



What a difference a day makes

Thousands come to Watts to beautify and clean city

by John Stinson

They came by the car and busloads last November. Thousands of volunteers from all over Los Angeles responding to the call from city hall to help spruce up the Watts area of LA. After the pep rally early Saturday morning, people were given their assignments and whisked off to various locations to begin work. And work they did. Painting murals on school grounds, painting buildings inside and out, graffiti removal, tree planting, trash removal, carpet cleaning even home reconstruction. From alleys to schools, from homes, churches and businesses, everything was fair game.

In 2005, the Mayor's Day of Service focused on a number of high schools through out the city. In 2006 the slogan was, One Community, One City, One Mission, One Day and the target was Watts. As the photos from the event show, it took all kinds of people, from all walks of life, from all parts of the city and all ages to make this happen. In 2007, whatever the theme or place, please consider joining your fellow Angelenos to help make LA a better place to live.

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3. Since the ATSAC/ATCS system will be realized regardless of this project, the proposed mitigation (developer's payment for installing ATSAC/ATCS at certain intersections) is meaningless.

4. Developer should be required to propose alternate traffic mitigation measures and provide a fund dedicating to implementing those measures.

5. Developer should also be required to establish a program to monitor results of traffic mitigation measures and provide a fund to pay for this program and any additional traffic mitigation measures that may be required as a result of the Ponte Vista project.

6. To avoid a piecemeal analysis of this project, the city and developer should address the cumulative impacts of traffic from this project, as well as those from already approved and under-construction development projects.

7. The developer and the city should address the efficacy of the existing traffic study given that the traffic snapshot used in its analysis was taken during the sink-hole on Western Avenue, which certainly reduced the number of vehicles using that road.

Community Beautification Grants available through city program

The Community Beautification Grant (CB Grant) program is a competitive annual matching grant of up to \$10,000 awarded to community groups to fund neighborhood beautification projects. It is a program of the City of Los Angeles Board of Public Works and the Office of Community Beautification.

The grant was created in 1998 as a way for community members to shape their neighborhoods. Since then, the program has completed over 750 community-base projects sparking a city-wide revitalization effort.

The funding cycle lasts from July through October with the due date for filing on October 17th. For FY 2006-07, the program will award over \$800,000 in grants enough to fund approximately 100 projects.

A list of 18 workshops and information and photos of previously completed projects are available on line at www.lacity.org/bpw/OCB/nmf/. Revised applications and guidelines will be available on line by July 16, 2007.

This is an opportunity to make that special project in your area become a reality!



Live for Today, Plant For Tomorrow

L.A. City's Million Trees Program seeks a greener, cleaner city

In a bid to erase the moniker of "the dirtiest big city in America" and referring to reports that the city has the worst air quality in the nation, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa launched a program last October to add 1 million trees to Los Angeles.

"Los Angeles now has the opportunity to be the greenest," he said at the opening ceremony at Hazard Park on the city's Eastside.

Of interest to Harbor residents is a survey by the U.S. Forest Service confirming that Los Angeles is indeed tree-challenged: On average, just 18% of ground in the city is shaded by trees (the average for cities is 27%). Some parts of the city — especially impoverished neighborhoods — have much less. Only 5.32% of Council District 15, which stretches south from Watts through the Harbor Area, is covered by tree canopy.

The campaign will continue over the next several years to capitalize on trees' air-cleaning, shade-producing benefits. Organizers expect about half the trees will be planted on public sites or right-of-ways and are hoping thousands of residents will add trees—ones they receive free from the city or some they buy—to their yards and report the plantings.

It's about taking responsibility," Villaraigosa said, noting that the tree-planting program gives everyone a chance to improve the city and leave it "a greener, better city" for future generations.

He urged residents to participate by calling the city's 311 information line or by signing on to the program's website at <http://www.milliontreesla.org>.

"Keep LA Beautiful" Campaign kicks off March 3

Event coincides with long running "Keep America Beautiful" Program

This year the City of Los Angeles will take a historic step in its efforts to clean up the city. It will join the 22nd "Keep America Beautiful" American Clean up campaign by starting its own campaign of "Keep LA Beautiful."

The message is simple: Recycle, Reuse and Don't Litter.

The event, which will run from March through May, will start on the steps of City Hall on March 3rd starting at 8 AM with kick off rally, project participation from 10 AM to 1PM and followed by lunch from 1 to 2PM.

Projects will include planting trees and flowers, painting out graffiti and, you guessed it, picking up trash (in downtown and at Echo Park Lake.)

Individuals as well as Civic and non-profit groups are encouraged to plan their own events through May to clean and dress up their communities and join in the Mayor's Day of Service the weekend of April 28 and 29.

For more information call (213) 978-0251.