



THE GREEN SCENE

Countywide Fitness Challenge Kick Off Event at Whittier Narrows a Success!

Gray skies didn't dampen the mood of hundreds of Los Angeles County employees and their families at the Countywide Fitness Challenge kick off event at Whittier Narrows Park on Saturday, June 11, 2011. The event marked the second year that our Play for Life! campaign has been adopted by the County Human Resources Department (DHR) and used in their Countywide Fitness Challenge program.

In addition to health screening and massage booths provided by health care providers, the event offered a host of fun activities including walks around the park, bootcamp exercises, and hula hoop contests led by our very own Parks and Recreation staff. Regional Operations Manager Roy Williams represented our Department during the welcome with DHR Director Lisa Garrett.

Two more Countywide Fitness Challenge events will take place at our parks, including a Take a Hike! event at Kenneth Hahn Park and a Be One with Nature! event at Placerita Canyon Nature Center. Be on the lookout for details of these events from Jennifer Williams, our Department Wellness Coordinator. Many thanks go to Joyce Gibson, Superintendent of Whittier Narrows, and her staff for hosting the stellar event.

Thanks also to South Agency employees Catarah Hampshire, Gina Morrow, William Jarrett and Margaret Trujillo for working the Department Booth, leading the very popular hula hoop and jump rope contests and providing face painting services to the kids in attendance! Also thanks go to Yvette Maufas for providing balloons for everyone all day throughout the event!

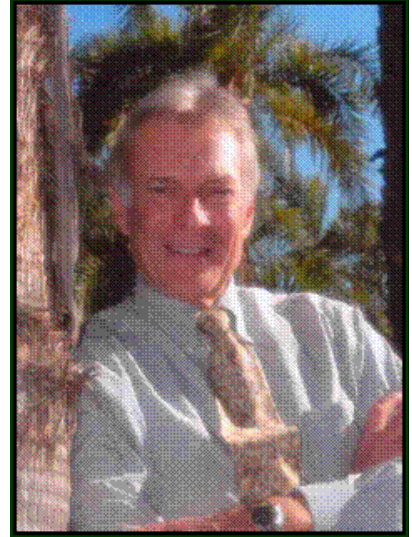


CONTENTS

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE	2
WHERE IN THE DEPARTMENT IS THIS?	2
CERRITOS KIDS FISHING DERBY	3
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE	4
HIGH FIVES!	5

Greetings from the Director

Summertime is here and our Department is off to a great start with the kick-off of our pool season and community park programs; day camps, boating, hiking, outdoor concerts and golfing. This is our busiest time of the year! Los Angeles County families rely on us to provide them with a fun variety of recreational choices and our parks, museums and lakes are chosen year after year as some of the most visited vacation spots in Southern California! I want to thank all of you for your continued efforts and dedication in providing excellent customer service during our summer season and throughout the year!



Russ Guiney, Director

**Parks
Make
Life
Better!**

Where in the Department is this?



Answer on page 4

Kids Enjoyed A Great Catch at the Cerritos Kids Fishing Derby!

The Annual Kids Fishing Derby hosted more than 1,000 youth ages 15 and under at Cerritos Community Regional Park on Saturday, June 4, 2011.

In addition to fishing for more than 2,000 pounds of catfish, participants received complimentary access to learning stations provided by the California State Fish and Game. Stations included topics on the biology of fish, different fish species, and safety when using fishing poles and how to cast a line. The New York Life Company provided free emergency I.D. cards for the participants and park staff provided free photos for each child that caught a fish.

Contests were held in various categories including the largest fish. Each winner was recognized with a trophy by Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe.

More fishing fun continues throughout the summer at Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area with Moonlight Fishing every last Friday of the month through September. Admission fees for adults (16 and over) \$10.00 and kids (15 and under) fish for free!

Also, Castaic Lake State Recreation Area features Moonlight Fishing from 8:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. at the Castaic Lake Main Launch Ramp on August 13 and September 10, 2011. Admission is \$6.00 per person (including walk-ins). All vehicle entrance fees and launch fees apply: \$11.00 per vehicle and \$13.00 per boat. Glow sticks are required (available at the launch ramp); all boats must be off of the water and out of the park by 2:00 a.m.; no launching after 2:00 a.m.; speed limit 5 mph, no exceptions.

Fishing has never been more fun than at a County of Los Angeles Park!



Academic Excellence in the Department of Parks and Recreation!

Clement Lau, AICP from Planning and Development recently received his doctorate degree from the University of Southern California this past May. Our Department is very proud to congratulate Clement for his distinguished accomplishment. If you have an advanced degree, we'd love to know so we can share your accomplishments with the Department!



Where in the Department is this ?

This steel sculpture is titled "Sóllier I" by Betty Gold and was named after a city in Mallorca Spain where the sculpture was conceived. It is a geometric interpretation of the human form weighing over 1250 lbs. It is located at the South Coast Botanic Garden.

* * * * *

Where in the Department? is a new feature by Ansley B. Davies, Associate Curator. Ansley has been locating and documenting all of the Department's historic resources. We hope this new feature will be a fun way for you to learn some interesting things about the Department. Thank you to Ansley for making this column available and all of her hard work inventorying our historic assets.

HIGH FIVE!

For Those Who Go Above and Beyond...

I just wanted to take a little time and let you know how fantastic the Devil's Punchbowl Park is. I have been there six or seven times over the last 15 years. Every time I go back, it brings back fond memories of previous visits. It is quite a place. To me, if there is "sacred" ground in America, it is right there. I usually hike out to the Devil's Chair. It is a great trail with great views and a large variety of vegetation to observe. Absolutely beautiful. I love the Nature Center where you can get up close with the rattlesnakes and owls, etc. I wanted to especially thank and compliment Ranger Jonathan Numer for opening the Nature Center during his lunch time and taking time to show us around. I was with some first time visitors and after the long hike; the Nature Center was like "the icing on the cake." Ranger Jonathan Numer is a fine young man with a lot of knowledge, enthusiasm and a real love of that special place. I am looking forward to going back. Because you have taken out the donation box, I have attached a small check as appreciation.

Steven D. Gabel,
Sepulveda, CA

My grandson did participate in T-Ball last season but unfortunately was not able to complete the program. Although he is only four-years-old, he is eagerly awaiting baseball season. My grandson was only able to participate in a few "games" but during these "games," he had such a wonderful experience with both his teammates and coaches that he cannot wait for the upcoming season. I too, had great fun and enjoyment watching the kids play. Thank you for putting together such a great program!

Veronica Booth
Valencia, CA

Congratulations to Angel Baltazar at Cerritos Park for being a great mentor to her teens. One of the teens in her program, Morgan Simon, a recent Volunteer County Award recipient, was chosen to run in the Nike Track Nationals in June, with a full expense paid trip to Oregon. Morgan is ranked 8th in the Nation in the 100 meter race. He also runs in other events. His Team came in 1st place.

Keep up the good work, Angel and Congratulations, Morgan!

The Department is Going to the Birds!

A Kenneth Hahn Park patron complained about some abandoned birds, which were discovered to be White Homing Pigeons that were left along a trail. Kenneth Hahn Park staff (David Jallo and Jaheel Dixon) caught these birds and transferred them to Pigeon Aficionado Selestino Mercado, Tree Trimmer District Manager who was able to pass them along to a bird rescuer, but not before getting a small present (See Picture on right). Sel raises racing Pigeons among his many talents.



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*The Green Scene is published
by the Public Information
Office*

Imee Gacad Perius
Editor

Joyce Fitzpatrick
Assistant Editor

Contributors
Ansley B. Davies
Catarah Hampshire
David Jallo

433 South Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90020
(213) 738-2961

iperius@parks.lacounty.gov

<http://lacounty.info/>
<http://parks.lacounty.gov>

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