

Movie

from front page



Bret, Sierra, Emily

the El Segundo High School Interact Club was dishing out pizza. Lemonade, funnel cake and kettle corn booths were also present.

It was obvious that this was an event to bring the young ones to because of all the activities provided for them at the park. There were bouncy houses, rides around the park on a small train, and face painting—in addition to the playground already on the park grounds. For the adults, there was a live band, a DJ, and beer.

A spectacular raffle was held for the attendees who felt lucky, and several tables held a variety of prizes. Park-goers could choose which prize they wanted by drop-

ping their \$1 ticket into the box in front of the corresponding prize. Jewelry, toys and a coffee and espresso-maker were some of the potential winnings. In addition, there was a super raffle. The ticket prices were higher (\$5), but so was the caliber of the prizes, such as a trip to Hawaii. Event sponsors donated all the prizes.

Some of the event sponsors had booths in the park. Local El Segundo business Britt's Bar-B-Que was one of the sponsors present. This newly-opened restaurant was passing out free food samples and trinkets. "We enjoy doing sponsorship for El Segundo," Craig Kovar, co-owner of the restaurant, said.

Once it was dark enough, it was time to settle down and watch the movie. The film selected this year for the big screen was Dreamworks's 2008 film of martial arts cartoon madness, *Kung Fu Panda*. Chevron Senior Public Affairs Specialist Lily Craig, the other co-chair of the event, explained that the way they select the park movie is by asking the kids of the club's families what movies they like. They

keep score of the responses, and the film that gets the highest score from the young children, yet still had an appeal for adults, is the one selected. Some of the past movies shown in the park were *Ice Age*, *Night at the Museum* and *Madagascar*.

Craig said anywhere between 2,500 to 3,000 people attend this event. Not only do they come from all over the South Bay, but she has heard of people driving in from places as far as Murietta and Bakersfield.

Rogers called the El Segundo Rotary Club one of the best community service organizations. She said the club has been in El Segundo for over 50 years and the group is usually made up of business professionals. She explained that Movie in the Park is the club's largest fundraiser of the year. And where do the proceeds go? "The cool thing about this event is all the money that the Rotary generates goes right back into the community," Craig said, adding that most of it goes into El Segundo. While some of the funds go towards Rotary's international projects, the majority benefits El Segundo youth organizations.

Movie in the Park attendee Beth Hapke returned to the event with her family and

friends. They had a whole grass area staked out for the movie that evening. She said she wanted to have a fun night with the kids and she's a supporter of fundraisers. The movie didn't seem to be the main draw for Hapke and company coming out. "We just bring a lot of food and we sit with a bunch of our friends," she said as she waited for her family to return from riding the train, "And we like to sit and have a picnic." She joked that most of the kids fall asleep before the movie starts.

For co-chair Craig, the Movie in the Park event is definitely a highlight of her job. "Of all the things that I do to represent Chevron, this is the one I have the most fun with," she said.



The Rotary Club of South Bay Sunrise provided hot dogs for the hungry attendees. All Photos by Marcy Dugan. See marcyduganphoto.com.



William Doherty



A live band played for the park-goers.



People gathered before the screen where the movie would be played that evening.