

Newsbrief

CLEAN WATER:

The City broke ground on its first clean water bond project Sept. 15.

Public Works officials and Councilman Bill Rosendahl, District 11, joined stakeholders of the Venice area at a groundbreaking ceremony for the Grand Boulevard Tree Wells project Sept. 15 at the corner of Abbot Kinney Boulevard and Rialto Avenue in Venice.

The Grand Boulevard Tree Wells, the first project fully funded by the voter-approved Proposition O (Prop O) clean water bond, will install bioretention filtration systems with saucer magnolia trees at seven different locations in Venice. Stormwater flow along Abbot Kinney Boulevard and Grand Boulevard will be diverted to the tree wells for treatment before entering the storm drain system, thereby reducing the pollution that flows to the ocean.

This is the second Green Street project implemented by Prop O.

Los Angeles City Engineer Gary Moore says, "The great thing about this project is that we add trees to this neighborhood and improve water quality at the same time."

Councilmember Rosendahl adds, "This is a great day for the City of Los Angeles and for all who enjoy the Santa Monica Bay. Not only will this project filter and clean the water that enters the Bay, but it will also continue to beautify the Venice community. This Prop O project is one of the hallmarks of the green movement, and I look forward for more to come."

Prop O was approved by City of Los Angeles voters in November 2004, authorizing \$500 million in general obligation bonds to be used by the City for multiple clean water/water quality improvement projects. Prop O projects will protect public health by cleaning up pollution in the City's water courses, as well as fund infrastructure improvements for flood protection, water quality protection, and water conservation. Projects will assist the City of Los Angeles in meeting Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDLs) goals, or goals related to the amount of pollution allowable in the City's water bodies. TMDLs are a part of the Federal Clean Water Act and are intended to improve water quality.

The Prop O Clean Water Bond program includes a total of 31 projects, and is led by the Bureau of Engineering in collaboration with the Bureau of Sanitation. The Bureau of Contract Administration will provide inspection services to ensure that the project is built according to contract plans and specifications. A Citizens Oversight Advisory Committee (COAC) and Administrative Oversight Committee are also involved to make sure that each Prop O dollar is spent towards water quality improvement projects.

For more information about Prop O program or the Grand Boulevard Tree Wells, please visit www.lapropo.org.



From left: Adel Hagekhalil, Bureau of Sanitation assistant director; Dr. Shelley Luce, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission; Adi Liberman, Prop O Citizens Oversight Advisory Committee; Councilman Bill Rosendahl, District 11; Paula A. Daniels, Board of Public Works commissioner

BOO AT THE ZOO:

The Los Angeles Zoo is transformed into themed areas for trick-or-treaters during Boo at the Zoo, an annual event. Activities include fun performers, pumpkin carving, treats, crafts, music and creepy crawlers for a not-so-scary weekend that is suitable for the entire family! The Zoo's animals will chomp and stomp pumpkin treats on both days.

Boo at the Zoo is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 25 and 26, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens is located in Griffith Park at the junction of the Ventura (134) and Golden State (5) freeways. Admission is \$12 for adults and \$7 for children ages 2 to 12. This event is free with paid Zoo admission. The Zoo is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. For information, call (323) 644-4200 or visit the L. A. Zoo Web site at www.lazoo.org.

THE CAR CLUB



BY EVERETT BENNET
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PROUD OF YOUR WHEELS?
SEND IN A PHOTO!
(SEE DETAILS AT BOTTOM)

Keeping It in the Family



**1964
CHEVROLET IMPALA,
OWNED BY GERMAIN MENDOZA,
SENIOR INSPECTOR, HOUSING**

I love cars with a story, whether it is the celebrity who owned it for a brief period or how it was handed down from generation to generation. Our feature this month has one of those great stories. Housing Senior Inspector Germain Mendoza used to ride to the market in his parents' 1964 Impala as a kid, not knowing that one day his dad would be handing him the keys. Well, in 1975 Germain was handed the keys to a 1964 Impala. The car came with only one catch: It didn't have an engine. Three years later, Germain acquired a 283-cubic-inch motor from his neighbor. The original three-speed Powerglide transmission was bolted up to the 283, and the car was soon driving Germain's wife and kids to the market.

After a few years of enjoying the Impala, Germain decided it was time to do a complete restoration to really emphasize the true beauty of the car. So, in 1987 the Impala was sanded down to the bare metal panels, the bodywork completed, and the car was sprayed in 1987 Chevrolet Corvette Red. Adding hydraulics to create a low-rider was considered, but cutting up such a good-looking original car stopped the torch before it was even lit. After the bodywork and paint were completed, Germain drove the car to Jaime's Upholstery in Van Nuys and had the seats and door panels covered in red cloth to help accentuate the red exterior. Germain kept the stock 14-inch wheels and hubcaps to keep with the original look. But before Germain was able

to cruise Van Nuys Boulevard, he needed to complete the project by adding a stereo to play his favorite oldies or my favorite singer, Johnny Cash. After thinking for lots of hours, three amplifiers, four 8-inch pile drivers, four 5.5-inch mid-ranges, and four tweeters were installed so the world and the police could hear him coming down the street. As a side note, Germain managed to blow one

of the 8-inch pile drivers while I was taking pictures of the car.

The Chevrolet Impala is probably one of the most well known American cars in history. They have been seen in countless TV shows and more recently many music videos. The popularity of these cars is worldwide and has made a lot of people extra money. I personally have seen collectors from Japan, New Zealand, Australia and Germany at some of the countless swap meets in Southern California, forking out more money for the cars than what they are really worth, and then shipping them back home. The cars might then be sold for close to double what they paid for them back here in the States.

Germain's Impala doesn't see as much road as he likes, but he said after he repaints it (the same color) he will put some more miles on it. I must say that

Germain did a great job on his restoration and I would be proud to own such a good-looking car.



Send in a photo of you and your car, and we might publish it!

Send us your information, too – name, title and City department, a phone number (we won't print it) and a paragraph or two about why you love your car, what kind of car and year it is, and maybe some fun details of how you got it, how you restored it, etc. Send it all to: talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

