



Photo by Gary McCarthy

Walking for a cause

A group of young people walk along a dirt track at Salt Lake Park in Huntington Park Saturday, participating in the American Cancer's Society Relay for Life event. The 24-hour event raises funds for cancer research.

H.P. approves contracts for recipients of CDBG funds

BY ARNOLD ADLER
STAFF WRITER

HUNTINGTON PARK — The City Council has approved formal agreements with several nonprofit organizations and city programs which have been awarded money from the federal Community Development Block Grant and HOME funds.

CDBG funds must be used to help low- and middle-income residents upgrade their homes and buildings but it also allows a portion to go to charitable agencies which serve those residents as well as to street and park improvements in those neighborhoods.

HOME funds must be used to promote affordable housing and if possible help first-time home buyers purchase a low interest mortgage.

Manuel G. Acosta, the city's housing and community development manager, in a written report to the City Council, said agreements are needed for homeless support services from the Southeast Churches Service Center, \$17,693 for its emergency food program; and the Salvation Army, Southwest Community Center based in Huntington Park, \$17,693 for family services.

Public service allocations went to the Huntington Park Library, \$13,270 for its homework center; the Southeast Rio Vista Family YMCA, \$13,270 for its Healthy Kids after-school program and to the Oldtimers Foundation, based in Huntington Park, \$17,693 for its senior citizen nutrition program.

The Fair Housing Foundation, a nonprofit agency, was allocated \$13,255 to investigate housing discrimination, as mandated by the federal government.

Other CDBG public service allocations were to the Huntington Park Police Department, \$414,022 for code enforcement; the city recreation department, \$79,982 for upgrading the fitness center in Salt Lake Park; and the public works department, \$37,638 for public improvements of the downtown area, Pacific Boulevard between Florence and Slauson avenues.

The recreation department also received \$61,922 for its after-school program, the public works department received \$58,381 for graffiti removal, the police department received \$178,693 for its Juveniles At Risk boot camp, and the redevelopment agency received \$112,975 for the cleanup

of contaminated sites.

Acosta noted a change in the minor home repair program for elderly, handicapped or low-income residents. As of July 1, the city will take over administering the program from Veterans in Community Service, a private group which has said it no longer can continue the service.

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LAUSD approves early education center

Wave Staff Report

The Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education has unanimously approved a \$10 million allocation to support the construction of an early education center to serve children in the cities of Bell and Cudahy.

The \$10 million allocation will support the construction of a state-of-the-art early education center that will provide 175 new seats for the area's youngest students, up to 5 years old, a district representative said.

The center will house seven classrooms, a family engagement and professional development space, as well as a new playground.

Construction is expected to begin in 2013 with an opening date in 2015.

After an almost year-long process of analysis, the district's consultants, the Advancement Project's Education team, pinpointed the Bell-Cudahy region as the most underserved area in Los Angeles, with more than 3,000 young children without early learning opportunities in the 90201 zip code alone.

Moreover, more than 50 percent of children up to the age of 5 participate in the supplemental nutrition program, and more than two of three adults do not have a high school diploma, the representative said.

First 5 Los Angeles recently recognized the Southeast area as a best start community. LAUSD's most recent investment will com-

plement First 5 LA's commitment to the region, leading to improved returns on both investments through increased rates of children fully prepared to enter kindergarten and achieve academic success.

First 5 LA is a nonprofit group organized to oversee allocations for programs and activities for

children up to age 5 with money from a voter-approved 1998 tobacco tax.

Los Angeles school board member Yolie Flores said, "We are moving in the right direction by investing in a state-of-the-art facility that will not only provide over 150 new early education

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Spa at S.G. Park closed for repairs

Wave Staff Report

SOUTH GATE — The city will close the spa in the sports center at South Gate Park, 4900 Southern Ave., until funds can be found to repair it.

The City Council June 14 voted 3-2 for the closure and directed city staff to seek grants to do a general expansion and upgrade of the swimming pool and include the spa replacement with a therapy pool in that project, along with renovations of the office and locker rooms and the development of an aquatic play area on the south side of the pool.

Voting for the action were Mayor Maria Davila, Vice Mayor Bill DeWitt and Councilman Jorge Morales. Dissenting were Councilman Henry Gonzalez and Gil Hurtado.

Alternative actions rejected by the council majority included allo-

cating \$75,000 for the spa and \$400,000 for a therapy pool to replace the spa and take the funds from other projects or funding sources.

Parks and Recreation Director Paul Adams said the spa has been leaking for more than a year and the shell is deteriorating. Contractors have determined that the spa is past its useful period, Adams said.

In a report to the council, Adams said city staff would like to replace the guitar-shaped spa, which seats four to six adults with a water temperature of 102 degrees with a larger therapy pool, 30 by 40 feet with a depth of 42 to 48 inches and water temperatures at 98 degrees.

The sought-after new therapy pool would have exercise bars attached to the sides and a lift for the handicapped.

Ground broken for Raul Perez Park

BY ARNOLD ADLER
STAFF WRITER

HUNTINGTON PARK — City officials and representatives of the Los Angeles Unified School District conducted a groundbreaking ceremony June 21 to start construction of the Raul R. Perez Memorial Park, 6200 Alameda St.

Work on the 4.5-acre site is expected to be completed in early 2012, said Parks and Recreation Director Josette Espinosa.

"I'm very excited. Huntington Park is doing things for its residents, despite the economic situation," Vice Mayor Andy Molina said. "We are finding a way to get things done."

"All I can say is thank you. I'm emotionally overwhelmed," said Councilwoman Rosa Perez, the widow of Raul Perez for whom the park is named.

Aaron Bridgewater, representing the school district, in turn thanked the city for giving up the previous Perez Park site on Gage Avenue, east of Alameda Street, so the district could build South Regional High School No. 7, which as been named for long-time Huntington Park activist Linda Esperanza Marquez.

The exchange called for the district to build a new Perez Park north of the school site, south of Randolph Street, in place of the 3.5-acre site on Gage.

Bridgewater noted that the new school's athletic fields will be used by both the city and school district.

"That was the most efficient use of taxpayers dollars," he said.

Also taking part in the ceremony were the late councilman's sons, Raul Perez II and Ryan Perez, Wally Shidler of the Huntington Park Historical Society, and newly appointed Planning Commissioner Jhonny Pineda, who replaced Rosa Perez after she was elected to the council in March.

Raul Perez was elected to the City Council in 1990 and died of

cancer in 1996, two years into his second term.

The new community center at Perez Park will be larger than the previous 3,200-square-foot facility and will include a multipurpose room for community and other meetings, a kitchen, restrooms, office and storage space and an exercise room, Espinosa said.

Besides getting a larger park, the new site also will have 50 parking spaces.

While the new park is being built, the city has arranged for its programs and activities to take place at Middleton Elementary School, 6537 Malabar St.

The City Council approved a lease with the LAUSD for two portable buildings at the Middleton site for city programs until the new park is completed.

The new park site includes the 1.6-acre former asphalt recycling plant at 6208 Alameda St., which

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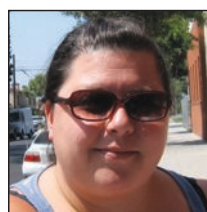


Photo by Arnold Adler

Raul Perez II, left, and his brother, Ryan; join their mother, Councilwoman Rosa Perez, center, in a symbolic ground breaking to begin construction of Perez Park named in memory of their father and husband, the late City Councilman Raul Perez.

StreetBeat

'Should the president reduce the troops in Afghanistan?'



Rebecca Frausto

"Yes, I think he does need to bring some troops home."

Rebecca Frausto
Norwalk

"Absolutely. It's about time for them to come home. I grew up in the Vietnam era of the 70s. I hate to see the war dragged on."

Marilee Stefenhagen
Norwalk



Marilee Stefenhagen



Kris Fackrell

"Yes, I think all the troops should leave. They don't need us there. It's not our war."

Kris Fackrell
Norwalk

"I think he is doing the right thing. He promised it. It would put more trust in him that he kept his word. It could be helpful in improving his popularity."

Hector Gomez
Norwalk



Hector Gomez



Budget agreement

Gov. Jerry Brown and Democratic legislators find middle ground on state budget.

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Briefly

INSIDE

Immigrant students hold out hopes that Congress can pass the DREAM Act despite strong opposition from Republicans.

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A number of area communities plan to celebrate Independence Day with fireworks shows Sunday and Monday night.

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The Huntington Park Business Improvement District is already preparing for its annual Three Kings procession, planned for Jan. 6, 2012.

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State and local officials break ground for the massive construction project to widen the Carmenta Road bridge over the Santa Ana Freeway.

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