<u>etters</u>

KEEP YOUR CAR SAFE

Dear Duane, You asked in your Column (November 19, 2009 issue, Frankly Plank) if anyone uses his or her garages for cars. YES, my husband and I park our cars, the ones we drive, in our garages. We do not live in a mansion as you have, but in a small 2,000 square foot condo, with a two car garage.

I am Neighborhood watch Captain and almost every week we get a report on problems in our area. What are they? Vehicular Burglary! Why? Because people do not park in their garages for the most part. My neighbor got his cars, both of them, broken into all in one day. I have been mentioned that the real 'bight' in our neighborhoods are all of the cars that should be parked in their garages-but are parked on the streets! •

--Julia Tedesco THANK YOU TO ALL!

The Richmond Street Fall Festival was a wonderful success once again this year. Thank you to the amazing fall festival committee: Tammy Long and Shannon Magid (Silent Auction), Laura Nilsson and Michele Leach (5th Grade Reps), Shari Gulian (Tickets), Maura Slavens and Stacee Long (Publicity), Maribell Pascarelli and Kari Jaeger (Sweet Walk), Lisa Fisher (Volunteers), Brenda Forsythe (Toy Sales) and finally Karyn Ross (Co-Chair). Between our Ticket Sales, Silent Auction, 5th Grade Food Booth and Booth Sponsoring we generated \$20,000 for Richmond Street School! I would also like to thank all those individuals and businesses that donated items for the Silent Auction, Sweet Walk and 5th Grade Food Booth. Another thank you goes out to the staff at Richmond Street School and the district for helping out with tables, chairs, lights, etc. And finally, thank you to all the parents who donated their time to help with set-up, clean up and working a booth. There are too many of you to mention by name so unfortunately we must make it a generic THANK YOU!! I am so proud to be part of this school and to be surrounded with so many amazing and generous individuals. Thank you to everyone and looking forward to next year.

--Michelle Lawson (RSS Fall Festival Chair)

KEEP EL SEGUNDO FIRE DEPARTMENT IN EL SEGUNDO

As a 25-year resident of El Segundo I like having our own fine Fire & Police Department. I had some issues with a recent car accident and found satisfaction in being able to talk to our own small town fire chief in person. I like that he lives in El Segundo with his family and has a vested interest.

What will happen if we are absorbed in to the County which serves unincorporated parts of Los Angeles as well as 58 other cities, has 171 stations and over 28,000 uniformed firefighters, will our services be worse? We just spent a small fortune on our new fire station do we just hand that over to the county? Also be aware the fire department does not transport patients like El Segundo does. Los Angeles county paramedics will provide service (treatment) while privately contracted ambulances will provide transportation to the local hospital. You will pay this personally, and then you will receive a billing the mail.

This is not the El Segundo we know and love. Our fire services are wonderful, but lets keep them in El Segundo.•

--Cyndee Topar

El Segundo Students Rise to Fitness Challenge

OUTSTANDING STATE PHYSICAL FITNESS TEST RESULTS THRILL COMMUNITY

Janice Hickey

The irony that the Thanksgiving weekend is characteristically symbolic of all the feasting that usually goes along with turkey day festivities couldn't have been more apparent when the State of California released the results of the statewide Physical Fitness Tests the following Monday, November 30. Much to the pride of the El Segundo Community, the students in the 5th, 7th, and 9th grades continued their upward trajectory of attaining even better levels of physical fitness - providing concrete proof that outstanding physical education departments and hands-on, well-educated Wellness Committees are alive and more than well in El Segundo schools.

Dominating statewide and countywide fitness scores, ESUSD 5th graders were 42.1 percent above the statewide average and 44.6 7th graders were a healthy 31.1 percent above the state and 34.7 percent above the county. The 9th graders more than held their own scoring 31.5 percent above state and 35.3 percent above county averages.

Dr. Geoff Yantz lauded the El Segundo Educational Foundation for its strong financial support of physical education programs to ensure its young citizens' bodies get as good a workout as their minds. "The Educational Foundation recognizes that a healthy body and an active mind go hand in hand, and we try to make that a priority in our district," Dr. Yantz commented. "Additionally, our outstanding Wellness Committees diligently pay attention to what's best for our students and work to make sure students have access to the healthiest fare possible."

For El Segundo students, the proof turned out not to be in the eating of the Thanksgiving Day pudding, but in the release of the Physical Fitness Test scores after the feast



Dear Carol,

<u>Dear Carol</u>

I've been dating a man for about four months and we've gotten along pretty well. I travel quite a lot for work and he lives about an hour away so we don't see each other very frequently. We talk on the phone, email and text. Last week my flight returning from a business trip was delayed more than once. I landed hours later than planned; I headed home and collapsed into bed. In the morning I found multiple messages from the night before from him on my home and cell phones asking where I was. The next day my boyfriend called and asked what time I'd gotten home. I told him I didn't know because the flight had been delayed. He said, "Don't lie to me; you know what time you got home." I was so surprised and shocked I didn't know what to say. I'm reconsidering the relationship. He seems like he wants to control me and he certainly doesn't trust me. That is not the kind of relationship I want to be in. How can I make him understand his attitude is wrong and to change? Traveling Tess

Dear Tess,

There are two things you can request from him; one, an apology for doubting your word and two, a plan to keep that kind of behavior from happening again. He needs to convince you in words and deeds that he trusts you and will not try to control you. If this kind of thing happens again please rethink this association, this could be signs of an abusive relationship.

Dear Carol,

I like to send my children and others on my holiday gift list luxury items that they wouldn't normally buy for themselves; things like perfume, decorator items, jewelry and the latest fads. My daughter and her husband have been out of work the past few months and asked that my gifts be a little more practical this year, in fact, they asked for gift cards. I love shopping and giving people treats, it is my way of being creative. I don't think gift cards are in keeping with the spirit of the season. How can I make all of us happy?

Gifting Grace Dear Grace,

Your children have made it clear that the gifts they would most enjoy are practical ones that they can use to obtain the things they really need. Can you buy one small luxury item for your children and devote the rest of their holiday budget to gift cards? If you love shopping so much, why not buy toys and other items for children in need? Toys for Tots, churches, hospitals and other organizations are in need of presents for underprivileged children. You could provide joy to your children with practical gifts and other children with your generosity and creative choices.

Send questions to askcarolnow@gmail. com or mail to Herald Publications

Carol is a Life Coach available for private consultation in person or on the phone

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percent above the countywide average, while was well behind them.



