

PUBLIC WORKS

Putting a Shine On Hollywood

Street Services paves Hollywood Boulevard with a shiny new roadway treatment.

Story and photo courtesy Street Services

Red carpet movie premieres at Grauman's Chinese Theater will have a new luster now that Public Works/Street Services has resurfaced Hollywood Boulevard with a unique roadway treatment known as "Glassphalt." This special asphalt blend includes 10 percent finely processed glass, producing the effect of subtle points of light emanating from the roadway.

Last November, Street Services' Resurfacing Division paved Hollywood Boulevard from La Brea Avenue to Gower Street on three consecutive evenings from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. Daytime work was avoided to ensure that retail commerce along the busy boulevard continued without interruption.

Renewing 1.4 miles of road surface, the job required the removal

of 396,900 square feet of old asphalt and the installation of 6,118 tons of new asphalt. Completing this much work in such a short time required three asphalt removal crews, two paving crews, and the combined output of both of the City's municipal asphalt plants.



Street Services crews repave Hollywood Boulevard.

PUBLIC WORKS

Navarro Is New Asst. Director

Street Services appoints Abraham Navarro as Assistant Director.

Story and photo courtesy Street Services

In October, Public Works/Street Services strengthened its executive leadership with the appointment of Abraham Navarro as Assistant Director.

He has 39 years of City service, has served the Bureau in various capacities throughout his career. He earned an undergraduate degree in civil engineering and a graduate degree in public administration, and is a former U.S. Marine.

Abraham's experience and institutional knowledge have been instrumental in the assessment, development and implementation of changes to Bureau operations that have led to efficiencies and cost savings. His leadership will assist the Bureau in meeting the fiscal and operational challenges to achieving its mission of providing quality street services in a timely and efficient manner.

The Bureau warmly welcomes Abraham.



Abraham Navarro, Asst. Director, Street Services.

PUBLIC WORKS

Spotts New to Street Services

Gregory Spotts named Superintendent II of Street Services.



Gregory Spotts, newly appointed General Superintendent II, Public Works/Street Services.

Story and photo courtesy Street Services

Gregory Spotts was appointed General Superintendent II, Public Works/Street Services. The appointment took place Oct. 30.

He has an undergraduate degree in political science from Yale University and a graduate degree in public policy from UCLA.

Gregory is head of the newly created Methods and Standards Division. His knowledge and experience in the areas of strategic planning, benchmarking, metrics, and quality standards will be instrumental in continuing the assessment, development and implementation of changes to Bureau operations that will lead to efficiencies and cost reductions. His leadership will assist the Bureau in meeting the fiscal and operational challenges to achieving our mission of providing quality street services in a timely and efficient manner.

Gregory, welcome to the City!

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United Agencies Inc.
INSURANCE

BY JEFF GELINEAU

Vice President of United Agencies,
The Club's Auto and Home Insurance Partner

Air Bag Safety

Air bags save thousands of lives each year, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). In frontal crashes, air bags reduce deaths among drivers by about 30 percent and among passengers by 27 percent.

Air bags, however, can be dangerous. If small children sit unbelted in the front seat, they can be catapulted into the path of a deploying air bag, which inflates with great force. This risk also applies to small adults who must sit close to the steering wheel to reach the pedals, pregnant women and the elderly. Infants in rear-facing safety seats on the passenger side can be severely injured because their heads are in the direct path of an inflating air bag. If your airbag is stolen or it deploys, you must get a new one, but you will be reimbursed under the comprehensive portion of your auto insurance policy.

Preventing Air Bag Injuries

Drivers should have all children sit in the backseat wearing a safety belt. Infants should be placed in rear-facing car seats and put in the backseat. Small adults should move the seat back so that their breastbone is at least 10 inches from the air bag cover.

If this is not possible, air bag switches can be installed so that the vehicle owner has the option of turning the bag off or on, depending on the situation.

Preventing Theft

Insurance industry statistics show that approximately 50,000 air bags are stolen each year, resulting in an annual loss of more than \$50,000,000 to vehicle owners and their insurance companies.

Air bags have quickly become a primary accessory on the black market for stolen vehicle parts. A new air bag, which retails for approximately \$1,000 from a car dealer, costs between \$50 and \$200 on the black market. Because of their portability, air bags can be easily removed and installed as "new" by unscrupulous collision repair shops. These dishonest operators will then charge the vehicle owner or their insurer the full price for the replacement, thus committing insurance fraud.

Fraud and Theft Prevention Tips

The National Insurance Crime Bureau suggests the following prevention tips to help avoid airbag fraud and theft.

- Use a reputable automobile collision repair shop that employs ASE-certified mechanics.
- Inspect the invoice to ensure the repair shop purchased the air bag from a manufacturer, dealer or recycler.
- If possible, inspect the air bag prior to installation. If new, it should be packaged in a sealed container from the manufacturer.
- The trim cover over the steering column should be the same color as the remaining trim interior. If not, it is an indication that the original air bag has been replaced.
- When you turn on your vehicle's ignition, a red SRS (Supplemental Restraint System) indicator should light up and flash in the instrument panel display, indicating the air bag system is activated. No SRS light means that the air bag is not new.

Be safe and have fun!

About United Agencies

United Agencies is the Club's partner in helping members with their home and auto insurance, and related products. We specialize in creating personal relationships with our customers, and serving their needs in a prompt, efficient and friendly manner.

Check out our City Employees Club page on the United Agencies Website at www.unitedagencies.com/cityclub. This website lists the upcoming

visits we'll be making to City Department meetings where you can ask us any question in person, and get an instant quote!

Have a question?

Is there something about insurance that you've always wanted to know, but were too ashamed to ask? Maybe something that you've just always been curious about? Feel free to send me an email at jgelineau@unitedagencies.com, and I will try to answer your question in one of our monthly columns.



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