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Weekend Weather Forecast

Friday

Mostly Sunny

73°

Saturday

Mostly Sunny

72°

Sunday

Mostly Sunny

70°

Councilman Powell with Backbeat



Councilman Wayne Powell was Master of Ceremonies at last Sunday's Concert in the Park. The featured band was "Backbeat", a Beatles tribute band. *More photos, see page 18*

Boating, Not Healthcare Dominates Town Hall Meeting

By Evan Ortega

In an effort to meet with and hear the concerns of a constituency many state representatives don't even have, 53rd District Assemblymember Ted Lieu hosted a Boating Town Hall last Thursday evening. While many members of Congress have recently encountered angry voters at town halls across the country, the biggest controversy for this representative seemed to concern increasingly high slip fees charged by marinas. Members of yacht clubs from across Southern California attended the forum, held at the California Yacht Club in Marina del Rey. "I decided to do this boating town hall because I don't think there's one that's actually been done before," Lieu told the standing-room-only crowd. "That's too bad because you are such a huge part of California's economy."

The Air Force Reserve Major thanked the attendees, some of them clutching drinks from a cash bar in the rear of the conference room, for their part in supporting California's economy. Lieu explained that the State of California has the nation's second largest boating population, with recreational boating generating over \$18.5 billion in annual economic activity. "In my view, we get out of this recession, we compete in California, not by making t-shirts but in those competitive industries where we have a competitive advantage...things that this state has that other states don't have, or what we can do better," Lieu said.

Abandoned Vessels

Lieu disseminated information about Assembly Bill 166, which will create a voluntary "vessel turn-in program" designed to reduce the number of abandoned vessels closing and polluting California's waterways. The bill would also increase the minimum fine from \$500 to \$1,000 for abandoning boats.

"There has been an increased incidence in abandoned watercraft partly due to the economic downturn," Lieu said. "It's not just a navigational hazard; it's also an environmental problem when you have these boats out there and they start leaking oil. Some of them start sinking."

Funding would be diverted from a fund already used by government agencies to dispose of abandoned boats. Lieu believes the bill will be a cost-effective way to reduce the amount of boats being abandoned. "There's very little cost, so you can get rid of a lot more abandoned vessels quickly and cheaply doing it this way," Lieu said.

California Department of Boating and

Waterways Director Raynor Tsuneyoshi said that some counties in Northern California are reporting an average of 30 abandoned boats a month. "This recession is exasperating that and the number of boats that are being abandoned has increased probably by about 35 percent," Tsuneyoshi said. "So if it was bad before, it's getting worse now."

Tsuneyoshi estimated the State currently spends about a million dollars a year on grants to counties and other public agencies to collect and dispose of abandoned boats. "This department, this state is way ahead of the curve when it comes to the whole process of getting rid of abandoned boats,"

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Community Emergency Response Team Offers Classes

By Evan Ortega

For residents who want to help their neighbors during a disaster or want to brush up on their first aid skills, the Manhattan Beach Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) wants to help. The non-profit volunteer organization is offering classes for three Saturdays in a row beginning September 12. Participants will get classroom and hands-on training from members of the Manhattan Beach Fire Department and CERT instructors. "Our goal is to bring disaster awareness to the community and help in any way that we can to supplement both police

and fire," CERT President George Butts said. "And the more people that we can educate and train to know what to do during a disaster means there will be less people who will be injured or disabled during a disaster."

Students will learn about first aid, firefighting, triage and actions to save multiple lives, light search and rescue, communicating for help and holding out until help arrives. "We're here to be available to our citizens and help educate them," Butts said. "If you know how to outfit your home so that its earthquake

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