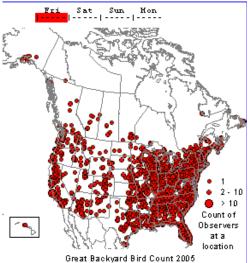
Sun thru Thurs, Mar 12-16

The NHA Annual Hydrogen 2006: Global Toward Energy will be held on March 12-16 in Long Beach, California. Exhibitors, technical workshops on industry issues, and speakers will highlight this five-day informative event. Featuring Center at Debs Park. Meet at hydrogen ICE and Fuel Cell vehicles from a variety of For more information, visit hydrogenconference.org, or call (202) 223-5547. Sponsored by British Petroleum (BP), American Honda, and Chevron.

"No Bird Left Behind": The Ninth Annual Great Backyard Bird Count February 17-20, 2006

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) returns for its ninth season February 17-20, 2006. The National Audubon Society and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology (CLO) encourage everyone to COUNT BIRDS WITH A BUDDY! Bird enthusiasts of all ages can share their love of birds with a friend, child, class, or co-worker. The goal is to open new eyes to the joy of birding and the fun of creating a unique snapshot of winter bird abundance and distribution across the continent. Every pair of eyes is needed and every bird counts, whether in a backyard, on a high-rise balcony, in a park, or on any of the 730 million acres of public lands.

In 2005, participants sent in more than 52,000 checklists, with a record-breaking 613 species and more than 6 million birds counted. These millions of sightings generate what would otherwise be impossible continent-wide information about where the birds are and how their numbers compare with those of previous years. Anyone with Internet access can see the results in maps and charts as the sightings pour in.



Data from 2005 shows sightings in various states. Courtesy of Bird Source.

For nearly a decade, the GBBC has kept tabs on the ever-changing patterns of birds in winter. How far north will American Robins be reported this year? Will Sandhill Cranes migrate early or late? Introduced Eurasian Collared-Doves have been turning up in new states. Where will they be this year? Native Red-bellied Woodpeckers have been spreading to the northeast. Will the trend continue? Scientists also want more information on declining species, such as Rusty Blackbirds and Painted Buntings. While these species are suffering due to the continued destruction of their preferred habitats, other factors, such as mercury accumulation in Rusty Blackbirds, and removal of Painted Buntings for the illegal cage bird industry, may make a bad situation worse.

In 2006, for the first time, the Lab of Ornithology and Audubon are launching an element of friendly competition. Awards will be given to localities that submit the most checklists, record the greatest number species, or count the highest number of birds. (Last year's top numbers: 433 checklists from Gautier, Mississippi, 169 species from Corpus Christi, Texas, and 291,246 birds from Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Missouri.) A photo contest also will be held based on bird pictures taken during the event and submitted for posting on the GBBC gallery. During the count, bird watchers tally up birds for as little as 15 minutes, or for as long as they like, keeping track of the highest number of each bird species they see together at one time. People are encouraged to report birds from public lands and local parks, as well as from their backyards. Participants enter their numbers online at www.birdsource.org/gbbc and can explore sightings maps, lists, and charts as the count progresses. For more information, visit www.birdsource.org/gbbc, email the CLO at cornellbirds@cornell.edu or call (800) 843-2473; or contact Audubon at citizenscience@audubon.org and (215) 355-9588, Ext. 16. Have some fun and join the counting for 2006! There is no fee or registration for the event, which is sponsored by Wild Birds Unlimited.

California Energy Commission Alternative Fuel Vehicle Assistance Program

The Los Angeles Clean Cities Coalition announces that, beginning in 2006, the California Energy Commission (CEC) is providing alternative fuel vehicle and infrastructure (dispensing station) technical assistance. This CEC program offers benefits to both potential and current AFV and infrastructure owners. The California Energy Commission can supply assistance for both public and private vehicle fleets that use alternative fuels - Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), Ethanol, Hydrogen, Propane and Biodiesel. For more information, visit http://www.energy.ca.gov/2005publications/CEC-600-2005-036/CEC-600-2005-036-FS.PDF.



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 artículos 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

Quejas de construcción y albergar Housing Code Enforcement (213) 241-0000

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 Information (800) LA-4-LEAD

Leaf Blowers

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

Mosquitoes

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

Recycling

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

Smoking Violations

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

The City of Los Angeles Environmental Affairs Department 200 N. Spring Street, Suite 2005 Los Angeles, CA 90012

Presorted First Class Mail U.S. Postage Paid Los Angeles, CA Permit No. 12932