HOLIDAY PARADE IN LINCOLN HEIGHTS

By Sheri Fierro
4th Annual Lincoln Heights Christmas Parade

After many months of hard work, the Lincoln Heights Christmas Parade Committee made up of community volunteers staged the 4th Annual Holiday Community parade on Sunday, December 9th. It began at the intersection of North Broadway and Lincoln Park Avenue, then concluded at Avenue 24 with a celebration which included food, entertainment and snow for kids of all ages to play, slide and even make a snowman.

There were over 80 participants in the parade this year, which included State Senator Gloria Romero who served as the Grand Marshall. Numerous bands, drill teams, and dance groups from the community came out to strut their stuff in front of several thousand spectators which lined the parade route. Some of the participants included Arroyo Vista Family Health Center, Dino's Burgers, The Greater El Sereno Chamber of Commerce, Lincoln High School, THE VOICE, Assembly Member Kevin De Leon, Ms Taiwan, Griffith Elementary, Miss China Town Court, Arctic Rising, LAPD Hollenbeck Captain Blake Chow, Senior Lead Officers Austin Fernald and Steve Morales, Los Angeles Fire Department Station 2.

A spectator from City Terrace, Carlos Larin came to view the parade and stated “it was a beautiful event, to see kids smiling as the parade went by”.

Continued on Page 2
See Christmas Parade

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“We Care About Your Health”
EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Hello Neighbors,

As another year comes to an end, and another just about to begin and before we start making our New Years resolutions, I ask you to take time out to reflect on your family friends and acquaintances you have around you. Ask yourself on how you can build better relationships with each and everyone of these people in your life. If those relationships were not too good, what can you do to make them better. Life is too short to keep grudges, extend a good gesture, being angry all the time is a waste of time, try smiling its contagious.

THE VOICE is blessed to have you as one of our cherished readers. We continue to strive to make improvements to each issue. However we still need your assistance and active participation to report on events and news in your front yards. In our short period of time in existence we have become the single most reliable source for news and information to the El Sereno, Lincoln Heights and Boyle Heights communities. This task has been accomplished by the efforts of many community activist which take pride of the quality of life in their neighborhoods. Our sincerest thank you's to all our families, friends, contributors and advertisers who without their support this publication will not be possible. Please tell our advertisers thank you for outreaching in THE VOICE.

Happy Holidays from George Cabrera, Sal Garcia, Joe Rivera and Carlos Morales

CHRISTMAS PARADE

Continued From Page 1

The Parade committee acknowledges that this event would be impossible without the many sponsors who helped with the parade this year, including Councilman Ed P. Reyes, Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council, State Farm Insurance, KIA of Glendale, Mirabal Funeral, Fierro Investments, CVS, AM/PM, DINO’s Burgers, KFC and all the volunteers who were there throughout the year. Lincoln Heights Christmas Parade Committee consisted of (in no particular order) Erik Cervantes, Ruben Chavez, Patricia Duran, Belen Elmer, Lupe Guillen, Hugo Hernandez, Paul Medina, Dennis Ortega, Vera Padilla, Franzi Wada, Shirley Fiero, Marta Riley, David Correa, Erica Gallo, Elizabeth Martinez, Esther Rosas. THE VOICE congratulates the Parade committee and all of its volunteers for producing a beautiful event incorporating several surrounding communities. You brought out the true spirit of the community!
The Greater El Sereno Chamber of Commerce Executive Board elections were held Friday November 30th, 2007 at the El Palmar Banquet Hall in El Sereno.

The Chamber elected Gene Baca, California Finance Group, and previous Chamber Vice-President, to the position of President. Also elected was Mike Romero to the position of Vice-President. Mike is also the Vice-President of the El Sereno Community Coordinating Council, and former Honorary Mayor of El Sereno. Argie Cruz of Golden Key Realty/Mortgage was elected to serve as Treasurer, and Maria Franco of El Palmar Banquet Hall was elected Secretary. Kristina Hooper of Banquet Hall in El Sereno.

El Sereno.  Argie Cruz of Golden Key Realty/Mortgage was elected President, to the position of General Manager. Mike Romero to the position of President. Also elected were Enrique Aguilera and Tammy Membreno, Community Coordinating Council, and many other local organizations. Each of these Board members brings the Chamber unique talents and a drive to serve the community.

The Chamber wishes to thank all the candidates who ran, and all the businesses who voted and participated to help structure the future of this chamber. Special thanks goes to Maria Franco of El Palmar for preparing the delicious dinner for the evening event.

The new Board members terms begin in January, but already they have begun meeting to shape Chamber events for 2008. The new members will take their oaths of office in January at the official Chamber Installation, date and time TBD. Local business interested in joining the Chamber can find more information at www.elserenochamber.org or call 323-505-2600x109.

The Chamber's regular monthly Networking Breakfast will go dark for December due to the traditional holidays. Send an email to khooper@calstatela-fcu.org if you'd like to be included in regular Chamber e-newsletter updates on local events!

President         Gene Baca  
Vice President      Mike Romero   
Secretary         Maria Franco 
PR Director         Kristina Hooper  
Business Rep Enrique Aguilera  
Community Rep   Tammy Membreno

Merry Christmas From The Greater El Sereno Chamber of Commerce

Viva Las Vegas
By Coach Urbina

El Sereno Stallion football fans and in particular those who were coached by Boonie were saddened to hear that he is no longer going to be coaching at El Sereno. An individual who has dedicated his time for the past 35 years sure deserves to be considered a legend in this community.

Boonie has a passion for teaching young players the importance of working hard and becoming winners on the field and in life. As befits a true coach, he stressed the importance of practicing hard and producing on game days.

He never gave up on players, even if they at times gave up on themselves and as a result, his passion for teaching the fundamentals of not only football but life itself has created a network of young men who continue to champion effectively the causes and ideals that he cherished.

Just as we consider many of our country’s young brave men and women fighting overseas in being heroes, I consider Coach Boonie to be one, too. When we were children, many of our heroes were make-believe. They could fly or "leap tall buildings in a single bound.” Boonie is not a hero in that sense.

The heroic trait that Boonie possesses is his willingness to extend himself for the past 35 years to the youth of this community of not only being a coach but a father figure as well. It was rewarding working with his last two games as a Stallion Coach in the Las Vegas Thanksgiving Tournament as his players gave him the best going away gift, which was winning the Championship Trophy.

The Jr. Midget Team played both games to perfection and the kids on the team were rewarded the 6 foot tall Gold Championship Trophy. Chipper Rojas who had a running touchdown in both games and a total of 195 yards rushing stated after the Championship game, "I have been playing for the Stallions since I was 5 years old and with Coach Boonie and Andy for the past 4 years. This was our last game as a Stallion as we are all going to be playing High School football next year.

It is awesome that our last memory as a Stallion will be as the Las Vegas Champions. Both teams that we played against were much bigger than us but Coach Boonie and Andy had always told us that size doesn't matter. They have told us for the past 4 years that we need to have courage and play with our hearts and that it exactly what our team did. I will miss all the Coaches because they have done a lot for us. It’s like we a are a big family and it was really cool seeing everybody together and happy in Las Vegas after we won the Championship Trophy.

Continued on Page 7
See Boonie
Brother-in-law allegedly kills man after Thanksgiving feast

George Castillo (27-years) turned himself in to Los Angeles police on Friday November 23rd at 2am for allegedly shooting his brother-in-law to death after a Thanksgiving celebration.

Los Angeles police Detectives Scott Smith says 37-year-old Manuel Provencio of El Sereno was shot and wounded after being shot in the chest Thursday night at about 1040pm on November 22nd during a dispute with his brother-in-law as he was leaving a Thanksgiving meal gathering in El Monte.

LAPD Hollenbeck detectives said that Gutierrez and his brother-in-law got into an argument during the Hollenbeck Thanksgiving gathering over the remark the brother-in-law had made about Gutierrez’s wife. The argument escalated to pushing and shoving, then spilled out onto the street where Gutierrez was shot.

Gutierrez is known as being one of the founders and guitarist of a Los Angeles based death/thrash band named HAVOC was pronounced dead at the scene.

The case is under investigation. If anyone has information concerning this incident please contact Hollenbeck Homicide Detectives S. Smith or J. Duggar at 323.526.3142 or the Hollenbeck Watch Commander at 323.266.5964.

PUENTE Learning Center
Raises Funds for Tuition-Free Programs Through Golf Tournament

On December 3rd PUENTE Learning Center held its 3rd Annual Golf Tournament fundraiser at the La Habra Golf Club in La Habra Heights. The money raised will support PUENTE’s tuition-free educational programs for children, youth, and adults.

Los Angeles City Council member Jose Huizar, Council District 14, served as a host of the event, which was attended by approximately 125 individuals and included a full day of golf on the 18-hole course as well as dinner and silent and live auctions.

Founded in 1983 by Sister Jennie Lechtenberg, SJMN, to meet the educational needs of East Los Angeles residents, PUENTE Learning Center’s mission is stated within its name: PUENTE: People United to Enrich Neighborhood Through Education.

A nonprofit organization with campuses in Boyle Heights and South Los Angeles, PUENTE’s programs are family-focused and designed to empower students of all ages and backgrounds to realize their academic potential.

Each campus presents a full range of educational opportunities for children, youth and adults. Children and youth programs include Preschool Readiness (ages 4-5), Charter Kindergarten (ages 5-6), After School Enrichment (grades 1-6) and High School Tutorial (which serves students in grades 7-12), and includes help with home-work, intensive math instruction, preparation for the California High School Exit Exam, SAT Preparation and Computer Repair training.

It’s our goal to wish to learn English, get their GED or high school diploma, or learn to use a computer may enroll in PUENTE’s Job Referral classes, which includes English as a Second Language (six levels), GED Preparation, High School Diploma, and Computer Applications.

Job Training classes help prepare individuals for clerical positions in professional office environments or for jobs as A+ Certified computer repair technicians. Individuals interested in office positions may take PUENTE’s Business English, Internet, Basic Math, Office Procedures and Applications courses, and also learn computer applications and i n t e r v i e w for these positions.

Adults wishing to become computer repair technicians receive instruction and hands-on experience with hardware, software and networks systems, and may also study for the industry-recognized A+ Certification exams, administered by the Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA).

PUENTE’s onsite Job Referral office staff provide individual counseling, job referral services, and placement assistance. Students may also obtain internships to acquire workplace experience and improve their skills.

PUENTE’s Heights campus, located at 501 S Boyle Avenue, is open five days a week. Classes are offered from 7:30 a.m. to 8:15 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays.

December 12, THE VOICE attended a BBQ fundraiser to assist the family of the injured officer at the LAPD Historical Museum in Highland Park.

Several hundred police officers, community stakeholders attended the event. We saw South Pasadena Police Officers as well as LA County sheriffs at the event as well. Hollenbeck Police Commanding Officer Blake Chow contacted THE VOICE’s editor to let us know everyone for the support everyone has demonstrated to us at the fund raiser yesterday. There was a steady stream of community members to civic leaders, LAPD and outside agency personnel for the whole period. In all we raised over 51200.00 to the Police Officer.

The officer remains in the hospital and is expected to be there for a while.

A Man Shot In The Face

On Monday December 10th in Boyle Heights and in critical condition, police said. The shooting occurred at Whittier Boulevard and I Street at about 2 a.m., said Sgt. Jimmy Provencio of the Los Angeles Police Department’s Hollenbeck Station.

A gunman who was on foot approached the victim, a male, and shot him in the face, Provencio said. The victim was transported to a hospital in critical condition, he said, and the gun- man fled in a black compact car. The motive for the shooting was not immediately determined, Provencio said.
A mock up funeral procession which included a hearse and pro- testers dressed in black to sym- bolize the inevitable death of res- idents of Boyle Heights if the plant is constructed.

During the early evening of Nov. 26, about 250 mostly Hispanic marchers chanted as individuals and families began walking from the Staples store parking lot located in Huntington Park across the new Bally's Fitness Center and walked up to Boyle Avenue, where Huntington Park turns into the gritty industri- al City of Vernon.

Four young Latinas led the crowd on the sidewalk, holding up a wide banner saying "No Power Plant In Our Community" between two ghostly skulls. Behind them were women with another banner that read "Mothers of East Los Angeles." Farther back walked Frank Villalobos of Barrio Planners wearing a surgical mask over his mouth and nose carrying an infant-sized white coffin on his shoulder. He was surrounded by other adults, adolescents and children wearing black arm bands. Many were waving signs saying "Coalition Against the Vernon Power Plant" above an image of three smokestacks hov- ering over a house. Below were the words "Not In My Back Yard."

Adding to the mock funeral pro- cession's atmosphere, a white Lincoln hearse crept eerily on the street alongside the marchers. The march terminated at the 27 acres of leveled dirt lot where the City of Vernon wants to build a 943-megawatt electricity-gener- ating facility, using three natural gas-fired combustion turbines and one steam turbine on nearly 14 subdivided acres.

The legislation also called for the City to authorize the City Attorney to intervene in the City of Vernon's state regulatory process to build the power plant. Within seven days he gained full Council approval, demonstrating the strength of the issue and the real concern that exists among all Council members for the safety and health of the community.

The South Coast Air Quality Management District has esti- mated that emissions from the proposed power plant site will result in an increase in annual adult mortality of 4 to 12 persons in the area, as part of the preparation of a health risk assessment.

"I will not let the City of Vernon dictate the future health and well-being of the residents of Los Angeles. The City of Vernon has admitted that the power plant will produce toxic emissions that are associated with cancer, asth- ma and other respiratory dis- eases," said Huizar.

Vernon's regulatory application for certification states that the proposed power plant, when operational, will emit 432,248 pounds of nitrogen oxides, 32,431 pounds of sulfur oxides, 119,864 pounds of volatile organ- ic compounds, 453,431 pounds of carbon monoxide and 294,133 pounds of PM10 particulates per year.

One of the first organizers Msgr. John Moretta, veteran pas- tor of Resurrection Church in Boyle Heights who helped organ- ize the past two protests stated: "That's where people are. That's where they want to put this hor- rendous power plant," the priest said, alternating Spanish and English. "Nobody is against power. We all need power. But to put a plant so close in the com- munity that's going to produce up to 881 million tons of toxic pollu- tants is not right."

Msgr. Moretta reported that attorneys were currently fighting the project in court, and would continue to do so. He urged the people present to keep up their fight.

By 7:30 p.m., the rally at the pro- posed power plant site was over, and people started walking back to their cars, a large contingent from Resurrection had a yellow school bus waiting to take them back to Boyle Heights.

Msgr. Moretta pointed out how the entire area had been designat- ed as an "Environmental Justice Zone," which meant the sur- rounding low-income, minority neighborhoods had already been burdened to the max by industri- al pollutants and toxins.

"All of these communities around here have suffered over the years with the toxic contaminants, and everything that came out of Vernon," he said.

"And this is kind of the last straw - three towers of 18 stories high spilling 881 million tons of pollu- tants per year.

"But this, in fact, is not just going to impact my parish or just the Eastside. It's going to go all the way out to our friends in Montebello, Monterey Park and

Hacienda Heights. The fossil fuel contaminants are going to drift around, they're not just going to stay here. "We are the first ones on the defense here because we know what's happening in our back- yard," he noted. "A lot of people aren't aware of this yet, but they're going to be affected by it, too."

Miguel Alfaro, a 49-year-old Resurrection parishioner, agreed. "We are here because this is a very delierate situation," the 71-year- old woman said in Spanish. "This project is going to harm the com- munity, especially the elder citi-
3 Men Arrested On Child Porn Possession Suspicion

Two of them School Teachers

Three men were arrested on suspicion of possessing child pornography, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials announced Thursday, November 29th.

David Hassler, 62, is a religious studies teacher at Mayfield Senior School of the Holy Child Jesus, an all-girls Catholic High School in Pasadena.

Investigators allegedly found numerous printed images of child pornography when they searched Hassler's South Pasadena home. He has been charged with possession of child pornography and placed on administrative leave by Mayfield Senior School officials, ICE officials said.

Kenneth Kothe, 61, is a first grade teacher at Lincoln Elementary School in Lynwood.

Investigators said they found hundreds of printed images of child pornography in Kothe's Alhambra home, and that he admitted to downloading and printing the images.

Kothe was taken into custody on suspicion of possessing child pornography and was placed on unpaid administrative leave by Lynwood Unified School District officials, ICE officials said.

Droobie Pooh, 39, was arrested Tuesday in West Hollywood after a search of his home turned up more than 2,300 images of child pornography, ICE officials said.

The Los Angeles City Animal Cruelty Task Force is made up of Los Angeles Police Officers and Detectives, Animal Service Officers from the Department of Animal Services and Deputy City Attorney’s from the Los Angeles City Attorney’s Office. They investigate human cruelty against animals.

The suspects were arrested this week on state charges, but ICE officials said the agency is considering bringing federal charges against the three men.

These arrests and searches are part of a four-year ICE investigation targeting human traffickers, international sex tourists, Internet pornographers and foreign national sex predators whose crimes make them deportable, ICE officials said.

ICE agents have arrested more than 10,000 people, including more than 2,300 in California, as part of the investigation.

Members of the public who wish to report crimes against children can call ICE's 24-hour toll-free hotline at (866) DHS-ICE.

The Los Angeles City Animal Cruelty Task Force is made up of Los Angeles Police Officers and Detectives, Animal Service Officers from the Department of Animal Services and Deputy City Attorney’s from the Los Angeles City Attorney’s Office. They investigate human cruelty against animals.

Reports of animal cruelty can be reported to the Animal Cruelty Task Force at 213-847-1417.

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This Thanksgiving was even more meaningful as Berwick Social Hall filled with people came to realize that DJ Williams gave more this year than she ever has before. Her sister-in-law was killed tragically in a car accident that morning and she was torn between staying with her family or coming in to lead the volunteers during this all day event. It was hard, but she came in thinking of others before herself.

The evening was filled with an atmosphere of love and thanksgiving. Everyone that came left with a feeling of gratitude and realization that they were important to the community and Calvary Chapel.

It was a time to be thankful for a community of El Sereno.
Santa's Reindeer Facts:

Rudolph: The lead Reindeer; has big red LED nose; is very friendly, loving and has a GPS tracking device to make sure he leads the pack to every home around the world.

dasher: The left side row leader; travels well in short quick spurts, a perfect requirement for fast house-to-house dasher; also a dashing role model for the other eight deer.

dancer: The right row side leader; works well with Dasher; has well-trained hoofs to maintain stability on snowy rooftops.

Vixen: The right number 2 deer; name rhymes with Blitzen; has much emotional energy but is unpredictable.

Comet: The left side number 3; like his astronomical namesake, is both speedy and enduring; also commands attention, keeps the leaders moving at a steady pace.

Cupid: The right number 3 deer; name alliterative with Comet; moves as fast as Cupid's arrow but is easily distracted to lead.

Donner: The left rear deer; strong as thunder.

Blitzen: The right rear deer; Donner's closest companion; quick as lightning; the fastest and most energetic of the nine.

Santas new and improve sleigh is made of a new carbon fiber material that is strong, durable and light weight so that he can carry lots more toys to the children of Boyle Heights!

San's most energetic of the nine.

Quick as lightning; the fastest and Donner's closest companion; Blitzen strong as thunder.

THE VOICE
Wishes Happy Holidays To All Of Our Readers
Supporters And Advertisers!