

Newsbrief

NEW LAPD STATION:

The new LAPD West Valley Area Community Police Station was dedicated April 14 by Mayor Jim Hahn, LAPD Chief William Bratton, City Councilmembers Greig Smith and Dennis Zine, City officials and community members. City officials broke ground on the project in October 2002, and it is the first completed Proposition Q (Public Safety Bond Program) project.

"Los Angeles voters passed Proposition Q because they understand that modern facilities enable our emergency first responders to do their jobs better. Since we broke ground on this station in 2002, Los Angeles has turned a corner. Violent crime is down 37 percent city-wide, and right here in the West Valley, violent crime has been decreased by nearly 45 percent over the past two years," said Mayor Hahn. "This state-of-the-art facility will help enhance police operations in the West Valley and be a welcoming environment to the community."

The 54,000 square foot, state-of-the-art facility cost \$26 million and will serve a population of 320,000 over a 54 square mile area. Personnel at West Valley will consist of 219 patrol officers, 62 detectives and 61 civilians. The new police station replaces the old West Valley station built in 1960.

"By opening the new West Valley station - 45 years after the opening of the old West Valley station - we send a message to the millions of individuals who are served by the Los Angeles Police Department that your elected officials are committed improving public safety facilities in the San Fernando Valley," said Councilman Dennis Zine. "I have no doubt that the high-tech aspects of this facility will aid officers in reducing crime in communities throughout West Valley's jurisdiction. I especially appreciate the commitment of my council colleagues, Mayor Hahn and Chief Bratton in making this project a reality."

African American Heritage Month

■ 2,000 City employees attend African American Heritage month activities.

By Cora Jackson-Fossett, Club Member



More than 2,000 City employees attended the African American Heritage Month activities sponsored by the Los Angeles Association of Black Personnel (LAABP) during February.

The kickoff celebration was the Ninth Annual African Marketplace celebration as nearly 700 people came out to enjoy music, shopping and fashions on Feb. 2-3. The two-day event was held at the Fletcher Bowron Square in downtown Los Angeles.

A wide range of vendors was on hand offering items including business wear, casual outfits, ethnic attire, designer jewelry, body oils, framed paintings and distinctive ties for men. As usual, the food vendors drew huge crowds attracted to the aroma of fried catfish, barbecued ribs and fresh baked goods.

Highlighting the celebration was the fashion show featuring City employees modeling afro-centric attire from Queen Aminah's Boutique in Inglewood. Also, music was provided by LPK disc jockeys and D.A. Goodman and the Air Tight Band.

Adding to the occasion were the four raffles of beautiful baskets designed by LAABP Second

Vice President Susan Huntley. Proceeds from the raffles will go to the LAABP Scholarship Fund.

"This was definitely an exciting event and we are pleased that so many people participated," said LAABP President Jeffery Whitmore. "The committee did an outstanding job organizing this celebration and laying the foundation for an even more successful affair next year."

Cora Jackson-Fossett, LAABP First Vice President, served as Event Chairperson. Committee members were Linda Lanier, Third Vice President; Mignon Washington, Recording Secretary; Sheila Darling, Correspondence Secretary; Steve King, Terrance Montgomery, Laura Thomas, and DeWanna Sharp, Directors-at-large; Gail Allen; and Faye Cousin.

Also, the LAABP sponsored two additional activities to celebrate African American Heritage Month. On Feb. 16, a Networking Luncheon was held in the Tom Bradley Room in City Hall. Bob Blake, Associate Managing General Agent of Colonial Supplemental Insurance, was the keynote speaker. On Feb. 23, a Jazz By the Sea



From left: Deputy Mayor Eric Brown, LAABP Director Terrence Montgomery, LAABP President Jeffery Whitmore and Deputy Mayor Brian Williams.

concert was held at Hyperion Treatment Plant. More than 300 employees heard music by the Mikal Majeed Sextet and greetings from Valerie Lynn Shaw, President of the Board of Public Works; Rita Robinson, Sanitation Bureau Director; and Katisha Robinson, Mayor's Hahn's South L.A. Director.

The LAABP is the official representative for City of Los Angeles employees of African American heritage. Incorporated in 1972, the LAABP advocates equal employment within the City's workforce and increased opportunities for "people of color" to attain management and executive positions. Among the services the organization provides are career development seminars, student scholarship program, mock interview programs and networking forums.



Many vendors participated in the African Marketplace.

Thanks for the Coverage



Airport employees Sgt. Joaquin Mendez and Senior Clerk Typist Claudia Coronel (above) thank the Club for publicizing their efforts. They were pictured on the cover of last month's *Alive!*, as the Club reported on their efforts to organize the Airport Dept.'s efforts to raise money for relief after the tragic tsunamis devastated much of coastal Asia. Their efforts raised more than \$6,570. Happy to put you on the cover, Joaquin and Claudia; we love telling the good news about City employees!

Where the Sick People Go

■ Ever wonder where the LAFD takes the sick people it assists? Here's your answer.

Many people are surprised to learn that on average, 505 people each day are taken to area hospitals in LAFD ambulances. So where do they all go?

Here is a roster of the top 25 hospital destinations:

1. LAC / USC Medical Center (41 transports per day)
2. California Hospital Med Center (29)
3. Queen of Angels/Hollywood Presbyterian (23)
4. Good Samaritan Hospital (23)
5. Northridge-Roscoe Campus (21)
6. Cedars-Sinai Medical Center (20)
7. Midway Medical Center (18)
8. Kaiser West Los Angeles (17)
9. Daniel Freeman Memorial (16)
10. Kaiser Panorama City (16)
11. Providence Holy Cross (16)
12. King/Drew Medical Center (14)
13. Kaiser Los Angeles (Sunset) (13)
14. Valley Presbyterian Hospital (13)
15. Kaiser Woodland Hills (13)
16. Pacifica Hospital of the Valley (13)
17. White Memorial Medical Center (12)
18. UCLA Medical Center (12)
19. Providence St. Joseph (11)
20. Daniel Freeman Marina (11)
21. Columbia West Hills (11)
22. Brotman Medical Center (11)
23. San Pedro Peninsula (10)
24. Encino Tarzana - Tarzana (10)
25. Sherman Oaks Community (10)



As you can see, the men and women of the LAFD not only need to know the exact locations of the 103 Neighborhood Fire Stations across its 470 square-mile jurisdiction, but also the quickest routes - rain or shine - to dozens of hospitals.

The LAFD would like to remind you that there is no need to be ill or injured to explore the inside of any of the LAFD's 122 ambulances. Simply stop by your Neighborhood Fire Station for a visit!

This information was originally distributed by LAFD Firefighter and Public Service Officer Brian Humphrey via his LAFD listserv.