

DWP

Time for the March of Dimes

Public Works’ Survey Division raises money with a barbecue.



Story and photos by Jackie Causillas, Club Counselor

On April 25, the Public Works/Engineering’s Survey Division held its annual March of Dimes barbecue charity event. The division comes together every year to raise money for research to help prevent premature babies. The number of premature births is on the rise, according to the March of Dimes, so here’s a big thanks to Rob Salerno, Diana Crowder, Lupe Mendoza, and Brian Szramowski for their efforts in making this year’s event an amazing one!



From left: Robert Nielsen, Sr. Survey Supervisor, 22 years of City service; Magdi Soliman, Survey Party Chief, 13 years, Club Member; and Cesar Bregaudit, Survey Supervisor, 23 years, Club Member.



From left: Diana Crowder, Clerk Typist, 5 years of City service, Club Member; Officer Paul Ricchiazzi, LAPD, 9 years, Club Member.



From left: Brian Szramowski, Survey Party Chief I, 23 years of City service, Club Member; Lupe Mendoza, Secretary, 32 years, Club Member; Diana Crowder, Clerk Typist, 5 years, Club Member; and Rob Salerno, Field Engineering Aide, 12 years, Club Member.



From left: Ed Asuncion, LSA, 11 years of City service, Club Member; Rod Navarro, Field Engineering Aide, 6 years; Carlos Prieto, LSA, 9 years, Club Member; Dan MacNeil, Survey Supervisor, West LA, 30 years; and Lewie Miller, Survey Party Chief I, 10 years.

GET KICKIN’!

Get Chivas/ Galaxy tickets

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NEWS BRIEF

LECTURE ON BANNING FAMILY

Banning Museum is planning a special historical lecture by Tom Sitton, author of the book, *Grand Adventures: The Banning Family and the Shaping of Southern California*.

The lecture is scheduled for 10 a.m. Saturday, July 28, at the museum, 401 E “M” St. in Wilmington.

Mr. Sitton will speak on the role of pioneer Phineas Banning and his descendants in the rise of this region based on his book. Sitton will focus primarily on the second generation and its ownership of Santa Catalina Island from 1892 to 1919. There will be a 15-minute question-and-answer session after the lecture followed by a book signing.

Admission to the event is free for Friends of Banning Museum members and children under 12. Non-member admission is \$5. No RSVP is required. For more details about this event or the Banning Museum, please contact Friends of Banning Museum at (310) 548-2005. Information on the museum can also be found at www.thebanningmuseum.org.

The Banning Museum is a Rec and Parks facility and is operated in cooperation with Friends of Banning Museum, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to “preserve history, promote education, and inspire entrepreneurial spirit.”



PUBLIC WORKS

Sneak Peek: Siqueiros Mural Project

Unique and impressive Public Works project is creating a viewing platform and interpretive center to showcase a historic mural.

In early June, *Alive!* was given a sneak pre-view of an incredible arts and culture project –the City’s El Pueblo Historic Monument (Olvera Street), in partnership with the Getty Conservation Institution, is creating a new destination attraction – showcasing a major public art work that used to be nearly impossible to see, despite its large size. Soon, its inaccessibility will be a thing of the past.

A mural titled *América Tropical*, located at El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument in downtown Los Angeles, is the only existing public work in the United States by the famed Mexican muralist David Alfaro Siqueiros. The City and the Getty are working to conserve the mural through design and construction of a huge protective shelter and public viewing platform. The mural measures 80 feet long by 18 feet high.

Public Works is building and supervising this major project on behalf of El Pueblo Historic Monument.

In addition to building the shelter and the viewing platform, the City is also working on providing education about the mural to the public through the design and installation of an interpretive center.

If you haven’t seen or heard of this project before, that’s probably because it’s all happening in and above four different Olvera Street buildings. The mural itself was painted on the side of the Italian Hall in 1932; a possible new El Pueblo visitors center is being built inside the Hammel building; the beginnings of the mural’s interpretive center are being built inside the Sepulveda and Gibbs buildings; and the mural viewing platform is being built above the Hammel building.



Javier Gonzalez, Construction Manager, Public Works/Engineering (left) and Eric Hess, Sr. Construction Inspector, Public Works/Contract Administration, stand on the viewing platform (under construction) for the *América Tropical* mural (in the background).



The large shelter, built to shelter the *América Tropical* mural, towers above the second floor of the Italian Hall.

The shelter and platform project will give the general public the opportunity to view the mural. Once open, the viewing experience and the interpretive center will be part of the general attractions of Olvera Street.

Eric Hess, Sr. Construction Inspector, Public Works/Contract Administration, and Javier Gonzalez, Construction Manager, Public Works/Engineering, gave *Alive!* a sneak-peak tour of the progress of this incredible project.

Other City departments involved in this project include the Mayor’s Office and Building and Safety.

Alive! readers can expect to see much more about this project when it opens to the public sometime this fall.



The viewing platform, under construction, as seen looking back from the mural.