

SIGNAL

T R I B U N E

Serving Bixby Knolls, California Heights, Los Cerritos, Wrigley and the City of Signal Hill

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Your Weekly Community Newspaper

September 25, 2008

Apparent death threat posted at Mathews' headquarters

BY NICK DIAMANTIDES
Staff Writer

An apparent death threat was posted on the door of Peter Mathews' campaign headquarters last week. Mathews is a write-in candidate running against incumbent and fellow Democrat Laura Richardson for the United States Congress 37th District office.

The threat appeared in the form of a picture of Mathews in the crosshairs of a rifle scope. The photograph was cut out of a Mathews campaign flyer that had been distributed a few days earlier.

"Three of us were walking out of the office at about nine o'clock Wednesday night," Mathews said. "One of my associates noticed it first and brought it to our attention." He explained that they called the police immediately and a few minutes later officers arrived to take a report and initiate the investigation.

Campaign worker Nathan Israel, who was with Mathews when the picture was discovered said the riflescope circle was perfectly drawn and whoever produced it had included two bullet holes in the drawing.

Campaign field worker Sonny Kahn, who was also



Courtesy of the Office of Peter Mathews
A threatening photo (right inset) was found on the office door of Congressional write-in candidate Peter Mathews.

there at the time of discovery, said, "It was stuck on the outside of the door but we did not see any people in the immediate area."

"We think that someone just walked by, stuck it on the door and quickly left," said Eddie Rosales, Mathews' campaign manager. "There were people in the office when it happened, but nobody noticed when it was happening."

Rosales explained that the flyer with Mathews' picture had only been distributed at three events: the Long Beach Democratic Club Party at Recreation Park, an NAACP event in Car-

son, and another event in Compton. All of those events took place on September 13, and a total of 300 flyers were distributed—most of them in Long Beach.

"It had to have come from someone who attended the Democratic party in Recreation Park," Rosales said. "I don't think someone would have traveled from Carson or Compton to do this thing." He added that Mathews was not allowed to speak at the Recreation Park event.

Rosales said that the Long Beach Police Department was conducting an investigation

into the matter. "This is a serious event," he said. "You just don't threaten somebody like this who is running for office."

"The Office of Homeland Security and the Federal Bureau of Investigation have also been notified by the police department," Mathews added. "Threats against political candidates have to be taken very seriously."

As of press time, the LBPD had not issued a statement concerning the investigation, but a police spokesperson said one would probably be issued in the next few days.

"We are not deterred, frightened or intimidated by this death threat," Mathews said. "We will continue to run this race because right now America is in a crisis and we need to have leaders who people can trust and who are capable of making decisions that will bring us out of this economic slump."

Three other candidates are running against Richardson in the November 4 election. They are Nick Dibs (the only other candidate whose name will appear on the ballot), and two other write-in candidates, former *Wrigley Bulletin* publisher Lee Davis, and Carson resident and educator June Pouesi.

NLB to get new Gazette courtesy of Leadership Long Beach

BY NICK DIAMANTIDES
Staff Writer

Leadership Long Beach, a nonprofit organization that initiates programs to improve the quality of life in the city, has agreed to pay Gazette Newspapers several thousand dollars for two pages of North Long Beach news articles. The agreement covers the purchase of the pages twice a month for a year beginning in about two weeks. A Gazette spokesperson said that typically in a yearlong contract, the two pages would cost \$1240 each time they run.

The money Gazette Newspapers is receiving originally came from the Knight Foundation but was channeled through the Long Beach Community Foundation. On Monday afternoon, Jim Worsham, president and CEO of the Foundation; Sandy VandenBerge, the Foundation's communications and outreach manager; Eighth District Councilwoman Rae Gabelich; and Carina Cristiano Leoni, Connected Corridor project director, met with Neena Strichart, publisher of the *Signal Tribune* and this reporter to discuss how the agreement with Gazette Newspapers came about. Worsham explained that he has

been involved in the Long Beach Community Foundation since it was founded in 1996 and from the beginning, much of its funding came from the Knight Foundation. According to Worsham, the way the funds were transferred from Knight and the criteria for awarding grants to local organizations changed several times during the Long Beach Foundation's first decade of existence. "The

see GAZETTE page 8

SHPD headquarters underway despite economy

BY NICK DIAMANTIDES
Staff Writer

Progress is being made in the final design of the new Signal Hill Police Department (SHPD) headquarters, but the national and state economic crises are impacting the Signal Hill Redevelopment Agency's (RDA) ability to finance the project. That's what staff told the Signal Hill City Council during its Tuesday night meeting.

"Staff is extremely concerned over the Legislature's

proposed raid of Agency funds to balance the state's chronic budget shortfalls, the impacts on the economy of the banking, insurance and financial sectors due to the residential subprime lending crisis, and the potential impacts to the timing of the construction of the new station," said City Manager Ken Farfsing. "Staff is recommending completion of the construction plans, despite the uncertainty of the state budget and the turmoil in the financial markets."

The state is taking one million dollars from the Signal Hill RDA to soften California's budget deficit. In addition, according to Farfsing, the instability of the bond market was complicating the planned issuance of \$22 million in bonds to finance the project.

During the meeting, the city's financial advisor, Suzanne Harrell, outlined the recent dramatic changes in the bond market and recommended that the RDA wait until January to

issue the bonds.

Deputy City Manager Charlie Honeycutt and Police Chief Tom Sonoff said that construction plans for the new facility are about 60-percent complete. City Attorney David Aleshire explained that the RDA was moving forward in its plan to acquire the four-acre parcel for the new police station through the power of eminent domain.

The next council meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., October 14 in the council chambers of Signal Hill City Hall.



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Around Town

BEAUTIFYING BIXBY

Volunteers are sought to help clean up Bixby Knolls on Saturday, September 27. Meet at 9 a.m. at It's a Grind coffee house, 4245 Atlantic Avenue, to help pick up trash, sweep, and recover shopping carts. Bags and gloves provided. The 8th District Council Office will be providing refreshments. Students can receive community service hours for the event.

STITCH AND ENRICH

Long Beach City College Foundation's Library/Learning Resource Associates will present "Ginny Baxter, First Ladies & Quilts: Stitching History Together" on Saturday, September 27 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on the Liberal Arts Campus (LAC), 4901 E. Carson St., Building H. Dr. Virginia Baxter, professor of Women's History and the Foundation's executive director, will examine the first ladies of the United States as she stitches together her love of history and quilting. There will be quilts on display, an opportunity drawing, silent auction and refreshments. Admission is \$15 and all proceeds assist the Library/Learning Resource Centers at the college. Call (562) 938-4490.

EGGS WITH THE ELKS

The Bellflower/Long Beach Elks Lodge # 888, 16426 Bellflower Blvd. in Bellflower, invites the public to its monthly breakfast on Sunday, September 28, from 8 a.m. to noon. Admission is \$5.50 per person for the buffet-style breakfast, which includes eggs as you like them, bacon, sausage, hash browns, biscuits and gravy, orange juice, assorted fruit, Belgian waffles and coffee.

IM"PORT"ANT INFO

The public is invited to an informal neighborhood get-together to discuss the Port and Port-related issues such as jobs and the environment at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, September 30 at Ernest McBride Community Center, 1550 Martin Luther King Avenue. Refreshments and giveaways will be available. Call (562) 590-4121 or email letstalkport@polb.com.

AFTER AGATHA

The Signal Hill Library Book Club is conducting a Women of Mystery series, which will meet every first Friday through December 5 in the library meeting room at 1770 E. Hill Street. Based on the film *Women of Mystery: Three Writers Who Forever Changed Detective Fiction*, this program is for adults over the age of 18. Call (562) 989-7323.

WRIGHT ON!

The October selection for the Bixby Knolls Literary Society is *Native Son* by Richard Wright. The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 14 at 7 p.m. at the Richard Goad Theatre, 4250 Atlantic Avenue. The discussion will be led by Dr. Richard Yarborough, who has lectured and published widely on African American literature and U. S. popular culture, with essays on writers such as Frederick Douglass, Charles W. Chesnutt, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and Wright. Call (562) 595-0081.

WALK THE WALK

Support Miller Children's Hospital in "Walk Across America," a nationwide three-mile walk. Proceeds will help Miller and other children's hospitals across the nation tackle the toughest health issues facing kids. "Walk Across America" takes place Saturday, Oct. 18, 2008 at 8 a.m. at California State University, Long Beach. To register to walk on behalf of Miller Children's Hospital, visit www.togetherforkids.org.

Reminiscing



Do you know any of these people or have any information about this event? If so, contact the *Signal Tribune* at 2669 Myrtle Avenue, Suite 111, Signal Hill, CA 90755 or go online to www.SignalTribune.com and click on "Reminiscing" to see more photos.

Ninth district staff to be honored for contributions to Pools of Hope

Vice Mayor Val Lerch and 9th District staff will receive awards for their outstanding contributions to California Pools of Hope, Inc., a nonprofit therapeutic aquatic center for the elderly and people with disabilities.

The awards will be presented on Saturday, October 4 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Annual Evelyn duPont Awards Dinner. The theme for this year's event is "Celebrating 45 Years of Providing Hope" and the evening will include wine

tasting, international dinner buffet and silent auction under the stars at Buono's Authentic Pizzeria located at 250 W. Ocean Boulevard.

Rich Archbold, executive editor of the *Press Telegram*, will act as master of ceremony. Awards will also be presented to Earl B. and Loraine H. Miller Children's Foundation, Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc., City of Paramount, NRG Energy, Paramount Petroleum Corporation, and Union Pacific Railroad for their support of the aquatic

programs.

Out A Sight, a blind acapella trio, who sings '50s and '60s doo-wop style music, will provide entertainment for the event.

The awards dinner is a major fundraiser and all proceeds will support California Pools of Hope efforts in providing freedom to the elderly, disabled and chronically ill to improve their health and fitness.

The organization provides an ideal warm water environment for physical activity so people of all abilities can enjoy movement and a better quality of life.

To buy tickets, which are \$75 per person, contact Pat Dixon at (310) 293-7335.

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eye on crime
News from the LBPD



Crimes reported by the LBPD Sept. 16 to 22
Districts 6 (North of PCH),
7 & 8 (East of the L.A. River & North to Del Amo Blvd.)

Tuesday, September 16

Assault with a Deadly Weapon

1 p.m. • 100 block of East Spring Street

The victim and suspect got into an argument before the suspect stabbed the victim in the upper torso. The victim was transported to the hospital with nonlife-threatening injuries.

Felony Suspect Arrested

4 p.m. • 400 block of West Pacific Coast Hwy.

A suspect was arrested after he sexually assaulted the victim.

Wednesday, September 17

Felony Suspects Arrested

5 a.m. • Citywide

Patrol officers and detectives served 16 search warrants at multiple locations throughout the city. Ten subjects were arrested and eight guns were recovered.

Robbery

1:30 p.m. • 4000 block of Atlantic Avenue

A suspect entered a local bank and robbed the teller. The loss was cash and there were no injuries.

Robbery

11:30 p.m. • 2000 block of Long Beach Boulevard

An armed suspect entered a local business and robbed the employee. The loss was cash and there were no injuries.

Thursday, September 18

Kidnapping Attempt

2 p.m. • 1100 block of East Del Amo Boulevard

A juvenile alleged that a suspect approached him, claiming that he was directed by the juvenile's mother to pick him up from school. The juvenile ran from the suspect. He was not injured.

Monday, September 22

Felony Suspects Arrested

7 a.m. • 2000 block of Linden Avenue

Patrol officers responded to a "shots" call where the suspect shot into the victim's residence. Officers' investigation led to the arrest of a suspect. A handgun was recovered.

Robbery

8 p.m.- 3400 block of Atlantic Avenue

Two suspects armed with handguns entered a local business and robbed the employee. The loss was cash and there were no injuries.

NAACP forum focuses on civil rights agendas, Richardson still targeted



Nick Diamantides/Signal Tribune

Nick Dibs challenges Laura Richardson for her voting record and lavish lifestyle as write-in candidate Peter Mathews, Richardson and Gabriela Holt look on.

BY NICK DIAMANTIDES
Staff Writer

The forum was supposed to focus on only one issue: civil rights. Nick Dibs, however, veered off that path and zeroed in on Laura Richardson's voting record and taxpayer-funded lavish lifestyle. That challenge drew a sharp rebuke from Naomi Rainey, president of the Long Beach Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

The NAACP hosted the candidates' forum on Sunday afternoon at the Ernest McBride Community Center in central Long Beach. Twelve candidates showed up for the event and explained their positions on civil rights to an audience of about 70 people.

Democrat Laura Richardson, who is seeking reelection to the U.S. House of Representatives, 37th District, was the first to speak. She told the

audience that, as described in the United States Declaration of Independence, civil rights are the rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and everybody is entitled to those freedoms regardless or

race, creed or national origin. "People need to be treated equally," she said. "When I was first elected to serve you here (as the 6th District City Councilwoman) we were num-

see FORUM page 13

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Thoughts from the Publisher

by Neena
Strichart

As a rule, I stick pretty close to home. Whether it's work, entertainment, dining out or visiting friends, my personal hamster wheel is quite small. Need proof? I have a 5-year-old car with just 21,000 miles on the odometer. I feel comfortable in my own neighborhood and, like in the theme song for the television show *Cheers*, I prefer to be where "everybody knows my name."

Last Saturday evening I threw caution to the wind and ventured out of my corner of the world. I filled my car's gas tank, grabbed my passport and my mother and headed to La Mirada to have dinner with my friends Kathy King and Mark Long. After a fabulous home-cooked meal, we drove just a few blocks to the La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts to see their latest production. As we approached the entrance, I could hardly believe my eyes— before me stood a half dozen or so members of the Signal Hill Historical Society waiting their turns to enter the theatre. Sheesh! How funny we would all show up on the same night— and so-o-o-o far away. Seemed kind of Twilight Zone-like to me.

Anyway, we quickly found our seats and sat down for a thoroughly enjoyable performance of *Souvenir*— billed as a fantasia on the life of Florence Foster Jenkins. Never having heard of Jenkins, I was in for not just entertainment but a bit of a history lesson as well. According to the press kit I was able to procure, Florence Foster Jenkins was an eccentric socialite who believed she was a great soprano. Although nothing of the kind, she nevertheless performed in concerts in the 1930s and '40s to sold-out rooms, including what she considered her greatest achievement— an appearance at Carnegie Hall. Her benefit concerts were her gifts to her fans— yet ironically they were there to mock her and to make sport of her "majestically awful" singing voice. It is said that she mistook the laughter as either cheers from admirers or jealousy from competitors.

La Mirada Theatre sure struck gold when they found Linda Edwards (Jenkins) and Carl J. Danielsen (Cosme McMoon) to deliver this two-person show. Edwards performed magnificently as the excruciatingly tone-deaf Jenkins while Danielsen entertained us as the story-telling piano accompanist who protected his operatic songbird with love and care. Besides remembering lines and songs, Edwards had another grand task— she had to sing badly. For me it would have been a breeze, but Edwards had to really work at it because she is an incredibly talented singer. (My dad used to say that Jack Benny could only play the violin so badly because in fact he was an accomplished musician.) She proves her worth in the end— that performance alone was worth the price of the tickets.

Wanting to venture out of town? Go to www.lamiradatheatre.com for information on this season's offerings. Heck, La Mirada isn't all that far!

Letter to the Editor

SUPPORTING SENIOR HOUSING

I found your report on the senior housing project at Elm and 37th interesting ["Residents object to five-story senior housing proposal in their neighborhood," Sept. 18, 2008]. This vacant property is at the end of the single-family home area with the LDS church and Boy Scouts building as a buffer. The reference to the home within 180 feet is true, but it was not noted that this home and two

others are directly across the street from a four-story apartment building (five if you count the small building on the very top).

The area to the south is all apartments and church properties all the way to Wardlow Road. The proposed building is no worse than those that are already there.

The protesters appear to want to take this opportunity to have the city rezone their properties to R2 from R1 as compromise instead of going through the

rezoning process.

I signed the petition to approve this project. As we live longer, we need to build good facilities to spend our latter years versus crowded nursing homes. Also, an alternative to Bixby Knolls Tower is needed since they are limited too. I encourage Rae Gabelich to continue her support of this project. Part of protecting the neighborhoods is to ensure they support all residents.

Mark Swenson
Long Beach

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Letter to the Editor*

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The *SIGNAL TRIBUNE* does not print letters that refer substantially to articles in other publications and might not print those that have recently been printed in other publications.

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Student overcomes hardships, earns Hearst award

Melany Aiken, a teaching credential student and future graduate student in history at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB), has been selected as a recipient of a 2008-09 William R. Hearst/CSU Trustees' Award for Outstanding Achievement.



The Hearst/CSU Trustees' awards provide \$3,000 scholarships to students who have demonstrated financial need, experienced personal hardships and have attributes of merit including superior academic performance, exemplary community service and significant personal achievements.

one from each of the CSU's 23 campuses, were honored by the CSU Board of Trustees on Wednesday, Sept. 17, at the CSU Chancellor's Office in Long Beach.

"I am so appreciative of this award and thankful to the Board of Trustees for their support of

my academic and career goals," said Aiken. "Knowing that I have additional support for my college expenses from the Hearst/Trustees' Award helps to relieve some of the stress that comes with student teaching."

Aiken's childhood was filled with hardship. Her difficult upbringing caused severe depression during her teenage years, resulting in risky behavior and self-destructive activities. Determined to make something of herself, she enrolled at a community college to earn an associate's degree, but, as her self-confidence grew, she decided to pursue a teaching career.

In May 2007, Aiken graduated magna cum laude from CSULB with a bachelor's degree in both history and anthropology. Currently, she is doing her student teaching at Edison High School in Huntington Beach, and she expects to complete her teaching credential requirements in February. From there, she anticipates beginning the master's program at CSULB to earn an advanced degree in history.

"This was an extremely challenging application package for me to complete because of the childhood memories I had to face. However, revisiting these issues has made me realize how far I have come," Aiken said.

Publishers of North LB book seeking stories

Writers and graphic artists are being asked to submit work for publication in a new book that focuses on North Long Beach. The purpose of *Book for Authors* is to highlight the great points and people of that part of the city through creative writing and visual art. It will contain 50 short stories and 50 matching pieces of art about living, working and playing there.

Residents are asked to share stories or art that reflect the area and those who don't reside in North Long Beach are invited to take a trip there and let their imaginations wander.

To make a submission, visit www.BookByAuthors.org. For more information, contact Jeremy at (562) 508-1788.

Former city health officer to speak at Heritage Program



The African-American Heritage Society of Long Beach and Burnett Neighborhood Library will present the 12th Annual Heritage Program, featuring Dr. Darryl M. Sexton. Sexton recently retired from his position as City Health Officer for the City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services, for whom he worked for 27 years.

Sexton has a rich family history, being related to the abolitionist William Still. Har-

riet Tubman is known as the most successful "conductor" of the Underground Railroad, escorting 3,000 slaves to freedom. The Still family of Lawnside, New Jersey and the Underground Railroad were highlighted in the July 1984 issue of the *National Geographic Journal*.

The free program, which is entitled "The Underground Railroad and the Still Family: Historical Anchors," will take place at 1:30 p.m. Saturday,

October 4 at the Burnett Library, 560 E. Hill St. For more information, contact Marie Treadwell at Maatread@aol.com or (562) 432-2015.

The African-American Heritage Society is a non-profit organization founded in

1997 by co-founders Indira Hale and Doris Topsy-Elvord at the Burnett Library in response to drastic cuts in library funding that would have prevented the purchase of books on Black and African-American history and culture.

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Contractors Board answers common home improvement questions

BY JAMES MILLER
California Contractors State
License Board Chair

Q. The contractor I hired to re-tile our master bathroom did a horrible job. The tile he used is not what I had in mind and it doesn't seem to be of the best quality. The overall look is not what I had envisioned at all. How do I file a complaint against him?

A. Many complaints against legitimate licensed contractors are based on a misunderstanding of what the homeowner wants and what the contractor thinks he or she has agreed to provide. One of the best ways to prevent these disputes is to make sure everything you ask for is in writing in the contract and is signed by both parties before the work begins. That way, there can be no dispute over what was agreed upon. Check out the CSLB publication *Terms of Agreement* on the Web, which explains what should be included in a good contract. If you are unable to resolve a dispute with a contractor you can file a complaint with the Board online at www.cslb.ca.gov or by calling (800) 321-2752 and requesting that a form be mailed to you. It is very important to document all the information relevant to your case; take pictures and save any receipts or notes.

Q. My friends and I were talking about how we could make some money off the housing foreclosure market. We

were thinking of starting a business to clean up the homes that were trashed by the former owner/occupants. My brother-in-law said we need a contractor's license. I told him it is basically just a cleaning business and doesn't qualify as contracting. Who is right?

A. Not to get into the middle of a family argument, but you both may be right. If you do any structural work, painting, carpeting or anything that can be considered "contracting" you will need a license for jobs valued at \$500 or more in labor and materials. If you plan to operate a simple cleaning business, without making repairs or physical improvements to the property, you do not need a state contractor's license. However, you may need to meet other requirements through the city or county. So, check with your local government offices to see if a business license is required. It might also be a good idea to find out what other legal requirements are necessary, like insurance, payroll deductions, and partnership agreements for tax purposes.

Q. I live in a mobile home park for seniors. It has been strongly suggested by the manager that we use the handyman that she recommended for repairs. I have not been impressed by the work he has done for neighbors. I am also uncomfortable with him as a person. How can I get repairs done without making waves?

A. You are absolutely right in not allowing yourself to be pressured into hiring someone you are not comfortable with. It is not uncommon for unlicensed operators to have other problems with the law. You can see if someone is licensed by either calling (800) 321-2752 or look them up at www.cslb.ca.gov. Friends and neighbors are good resources for getting references on contractors. You might also talk to your manager and neighbors about setting up a free consumer education event. CSLB provides speakers and holds Senior Scam Stopper seminars to talk about the risks involved with unlicensed operators, how to stand up for your rights, and tips on hiring legitimate contractors.

Q. The parking lot at my church had all kinds of potholes and cracks. It seemed like an answered prayer when a man pulled up with a truck loaded with leftover paving material. He offered our pastor what sounded like a really good deal. As you can guess, it turned out to be a scam. The stuff he dumped on the lot is still gooey, parts of it are cracked or breaking away. We are now trying to raise more money to get it fixed. How can you tell when offers like this are legitimate and when they are scams?

A. I'm sorry your congregation had to experience a situation like this. Unfortunately there are career criminals who move

around the state, targeting the most trusting individuals with contracting or paving scams. That old adage about something sounding too good to be true is good advice. Watch out for people who go door-to-door or who approach you with materials that are supposedly left over from another job. Another red flag is a high pressure claim that the offer is only good right now. You can find out more information about transient operators and how to hire legitimate contractors by visiting CSLB at www.cslb.ca.gov or by calling (800) 255-1395. You can also use those two sources to report scammers to CSLB's Statewide Investigative Fraud Team.

Q. I got a referral from a neighbor for a gardening service. Their yard always looks so neat and green. The crews show up every week and seem to do a great job at a reasonable cost. Unfortunately, they are not licensed by the Contractor's Board. The head gardener said they don't need a license. Is this correct?

A. A standard yard maintenance service where they mow grass and clean up the yard does not have to be licensed by CSLB. They may need a city or county permit to operate, along with insurance and other standard business requirements. However, if gardeners start installing sprinklers, putting in water features, or making other improvements or additions to the property that are more than \$500 in materials and labor, they will need a contractor's license. A license is also required if a gardener plans to trim a tree or shrub taller than 15

feet in height. You can get more information about hiring a landscaper or other contractors at www.cslb.ca.gov or by calling (800)321-2752.

Q. We finally hired a contractor to replace a badly sagging wood shake roof. We called up several people from newspaper ads and then chose what seemed like the best offer. The contractor said he was licensed and insured. He got about half way through ripping off the old roof, and then stopped showing up. He also took our 50% down payment and doesn't return phone calls. What should we do?

A. It is always a good idea to check out a contractor to see if they have a current, up-to-date license and if there are any complaints against them. You can visit the CSLB Web site at www.cslb.ca.gov or call (800) 321-2752 for that information. Contractors are only allowed by law to ask for 10% down or \$1,000, whichever is less. Roofing contractors are also required by law to carry workers' compensation insurance since the roofing business usually requires additional labor to get the job done. Even though it is not required by law, we suggest you ask the contractor if they carry liability insurance, to cover accidental damage. Don't be shy about asking for proof of insurance. You can file a complaint with CSLB on licensed or unlicensed contractors at the same resources listed above. The CSLB will look into it for you.

Q. I've heard horror stories about homeowners hiring contractors to build swimming pools or other projects, and then months later finding out that suppliers and subcontractors were not paid. The homeowner ends up paying twice for the same job. How can we keep this from happening on our upcoming pool and spa project?

A. Mechanics' liens are a legitimate concern, especially when you have a big project like a swimming pool or room addition. A property lien can result in a foreclosure or not being able to readily sell your property because the title is clouded. CSLB offers a publication called "A Homeowners Guide to Preventing Mechanic's Liens." You can either download it from the CSLB Web site www.cslb.ca.gov or call (800) 321-2752 to request

see CONTRACTORS page 7



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Contractors

continued from page 6

a copy. It outlines precautions you can take, like doing a background check on your contractor, keeping track of lien notices from suppliers or subcontractors, paying with joint checks, and getting release notices. If you have had a lien placed on your property, get professional legal help.

Q. We finally moved into our brand-new dream home this past spring. However, our dream home has turned into a real nightmare because of all the problems we have encountered with workmanship. The windows are loose, the flooring pops up, and the seal around the downstairs toilet leaks. It is just one thing after another. The builder seems to be slow about fixing things. Should I file a complaint against them with the Contractors Board to get things moving?

A. The contractor complaint process with new homes is a little different than with home repair and remodeling projects at existing homes. Look over the paperwork from your home builder for procedures on getting defects fixed. Most new homebuilders offer a warranty and have a process on how to use it. Outline and document the problem and explain in writing what you would like done. Many times, polite persistence will get things fixed. If the home is a genuine lemon, it may be necessary to get qualified legal help. You can check with neighbors to see if they are having similar problems and find out how they have handled the problem. If you need help in deciding what to do, you can call CSLB at (800) 321-2752 or visit www.cslb.ca.gov to download a complaint form.

Q. My brother runs a handyman business fixing leaky plumbing, fences, and other small household projects. He does good work and has regular customers. He did get a business license from the city and pays taxes on his income. I saw a story on TV about how the Contractors Board conducted a sting opera-

tion arresting unlicensed contractors in our area. Would the Board go after my brother, even though he is doing nothing wrong?

A. CSLB's Statewide Investigative Fraud Team (SWIFT) conducts sting operations somewhere in the state just about every week. They target unlicensed operators from illegal ads, complaints, and industry referrals. Anyone performing contracting jobs valued at more than \$500 in labor and materials must be licensed by the state. It doesn't take very much in materials and labor these days to meet or exceed the \$500 licensing threshold. If your brother is not breaking the law, he probably won't get a chance to meet the SWIFT team at work. Another purpose behind these stings is to educate people on how to get a license. Details and applications are available at the CSLB Web site www.cslb.ca.gov or by calling (800) 321-2752.

Q. We recently hired a contractor to build an enclosed sunroom onto the side of our house. The contractor seems very professional with his plans, proposed work schedule, and a detailed contract. He will even pull the necessary permits for us. He has told us about a law that requires us to put a safety device on an existing swimming pool as part of our remodeling project. The swimming pool was not in our remodel plans. Do we really have to spend the extra money on a pool that is working just fine?

A. It sounds like you have found a contractor that is reputable and up-to-date on current law. The Swimming Pool and Spa Safety Act (Assembly Bill 2977 Chapter 478) went into effect January 1, 2007. The wording of the law says: "(d) Whenever a building permit is issued for the remodel or modification of a single family home with an existing swimming pool, toddler pool, or spa, the permit shall require that the suction outlet of the existing swim-

ming pool, toddler pool, or spa be upgraded so as to be equipped with an antientrapment cover that meets current standards of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) or the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME)." A lot of the responsibility to enforce this law goes to building departments who have to sign off on building permits. You can double check with your local Building Department to see if the sunroom would trigger the safety device installation requirement on the swimming pool.

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Gazette

continued from page 1

Knight Foundation appointed us as their grant maker last year and they recently renewed it for this year and next year," Worsham said.

He noted that a few years ago, the Knight Foundation developed a new "transformational initiative" that once again changed the criteria for awarding grants. "They wanted to fund projects that would involve citizens in the future of their community," he said. "So our board sort of conceived this Atlantic corridor rehabilitation project."

Worsham added that normally the Long Beach Community Foundation has a staff of only three people and could not manage such a large project, so the Foundation's board of directors decided to delegate management of the corridor project to Leadership Long Beach with funding from the Foundation. Soon afterwards Cristiano Leoni was hired as project director.

"The whole project for the Atlantic corridor will be completed by June 30, 2010," Worsham said. "Our hope is that by the end of this project we will have a blueprint that will let us take this same concept to other major corridors

of Long Beach."

Worsham noted that early in the process of helping residents and organizations connect with each other in North Long Beach, several people mentioned that they wished they had a community newspaper. "We wanted to do something that would have a continuing impact in that part of the city," he noted. "We decided that a newspaper would be a good way to help them out."

He explained, however, that the Foundation cannot give grants to profit-making companies, so the money had to be channeled through Leadership Long Beach.

When Strichart asked why the *Signal Tribune* was not considered for the project, he made it clear that only newspapers based in Long Beach were considered. (The *Signal Tribune's* office is in Signal Hill.) Worsham also noted that the Foundation was looking for a "credible" newspaper. "We looked at the likely candidates and, to us, it was a no-brainer to select the *Gazette* Newspapers, because they had the capital to make the investment and they already delivered the newspaper to the Bixby Knolls area," he said.

Worsham acknowledged that he had a years-long friendship with the *Gazette's* executive editor, Harry Saltzgaver, and other *Gazette* staff, but he insisted those relationships were not the deciding factor.

Worsham stressed that after looking at several newspapers, the Foundation board decided that the *Gazette* was the publication best equipped to undertake the project. "This was not a competitive grant," he said. "We are just paying for services and they agreed to put up the resources to make it happen."

He added that the Foundation also makes it a point to support businesses and organizations that are based in Long Beach. "It's our money and it's our rules," he said, adding that *Gazette* Newspapers has a long history of helping philanthropic causes in Long Beach.

After tentatively selecting the *Gazette*, a meeting was held during which Worsham and Leadership Long Beach officials asked the *Gazette* leadership what it would take to have a special edition for North Long Beach. Shortly after the first meeting, according to Worsham, the agreement was reached, which included

Leadership Long Beach paying for two pages and the *Gazette* making a significant investment of its own money to launch a special edition dubbed the *Uptown Gazette*, which would extend into North Long Beach.

According to Peter Bostic, executive director of Leadership Long Beach, 16,000 copies of the *Uptown Gazette* will be delivered to North Long Beach homes and businesses twice a month starting on October 13.

Worsham went on to explain that the Foundation gave Leadership Long Beach \$60,000 for the project and more than half of that grant money will go to the purchase of the two pages in the *Uptown Gazette*. The remainder will go to the YMCA to work with a group that will develop a website containing North Long Beach news. "The material that they put into this website will also be converted to become two pages in the *Uptown Gazette* two weeks a month," Worsham said.

Worsham said that he believed the *Gazette's* expansion would accelerate the progress that had already been made in helping organizations

on the Atlantic corridor work together.

Cristiano Leoni said the project was fostering new relationships and new opportunities for people and groups to collaborate. "Organizations that might have been considered opposing or competing organizations are now finding ways to work with one another," she said.

"The success of the project so far is beyond our wildest dreams," Worsham added.

At that point, Gabelich said that she still understood very little about the Atlantic Avenue Corridor Project and expressed her concerns over how decisions were made with regard to how grant money was spent. She also asked for a specific example of organizations that were working together.

"Already it's bridging from phase one to phase two," VandenBerge said, noting that community leaders from North Long Beach attended the recent "Meet and Greet" at Baja Sonora in order to meet and work with community leaders from the Bixby Knolls area. "And grant recipients in phase one are actively involved in their community up there," she added.

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Office of Sustainability's website informs about Long Beach's ecology

The Office of Sustainability has been established to facilitate the development and implementation of model sustainability programs for Long Beach. Reporting directly to the city manager, the Office of Sustainability provides leadership and supports practical solutions to improve the environmental, social and economic health of Long Beach. The Office of Sustainability also supports the newly established Sustainable City Commission.

In an effort to provide assistance and resources to the community, the Office of Sustainability has developed a new sustainability website, which is now available at www.longbeach.gov/citymanager/sustainability. The website provides a convenient, one-stop location to learn about all of the city's green programs and initiatives and provides tips and resources for actions residents and businesses can take to create a

clean, green community.

This website also includes information about the Sustainable City Commission, a green city organizational chart and multiple resources related to buildings and neighborhoods, urban nature, waste reduction, water, energy, transportation and eco products and services.

"A green, clean Long Beach is vital to the future quality of life, economic development and health of our residents," said Long Beach Mayor Bob Foster. "Our new Office of Sustainability will be key to our next step to become a sustainable urban environment."

The website will soon feature an interactive green map, which will identify green resources throughout the city, such as bike trails, green businesses, parks, transit lines, and other related information. Also in the works is a comment section where comments and suggestions can be

posted, as well as a section with community education materials.

"This new website promotes the city's green initiatives while engaging, educating, and involving the public," City Manager Pat West said.

The Office of Sustainability is teaming up with city departments on citywide projects including the city's biodiesel pilot program, pollution control devices on beach outfalls and stormwater catch basins, researching a city green waste program and completing the city's first greenhouse gas inventory.

The Sustainable City Commission meetings take place the fourth Thursday of each month at 4 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, 333 W. Ocean Blvd. For more information, contact Meredith Reynolds, Sustainability Coordinator, at Meredith_Reynolds@longbeach.gov or (562) 570-6396.

Workout buffs to get philanthropic, fit with annual Crossfit fundraiser

Last year, CrossFit affiliates around the nation raised \$550,000 for Athletes For a Cure, a charity dedicated to finding a cure for prostate cancer. This year, not only will CrossFit and its affiliates donate to an additional organization—the Wounded Warrior Project, which benefits returning war veterans—but the 360 Combat Club and its newly opened CrossFit gym, CrossFit360 in Signal Hill, will also join the cause.

"Crossfit is an excellent complement to our self-defense program. It's a functional workout that focuses on all aspects of fitness— from cardiovascular to weightlifting to agility to speed to...you name it," said Crossfit360 Head Coach Jennifer Predolin.

September 27 marks the third annual "Fight Gone Bad Fundraiser," in which CrossFitters raise money and awareness and do an honorary workout to support a cause. Members of CrossFit360, an affiliate located in Signal Hill and Tustin, will be participating in force. The workout is also open to members of the public who are curious about the facility and would like to donate an hour (and some

sweat) to a worthy cause.

By 5 p.m. on September 27, any individual desiring to participate will have raised \$150 or more in pledges. On that day, participants will also hit the gym for what is touted as one of the most grueling CrossFit workouts: Fight Gone Bad.

Fight Gone Bad is a circuit workout where stations are performed back to back

for one minute each; repetitions are counted at each station, including wall balls, sumo dead lift high-pulls, push presses, box jumps and dynabike (calories burned are counted at the bike station).

For more information regarding this event, contact Jennifer Predolin at Jennifer@crossfit360.com or call (562) 427-9597.

Green Port Fest to entertain, educate

The Port of Long Beach will host its fourth annual Green Port Fest on Saturday, Oct. 4.

This year's Port Fest is a street festival, on Harbor Plaza, in front of the Port Administration Building, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

A key word at the fest will be "free." There will be free parking at the Queen Mary, a boat tour, train rides, entertainment, more than 80 interactive

booths, environmental exhibits and more for all ages to enjoy.

The Port will also be giving away free one-day Long Beach Transit bus passes for those who wish to travel to the Green Port Fest and save gas. Call (562) 590-4121 to receive your free one-day bus pass.

For more information about the Green Port Fest, visit <http://www.polb.com/community/portfest.asp>.



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Vicki's View

Does the Playhouse's *Auntie Mame* leave us starving at the banquet?

BY VICKI PARIS GOODMAN
Arts and Entertainment Editor

The Long Beach Playhouse kicks off the 80th anniversary season of its Mainstage with *Auntie Mame*, a big play with a big cast that takes, frankly, a big gamble.

This is the play, by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee, upon which the famous musical *Mame* is based. The music would have been a big help.

You probably know the concept—larger-than-life, flamboyant aunt gets custody of orphaned nephew and, to the horror of his trustee, exposes him, albeit lovingly, to the eccentricities and excesses of her arguably not-so-wholesome lifestyle. Mame's motto: "Life is a banquet, and most poor suckers are starving to death."

The Long Beach Playhouse pulled out most of the stops, gathering together twenty-two capable performers and accomplished director Terri Miller Schmidt, to carry out the monumental feat that is *Auntie Mame*. Unfortunately, this production results in far less than the sum of its impressive parts.

Make no mistake, individual performances sparkle. The dynamic Beverly Turner makes a great Auntie Mame. She is kind, loving, clever, theatrical and every bit as smitten with life as she is



Toni Beckman and Beverly Turner in the LB Playhouse production of *Auntie Mame*.

supposed to be. When she moves, she commands the stage with grace and panache.

Young Parker Lewis, as nephew Patrick, achieves an amazing mastery of his many lines, which are delivered with animation and charm, even if they are sometimes hard to make out.

I appreciated actress Carla Heller's Mother Burnside, an old southern battle-ax with a keen wit and a keener snort. Anna Kate Mohler does a fabulous job in the role of Agnes Gooch, the mousy, uptight stenographer. I thought, if only she'd lose the beige bobbysox, hairbun and spectacles...

Playhouse veterans appeared to come out of the woodwork in an almost never-ending stream: Mitchell and Jane Nunn, Katherine Prenovost, Bruce Thomas Eason, Lewis P. Leighton, Jerome Loeb, Ken Jagosz and Brian Page. It was heartening to see all those familiar faces from productions past.

Other skilled performances were given by Elizabeth Desloge, Matthew Yee, Kimberly Lewis, Charles Lewis, Toni Beckman, Nick Slimmer, Janet McGregor, John Gillies, Jillian Fisher and John Schwendinger.

So why did *Auntie Mame* never soar, never excite, never thrill? Could it have been the far too understated set design that took virtually no lead from Mame's ostentatious persona? Or maybe the fact that background

music, apparently intended to be there, generally distracted from the dialogue and action on stage? It was as though someone backstage had turned on a radio not knowing it could be heard by the audience.

How about the fact that chemistry was lacking from all of the play's close relationships? And consider the tedium of 24 scenes comprising the play's two acts, each scene change requiring a break for some degree of set rearrangement.

All I know for sure is that I was uninspired early on, way before I became aware of the show's astonishing 3-1/4 hour length!

Sometimes less is more, and sometimes more is more. *Auntie Mame* might have benefited from both.

Auntie Mame continues on the Long Beach Playhouse Mainstage through October 25. General admission tickets are \$22, \$20 for seniors, \$12 for students with valid stu-

Fright flicks to usher in new Bixby film series

On Sunday, September 28 at 7 pm, the Long Beach Shakespeare Company will inaugurate a free series of classic films, opening with Alfred Hitchcock's great study in terror, *Psycho*.



Janet Leigh in *Psycho*.

Sept. 28 *Psycho* (1960) starring Janet Leigh and Anthony Perkins

Oct. 5 *The Wolf Man* (1941) starring Lon Chaney

Oct. 12 *Frankenstein* (1931) starring Boris Karloff

Oct. 19 *The Invisible Man* (1933) starring Claude Rains

Oct. 26 *Dracula* (1931) starring Bela Lugosi

Nov. 2 *The War of the Worlds* (1953) starring Gene Barry

Nov. 9 *The Mummy* (1932) starring Boris Karloff

The entire series will continue on Sunday evenings at the Richard Goad Theatre, 4250 Atlantic Avenue. Due to limited seating, reservations are strongly recommended. Call (562) 997-1494. Donations will be accepted. For more information, go to lbshakespeare.org.

dent ID. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., with Sunday matinees on September 28, October 5, 12 and 19 at 2 p.m.

Call (562) 494-1014 for reservations and information. Tickets are also available online at www.lbph.com.

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The Wine Press It's No Wonder People Don't Drink Wine!

By Randy Kemner, Proprietor, The Wine Country



If I were a winery owner, I'd love to produce a wine that makes a top 100 list. I wouldn't have to work as hard selling my wine. People all over the country would be beefing up their orders, and retailers would see their racks quickly emptied and order more.

Some consumers are attracted to Top 100 lists. They take comfort in the affirmation print journalism gives them in their wine selections among zillions of choices. They defend their reliance on another's palate as a useful tool because they are too busy or too broke to try out every wine available to make up their minds. But there is a Top 100 wine list they might want to avoid.

It's the "Top 100 Brands & 100 Individual Wines in USA Restaurants in 2007" unveiled recently by *Restaurant Wine* magazine.

A lot of wine was sold in American restaurants last year- 68.8 million cases of it- and all the top 100 came from only 6 countries: Australia, Chile, France, Ger-

many, Italy and the USA. No New Zealand, no Spain, no Argentina.

The most popular wines had names familiar to anyone walking the aisles of the local Rite-Aid. The top 20 include names such as Kendall-Jackson Chardonnay, Beringer White Zinfandel and Cavit Pinot Grigio.

The minimum number of cases needed to make the top 100 list was 80,000 cases of a single wine! If you knew nothing at all about these wines, know this: a vintner can't afford to be too fussy with the quality of his grapes when he needs that kind of gallonage to fill all those orders.

We get people in The Wine Country that tell us they never drink white wine or never drink red wine. After looking at this list, I think I know why. If the only wines they ever encountered were wines somebody else ordered at a hotel banquet room or a family chain restaurant, it's no wonder America is 34th in the world in per capita wine consumption.

There are still a lot of Americans who drink no wine at all. Some have religious reasons, some have health concerns and others have only experienced wines with names like Yellow Tail and Sutter Home.

As a conscientious wine merchant, last month I felt an obligation to find out for myself just what corporate winemaking was up to. I made two buying trips to local supermarkets which specialize in "premium" wine, some with famous names like Beringer, BV, Robert Mondavi and Chateau St. Jean. All were affordable by my definition, under \$15 per bottle. Many were under \$10.

The label and glass designs of many wines were beautiful and impressive, and most had corks.

I went through some 40 wines from three popular varietals: Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Chardonnay. They had designations like "California," "Coastal" and "Central Coast" when their anchor wineries were located in Napa Valley or

Sonoma. They were, in essence, cheap knockoffs of famous brands, like a Gucci you buy from a street vendor.

None of these wines was technically bad, mind you. But, jeez, they were boring to drink. Some had stemmy flavors, and most had bitter aftertastes because of the deliberate oak-chip tea-bags used to impart flavor.

And all were about as natural and fresh tasting as canned fruit cocktail. With wood shavings.

If restaurateurs were hauled into food court I'd sentence every manager that serves these to his customers to drink them every night for a year. Maybe then they'd put something sensible on their list, like good Beaujolais.

Ironically, the best food wines on the list are probably the White Zinfandels for their ability to handle all the sweet and spice in popular dishes, and perhaps the jug Chablis for its simple fruitiness. I wouldn't hold out much hope for these factory-made, thin-tasting, uninspiring Pinot Grigios, but perhaps they'd work out O.K. with the right dish.

To be fair, it's tough to offer a hand-made artisan wine at a price most restaurants want for their high-profit glass-pours. The cost of the grapes and intensive labor needed to make that kind of wine are price-prohibitive. But not always.

There are still values out there that make a meal sing. Imports from Spain and non-hip regions like France's Côtes de Gascogne offer fresh-tasting, fruit-and terroir-driven wines whose

major goal in life is to help make your dinner table a happy place. Another is Beaujolais, a supremely drinkable and versatile food wine from a wine region once indispensable to every quality wine list, and now inexplicably rare.

For California, I've always been an advocate of J. Lohr's juicy, delicious, easy-drinking Gamay-like Valdiguié as the quintessential red food wine and the Ruby-Cabernet of James Arthur Field's Red Wine (\$7.99 per magnum!) is about as good a hamburger wine as any.

True Chablis (chardonnay from France's Chablis region) is a comparative value next to overwrought premium domestic and imported Chardonnay, and there are many yummy ones available for less money. You don't want one made in 80,000 case quantities, though.

While most Americans who drink wine say they drink it with meals, I think most drink wine just to drink it because they find the flavors more compelling than booze or beer. But there are three kinds of wines now dominating the scene today: complex wines that make a statement all by themselves, simple wines whose major role is to provide fruit and acidity to a meal, and wines grown and designed to maximize corporate profits.

I don't mind making a buck, but wine, like fresh produce, should taste a lot better than what our modern restaurant and grocery store chains offer.

Found Theatre shares a fractured fairy tale for all ages with *Snow White*

The Found Theatre is presenting, as its theatre offering for kids this year, *Snow White and the Seven Vertically Challenged Guys*.

In this silly, savvy new spin on the classic fairy tale, Snow White arrives home from vacation to find the dwarves out of work. Starting her own talent agency, she's soon helping half the fairy tale kingdom discover its hidden gifts and gain a new lease on life. Of course, Snow White's evil stepmother isn't about to let things go on "happily ever after," if she can help it.

A fabulously fractured fairy tale, it's a fast-paced, laugh-filled treat for the entire family.



Performances are Fridays and Saturdays, through October 11, at 8 p.m.

Sunday matinees through October 12 are at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for all ages.

The Found Theatre is located at 599 Long Beach Boulevard. For reservations and more information, call (562) 433-3363 or visit www.foundtheatre.org.

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Terrace Theatre to present *Playhouse Disney Live!*

Playhouse Disney Live!, the first U.S. live touring stage production featuring favorite characters from four shows in Disney Channel's popular Playhouse Disney program block for preschoolers, is coming to Long Beach's Terrace Theatre with performances at noon and 3 p.m. on Sunday, September 28.

Produced by Kenneth Feld and his daughter, Alana Feld, for Feld Entertainment, in conjunction with Disney Theatrical Productions, Playhouse Disney Live! launched a 70-city U.S. tour in September 2007.

The show spotlights characters from Mickey Mouse Clubhouse, Little Einsteins, Handy Manny and My Friends Tigger & Pooh. Playhouse Disney Live! represents the first time that characters from this enormously popular block of Disney Channel's

Playhouse Disney programs will be together on the same stage, creating interactive moments for children and their families.

The original storyline follows this colorful cast as they set off in their own unique ways to create and contribute songs and music for an unforgettable musical party at Mickey's Clubhouse. "Playhouse Disney Live! brings these TV shows to life and engages children in an inspiring experience with the characters they love to watch on Disney Channel every day," said Producer Kenneth Feld. "They will feel as if the 'Playhouse Disney' stars jumped out of the screen and onto the stage right before their eyes.

To find out more about Playhouse Disney Live! and to buy tickets, visit www.playhousedisneylive.com or call (213) 480-3232.



Playhouse Disney Live! will appear in two shows only at the Terrace Theatre.

Artists invited to showcase works, wares at SH event

Show & Sell is an event designed to highlight artistic talent "on the Hill" and surrounding communities. Local artists and crafters will be showing and selling their works and wares.

Show & Sell, an ideal venue for artists and art lovers alike to savor a variety of Southern California talent, will take place from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, October 4 at the Signal Hill Community Center, 1780 East Hill Street. Admission will be free to the public, and music, hors d'oeuvres and wine will be available.

For more information or applications to show work, call (562) 989-7370.

Plus-size fashion show to benefit community charities

The Greater LA Woman, a Long Beach-based boutique that specializes in fine apparel and lingerie in women's plus sizes, will be hosting "A Decade of Fashion Delights" charity fashion show and luncheon in celebration of its ten years in business on Sunday, September 28 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Proceeds will benefit

two Long Beach community non-profits: Meals on Wheels-Long Beach and Hearts for Hounds.

The event featuring a variety of entertainment and fundraising activities will be held at The Grand Event Center located at 4101 East Willow in Long Beach, CA, 90815.

Entertainment will include

songs performed by national Broadway touring artist Lyndsey Kyle, as well as a dramatic fashion show of high-end apparel and lingerie on plus-size models. Also presented will be a live auction, silent auction and raffles to raise funds for the participating charities.

"We're really excited to be

celebrating ten years of serving the plus-sized woman with clothes that help them enhance their natural beauty and style, while offering a flattering fit and all-day comfort," said Rachel Perlmutter, owner of the boutique. "The fact that we can use this celebration to support volunteer groups that are so important to the Long Beach

community, which we are a part of and love, makes this event even more meaningful."

Tickets purchased in advance are \$39 and will be \$45 if purchased after August 30. Tickets may also be purchased at the door, depending on availability.

For more information, visit www.thegreaterLAWoman.com.

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Food Finders to host Autumn Harvest Ball as annual fundraiser



Courtesy of Food Finders

A youthful food donor brings contributions to Food Finders' home office on Atlantic Avenue.

Food Finders will host its Fifth Annual Autumn Harvest Ball fundraiser Friday, October 10 at the recently redecorated

Museum of Latin American Art. Over the last four years, thousands of people have enjoyed the organization's marquee fundraising and social event.

This is an opportunity to mix, mingle and network with other civic, business and community leaders with fine dining by a world-renowned chef, silent auction, live auction by Randy Gordon, raffle prizes, dancing to music by Blue Steel and other local musicians.

As a non-profit organization, corporate and small business contributions are the lifeblood for an event of this magnitude. This year there are several sponsorship levels in which your organization can participate: \$10,000 for the Diamond level, \$250 Moonstone level.

Visit the organization's website at www.foodfinders.org or call (562) 598-3003 for more information concerning all of the sponsorship opportunities available.

Food finders is also in need of companies or organizations to donate raffle prizes and gifts. Last year the event's winning bidders walked away with great prizes all night long. Some of which included: A sunset cruise for eight on a 40-foot sailing yacht, a helicopter ride and dinner at an award winning upscale restaurant, and golf packages at Virginia Country Club. One person walked away with a brand new iPhone.

For 19 years, Food Finders has provided help and direction to the many needy families of Los Angeles and Orange coun-

ties, distributing more than 62 million pounds of food to families- food that would have otherwise been thrown away. Food Finders' trucks run daily to pick up donated food and other items from local and national businesses and redistribute those items to more than 200 partner agencies in Southern California.

Participation in or attendance to this event will go a long way in helping raise funds so the organization can continue providing food and services to the community. Food Finders is a small organization always looking for volunteers.

Visit www.foodfinders.org or call Diana at (562) 598-3003 for more information regarding the Harvest Ball, other programs and volunteer opportunities.

Forum

continued from page 3

ber one in crime and yet we had the fewest amount of police officers."

She added that civil rights include having adequate public safety, decent housing and an equal opportunity for education and employment, and that she has always worked hard to make sure minority people in this region have those things. Richardson stressed that the unemployment rate in Long Beach's 6th council district was twice as high as the national average and she would fight to change that.

Dibs, who is running against Richardson and is the only other candidate whose name appears on the ballot for the 37th Congressional District, took the microphone next. "I am very concerned about civil rights," he said. "Our civil rights come from God, and right now our government in Washington is violating our civil rights." At that point, he launched his attack against Richardson noting that

she voted for legislation that gave the federal government the power to conduct unreasonable search and seizures by reading the emails of Americans even if they are not suspected of a crime. "I am very concerned that our fourth amendment rights have been violated and that we have somebody in Congress who is not defending our U.S. Constitution," he said.

Dibs added that civil rights include economic opportunities. He planned to author legislation to reduce the number of pupils in public school classes, and install solar energy systems on rooftops to create jobs and reduce the nation's dependence on foreign oil. "With unemployment as high as Ms. Richardson said, she is driving around in a \$1,300 a month car paid for by the taxpayers - the most expensive car in Congress," he said. "That shows an irresponsibility and an arrogance against

the citizens of this district."

At that point, NAACP members interrupted Dibs asking him to stop his personal attack on Richardson. "We sent every candidate information and guidelines for this forum," Rainey said. "Our question was, please state your civil rights agenda; that's all we're asking. We will not allow any other candidate (to engage in such personal attacks)."

Peter Matthews, who is opposing Richardson as a write-in candidate spoke next. He said America's high incarceration rate was one of the biggest treats to civil rights. "We have one out of every 100 people in prison and one out of ten young black men in prison," he said. "The three strikes law is completely out of control and we have to revise that."

Mathews emphasized that America is not spending enough on education and instead placing too high a priority on keeping people behind bars. "We have to change our economic system," he said. "We should not allow our Congresswomen or men to vote \$50 billion more for the war in Iraq." Mathews added that he would also fight to ensure that all Americans have adequate healthcare, which he said was also a civil right.

The next speaker, June

Pouesi, was a surprise to most of the audience. Only days earlier, Pouesi had qualified as a write-in candidate for the 37th Congressional District office. She told the audience that the most important challenge facing America today was the moral war being waged against it. She noted that Martin Luther King Jr. recognized that some laws were just and some were unjust. "He was driven by the conviction that manmade law must answer to a higher law," she said. "Today's debate over abortion and same sex marriage is inspired by that same conviction."

Pouesi told the audience that the freedom inked in the U.S Constitution was founded on the recognition of the law of God, and without that recognition, we cannot hope to survive as a free nation. Pouesi explained that she is pro-life and in favor of reforms to improve public education and legislation to make healthcare affordable to everyone.

Later, State Senator Alan Lowenthal (D-27th District) took the microphone. He noted that he had a long history of involvement in the civil rights movement, including working with Ernest McBride to stop what many believed to be excessive force used by the Long Beach

Police Department against minority youth in the 1970s and 80s. Lowenthal added that he also has fought for civil rights, environmental justice and educational reform as a city councilman, state assemblyman and state senator.

Rosenthal's opponent, Republican Allen Wood spoke next. He reminded the audience that the Republican Party was founded in the 1800s to abolish slavery. He noted that many government programs have hindered the success of free enterprise and been instrumental in the decline of families in America. "The most important civil right that we have is the equal opportunity for success," he said. He said he would fight against any form of racial discrimination, but he would also fight for lower taxes and strong families.

Democrat Bonnie Lowenthal, Republican Gabriella Holt and Libertarian John Kling - the three candidates running for the 54th State Assembly District office - also spoke at the forum. Other speakers included Lydia Gutierrez and Roderick Wright, competing for the 25th State Senatorial District office; Gwen Patrick, running for the 52nd State Assembly District Office.

Lee Davis, who is running as a write-in candidate for the 37th Congressional District showed up late for the forum. She spoke primarily on the need to pass legislation that would outlaw predatory lending practices.

Upcoming issues of the *Signal Tribune* will include more articles on the positions of candidates running in the November 4 election.

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TST2803 / 20081578070
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
 The following person is doing business as: J & R BUILDERS, 4123 Walnut Ave., Long Beach, CA 90807. Registrant: JEFF GUNDRY, 4123 Walnut Ave., Long Beach, CA 90807. This business is conducted by: an Individual. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: Jeff Gundry. The registrant has not begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed herein. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on September 2, 2008. NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Pub. The Signal Tribune: Sept. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2008.

TST2810 / Case No. NS020396
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
 SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, 415 West Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90802, SOUTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT.
 PETITION OF Ja'net Daniels, For Change of Name.
 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
 1. Petitioner J'NET DANIELS, filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: J'NET DANIELS to Proposed Name: J'NET DANIELO.
 2. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.
 NOTICE OF HEARING
 Date: October 13, 2008; Time: 1:30 PM.; Dept. G, Room 51. The address of the court is the same as above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county, THE SIGNAL TRIBUNE, 2669 Myrtle Ave., Ste.111, Signal Hill, CA 90755: September 11, 18, 25, & October 2, 2008.
 //ss//
 Douglas M. Haigh, Judge of the Superior Court
 Dated August 29, 2008

TST2816 / 20081665179
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
 The following person is doing business as: ORCHID NAILS & SPA, 456 W. Anaheim St., Long Beach, CA 90813. Registrant: NANCY ORTEGA, 2425 Earl Ave., Long Beach, CA 90806. This business is conducted by: an Individual. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: Nancy Ortega. The registrant has not begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed herein. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on September 16, 2008. NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Pub. The Signal Tribune: Sept. 18, 25, & Oct. 2, 9, 2008.

TST2817 / 20081665180
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
 The following person is doing business as: CAPITAL INVESTMENT ADVISERS, 5000 E. Spring St., Ste. 200, Long Beach, CA 90815-5215. Registrant: EMERSON JOSEPH FERSCHE, 2622 Catalina Dr., Signal Hill, CA 90755. This business is conducted by: an Individual. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: Emerson Joseph Fersch. The registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed herein. Date started business was January 1, 1999. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on September 16, 2008. NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in viola-

tion of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Pub. The Signal Tribune: Sept. 18, 25, & Oct. 2, 9, 2008.

TST2819 / 20081641444
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
 The following person is doing business as: KATS FLORAL FANTASY, 5220 Oliva Ave., Lakewood, CA 90712. Registrant: KATHY DAY, 5423 Village Rd., Suite D, Long Beach, CA 90808. This business is conducted by: an Individual. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: Kathy Day. The registrant has not begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed herein. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on September 11, 2008. NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Pub. The Signal Tribune: Sept. 25, & Oct. 2, 9, 16, 2008.

TST2820 / 20081676277
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
 The following person is doing business as: JL SECURITY SERVICES, 12320 Norlain Ave., Downey, CA 90242. Registrant: JAIME LARA, JR., 12320 Norlain Ave., Downey, CA 90242. This business is conducted by: an Individual. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: Jaime Lara, Jr. The registrant has not begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed herein. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on September 17, 2008. NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Pub. The Signal Tribune: Sept. 25, & Oct. 2, 9, 16, 2008.

TST2821 / 20081710277
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
 The following person is doing business as: VICTORY VENDING, 1825 E. Harding St., Long Beach, CA 90805. Registrant: STEPHEN G. KUTCHER, 1825 E. Harding St., Long Beach, CA 90805. This business is conducted by: an Individual. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: Stephen G. Kutcher. The registrant has not begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed herein. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on September 23, 2008. NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Pub. The Signal Tribune: Sept. 25, & Oct. 2, 9, 16, 2008.

TST2822 / 20081710278
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
 The following person is doing business as: SALT & LIGHT, 9108 Haledon Ave., Downey, CA 90603. Registrant: NATASHA KIEFER, 16540 Shady Valley Lane, Whittier, CA 90603. This business is conducted by: an Individual. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: Natasha Kiefer. The registrant has not begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed herein. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on September 23, 2008. NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Pub. The Signal Tribune: Sept. 25, & Oct. 2, 9, 16, 2008.

TST 2818
 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS No. 08-0064370 Title Order No. 08-8-234096 APN No. 7215-008-033 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 11/28/2005. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. Notice is hereby given that RECONTRUST COMPANY, as duly appointed trustee pursuant to the Deed of Trust executed by ANTONIO SUAREZ, A SINGLE MAN, AND JESUS BENITO SUAREZ, A SINGLE MAN, ALL AS JOINT TENANTS dated 11/28/2005 and recorded 12/12/05, as Instrument No. 05 3037586, in Book , Page), of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of Los Angeles County State of California, will sell on 10/16/2008 at 1:00PM, At the front entrance to the Pomona Superior Courts Building, 350 West Mission Blvd., Pomona at public auction to the highest bidder for cash or check as described below, payable in full at time of sale, all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust, in the property situated in said County and State and as more fully described in the above referenced Deed of Trust. The street address and other common designation, if any of the real property described above is purported to be: 2212 WALNUT AVE, SIGNAL HILL, CA, 907553620. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The total amount of the unpaid balance with interest thereon of the obligation secured by the property to be sold plus reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is \$551,149.46. It is possible that at the time of sale the opening bid may be less than the total indebtedness due. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept cashier's checks drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to

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do business in this state. Said sale will be made, in an "AS IS" condition, but with out covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to satisfy the indebtedness secured by said Deed of Trust, advances thereunder, with interest at provided, and the unpaid principal of the Note secured by said Deed of Trust with interest thereon at provided in said Note, plus fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the Trusts created by said Deed of Trust. DATED: 09/19/2008 RECONTRUST COMPANY, 1800 TAPO CANYON ROAD, SV2-202 SIMI VALLEY, CA, 93063 Phone: (800) 281-8219, Sale Information (626) 927-4399 By: Trustee's Sale Officer RECONTRUST COMPANY, is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. FEI # 1006.36796 9/25, 10/02, 10/09/2008

City of Huntington Park

TST 2813
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the City Council of the City of Huntington Park, California, will receive, sealed proposals until the hour of 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, October 8th, 2008. At the Office of the City Clerk for the "Outdoor Restrooms Renovation at Salt Lake Park and at Robert Keller Park", in the City of Huntington Park, California, in accordance with the plans and specifications for Project No. 08-008. Proposals shall be presented under sealed cover.

Bid deposits, faithful performance bond, labor and material bonds will be required as provided in said contract documents. Bids shall be submitted on official proposal forms.

All proposals shall be marked "Outdoor Restrooms Renovation at Salt Lake Park and at Robert Keller Park, Project No. 08-008" and mailed or delivered so as to be in the hands of the City Clerk at the City Clerk's Office in City Hall, 6550 Miles Avenue, at or before the hour stated, at which time all bids received shall be publicly opened, examined, and declared by the City Clerk. Bidders and the public are invited to be present at the declaration of said proposals.

This is a HUD Section 3 contract, and all bidders must commit to achieving the Section 3 employment and contracting goals to be considered a Section 3 responsive bidder. A bidder who is not responsive to Section 3 requirements shall be considered a non-responsive bidder to this invitation for bid.

This is a federally assisted construction contract. Federal labor standards provisions, including prevailing wage requirements of the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts, will be enforced. In the event of a conflict between the Federal General Wage Decision as established by the United States Department of Labor (incorporated into the bid document for this contract) and the State General Prevailing Wage Determination as established by the California Department of Industrial Relations (available at <http://www.dir.ca.gov/DLSR/PWD/index.htm>), the higher of the two will prevail. Lower State wage rates for work classifications not specifically included in the Federal wage decision are not acceptable. This includes "helper" (or other classifications based on hours of experience) or any other classification not appearing in the Federal wage decision.

Apprenticeship Program: Attention is directed to Sections 1777.5, 1777.6, and 1777.7 of the California Labor Code and Title 8 of the California Administrative Code, Section 200, et seq., to ensure compliance and complete understanding of the law regarding apprentices.

Conflict of Interest: in the procurement of supplies, equipment, construction, and services by sub-recipients, the conflict of interest provisions in 24 CFR 85.36, OMB Circular A-110, and 24 CFR 570.611 shall apply. No employee, officer, or agent of the sub-recipient shall participate in the selection, award, or administration of a contract supported by federal funds if a conflict of interest, real or apparent, would be involved.

All bids so received, examined, and declared will be referred by the City Clerk to the City Engineer, City Attorney, and City Manager for checking and report to the City Council at its regular meeting on October 20th, 2008.

The City of Huntington Park reserves the right to accept and reject components of each bid separately. Bids will be evaluated on a lowest responsive bidder basis for each component of this project. The City reserves the right to award portions of the bid for the community center, outdoor restroom and snack bar facility to separately.

Bidders are hereby notified that this is a Federal assisted Project, and that the Federal labor standards, including the Davis-Bacon Act requirements will be applied and enforced. The bidders are hereby notified that the City Council of the City of Huntington Park incorporates herein by reference the general prevailing rate of per diem wages as determined by the applicable Department of Labor Wage Decisions. Said wage rates are hereby incorporated in and made a part of these specifications. In accordance with the Labor Code, no workman employed to work under contract to the City for this Project shall be paid less than the above referenced prevailing wage rate.

Any classification omitted herein shall be paid not less than the prevailing wage scale as established for similar work in the particular area, and all overtime shall be paid at the prevailing rates as established for the particular area. Sunday and holiday time shall be paid at the wage rate determined by the Secretary of labor. The reporting requirements associated with a Federal assisted construction project shall be followed and will be enforced by the City.

The drawings, instructions to bidders, specifications, and official proposal forms to be used for bidding can be obtained only at the Office of the City Engineer, City Hall, by paying a fee of \$45.00 per set. THIS WILL NOT BE REFUNDED. Plans and specifications will be mailed upon receipt of the fee and an additional \$25.00 for mailing.

No bid will be considered unless it is made on the official proposal forms furnished by the City and is made in accordance with the provisions of this notice, the instructions to bidders, and the contract specifications. Each bidder must be licensed in accordance with applicable State laws.

If an error is discovered prior to the time of opening bids, which affects the validity of the bids process, and would affect the jurisdiction of the City Council to accept the bids, then the bidders shall be notified and all bids shall be returned, unopened to the person who submitted the bids.

The City of Huntington Park hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this Notice Inviting Bids, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin in consideration of an award.

The City of Huntington Park reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informality or irregularity in the form or manner of any bid proposal or the bidding process.

City Clerk of the City of Huntington Park, California
 Published in the Signal Tribune: September 18 & 25, 2008

City of Huntington Park

TST 2814
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the City Council of the City of Huntington Park, California, will receive, sealed proposals until the hour of 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, October 7th, 2008. At the Office of the City Clerk for the "Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning (HVAC) for Park & Recreation Building at Salt Lake Park" in the City of Huntington Park, California, in accordance with the plans and specifications for Project No.08-007. Proposals shall be presented under sealed cover.

Bid deposits, faithful performance bond, labor and material bonds will be required as provided in said contract documents. Bids shall be submitted on official proposal forms.

All proposals shall be marked "Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning (HVAC) for Park & Recreation Building at Salt Lake Park, Project No. 08-007" and mailed or delivered so as to be in the hands of the City Clerk at the City Clerk's Office in City Hall, 6550 Miles Avenue, at or before the hour stated, at which time all bids received shall be publicly opened, examined, and declared by the City Clerk. Bidders and the public are invited to be present at the declaration of said proposals.

All bids so received, examined, and declared will be referred by the City Clerk to the City Engineer, City Attorney, and City Manager for checking and report to the City Council at its regular meeting on October 20, 2008.

Bidders are hereby notified that this is a State funded construction project, and that the State labor standards apply to this contract. Furthermore, the bidders are hereby notified that pursuant to Sections 1770 et seq. of the Labor Code of the State of California, the City Council of the City of Huntington Park, incorporates herein by reference the general prevailing rate of per diem wages as determined by the Director of Industrial Relations of the State of California which determinations are on file in the office of the City Clerk.

Said wage rates are hereby incorporated in and made a part of these specifications. In accordance with the Labor Code, no workman employed upon work under contract to the City shall be paid less than the referenced prevailing wage rate.

Any classification omitted herein shall be paid not less than the prevailing wage scale as established for similar work in the particular area, and all overtime shall be paid at the prevailing rate as established for the particular area. Sunday and Holiday time shall be paid at the wage rate determined by the Director of Industrial Relations.

The drawings, instructions to bidders, specifications, and official proposal forms to be used for bidding can be obtained only at the Office of the City Engineer, City Hall, by paying a fee of \$35.00 per set. THIS WILL NOT BE REFUNDED. Plans and specifications will be mailed upon receipt of the fee and an additional \$10.00 for mailing.

No bid will be considered unless it is made on the official proposal forms furnished by the City and is made in accordance with the provisions of this notice, the instructions to bidders, and the contract specifications. Each bidder must be licensed in accordance with applicable State laws.

If an error is discovered prior to the time for opening of bids, which affects the validity of the bids process, and which would affect the jurisdiction of the City Council to accept the bids, then the bidders shall be notified and all bids shall be returned, unopened to the person who submitted the bids.

The City of Huntington Park reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informality or irregularity in the form or manner of any bid proposal or the bidding process.

City Clerk of the City of Huntington Park, California
 Published in the Signal Tribune: September 18 & 25, 2008

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