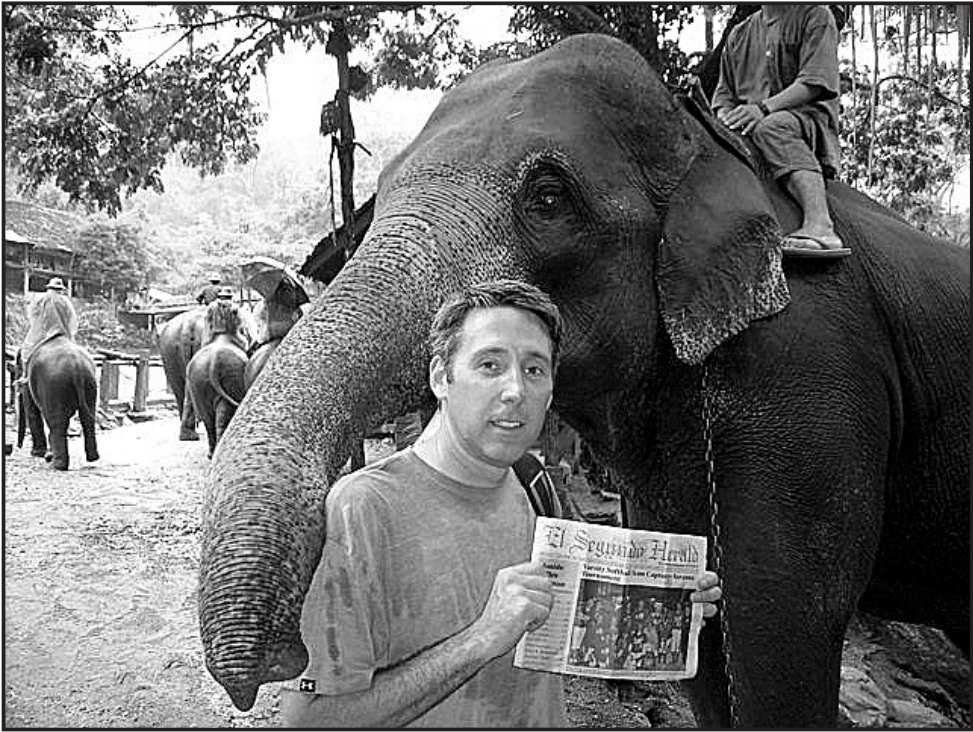


Herald in Thailand



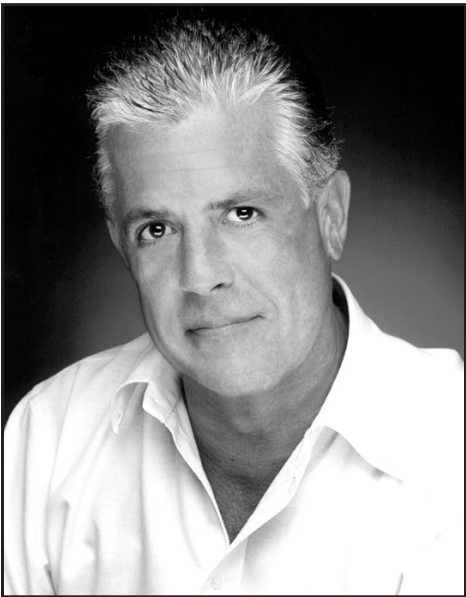
El Segundo resident Bill Brummond on a recent trip to Chiang Mai, Thailand, visits the Maesa Elephant Camp where close interaction with friendly elephants is possible.

Calendar

- SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2009
- El Segundo Relay For Life Benefit Concert Reception & Silent Auction featuring Zerimar, Fritz & Alford. Sunday, August 9, at the Old Town Music Hall 5pm-9pm. Benefiting cancer research and education. Ticket donations \$25. 310-607-9130
- UPCOMING
- St. Anthony Church Rummage Sale Saturday August 15 and Sunday 16th 8-4pm, second hand donations and volunteers are needed. Contact Marie 310-322-9158
 - The Military Affairs Committee will meet on Wednesday, August 19th 8:00am at the Chamber office, 427 Main Street in El Segundo. To RSVP please contact Denise at the Chamber 310-322-1220 or info@elsegundochamber.org.
 - Supervisor Don Knabe's "Small Business Contracting Connections Workshop" - 8:00am to 12:00pm on Wednesday, August 19th at The Grand Event Center located at 4101 E. Willow Street, Long Beach, CA Admission is Free pre-register on line at www.laosb.org the Events & Training Courses link Office of Small Business/PTAC or for more information contact 323-881-3964
 - El Segundo Masons host 3rd annual BBQ, Saturday, Aug 22, in the parking lot north of the Masonic Center, 520 Main Street 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All proceeds will supplement the Harvey Hazeltine Memorial Masonic Scholarship. Suggested donations: \$4.00 adults, \$3.00 children. Military are free with an ID card.
 - Take pleasure in networking with members from all the South Bay Chambers on August 26th at the beach while celebrating the end of summer at the Seaside Lagoon located at 200 Portofino Way, Redondo Beach. Sample food from local restaurants and a large raffle while enjoying the best of what the South Bay has to offer. Par-

- icipating Chamber Members \$5 * Guests \$10 admission includes 1 drink ticket and 1 raffle ticket. To donate a raffle prize and for more information contact Heidi at 310-376-6911 ext. 24.
- The El Segundo Firefighters' Association is proud to host the 1st Annual Golf Classic-2009 on August 28th. This event will be held at Coyote Hills Golf Course located at 1440 E. Bastanchury Road in Fullerton, CA. 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.
- ONGOING
- El Segundo Fire Department is offering CPR classes during the month of August. The classes will be each Thursday from 6:00 to 9:00pm. \$40 for residents, \$45 for non-residents. 310-524-2236.
 - 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.
 - Free Meal Program for the unemployed at Hank's Pizza and Snax Burgers 202 Imperial Avenue. Program runs through December 31, 2009. Dine-in only 5-9pm. For details 310-335-0066 .
 - 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.
 - Recovery International offers effective self-help method, allowing personal control over anxiety, depression, anger. (Free, but donations accepted.) Meetings are Wednesday, 7:45 p.m. at the Methodist Church, 540 Main St. (at Mariposa), El Segundo. Call (310) 322-6373 for more information.

State Budget Woes - Now They're Ours



(NOT TO MENTION THE ECONOMY)

By Mayor Kelly McDowell

I've written recently on this topic, but it is once again timely, so here is an update. Bear with me if I repeat myself.

I'm surprised it has taken this long, but the state of the economy and the state of the State's budget are finally taking their toll on El Segundo's City budget. Don't panic--we are in much better shape than most cities and we will ride this out without the drastic cuts in programs and people that other cities and counties need to implement now.

But the economic downturn and Sacramento's inability to structurally reform the way California gets revenues and spends money are hitting our city in significant fashion. We are lucky that in large part we are insulated from the State's fiscal follies.

For one thing, we are what is known as a "no-low" property tax city. That means that when Proposition 13 froze property tax rates in 1978, El Segundo's modest seven percent city portion of those revenues became permanent, so the City budget relies far less heavily on that source of revenue than many other municipalities. (The school district, like all school districts in California, is in a far different place, relying much more heavily on property tax revenues.)

Other sources of State-based revenues to cities, like the vehicle license fee, are allo-

cated based upon residential population. With our residents numbering only about 17,000, we don't rely heavily on this source either.

But the economic downturn has had a substantial effect on El Segundo. We've made expenditure cuts in this fiscal year already and will probably need to make more before the fiscal year ends. (Unlike most California cities, our fiscal year ends September 30, not June 30.) These cuts should not hurt programs and won't result in layoffs.

The fiscal year beginning October 1 is going to be tough, though. The City Council has already given preliminary approval to cutting nearly \$6 million from general fund expenditures, including about \$400,000 in Fire Department overtime, to cite just one example. That's about 10 percent of the entire general fund budget, to put things in perspective. These cuts overall are by far the toughest in my 11 years in office.

But that's not going to be enough. The State Legislature and the Governor have once again picked the pockets of cities and counties across California. Proposition 1A, passed just a few years ago by voters across the state, says that the State can only take this money if it is paid back in three years with substantial interest. Where the state with the lowest credit rating in the nation is going to get the money to pay back this "borrowing" is an unanswered question.

For months Sacramento had told cities and counties that their money was safe. It wasn't. Big surprise, huh?

So what's the impact on our city? About \$865,000 less revenue for the fiscal year starting October 1. That means more painful cuts that the City Council needs to make and the City staff needs to find.

And where are we going to find these spending reductions? Every department will probably share in the bleeding, with the most heavily-funded departments, police and fire, bearing the brunt.

Will we be okay? Yes. El Segundo's substantial reserves remain untouched so far.

Is it over? Not in my estimation, it isn't. The State's recent history indicates a chronic inability to accurately forecast the economy and its impacts on revenues and expenses. To paraphrase a famous actor turned politician, "They will be back." Stay tuned.

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