

Calendar

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2009

• The El Segundo Firefighters' Association is proud to host the 1st Annual Golf Classic-2009 at Coyote Hills Golf Course 1440 E. Bastanchury Road in Fullerton. Proceeds from the event will support the ESFA and local charities within the City of El Segundo. For more information contact Tony Del Castillo/Ryan Allee/Steve Stack at 310-416-9923 or 310-524-2269.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2009

• Moms in Touch Dessert 7:00-8:30 p.m. at 1352 E. Mariposa Ave. Find out about MITI... moms meeting weekly to pray for their children and schools contact Martha Cason at 640-6811 or casonmartha@yahoo.com. More info at: momsintouch.org

UPCOMING

• *September 11 Day of Remembrance and Service Activities. Food-drive:* September 1-13, El Segundo Fire Station 314 Main St. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. *Blood-drive* locations: September 8 and 23, Hacienda Hotel 525 N. Sepulveda Blvd. 1 p.m.-7 p.m. September 10, Pacific Corporate Towers Conference Room 200 N. Sepulveda Blvd. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Appointments necessary call the receptionist at 310-563-1445. September 18, Plaza El Segundo 700 S. Sepulveda Blvd. 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. Contact Alice 323-900-4424. For more information visit web site: www.senate.ca.gov/oropeza

• Tree Musketeers teaches LEADership courses September 9 – November 4, 2009 and Public Speaking course September 10 – October 29 for Youth 10 -18 years. For enrollment and fees call 310-322-0263, 305 Richmond Street or visit www.treemusketeers.org .

• Moms in Touch Coffee Thursday, September 10, 9:00-10:30 a.m. at 1225 E. Sycamore Ave. Find out about MITI... moms meeting weekly to pray for their children and schools. momsintouch.org or contact Martha Cason at 640-6811 or casonmartha@yahoo.com

• El Segundo Chamber presents Back to Business Expo/Mixer hosted by Hacienda Hotel 525 N. Sepulveda Blvd., September 17, 4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Reserve your space now, it is a great way to showcase your business. For more information contact Denise

at the Chamber office 310-322-1220.

ONGOING

• The El Segundo Seniors Club Travels. For dates and registration deadlines call Chuck 310-640-0891 or visit The Joslyn Center.

• Recovery International offers effective self help method, allowing personal control over anxiety, depression, anger. (Free, but donations accepted.) Meetings are Wednesdays, 7:45 p.m. at the Methodist Church, 540 Main St. 310-322-6373

• Senior Golf League for Men and Women 50 and older every Wednesday 9:00am at The Lakes Golf Course, El Segundo. All skill levels. For more information 310-670-4817.

• C.A.S.E. (Community Alliance to Support and Empower), a non-profit organization who have been assisting El Segundo families in need, need food pantry and/or monetary donations as well as volunteers for as little as 2 hours per month in support of this very worthwhile cause within our City. Please contact 310-767-0670.

• The El Segundo Public Library is offering literacy tutoring through trained volunteers to help adults learn to read or improve their reading skills, please call ES Public Library 310-524-2728.

• The El Segundo Home Delivered Meal program is available to qualified clients. If you are over 62, on SSI, or in need of assistance, please call the Outreach Office at 310-322-9033.

• Dispose of computers, printers, TV's, cell phones, motor oil, paint, and household batteries at the Hyperion Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center every Saturday and Sunday from 9:00-3:00 P.M. at 7660 West Imperial Hwy, Gate B. 310-524-2709. Pack waste properly to prevent spilling during transportation.

• Old Town Music Hall open on weekends, classic movies and live concerts, 140 Richmond St. 310-322-2592 or visit http://otmh.org

• El Segundo moms, join MOMS Club for friendship, reassurance, parenting advice, stories and fun, 310-859-5512. •

Letters

PUBLIC SAFETY SALARY & STAFFING

Recent articles from another local newspaper disclose alarming statistics regarding certain public employee compensation in El Segundo. Despite a \$6 million budget deficit, some individuals receive around \$1/4 million annually, not including extremely generous retirement and numerous other benefits; fire and police compensation alone accounts for about 80% of the General Fund. These numbers deserve further scrutiny.

Investigation (<http://www.city-data.com>) reveals that, comparing El Segundo to Redondo, Hermosa and Manhattan, our per capita staffing levels for firefighters vary from 3 1/2 to well over 4 times that of others and average compensation ranges from 30% to over 100% higher. Police staffing varies from almost twice to 2 1/2 times others and compensation 20% to 50% higher. I am unaware of any deficiencies whatsoever regarding

filling positions or providing public safety services in these neighboring cities. *Average* El Segundo firefighter and police salaries, again *without benefits*, now approximate \$177,000 and \$148,000 respectively and future raises are already contracted, further compounding the problem. Even during a thriving economy these figures would appear impossible to rationalize. We are far beyond the point of diminishing returns.

Clearly the City Council has relinquished control of city finances and thus the city itself, to organized labor, constituting dereliction of duty and violation of public trust at the very least. Management skills commensurate with fiscal responsibilities are obviously lacking. Residents deserve and must demand clear and comprehensive explanations of precisely why these disparities exist.

City Council, City Manager, Chiefs - answers please?

Richard Arabian

Obituary



RONETTA LYN "RONNI" FORD

Camino. In 1988, she and her young daughter, Jessica, moved to Houston to be close to her Grandmother. She later settled in Rosharon, Texas where she is forever remembered for her smile, laughter, and concern for others.

August 2, 2009 Ronni joined her paternal grandparents, Everett and Eva Ford, in heaven. She is survived by: daughter Jessica Hughes (Northridge); mother Ruth Owens and step-father Clyde (El Segundo); father Ray Ford, brother Russell Ford, and nephew Zachary Ford (Bessemer, Alabama); Grandmother Pauline Ruckle (Casper, Wyoming) and Grandfather Paul Purvis and Step-grandmother Lois (Cody, Wyoming); many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Interment will be in Bullcreek Cemetery, Cody, Wyoming.

Ronni joined our lives February 8, 1967 in Great Falls, Montana. Her family moved to California when she was eighteen months old. She attended El Segundo High School, was a cheerleader, member of the drill team and tall flags. She majored in education at El



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<p>DEADLINES</p> <p>OBITUARIES: Monday at noon. CALENDAR ITEMS: Prior Friday at noon. PEOPLE ITEMS: Prior Friday at noon. DISPLAY AD CHANGES: Prior Thursday at noon. CLASSIFIEDS: Tuesday at noon. LEGAL NOTICES: Monday at noon. NEW DISPLAY ADS: Prior Thursday at noon. REAL ESTATE ADS: Monday at noon. AD CANCELLATIONS: Prior Thursday. LATE CANCELLATIONS WILL BE CHARGED 50% OF AD</p>
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