

Newsbriefs

PARK NAMED:

Rec and Parks, in partnership with Councilmember Dennis Zine, renamed West Valley Park as "LAPD SWAT Officer Randal D. Simmons Park" in memory of the fallen LAPD SWAT officer Jan. 28.

Officer Randal D. Simmons, a 27-year veteran of the LAPD, was shot during a standoff that injured another officer and claimed the lives of five civilians Feb. 7, 2008. Officer Simmons was the first SWAT officer to die in the line of duty.

Officer Simmons committed much of his time to helping and comforting people in urban neighborhoods including Watts, Hacienda Village, Compton and Carson. He was an ordained minister at Glory Christian Fellowship International in Carson. He was instrumental in developing programs and Christian events for at-risk youth such as the annual "Greatest Toy Giveaway," which provided toys and gifts to more than 1,000 children during the holiday season. He is survived by his wife, Lisa; son, Matthew; and daughter, Gabrielle.

Officer Randal David Simmons Park will serve as a tribute to his personal sacrifice and his dedication to the community. West Valley Park is at 6731 Wilbur Ave. in the Reseda community. The 8.38-acre park includes a children's play area, walking paths, picnic tables and landscaping.

NEW TIDE GATES:

Public Works/Contract Administration and Engineering joined Councilman Bill Rosendahl Jan. 14 for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the completion of the project that removed five severely corroded tide gates and electric gate controls. The old cast-iron gates have been replaced with stainless steel gates, and the new system effectively controls the water level in the Venice Canal.

In attendance were: Councilmember Bill Rosendahl; Public Works Commissioner Paula Daniels; City Engineer Gary Lee Moore; Inspector of Public Works John L. Reamer Jr.; and representatives of the Venice canals area.

Medieval Times Party

Great Club Exclusive!
\$19.99
March 27

See back cover

THE CAR CLUB



BY EVERETT BENNETT
Assistant Inspector,
Public Works/
Contract Administration

Fun on Two Wheels



While our four-wheeled cars can be a means of escape, there is no comparison to being on two wheels. You can expect the wind in your hair, the sun on your face and bugs in your teeth while on the ultimate freedom ride; there are no air bags, center console, cup holder, heater, lumbar back support or air fresheners. Some people call them a death trap, but others call them fun. Welcome to the world of two wheels!

Louie Fee is a **Street Services Investigator, Public Works**, and grew up around bikes. His uncle is a former road racer from the early 1970s who really got him hooked.

Louie had his share of street bikes, but in 1991 he took a bad spill leaving Neptune's Net on the Pacific Coast Highway that threw him and his then-girlfriend all over the road. Once he was released from the hospital, he decided to hang his helmet up next to his crutches and go back to four wheels. After owning a few hot rods, though, the bike bug was itching, and Louie decided it was time to scratch it. His uncle was on board to help him build a

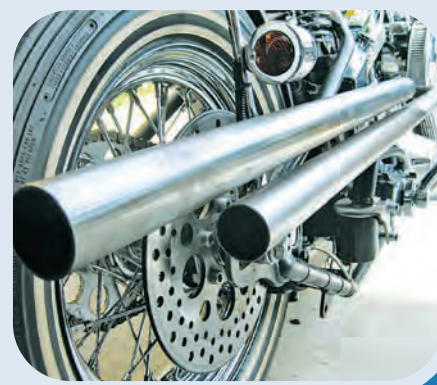
1970s-style Harley, and so they began spending every Sunday at swap meets rummaging through piles of parts. On one of those excursions, Louie found a 1999 Fatboy with a low mileage Evo engine for a good price. He opted to use an Evo engine since they are reliable and parts seem to be endless. He pulled the motor out of the bike and sold the rest of the parts. A rigid Paughco frame was then ordered to house the Evo motor, and Louie decided to leave it in bare metal rather than painting or powder-coating it. More trips to the Long Beach swap meet got him a Sportster gas tank, Z Bars (handlebars) and a 1945 Springer fork. The Springer fork is bolted to a 21-inch Speedmaster tire with no front brake.

The sissy bar was also found at the swap meet, and it came with a little history. "When I was looking at the bar, there was this braided thing that was hanging off of it, and I asked what it was. The guy said he hung out with this woman who made it. I figured it had seen some pretty cool things, so I decided to keep it on there." A 16-inch tire finishes off the rear. The rear tire does have a brake.

The paint scheme definitely helps Louie's bike stand out. He mimicked the paint style that was popular in the 1960s and '70s, with a combination of bright colors with metal flake and patterns. The tank has a gold color basecoat with gold metal flake, and lace patterns and fish scale patterns on top of that. Painting with just one color and metal flake is a task that you ask yourself, about halfway through, why you're attempting it. Mixing in patterns and other stuff separates the boys from the men, or girls from the women.

Louie's bike does not get lost in a parking lot flooded with stock bikes right out of the showroom. He put his personal touches and vision into a rolling piece of art that pays homage to bike builders and visionaries of yesteryear.

"The bike came out exactly the way I envisioned it. It is super-sketchy and a blast to ride at five miles per hour or 100. I would like to thank my uncle for the inspiration and help and all the people who sold me their parts."



PROUD OF YOUR WHEELS?
SEND IN A PHOTO!

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

