

SEED

from front page

"Our goal was to plan a 'wow' event and we are doing so. The response from people wanting to attend has been overwhelming."

This year's El Segundo honorees are BT Americas, Inc., Northrop Grumman, Raytheon's Space and Airborne Systems (SAS) and Tree Musketeers. BT Americas won in its category (Carbon Footprint Reduction), thanks to a landmark solar paneling project it completed this year. Local youth-led environmental group Tree Musketeers also received notice for its accomplishments in the same category. Local aerospace giants Northrop Grumman and Raytheon SAS are among the six firms recognized for Sustainable Workplace. Other categories include Alternative Energy, Energy Efficiency, Environmental Education and Outreach, Environmental Leadership, Green Building, Marine Preservation/Protection, Waste Reduction and Recycling, and Water Conservation.

BT Americas earned its win on the heels of completing a 601-kilowatt-DC solar photovoltaic system at its North American headquarters in El Segundo. Now operational and the largest of its kind in the Southland, the system is expected to reduce carbon emissions by 700,000 pounds annually while decreasing overall power costs for the site in the coming years. The solar panels, mounted on an elevated structure in the parking lot, move throughout the day to track the sun in order to maximize energy production during peak hours.

An El Segundo mainstay since 1987, Tree Musketeers' youth leaders and volunteers have collected close to 10,000 tons of recyclables over the past 11 years and helped plant over a million trees. Last year, the organization completed the four-year Trees to the Sea project that added 500 trees along Imperial Highway to beautify El Segundo's entryway while also reducing global warming, filtering storm water and providing a sound barrier from the adjacent airport. Additionally in 2008, Tree Musketeers launched its 3x3 Campaign to empower three million kids around the world to plant three million trees to fight global warming.

Among Northrop Grumman's accomplishments are an International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 14001 certification for environmental management, establishment of an award-winning "green team" with over 100 members who hosted 18 eco-related events in under seven months, 11 consecutive WRAP awards for extensive recycling efforts, green websites to engage employees about environmental information and initiatives, and launch of an award-winning commuter services program that encourages alternative transportation through subsidies, promotions and competitions (such as the 2009 Bike to Work Challenge that the firm won). Northrop Grumman also remodeled the former Xerox building (201 Douglas Street) using LEED certification guidelines, while also transforming the facility into an EPA Energy Star Certified Building.

Raytheon SAS reported an annual savings of 28 million gallons of water after completing a 600-foot pipe expansion that brings in recycled water from West Basin Municipal Water District. The company is additionally working towards zero waste generation, recycling waste it can't eliminate and reducing greenhouse gases released from landfills.

In 2008, Raytheon SAS sent all of its solid waste to a trash-to-energy facility in Long Beach. Also last year, the firm announced it had reduced its energy consumption more than 14.5 percent over a three-year period en route to its goal of 20 percent reduction by 2015. Meanwhile, its recycling program grew from five percent to 62 percent over the last decade. And by contributing large plots of land to the El Segundo/Nash Metro Green Line Station and designing various commuter programs to increase personnel participation, Raytheon SAS now reports 1,000 that employees use mass transit or vanpools to get to work.

"We're thrilled and honored to host this important event," said Mayor McDowell. "Our city is deeply committed to promoting green initiatives and it's encouraging to see both our corporate and youth leaders prioritize environmental sustainability as a way of life. Their achievements are an inspiration."

For more information about the SEED awards, contact Lauren Mahakian at 310-524-2359. Several El Segundo businesses are also serving as event sponsors. The list includes Cyber City, Embassy Suites Natural Simplicity, and Whole Foods Market.

The 2009 SEED award winners and honorees are (winners noted in bold):

Green Building**Lean Arch, Inc., Los Angeles**

Marine Preservation/Conservation: Martin Byhower, Rolling Hills

Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, Los Angeles

Sustainable Workplace

Door-to-Door Valet Cleaners, Manhattan Beach

DHL, Redondo Beach

Northrop Grumman, El Segundo

Northrop Grumman, Redondo Beach

Raytheon, El Segundo

Unlimited Fitness, Hermosa Beach

Waste Reduction and Recycling**Hunt Enterprises, Hawthorne**

Bayou Grill, Inglewood

The del Sol School, Manhattan Beach

Little Caesar's, Inglewood

Richard Marshal Fine Flooring, Hawthorne

Manhattan Bread and Bagel, Manhattan Beach

SCAPA Converted Products, Inglewood

Virco Mfg. Corp., Torrance

Water Conservation

Gray Water Recycling Systems, LLC, Redondo Beach

Green Forest Car Wash, Hawthorne

Inglewood Park Cemetery, Inglewood

Alternative Energy**LA City Biodiesel, Redondo Beach****Carbon Footprint Reduction****BT Americas Inc., El Segundo**

Tree Musketeers, El Segundo

Energy Efficiency

Pike Properties and Management, Redondo Beach

Los Angeles Housing Partnership

Environmental Education and Outreach

Martha Segovia of the South Bay Environmental Services Center, Lawndale

Rediscover, Culver City

Beach Cities Health District, Redondo Beach

Kathleen Jacecko, Redondo Beach

Environmental Leadership**Captain Bernardo Herzer, Culver City**

Waste Management, Manhattan Beach

Inheritance

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You may get only one inheritance in your life ~ so do whatever you can to make the most of it.

Edward Jones, its financial advisors and employees do not provide tax or legal advice.

You should consult with a qualified tax or legal professional for advice on your specific situation.

Submitted by Dean M. Seligman dean.seligman@edwardjones.com •



Market

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their private property rights taken away." And as a matter of course, he added, "I consider every one of my clients as a friend."

A South Bay real estate veteran of over 30 years, Goddard is president-elect of the California Association of Realtors, which represents upwards of 180,000 real estate professionals. The South Bay Association of Realtors claims about 4,000 local Realtors. All three groups are dedicated to providing education and support to the Realtor community. They also promote the ethical standards --- spelled-out duties to one's clients, the public and fellow professionals --- on which the Realtor concept was based soon after the trade group was founded in the early 1900s.

"We're a conduit to everything that's happening," offered Kathy Kelly, executive director for the South Bay association. She notes that maintaining the flow of communication between her association and member Realtors, and by extension their clients, has been increasingly challenging, as the generational gaps between individual Realtors has grown and communication technologies have changed almost at lightning speeds. "We need to find a way to cater to both old and young," Kelly said. The local association has made much more use recently on different online communication programs, along with a stepped up presence on *Twitter* and Internet blogging sites.

At the same time, the National Association of Realtors has apparently been working toward making the housing market friendlier for consumers again. According to a report filed earlier this month by the Associated Press, the NAR disclosed it spent more than \$3.8 million lobbying the federal government in the second quarter for measures that would help buoy the housing market, according to a recent disclosure form.

The group pushed for greater tax credits for first-time homebuyers, efforts to prevent foreclosures, and legislation that would protect consumers from dishonest lending practices. The association, which has spent more than \$9.5 million lobbying in Washington,

also focused its efforts on issues involving housing discrimination, tenant evictions and homeowners' insurance.

Naturally, not all that Realtors do is met with smiles. One of the few but still recurring complaints posted on the Internet about Realtors is that they don't present honest public assessments of market trends. For example, on the *Wallet Pop* website, blogger Zac Bissonette complains, "I recently saw a commercial paid for by the National Association of Realtors informing us that no matter what anyone says, it's a great time to buy... Maybe that's true. With interest rates this low and a wide selection of homes available in many markets, I think it probably is."

"But the problem is that the National Association of Realtors has been running these ads forever," Bissonette continued. "In a February 2008 commercial, the NAR broadcast a commercial explaining that buying a home is 'a good move, for your family, and toward building long-term wealth.' In most markets, that turned out not to be the case, with many buyers who put 20 percent down already under water."

The recent market trends have been particularly hard on traditional buyers, no question, said Goddard. But, that doesn't diminish the fact that with a little creativity and the necessary resources, there's always a way to make a real estate investment pay off. Realtor Robert Freedman of Manhattan Beach said, "The real estate market is like a huge pendulum that swings back and forth, but real estate prices have generally always continued to rise." Nobody needs a "crystal ball to tell us real estate will be going up again," he added.

"Every single day, we're faced with different challenges in our efforts to support Realtors and purchasers," whether they're problems with a particular sale or gripes about how Realtors get their message out to the public, said Kelly.

But, "I think that those ongoing challenges keep us sharp." Such a process, she said, "assures that the helping hand we offer really does extend help."

Opinion

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year, and are now considering ways to stop their economies from overheating. This is proving to be NOT a worldwide recession, but a U.S. recession based on the decisions we have made. Other countries were right.

Has any Administration made more errors in handling an economy? The fact of the

matter is that we have an economy so anemic and a debt load so great that all discussions of health care reform, global warming, and paying for additional combat troops around the world are being reduced to academic exercises. We're broke, folks. •

Penguin

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who blew 259 people, most of them Americans, out of the sky. And was responsible for another 11 unfortunate people on the ground being killed as the airplane debris crashed to the surface in Lockerbie.

Release the corporate embezzler or the tax cheat. Not a mass murderer. Do you realize that Megrahi served less than 100 months in confinement for destroying, for butchering 270 people? And shattering the lives of their parents, their husbands, their wives, their children? Incredible.

Of course, there are some who say that Megrahi was innocent of the charges in the Pan Am disaster. In fact, an independent judicial commission in Scotland a few years back released a statement that Megrahi "may have suffered a miscarriage of justice." Something about an unreliable prosecution witness.

One of the people who lost a family member in the crash has come out on Megrahi's side. "He should be able to go straight home to his family and spend his last days there," said Jim Swire, whose daughter perished in the bombing. Swire also told the *BBC* that "I don't believe for a moment that this man was involved in the way that he was found to have been involved."

Okay, rational people can agree to disagree. But according to the courts, dude was found guilty and should have spent the rest of his putrid life rotting away in a prison cell. So said Kara Welz, who lost her brother in the bombing. Speaking of the release of Megrahi, Welz said, "It's horrible. I don't show compassion for someone who showed no remorse."

Speaking of remorse, it looks like the incredibly popular cash for clunkers car ditching program petered out a few weeks early. Never did offload the old Camry. Guess I lost that conversation with the wife.

And two of the icons in the news game passed away last week. Venerable *CNN* commentator Robert Novak succumbed to cancer at the age of 78. The conservative columnist was a staple on CNN for years, appearing on many of their bombastic panel shows, taking the "right" side against the perceived lefties who run the network.

And Don Hewitt, the man credited with starting the CBS Sunday night staple *60 Minutes*, also went to a better resting place. Or so they say.

Hewitt was a CBS news guy forever and had been battling pancreatic cancer. He was 86.