

# An Environmental Affair

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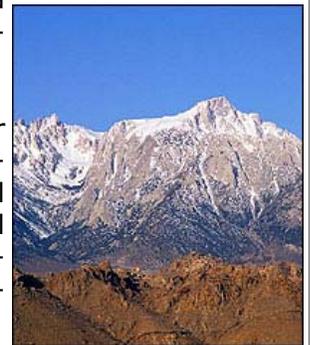
The City of Los Angeles Environmental Affairs Department was established in 1990 to advise the city on environmental issues and provide a centralized source of environmental information. The Environmental Affairs Department seeks to protect and enhance the environmental quality of life for residents,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

## Water Conservation Urged

The City of Los Angeles is urging all residents to conserve water and cut back on water use by ten percent. Water conservation is urged after a dry winter season and very low snowfall in the Sierra Nevada mountains, where the City acquires about half of its water.

Earlier this year, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) raised the incentive levels for a variety of water-saving devices designed for commercial customers. These include high-efficiency commercial clothes washers, commercial and multifamily ultra-low-flush and high-efficiency toilets, and cooling tower conductivity controllers.

To learn more about water conservation programs offered by the LADWP and the Metropolitan Water District, and tips for indoor and outdoor water savings, please visit [www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com). Customers may also call 1-800-DIAL DWP.



Low snowfall levels in the Eastern Sierra mountains and an overall dry winter mean water conservation is needed by all City residents.

## EAD Spring Outreach Events

Spring certainly was a busy time for EAD. This season, EAD participated in certain annual outreach events of interest to our readers.

**Environmental Film Festival** As a part of a park-wide Earth Day celebration, the Sierra Club presented the first annual Griffith Park Environmental Film Festival on April 21 and 22, 2007. Wonderful weather and clear blue skies greeted those that attended the event. Some of the films shown were: "Breathless in LA", "Homeland", "French Fries to Go", "Who Killed the Electric Car", and "An Inconvenient Truth". Panel discussions with leading environmental experts were held following the screenings of "Breathless in LA" and "Who Killed the Electric Car".



Louis Alvarado, Honorary Mayor of Griffith Park, visits with Heloise Froelich, EAD staff and Los Angeles Clean Cities Coalition Coordinator, at the Clean Cities Coalition information booth.

On hand at this free event were local celebrities, including Louis Alvarado, Honorary Mayor of Griffith Park, elected offi-

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**PLEASE POST**

## L.A. County Lead Program Poster Contest

On May 14, the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP) selected the winners for the 2007 Lead Awareness Art Contest, a challenge held annually by the County which focuses on ways to reduce lead hazards in the home and environment.

The Lead Awareness Art Contest is promoted every year as one way to educate students, their parents, teachers, and the community about lead poisoning prevention.

Entries were judged by grade level. Judges looked for student knowledge of the sources of lead, as well as different ways children can be protected from lead poisoning. In addition, judges looked at the students' originality in art, and the quality of the design. The panel of judges included community members, staff from the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, staff from Health Education Administration, and service organizations. Winners received a cash award, a trophy, a t-shirt, and a lunch bag. The sponsoring teacher also received a matching award.

Along with several County staff, EAD's Environmental Business and Neighborhood Services Director Karin R. Christie was one of the judges for this year's contest.

CLPPP is one of many public health programs under the direction of Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health. For more information on their program, visit <http://lapublichealth.org/lead/index.htm>.



Judges, including EAD's Karin Christie on the left, look for lead knowledge presentations in artwork.

## Buy Energy Star This Summer

In 2006, Americans, with the help of Energy Star appliances and products, saved \$14 billion in energy costs and prevented greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those from 25 million vehicles. The savings from Energy Star are expected to double in the coming years.

Consumers can look for the government's Energy Star on more than 50 different kinds of products in the marketplace including consumer electronics (DVDs, TVs), office equipment (computers, monitors and printers), heating and cooling equipment (furnaces, boilers, air conditioners, refrigerators) and lighting.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) started the Energy Star program in 1992 as a voluntary market-based partnership to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through increased energy efficiency. Today more than 9,000 organizations participate in the Energy Star program, offering businesses and consumers energy efficient solutions to save energy, money, and protect the environment for future generations.

Energy Star is a joint program of the US EPA and the U.S. Department of Energy designed to save money and protect the environment through energy efficient products and practices. For more information on Energy Star see <http://www.energystar.gov>.

## Neighborhood Council Works with RAP to Conserve Energy

The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council (SORONC) in conjunction with the Los Angeles Recreation and Parks (RAP) recently environmentally retrofitted the Robertson Recreation Center at the corner of Robertson and Airdrome with energy conservation systems. Along with the aesthetic beautification of the park, SORONC purchased \$1,200 worth of energy efficient fixtures, bulbs, and outdoor plugs. The projected total savings from these improvements are around 3,000 watts per hour or 3 kwh. With the park operating 10 hours per day, 350 days per year, that is a total of 10,500 kwh per year (enough to power 365 households for a day). With electricity at \$.10/kwh, the total savings to the City is \$1,050/year.



Besides the financial benefits, the park also is offsetting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, using less materials, beautifying the site, and increasing use of facilities. Over the course of a year, 10.5 mega watts of power consumption will be reduced. This reduction is equal to 13 kg of SO<sub>2</sub>, 273 kg NO<sub>x</sub>, and 10.2 Tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> (based on coal power, the primary source for Los Angeles power). Some of the lights used contain built-in motion sensors making the park safer and more accessible to the disabled.

The light fixtures used in the park are electronic T8 fluorescent lights. Compared to the older magnetic T12 fluorescent lights, T8s use less materials to manufacture, are slightly brighter, more energy efficient, last longer, give off light that is more similar to daylight, and have electronic ballasts that use a lesser amount of toxic material. Aesthetically, the fixtures have a smaller profile making the park rooms and hallways appear larger without structural modification. In addition to the light fixtures, electrical plug-in outlets are being placed around the park so that people can plug in instead of using gas powered generators. This will reduce the amount of pollutants released into the air, and make the park more versatile.

If you have further questions about the SORONC project or how your neighborhood council can make similar environmental enhancements or start a green team, e-mail Noah Bleich at [noah@soronc.org](mailto:noah@soronc.org) or call (310) 694-3534.

## Survey Finds Consumers Not Taking Advantage of Energy Tax Credits

In a survey recently released by building products manufacturer Johns Manville, a survey of over 1,000 American adults has found that consumers ignored the credits even though 78% of those surveyed believed that their 2006 heating and cooling costs increased 5% or more over the previous year. The survey also found that 32% believe their homes to be energy efficient.

Few consumers may be aware of these federal tax credits, which just last December, have been extended until 2008. Consumers can claim a tax credit of up to \$500 for qualified efficiency improvements such as Energy Star qualified windows, doors, heating and cooling equipment, insulation, duct-sealing products, and a maximum of \$2,000 each for photovoltaic and solar-water heating systems.

To learn more about the tax credits, visit <http://www.energytaxincentives.org>. To find ways to save energy and obtain rebates on some energy-saving appliances, visit the LA Department of Water and Power at <http://www.ladwp.com>.

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

**The Liberty Hill Environmental Justice Grant**

This fund gives 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/](http://www.libertyhill.org/ejf/). The grant cycle for 2008 begins August 2007.

**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](http://www.thelawrencefoundation.org) or e-mail inquiries to [info@thelawrencefoundation.org](mailto:info@thelawrencefoundation.org). For December grant cycle, letters of inquiry are due **September 1, 2007**.

**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/healthysprouts.asp>. Applications are due **October 15, 2007**.

The non-profit **SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund** focuses on species research, animal rescue and rehabilitation, habitat protection and conservation education. The Fund supports solution-oriented projects that benefit both wildlife and people throughout the U.S. and around the world. Expense limits for salary, compensation, and indirect costs. The Fund has no set minimum or maximum grant amount. Applications are accepted year-'round. For more information, visit [http://www.swbg-conservationfund.org/get\\_involved.html](http://www.swbg-conservationfund.org/get_involved.html)

**Sierra Club Angeles Chapter Conservation Grant** The primary purpose of this conservation

grant is to further the conservation objectives and priorities of the Sierra Club within Angeles Chapter's boundaries as proposed by the Chapter's activists. Grants may also be used to assist in international, national and regional conservation projects of the Club, and to provide for the development and execution of specific conservation strategies and action programs authorized by the Chapter's Executive Committee. Grants may be used to fund the activities of other 501 (c)(3) organizations that contribute to the conservation goals and objectives of the Sierra Club. For more information, visit their Conservation Grants website at <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/environmental/ConsGrants.asp>.

**North American Wetlands Act Standard Grants Program**

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) of 1989 provides matching grants to organizations and individuals who have developed partnerships to carry out wetlands conservation projects in the United States, Canada, and Mexico for the benefit of wetlands-associated migratory birds and other wildlife. The program is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The grant deadline is **July 27, 2007**. For general information about the Act's Grants Program, contact the Division of Bird Habitat Conservation at (703) 358-1784, or by email at [dbhc@fws.gov](mailto:dbhc@fws.gov).

**The SeaWorld/Busch Gardens/FUJIFilm Environmental Excellence Awards Students & Teachers Working to Protect & Preserve the Environment 2008** recognizes the outstanding efforts of students and teachers across the country who are working at the grassroots level to protect and preserve the environment. Maximum award: \$10,000. Eligibility: all schools (grades K-12) and community groups. [www.swbg-animals.org/conservation-matters/eea/about.htm](http://www.swbg-animals.org/conservation-matters/eea/about.htm). The deadline for applying is **November 30, 2007**.

**Apprentice Ecologist Initiative** The goal of the Apprentice Ecologist Initiative is to elevate young people, including disadvantaged and at-risk youth, into leadership roles by engaging them in environmental stewardship projects. A \$500 scholarship will be awarded annually to the author of the top Apprentice Ecologist essay. For more information, visit [www.wildernessproject.org/volunteer\\_apprentice\\_ecologist/](http://www.wildernessproject.org/volunteer_apprentice_ecologist/).

# JULY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## ONGOING:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)

**LA County Smart Gardening Workshops** County residents are taught to effectively reduce yard waste and improve their lawn and gardens through their Smart Gardening Workshops. These workshops cover all of the program components in a presentation of approximately two hours in length. Each component provides residents with tools and techniques necessary to reuse readily available resources. Residents not only receive step-by-step instructions on how to compost, but are also educated on the benefits and biology of compost. To attend a workshop, visit [www.smartgardening.com](http://www.smartgardening.com) or call (888) CLEAN LA.

**Annual Shakespeare by the Sea Festival** These outdoor performances of Shakespeare are set in an outdoor theater overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Bring a picnic, blanket, chairs, and dress warmly for an evening of lively theater under the night sky. Free. The Bard performs at Point Fermin Park, located at 807 Paseo de la Mar in San Pedro, Thursdays through Saturdays beginning at 8 pm, through mid-July. Sponsored by the City of Los Angeles Rec and Parks. For more information, call (888) LA PARKS, or visit [www.laparks.org](http://www.laparks.org).

**Goose Bumps! The Science of Fear** is a 5,000 square foot traveling exhibition developed by the California Science Center that provides an experiential and holistic view of fear science,

examining physiological, neurobiological, and sociological aspects of fear. Engaging activities in Goose Bumps! allow visitors to experience fear in a safe and enjoyable environment, rate their response, understand the science behind the emotion, and reflect upon its personal meaning. The California Science Center is located at 700 State Drive in Exposition Park, Los Angeles. For more information, visit their website at [www.californiasciencecenter.org](http://www.californiasciencecenter.org) or call the Center at 323-SCIENCE. **Opens July 4, 2007.**

**Pavilion of Wings at the Natural History Museum** Enter a world of flying butterflies and stroll through a beautifully landscaped temporary exhibit housed at the Museum's South Lawn. 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. \$3 for adults, \$2 for seniors and students and \$1 for children ages 5 to 12. **Through September 3, 2007.** The Natural History Museum is located at 900 Exposition Boulevard in Los Angeles. For more information, call (213) 763-DINO, or visit the their website at [www.nhm.org](http://www.nhm.org).

**Dinosaurs Alive! 3D** is a global adventure of science and discovery. Join the world's preeminent paleontologists as they hunt for dinosaur remains, and then experience these gigantic creatures reincarnated on the 7-story IMAX screen in breathtaking 3D. For show times, call (213) 744-7400, or visit [www.californiasciencecenter.org/Imax/](http://www.californiasciencecenter.org/Imax/). IMAX is located at 700 State Drive in Los Angeles.

The EAD website, located at [www.lacity.org/EAD](http://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.

## City of Los Angeles Environmental Affairs Commission Meetings

The City of Los Angeles Environmental Affairs Commission (EAC) meets the third Thursday of each month in City Hall, 200 N. Spring Street in Los Angeles. The General Public is invited to attend. Commission Agendas, minutes, meeting times and places are posted at [http://www.lacity.org/EAD/EADWeb-NewsEvents/updateagenda\\_&\\_minutes.htm](http://www.lacity.org/EAD/EADWeb-NewsEvents/updateagenda_&_minutes.htm)

**Los Angeles Public Library's Kids' Summer Reading Club: "I Spy Books"** This year's theme is sure to tap into any kid's spirit of adventure. Sign them up at any Los Angeles Public Library local branch or register them online. When they come to the library during the summer they will receive a free folder filled with secret messages to decode. They will get a bookmark and a special "I Spy Books" bag. During the summer, the library will host author visits, musicians, storytellers and artists. Have them spend the season reading

for pleasure and participating in the fun programs at the Los Angeles Public Library. Each library starts their program on a different date, so check with your local library. For more information on the Library's Summer Reading Program, visit <http://www.lapl.org> or call (213) 228-7000 to find the branch nearest you. Free.

**Star Parties** Free public star parties are held monthly with the assistance of the Los Angeles Astronomical Society and the Los Angeles Sidewalk Astronomers at the Griffith Observatory. They are a chance for the whole family to look at the sun, moon, visible planets, and other objects, and to try out a variety of telescopes. The Observatory is located at 2800 East Observatory Road in Griffith Park, but visitors must make shuttle reservations to attend. For more information, visit the Griffith Park's Star Parties Webpage at [www.griffith-observatory.org/starparties.html](http://www.griffith-observatory.org/starparties.html) or visit the Los Angeles Astronomical Society's webpage at [www.laas.org/](http://www.laas.org/).

### THIS MONTH:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)

#### Sat July 7

**Aquarium of the Pacific Education Program Job Shadowing Program: Aquarist** Taking care of fish is a fun and rewarding hobby, and it can even be a career! Aquarists are people that take care of fish and invertebrates, and in this Job Shadow program, you will gain some hands on experience at the Aquarium helping to feed

their animals. Participants will prepare and feed food to a variety of exhibits, learn how to maintain and clean exhibits, meet their dive team, and encounter animals up close in their behind-the-scenes areas. Designed for students in grades 7-12. Call (562) 951-1630. \$29 per student. The Aquarium is located at 100 Aquarium Way in Long Beach.

#### Sat, Jul 14

**Critter Club: Mysterious Mantids at the LA County Natural History Museum** Just who are these big-eyed friends? Why do they look the way they do? Meet some beautiful live mantids, watch them eat, and maybe visit the garden to release some! Critter Club is a special program for children ages 3-5 (and their accompanying adult) on select Saturdays of each month. Activities are available on a first-come, first-served basis and are free with paid Museum admission. For more information, call (213) 763-3230.

#### Sat and Sun, Jul 14 to 15

**29th Annual Lotus Festival** The Lotus Festival celebrates the people and cultures of Asia featuring entertainment, food, boutiques, dragon boat races, carnival, and more. Free. Sponsored by the City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks. The Festival takes place at Echo Park Lake, located at 1632 Bellevue Avenue in Los Angeles. For more info and times, call (888) LAPARKS. Free admission.

#### Fri and Sat, Jul 20 and Jul 21

**Sleepover with the Fishes** Grab your sleeping bag - it's a sleepover at Cabrillo Marine Aquarium (CMA)! Explore animal

behavior after dark with CMA Education staff. Watch films in the auditorium and learn about the nocturnal marine environment. Breakfast is included. Reservations are required. Fee: \$35. Call CMA for more info at (310) 548-7562. The Aquarium is located at 3720 Stephen M. White Drive in San Pedro.

#### Sun, Jul 22

#### Visiting Naturalist: The Animal Guys, Inc.

What do a fox, a porcupine, an alligator, a cervel, and a woodchuck have in common? They are all coming to KidSpace! This is your chance to meet some exotic animals that share the planet with us. Don't forget to bring a friend. Free with admission. These animal friends show up at KidSpace at 11 am. KidSpace is located at 480 N. Arroyo Blvd. in Pasadena. Call (626) 449-9144 for more information or visit [www.kidspace.org](http://www.kidspace.org).

#### Clean Air Car Show and Film Festival

This event will be held in the City of South Pasadena from 11 am to 6 pm. The event will raise awareness and educate the community about adverse effects of vehicles on the environment. Movies and presentations will take place in the Historic Rialto Theater. The event takes place at the Mission Oaks parking lot located behind the Rialto and around Fair Oaks Avenue and El Centro Street. For more information see: <http://www.ci.south-pasadena.ca.us/whatsnew/index.html>, or call (626) 403-7380. Free.

*(Spring Events...Continued from page 1)*

cials, environmental leaders, as well as kids and community members participating in activities and discussions. The Los Angeles Clean Cities Coalition, coordinated by the City's Environmental Affairs Department, participated on both days with an outreach booth at the event. The booth was visited by the many people in attendance, including the ladies of the Red Hat Society.

**Asthma Conference** The South Coast Air Quality Management District hosted the "Asthma Is a Small World International Conference" on April 26 and 27 at the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim, California. In addition to experts from Southern California and across the country, the conference included asthma experts from at least eight foreign countries: Australia, Canada, France, India, Israel, Mexico, South Africa and Spain. Dr. William Burke, Governing Board Chairman of the South Coast Air Quality Management District, spoke on the importance of recent scientific studies showing that air pollution plays a significant role in asthma. Other speakers included Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who spoke during Friday's lunch on "The Future of Healthcare in California," and Olympic gold medalist and asthma sufferer Jackie Joyner-Kersey spoke at Thursday's lunch about "Achieving Success with Asthma." The Environmental Affairs Department, also representing the Los Angeles Clean Cities Coalition, participated both days with an outreach booth and the display of one of the City's fuel cell vehicles, a Honda FCX.



**Paving the Path** The "Paving the Path for a Cleaner Earth" event was held on May 11 by the Southern California Association of Government's Clean Cities Coalition at the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (AQMD) Diamond Bar headquarters. The event co-sponsors were Rio Hondo College, the AQMD and the California Department of Education Model Pathway Grant. The Los Angeles Clean Cities Coalition, coordinated by EAD, participated in this event with an alternative fuel vehicle education and outreach booth. The event was aimed at high school students, college students and adults. Busloads of students studied the vehicles of their future and attended informational sessions focused on career and educational opportunities. Some of the technologies represented at this event may power the everyday vehicles of tomorrow.



### **Hollywood Bowl**

EAD represented the City's Clean Cities Coalition again at the John Mayer concert at the Hollywood Bowl on June 10. This Mayer concert tour was coordinated by REVERB, a non-profit environmental organization. All of REVERB's eco-efforts were focused to minimize the tour's "footprint" on the earth. REVERB is helping to green up some elements of this concert tour by putting together a "village" at each concert site that consists of environmentally-minded non-profits and other "green" sponsors such as the City of Los Angeles Clean Cities Coalition, among others. Those attending the concert were able to learn about renewable energy and alternative fuels and talk to local groups that are making a difference. Operating from deep within both the music industry and the environmental world, REVERB's mission is to "green" artists' tours and the music business at large while raising awareness and support for the environment through an interactive Eco-Village.



## 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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