

Calendar

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2009

• *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

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2009

• The El Segundo Woman's Club meeting will be held at 11:30 a.m. before lunch. The program will be presented by Barbara Leigh "The Magic of Hawaii" 310-322-1906.

• 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.

UPCOMING

• El Segundo United Methodist Church events September 10, Toddlers on Thursdays (TOTs) resumes. September 13, Sunday School resumes check for times and teachers at website: unitedmethodistchurchofelsegundo.com September 20, UMC is having a 95 Year Anniversary Celebration. Worship Service starts at 10:30 a.m. Contact us 310-322-0051.

• 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's Annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday September 12th between 8:30 AM and 11:30AM. Sponsored by our very own Police and Fire Associations. Join the free festivities, which include tours of the Fire Station, a bounce house for the kids, and live music. Donations accepted to benefit local charities call Firefighter Dina Carr for further information (310) 524-2269.

• Breakfast and bake sale at Gold Crest

Rebekah Lodge September 13, 8 a.m.-11 a.m. adults \$6. Child under 12 \$3. 406 E. Grand Avenue 310-322-7359

• El Segundo High School Band will have a fundraiser at Cold Stone on Grand in El Segundo; Wednesday September 16, 3:00-6:00pm. Please come and support our music programs. Flyers are in the High School Office and public Library.

• 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.

• On Saturday, September 19, California Masons will celebrate the anniversary of the signing of our U. S. Constitution at Library Park in El Segundo 10 a.m. to noon. Open to the public. The Boy Scouts of America will present the flag. Speakers will include Mayor Kelly McDowell. Event coordinator John Morrison (310) 675-1635.

• The 2009 Flu Shot Clinic for citizens over 50 will be held at the Joslyn Center on Friday, October 2nd 0:00 a.m. to 12 noon. For info 310-322-9033 between 9 and 1 M-F. Date, time and place for a separate clinic for swine flu shots will be announced later.

• El Segundo Council PTA invites you to register for the Fall 2009 Family Photo Fund Raiser at www.FamilyPortraitFun.com. Register early the spaces fill quickly.

• El Segundo Class of 1974 is having a 35th reunion party on October 17. For more info email Evelyn at 74reunion@gmail.com

ONGOING

• The Recreation & Parks Department Fall 2009 Walk-In Registration for El Segundo Residents began on Saturday, August 29, 9 am - 3 pm at the Clubhouse, 300 East Pine Street, and Joslyn Center, 339 Sheldon Street. Registration forms will also be accepted at the Plunge from 11 am - 3 pm. Non-Resident Walk-In Registration begins on Monday, September 21, at 9am. Quarterly Brochure is now available online at www.elsegundo.org. Recreation & Parks Department (310) 524-2700.

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

Cityscape

By Mayor Kelly McDowell

Dear Reader,
My apologies for the dearth of columns recently.

Back on June 18 I permitted doctors to invade my knee in an attempt to repair 30 years' worth of damage from daily running. The result has been less than anticipated. I have met and spent more time with more physicians and surgeons to resolve outstanding medical issues than I ever would have dreamed.

This effort has occupied a considerable portion of my daily life; thus the sporadic verbal output. Again, my apologies--and now let's move on to something else.

Namely, the city's budget. A number of weeks ago the city council sat down at its annual strategic planning meeting to make decisions on a variety of spending and revenue issues.

City revenues have declined on nearly all fronts during the current fiscal year, which ends September 30. City staffers have done a commendable job of cutting departmental expenses on the fly and have kept El Segundo's fiscal health intact.

But the next fiscal year for the city, which starts October 1, is going to be more painful

for certain. At our strategic planning meeting (and a follow-on meeting, as well) the city council agreed to cut nearly \$6 million from the coming year's budget. That's about 10 percent of the general fund budget which, this year, totaled about \$60 million.

We made these cuts without layoffs or program changes. The goal, of course, was to keep the quality and quantity of city services intact despite the cuts in spending and revenues. And we thought that we had met that goal.

Then along came Sacramento. Despite numerous promises to the contrary, the state stole billions of dollars from cities to balance its own budget.

Proposition 1A, passed a few years ago by the state's voters, says that if that happens, the state must repay the stolen money with interest within three years. And the state is prohibited from committing this kind of thievery more than twice in ten years.

This year the state's theft cost El Segundo over a million dollars. That means that the city council must cut that additional amount from an already painfully drained budget before the new fiscal year starts October 1.

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Letters

OPINION COLUMN

In a recent opinion column, a Gerry Chong goes to great lengths to lay the nation's woes solely on President Obama. Note that Chong lacks either the respect or intelligence to use the respectful title, President Obama, instead referring to a sitting president only by his last name.

Chong needs to wake up and remember a few things. First, Pres. Obama only took office in January. He really got started several months after that, meaning it's been less than six months of the new administration. As Chong should know, it was, and still is the greatly misguided policies of the eight years of the Bush administration that created the chaos we're in now. Tell us, Chong - who was president when all the sub prime mortgages were being issued? Under which administration did Greenspan fail to curb abuses? Who greatly increased our national deficit while spending our way through eight years of futile war? President Obama inherited a mess and is only trying his best to clean up the failures of the past administration but Chong believes all our troubles began in January 09.

I don't know why people can't give President Obama a chance. Without examining Chong's personal motives, is it fear of a new administration? Hatred of Democrats? Racial prejudice? Whatever it is, hysterical moaning and blaming the new guy doesn't hack it. Wake up.

John J Keady

LICENSING YOUR BEST FRIEND

Lieutenant Garcia's article (8/27/09 Herald) doesn't properly reflect how the police actually enforce the dog license rule. While walking my leashed dog an officer in an unmarked police car stopped me, within minutes an animal control officer and a patrol officer arrived. My dog was impounded on the spot, no warning, no take care of this at your convenience as the article states, just "I'm doing my job" - my neurotic and scared dog was then placed in the back of a patrol car and brought to the station. I arrived within minutes with paperwork, twenty dollars and less than positive feelings about my first experience inside the police station - my dog was held in "process" for another fifteen minutes -

If meant as a public service, the article would have been published prior to the citywide license sweep, instead of weeks later, where it appears as a way to cover ridiculous overzealous actions.

Be aware "random checks" means whether on a leash or at home your dog; if unlicensed will be impounded on the spot. In my situation, there was no courtesy extended, no option of walking my cowering, scared puppy home and following the officers to the station. A warning would have sufficed, especially for this first time dog owner and if the matter wasn't rectified, then arrest my dog.

Nancy Bell

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.....Norma Catania

.....calendar@heraldpublications.com

Press Releases.....

pressrelease@heraldpublications.com

Production.....

graphics@heraldpublications.com

Accounting.....Denise Armas

.....accounting@heraldpublications.com

Photographers

Shelley Kemp Chris Barnes
Dirk Dewachter Rob Fiore

Writers

Karen Russo Duane Plank
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