

El Segundo Herald

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Inside This Issue

Business &

Professional.....25

Business.....12

Calendar.....3

Classifieds.....24

Crossword.....24

Dear Carol.....5

Food and Dining.....26

Frankly Plank.....6

Obituaries.....3

Pets.....2

Real Estate.....13

Sports.....6

Weekend Weather Forecast

Friday

Partly Sunny

73°



Saturday

Sunny

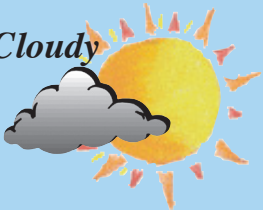
71°



Sunday

Partly Cloudy

67°



Water Polo Team Makes Splash



Senior Max Reynolds takes a shot. Reynolds had two goals and four assists in the match. Photo by Shelley Kemp, www.kemp.photorelect.com

See Polo, page 7

City Hopes New Eco Programs Spur Greener El Segundo

By Brian Simon

On the heels of adopting a new water conservation ordinance last week to encourage residents and businesses to monitor their H2O usage, the City of El Segundo is gearing up to launch several new green programs, events and sponsorships in the coming months. It's all part of an ongoing commitment to educate residents and businesses about environmental responsibility and sustainability.

In conjunction with the South Bay Environmental Services Center, El Segundo will host its first Green Building Workshop for residents and City staff on Wednesday, October 21 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the El Segundo Main Library (111 W. Mariposa Avenue). Speaker David Blanke, division director at Build it Green, will discuss basic concepts, techniques, products and benefits of building or remodeling in an environmentally friendly fashion.

According to El Segundo Senior Administrative Analyst Lauren Mahakian, the event will be the first of many green building workshops the City will host along with SBESC. "These will take place quarterly with different speakers and topics," said Mahakian, who oversees El Segundo's green initiatives and public outreach while working with the City's Environmental Committee. "The workshops will provide perspective from both sides of the planning counter to educate residents, architects, builders and developers about various green topics." The October 21 event will include free refreshments and ample networking opportunities for attendees. Advance registration is required. For more information, visit www.sbesc.com or call 310-371-7222.

On October 24 between 7 and 11 a.m., El Segundoans will have the opportunity to quickly and safely dispose of their backlogs of personal papers. On Community Shred Day, local residents can bring their bags of no-longer-needed documents to the City parking lot (behind City Hall at Holly Av-

enue and Standard Street), and watch staff from South Bay Document Destruction do away with the paperwork on the spot. The El Segundo Police Department will co-sponsor the program, which debuted last fall and had a follow-up event in January. Attendees must show proof of residency via a driver's license or recent utility bill. "Last year, 220 people dropped by in the four-hour span and we're hoping for more this year," said Mahakian. "Professional document shredding is a real time-saver and a great way to protect people from identity theft concerns."

Another new program that combines conservation with creativity will kick off

next month. Through its Reuse and Recycle Holiday Cards effort, the City will partner with Trash for Teaching—a small, non-profit group that helps students create products from materials that would otherwise end up in landfills. From November 2 through January 4, 2010, residents can donate their old greeting cards (or any other unneeded cards) to any of four local drop-off stations. Trash for Teaching, which hosted a booth at El Segundo's Environmental Expo in July, brings its "Treasure Truck" to various schools throughout the region to teach kids (and teachers) how to create arts and crafts items from the cast-off materials. Drop-off

See Green, page 20

Dog, Race Car Lovers Unite

By Brian Simon

Over the next month or so, hundreds of local residents will become immersed in the same page-turner, thanks to the El Segundo Public Library's annual "One City, One Book" program. The library has checked out about 30 copies of author Garth Stein's 2008 bestseller *The Art of Racing in the Rain* in hopes that as many folks as possible in the community will read it, pass it along to friends and family and discuss it amongst themselves. In that sense, the program functions as a citywide book club.

Fans of dogs and auto racing should certainly latch onto Stein's novel, although the book's appeal is universal. The story narrator is a television-addicted Labrador mix by the name of Enzo who believes he will one day be reincarnated as a human. Enzo's owner is a mechanic and up-and-coming race car driver whose wife has cancer. Without divulging any

further details, the story poignantly addresses from a canine perspective both the fragility and resiliency of the human condition. Meanwhile, Universal Pictures has snapped up the movie rights to the novel, with actor Patrick Dempsey set to produce and star in it. No, Dempsey will not play the dog...

"One City, One Book" originated in Seattle in 1998, when Nancy Pearl, executive director of the Washington Center for the Book (part of the Seattle Public Library) encouraged her community to read the Russell Banks novel *The Sweet Hereafter*, with the goal of "broadening and deepening an appreciation of literature through reading and discussion." Since that time, the "One City, One Book" phenomenon literally swept the nation as hundreds of communities across the United States adopted the program. Each individual

See Library, page 21