



the BELLFLOWER CITIZEN

Volume 5 Issue 10

October 2005



Meet comedy and film star Paul Rodriguez at this year's Liberty Day Parade. He'll ride in the parade and sign autographs at Thompson Park.

Comedy Superstar Paul Rodriguez to Serve as Liberty Day Parade Grand Marshal

Paul Rodriguez, comedian and star of such movies as *Ali*, *Crocodile Dundee*, *Blood Work*, and *American Family*, will serve as this year's Liberty Day Parade Grand Marshal. The popular star will join students, members of the armed forces, elected officials and service clubs from throughout Bellflower and surrounding communities for the annual community celebration. Marking Bellflower's 48th anniversary of incorporation, the Liberty Day Parade begins at 10:00 a.m. along Bellflower Boulevard.

Other honorary parade marshals include Bellflower resident Marine Sgt. Chris Hornback, who recently returned from duty in Iraq; Deirdre Reyes, Bellflower Unified School District Teacher of the Year; Special Olympian Anuar Suarez, who earned a Gold Medal in Aquatics at the 2005 Summer Games; student leaders from area high schools, Spike the Ice Dog and Arbi, the mascot of the Long Beach Armada.

Equestrian groups, school bands and performing groups will entertain spectators, along with

color guards, drill teams and marching units. The parade also includes floats, fire trucks, antique autos, military vehicles and more.

Comcast will produce a television broadcast of the parade, which will air on Channel 26 in October and November. Comcast anchor Ron Roberson and *All About Bellflower* reporter Elva Esquivel will host the broadcast. Video tapes will be available to residents and Parade participants.

Bellflower's 48th birthday celebration also includes a three-day family carnival at Thompson Park beginning Friday, October 7th. After the Parade on Saturday, a Public Safety Fair with displays and food booths will be held at Thompson Park.

The classic rock group "The Answer" performs at 5:30, followed by the Birthday Cupcake Ceremony at 7:30 p.m. and the fireworks show at 8:00 p.m., also at Thompson Park.

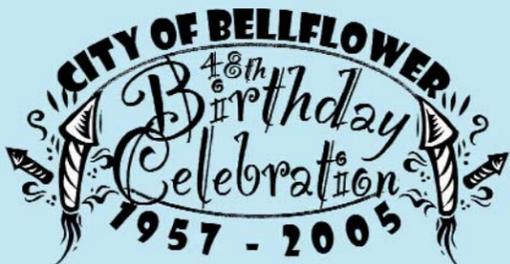
Admission and parking for all events are free. For more information on Liberty Week and the parade, call Parks and Recreation at (562) 804-1424 ext. 2268.



Spike the Ice Dog will entertain spectators and pose for photos at the parade on October 8th.



BHS cheerleaders will join dozens of local groups for the mile-long route.



Liberty Week Events

Mayor's Community Prayer Breakfast
Tuesday, October 4, 7:15 a.m.
Simms Park - Tickets \$12
Details: (562) 804-1424, ext. 2267

Community Carnival
Friday - Sunday, October 7-9
Thompson Park
Details: (562) 866-8614

Liberty Day Parade
Saturday, October 8, 10:00 a.m.
Details: (562) 804-1424, ext. 2268

Public Safety Fair at Thompson Park
Saturday, October 8
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Food Booths at Thompson Park
Saturday-Sunday, October 8-9
11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Details: (562) 804-1424, ext. 2268

Musical Salute Concert
"The Answer" (classic rock)
Saturday, October 8, 5:30 p.m.
Thompson Park

Birthday Cupcake Ceremony
Saturday, October 8, 7:30 p.m.
Thompson Park

Fireworks Spectacular
Saturday, October 8, 8:00 p.m.
Thompson Park

Trash Service Changeover Continues in Bellflower

The City's trash service changeover began last month and most customers have already seen their old trash barrels replaced with new containers.

According to CR&R Refuse and Recycling, new trash bins should be in place for all Bellflower citizens by the end of October. If your containers have not yet been replaced,



you should continue to use your current trash and recycling containers (carts), and place them in your usual location on your regular trash day. CR&R will replace your current carts with new carts on one of your regular trash days, within the next few weeks.

"The hard part is over," said Dan Stepanian, General Manager of CR&R's L.A. Solid Waste Division. "The roll-out process regarding residential cart delivery will continue for the next several weeks, so keep using your old carts until they're replaced."

If you have questions regarding the new recycling and refuse service, call CR&R's toll free customer service line at 1-877-944-4716, Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 7:00 a.m. to noon. You may also use this number to schedule bulky item pick-ups and for questions regarding household hazardous waste.



Inside The Citizen

Helping Victims of Katrina..... Page 2

Soroptimists Offer Grants..... Page 3

Red Ribbon Week Begins..... Page 3

'Pirates' at the Bristol..... Page 4

'Four Hands' Concert..... Page 4



Randy Bomgaars
Mayor
Ray T. Smith
Mayor Pro Tem
John K. Pratt
Councilmember
Scott A. Larsen
Councilmember
Dorothy R. King
Councilmember

The Bellflower Citizen
October 2005

Postal Customer

Pre-sorted
Standard US
Postage Paid
Permit No. 2118
Artesia, CA



U.S. Navy Photos

Hurricane Katrina Relief Ways to Help the Victims

Dozens of organizations continue to collect donations to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina. The following include local and national agencies providing assistance.

National

American Red Cross

P.O. Box 37243, Washington, DC 20013
www.redcross.org
 (800) HELP-NOW (English)
 (800) 257-7575 (Spanish)

Salvation Army Disaster Relief

P.O. Box 4857, Jackson, MS 39296-4857
www.salvationarmyusa.org
www.redshield.org/crisis
 (800) SAL-ARMY

Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund

55 W. 125th St., New York, NY 10027
www.bushclintonkatrinafund.org
 (212) 348-0132

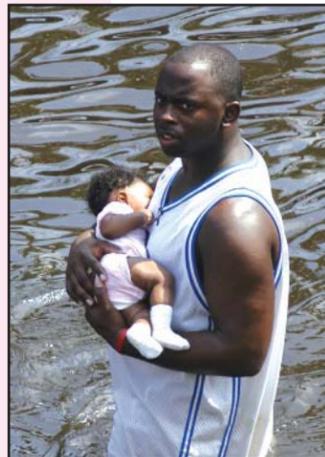
Local

St. John Bosco High School

13640 Bellflower Boulevard
 Bellflower, CA 90706
 (562) 920-1734

Alondra Dental Group

10106 Alondra Boulevard, Ste. B and C
 Bellflower, CA 90706
 (562) 920-0496



Brakensiek Library Aids Red Cross Efforts

The Clifton M. Brakensiek Library is participating in collection efforts for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. A collection jar has been set up at the circulation desk for library patrons to donate to the cause.

"We are proud to stand with the rest of the community and do our part for the relief efforts," said Sue Kane, Community Library Manager.

All Los Angeles County libraries are participating and will accept cash or checks made out to the American Red Cross through October 15th.

Bring your donations to the Clifton M. Brakensiek Library, located at 9945 E. Flower Street. For more details, call (562) 925-5543.



Local Congregation Collects, Delivers Donations to Needy

A Bellflower church has been collecting relief supplies, filling trucks and driving the trucks to Louisiana. Members of Hosanna Christian Fellowship have driven three truckloads, more than 100,000 pounds of goods, to Baton Rouge, where supplies have been distributed to small areas.

"We're going to do this as long as we're needed," said Pastor Mike Van Mersbergen, the organizer of the Hosanna relief efforts.

So far the church has provided food, water, Gatorade, diapers, baby formula, clothing and more.

One of the truck drivers is Van Mersbergen's younger brother Barry, who has 18 years of experience driving for a trucking company. "My brother, who is used to tornado clean up, said he's never seen such devastation before," said the pastor.

Donations are still being accepted. Call Hosanna at (562) 925-5093.

Whites Collects \$30,000 for Hurricane Katrina Relief

Serving as an official collection site for the American Red Cross, Whites Funeral Home collected more than \$30,000 to aid victims of Hurricane Katrina. Donations poured in from Bellflower and surrounding communities just as soon as the site became active. Volunteers, led by Whites' manager Robin Snow, worked hard to register the donors and count the donations as they came in.

"The devastation from the hurricane overwhelmed so many communities. In the midst of all the tragedy, the response has been inspirational," said Snow.

Children came with piggy banks in tow to donate their savings. Residents out riding their bikes or walking their dogs stopped to write

checks. On the weekends, shoppers in the downtown area paused to donate rather than spend on themselves.

"A homeless woman with four children donated \$2 to the Red Cross and said she wanted to give that money to the hurricane victims because they had even less than she did. I was so humbled," reflected Snow.

Residents still interested in making donations to the Katrina Relief Fund should contact the American Red Cross, Greater Long Beach Chapter at (562) 595-6341 ext. 261.



A young Katrina victim appreciates the donations provided by Bellflower's Hosanna Christian Fellowship Church.



Mayfair Boutique Benefits Katrina Relief Fund

Mayfair High School Grad Night presents its 10th Annual Holiday Boutique on October 15th, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Get an early start on your holiday shopping and enjoy vendors, food booths, prizes, a DJ, and a 50/50 raffle. The boutique will also feature a car show in the parking lot. All the car show registration fees collected along with the proceeds from the 50/50 raffle will be donated to the Salvation Army Katrina Relief Fund. The Holiday Boutique will be held at

Mayfair High School, located at 6000 Woodruff Avenue. For more information, call (562) 867-3676.



Soroptimist Offers Scholarships to Assist Women



Soroptimist International, the world's largest organization of women business owners and executives, is currently accepting applications for scholarships to help local women achieve their educational goals. The scholarship program is designed to improve the quality of life for women and children on a local, national and worldwide level. To qualify, an applicant must be the primary source of income for her family, be enrolled in an undergraduate or vocational

school, and demonstrate financial need. Recipients are awarded cash grants that may be used for educational expenses. Applications must be received by December 15th and will be judged by a panel of local community leaders. Recipients will be announced in February 2006. For more information or to obtain an application, call (562) 920-9536.

Hospice Care Volunteers Needed

Companion Hospice Care (CHC), a non-profit agency, provides comfort, care and quality of life assistance to terminally ill patients and their families. Serving Bellflower and neighboring communities, the group seeks individuals who are willing to volunteer a few hours each week to help comfort patients and their families. According to CHC, a volunteer spends time with the patient and may help by reading, writing letters, or running small errands. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old. If you are interested in becoming a hospice volunteer, training sessions are being held on two upcoming Saturdays: November 5th and 12th from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Santa Fe Springs. For information, call (562) 944-2711.



This photo, provided by Bellflower resident Leona Gray, shows improved sidewalks and new landscaping recently installed along McNab Street.

McNab Street Sidewalk Area 'Beautified'

The City has improved a sidewalk area on the left side of McNab Street between Mapledale and Rosecrans. Bellflower Maintenance Yard workers, a part of the City's Public Works Department, installed landscaping and ADA compliant sidewalks.

"The City workers worked very hard to make this area not only beautiful, but also made the whole block handicap accessible," said Leona Gray, a local resident. "We feel that all the City workers should be recognized for all their hard work and efforts to beautify this area. We would like them to know that all their efforts are deeply appreciated."

Personalized Tile Program Ends Nov. 1st

Time is running out to make your mark in Bellflower. The deadline to order personalized tiles for the City's new Library Gardens is November 1st. Construction of the new quarter-acre park located across from the Clifton M. Brakensiek Library will begin later this month. The project should be completed by the end of January 2006.

The Library Gardens replaces a parking lot and grass area on Flower Street at Civic Center Drive. The small intimate park will provide an outdoor setting that complements the public library. It will include literary quotes engraved on concrete slabs, oversized concrete books to sit on, and a winding path leading to a center point. The eight-inch by eight-inch personalized tiles will be placed along the winding path. Tile

order forms are available at City Hall, Bellflower's major parks and online at the City's website www.bellflower.org. For more information, call (562) 804-1424 ext. 2102.



BUSD Students to Begin 'Red Ribbon Campaign'

Students in the Bellflower Unified School District pledge to stay drug and tobacco free as part of the month-long Red Ribbon Campaign. The theme this year is "Drug Free Partnering with Families," and emphasizes the role of parents as the primary influence on their children's lives.

"We are trying to educate parents on the importance of ongoing communication with their kids," said Karen Layton-Lee, Red Ribbon Coordinator for the Bellflower Council PTA. "If the interaction with parents is there, kids are less likely to use drugs or start smoking."

The celebration will include participation in the Bellflower Liberty Day Parade on October 8th where students will march along with parents, teachers and administrators. The Bellflower Council PTA is also sponsoring a Drug Free Awareness booth at the Safety Fair held at Thompson Park after the parade. On October 27th, 11 Bellflower schools will compete in a decorating contest which will be judged by members of the Bellflower City Council.

"Our hope is that the entire community will support our message and remind children of the benefits of living a drug free life," added Layton-Lee.

For more information about the 2005 Red Ribbon Campaign, contact BUSD at (562) 866-9011.



Homeowners, Contractors: 'Call Before You Dig'

Most of California's utility infrastructure is buried underground. Just about anywhere a construction company digs there could be an underground facility lying in "wait." It could be a fiber optic cable or a very dangerous power line, gas main or petroleum pipeline. It's important for property owners and contractors to be aware of these dangers.

The easiest way to avoid costly digging accidents, and the legal way, is to call Underground Service Alert (USA, formerly Dig Alert) at 1-800-227-2600. It's the One Call Notification Center that supports all of Southern California. USA has been serving excavators and owners of underground lines for nearly 30 years.

"We've come a long way over the years in our efforts to help the excavation community," said Ron Olitsky, USA's president.

"Unfortunately, human nature being what it is, there will always be dig-ins. But we will be here attempting to reduce those accidents to the barest minimum."



USA is backed by California law. The state passed legislation in 1986 laying out the responsibilities of both excavators and owners of underground lines. Excavators must call USA at least two working days prior to digging.

Workers and contractors who do not call USA before digging are subject to fines up to \$50,000 under California State Law and/or the possible loss of their state contractor's license. Contractors and property owners can also be charged with the repair costs of the damaged underground facility.

Don't take that chance. Homeowners and businesses need to ensure construction companies and contractors call before they dig.

Household Hazardous and E-Waste Roundup

Dispose of household hazardous waste and e-waste free of charge at the upcoming community Household Hazardous Waste Roundup, which will be held Saturday, November 5th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Simms Park, 16614 S. Clark Avenue. Hazardous waste items include used motor oil, paint, turpentine, acid, abrasive cleaners, household and car batteries, pesticides and garden herbi-

cides. These chemicals are harmful to the environment if disposed of improperly. E-waste refers to electronic items such as computer monitors, keyboards, printers, televisions, VCRs, stereos, fax machines, cellular phones and copiers.

Collect unwanted items and place them in a cardboard box (in their original containers) and drive them to the park collection site. The free service is sponsored by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works in cooperation with the City of Bellflower. For more information, call 1(888) CLEAN-LA or visit www.lacsd.org.

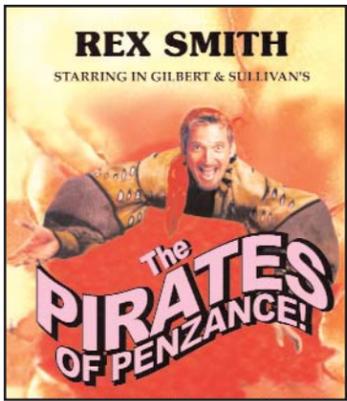


Noted Star Rex Smith Performs at Bristol in Gilbert and Sullivan's Pirates of Penzance

Well-known actor and recording artist Rex Smith will star in Gilbert and Sullivan's comic operetta *The Pirates of Penzance* at Bristol Civic Auditorium. Smith sang the hit "You Take My Breath Away" in the late 1970s, and has performed on Broadway, in feature films and on television.

The light opera tells the story of Frederic, who as a young child, was apprenticed to the Pirate King (played by Smith) by mistake when he should have been apprenticed to a pilot. Now, having reached age 21, Frederic's indentures are at last over and he happily leaves the service of the pirates.

He finds an island of hearty young maidens and falls in love with Mabel, daughter of the Major General. When they decide to marry, complications arise as the pirates decide to themselves marry the rest of the Major-General's daughters - and Frederic's birth date turns out to be not all it seems.



October 14-16 and 20-22

Presented by the Bellflower Theater Company and Front Row Center Inc., the musical is produced by Dennis Illingworth and directed by Kent Johnson.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$20 for sen-

iors and students. For tickets and additional information, call the Bellflower Theater Box Office Monday through Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to noon, at (562) 867-3524.

Rex Smith's Career Spans Four Decades



Rex Smith, who plays the Pirate King in Bellflower's *Pirates of Penzance*, is a veteran of TV and stage.

He earned the Theater World Award in 1981 for his portrayal of Frederic in *The Pirates of Penzance* on Broadway, and also starred in the film adaptation. He performed in four other starring roles on Broadway and six national theater tours.

His credits include six feature films and seven albums. He enjoyed a stint as a teen idol in the late 1970s and recorded the top-10 single, "You Take My Breath Away," in 1979.

On TV, Smith hosted "Solid Gold," and starred in ABC's "Street Hawk," Daytime's "As The World Turns," and three TV movies. He also guest starred on the primetime series "Norm," "JAG," "Caroline in the City," "The Sentinel," "Baywatch" and "Pacific Blue."



October 23rd
2:30 p.m.

Two Times Two Equals 'Four Hands'

The Bellflower Concert Association presents its second concert of the season on October 23rd at 2:30 p.m. "Piano Duets for the Young at Heart" features the musical talents of Christine Sotomayer-Lopez and Greg Schreiner. Both pianists are faculty members at Cerritos Community College.

Musical arrangements were selected with children in mind, including compositions by Diabelli, Faure, Schumann and Ravel. Bring the entire family for an afternoon of entertainment by two of the region's most accomplished pianists.

The concert will be held at the Bristol Civic Auditorium, located at 16600 Civic Center Drive. Season membership cards are accepted or purchase tickets at the door: \$12 for adults and \$10 for students. For more information, call (562) 867-5980.

Banks and Chicken Pie Kept Backus Working

Evelyn Backus was born in Bellflower in 1923 and has lived in town most of her life. After the depression hit, her family moved in with her grandparents in Anaheim. Following World War II, she married a Navy man and they moved back to Bellflower.

"The community was small," said Backus. "I kind of grew up with the community. We came back in 1946 and Bellflower was still a very small town. And I worked down in the middle of town for so many years, and we just knew everybody."

There were only two banks then, and she worked at the banks for most of her adult life, taking only a couple years off after the birth of her sons. Following a hip replacement about nine years ago, Backus started doing the accounting for Henry Moffett's Chicken Pie Restaurant.



"I've enjoyed my time with Carol (the restaurant owner)," She said. "I'm going to miss it."

Backus recently retired at age 82, and she was asked why she worked for so many years.

"I just like people," said Backus. "I'm a people person and I really enjoyed it."

YMCA's Golf Tourney Raises \$30,000

The 30th annual Los Cerritos YMCA golf tournament, held last month and named in honor of longtime Bellflower resident Bob Prigmore, one of the event's founders, raised more than \$30,000 for youth programs. The event began in 1976 to celebrate the nation's bicentennial and generate funding for local YMCA programs. It has continued ever since.

"I'm very proud that they named the event in my honor," Prigmore said. "It was a success from day-one, and it shows how many people are loyal YMCA supporters."

The Los Cerritos YMCA is located at 15530 Woodruff Avenue in Bellflower. For information about programs and services, including the annual golf tournament, call (562) 925-1292.



From left: YMCA Board Member Brian Hass, YMCA Supporter Nancy Prigmore and Heather Burke-Hass present a plaque of appreciation to Bob Prigmore. The annual golf tournament, named in his honor, raised more than \$30,000 for youth programs and services.

Safe Fun Celebrated at City's Halloween Carnivals

The City invites Bellflower parents to take their youngsters to one of three City parks to celebrate Halloween. There will be plenty of supervised events at the Halloween carnivals on Monday, October 31st, from 6:30-9:00 p.m., including game booths and a costume parade for all ages. Awards will be given to outstanding costumes in categories ranging from pre-school to adult. Refreshments will be served. In addition, Simms Park and Thompson Park will present a magic show, and Caruthers Park will scare



up a good time at a Scooby Doo-themed Haunted House. The carnivals provide a safe, supervised alternative to door-to-door trick-or-treating.

Residents may contact the individual parks for detailed activity schedules: Simms Park (562) 866-7510, Thompson Park (562) 866-8614, and Caruthers Park (562) 866-5684.