

# COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Community/Law Enforcement Partnership Programs

CRIME PREVENTION NEWSLETTER, JUNE/JULY 2005

[www.lasd.org](http://www.lasd.org)

## Community Crisis Hotline



The featured speaker at our May Crime Prevention Meeting was Mr. Scott Butwell, M.A., Director of the South Bay area Community Crisis Hotline & Response Team. The Community Crisis Hotline is a 24-hour hotline that provides basic intervention for callers. The mission is caring for people who are facing a crisis situation. Volunteers give out referrals to more than 3,000 community

resources. However, what's most important is that volunteers are simply there to listen to people who are in a crisis.

In addition to listening to and giving out referrals, volunteers are trained to help callers explore and evaluate options to their problem. One person caring for another person is what makes the difference in the lives of those calling the hotline. A special bond forms between a volunteer and the person making the crisis phone call, whether it's through receiving the right resource, evaluating constructive options, or being comforted. Every

caller receives hope and encouragement.

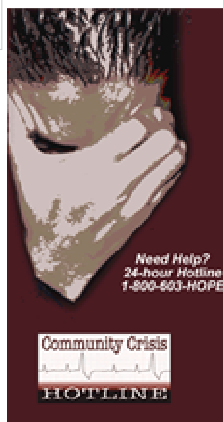
We provide crisis intervention support, hope, encouragement, information, education and referrals for anyone in a crisis...

- Suicidal Behavior
- Domestic Violence
- Drug/Alcohol Abuse or Addictions
- Rape
- Homelessness
- Sexually Transmitted Disease
- Pregnancy Planning/Issues
- Death
- Anxiety
- Grieving
- Personal Crisis

The Community Crisis Hotline began as an idea of Pastor Steve Mays of Calvary Chapel South Bay, back in 1992. Now the Community Crisis Hotline has a multitude of volunteers that are experienced and trained to serve. The volunteers man four-hour shifts every week or bi-weekly.

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The Hotline also partners with municipalities, schools and law enforcement agencies, including the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Bringing an awareness to the community that the Community Crisis Hotline exists. This is accomplished by working with law enforcement and other agencies to display bumper stickers on patrol cars and pass out community crisis business cards to those they meet who may be in a personal crisis.

They desire to create a network of crisis call centers in communities throughout Southern California, including other organizations to establish crisis call centers in their communities.

# The Safe Haven Law

In January of 2002, a newborn baby was found alive in a trash can in Monrovia with its umbilical cord still attached. The infant, later known as “Baby Andrew,” was taken to a nearby hospital where he was examined and found to be in relatively good health. Soon afterwards, the 16-year-old girl who had given birth to the baby was arrested and charged with attempted murder and child endangerment.

The case caught the attention of the public and shined a light on the all-too-frequent issue of infant abandonment in Los Angeles County. In 2002, 13 infants were abandoned in the county, and of these eight died before they were found.

Since the passage of California’s Safely Surrendered Baby Law, new parents in dire situations have an easy way to save the life of their child. Under the law, parents may surrender their newborn infants at hospital emergency rooms or other designated sites within the first 72 hours after birth without facing criminal prosecution for child endangerment. In Los Angeles, babies can also be taken to any designated Los Angeles County fire station (Call 877-BABY SAFE to learn about a Safe Surrender site near you.). In 2002, the lives of 10 infants were saved because parents took advantage of the Safely Surrendered Baby Law.

“The law is an easy way to save innocent lives,” said Evelyn V. Martinez, Executive Director of First 5 LA, which is working with a variety of agencies throughout the county to get the word out about the law.

Under the Safely Surrendered Baby Law, parental information is confidential and infants will receive the medical care they need. Los Angeles County’s Department of Children and

Family Services (DCFS) takes custody of these infants and moves them into adoptive homes as quickly as possible. Parents who have surrendered their infants have 14 days to reconsider their decision.

Although it’s easy to simply label the parents in infant abandonment cases as callous or irresponsible, the situation facing these parents is usually much more complex than that. Women who ultimately abandon their infants often conceal or deny their pregnancy out of fear of discovery or authority. Although these women can come from any ethnic or economic background, they usually do not receive any prenatal care and or give birth in a hospital or other medical environment.

As the continuing deaths of abandoned infants in Los Angeles County demonstrate, the Safely Surrendered Baby Law won’t do any good unless parents know about it. Parents need to know their options when making life or death decisions about their newborns. Anyone in the community can help: friends, grandparents, co-workers, service providers or even acquaintances from church. The more people who know about the Safely Surrendered Baby Law, the more lives will be saved. It’s that simple.

“Our goal is to not only better educate the public about this law, but more importantly, our goal must be zero babies thrown away,” said Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe, whose leadership has been essential in focusing attention on the law. A number of county agencies have been involved in spreading the word about the law, the Children’s Planning Council, the Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect, First 5 LA, Infoline and other concerned members of the Los Angeles County community.

Those wanting information about specific Los Angeles County Safely Surrendered Baby sites in their neighborhoods should call (877) BABY-SAFE ((877) 725-5111). The program’s website in Los Angeles County is [www.babysafela.org](http://www.babysafela.org). Visitors to the site can learn more about the law and the County’s implementation efforts, as well as download print materials and find a designated Safe Surrender site near them. Los Angeles County Safe Surrender sites will display a sign with the Safe Surrender logo, which shows a picture of an extended arm holding a baby.



## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

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**Community Partners** is published monthly by the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, Community/Law Enforcement Partnership Programs Unit. It provides a recap of the monthly Crime Prevention/Community Relations Meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month. The meetings are held from 10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon at the PPOA office in Monterey Park. For more information, please call our office at (323) 526-5015.

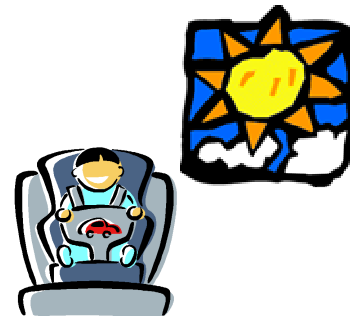
# “National Safe Kids” Teams Up With General Motors

General Motors and the National SAFE KIDS Campaign have released alarming new research that shows humidity makes a hot, closed vehicle even more dangerous to young children trapped inside. The findings, which come just as temperatures are heating up across the nation, provide additional evidence that children should never be left alone in or allowed access to parked vehicles, according to GM and SAFE KIDS executives.

On the average, at least 25 children die each year as the result of being trapped in hot vehicles. Since 1996, GM has identified more than 175 deaths. "This disturbing news only reinforces our commitment to educating parents and caregivers about the potentially deadly consequences of leaving their children alone in hot vehicles," said Deb Nowak-Vanderhoef, a GM safety communications director. "We want to help eliminate these tragedies with education, and with sensor technology we are already working on."

Prior research and real-world incidents have demonstrated that on a warm, sunny day, even at temperatures as mild as 60 degrees Fahrenheit, a closed vehicle can heat up to dangerous levels in minutes, and children left in this environment can face serious injury or even death. The new study, commissioned by GM of Canada, is the second phase of tests on how heat in closed vehicles affects infants and small children. The first phase, conducted and released in 2001, focused on dry heat and showed that the temperature within a closed vehicle can become dangerous to small children and infants in only minutes. Substituting humid heat for dry heat in the second research phase reduced that window of time by about half because the presence of additional water vapor in the air further diminishes the body's ability to get rid of heat.

Dr. Oded Bar-Or, director of the Children's Exercise and Nutrition Centre at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, led both phases of the research with Dr. Boguslaw Wilk. Bar-Or,

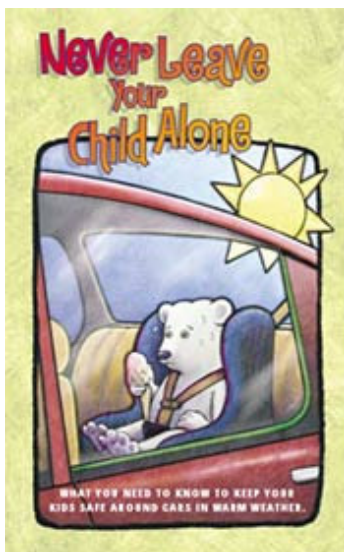


one of the world's leading authorities on thermal injury to children, and his team used a climatic chamber to simulate humid heat conditions (98-100.4 degrees F with a relative humidity of 55 percent) in a closed vehicle and determine its effect on children. Bar-Or and Wilk enlisted 10 male volunteers who sat inside the test vehicle for about 90 minutes as researchers monitored their rectal and skin temperatures, along with other vital signs such as heart rate. The results were mathematically extrapolated to the physiological characteristics of children.

Among the volunteers, many of whom participated in the first phase, rectal temperature, skin temperature and heart rate increased faster and reached higher levels in hot-humid vs. hot-dry conditions. A primary way the body gets rid of heat is through the skin, either through dry heat loss or through sweat. The men were unable to dissipate heat from their body core to their skin within six minutes. When heat can't be dissipated, it builds up in the body, and heatstroke may occur. Because a child's body temperature increases three to five times faster than that of an adult and because children are vulnerable to heat in other ways, "We should assume that (the inability to dissipate heat) occurs at least as fast in babies and infants," said Bar-Or.

"No parent deliberately exposes their child to what becomes an oven like temperature. The price they pay for this ignorance and absentmindedness is unimaginable," said Heather Paul, Ph.D., executive director of the National SAFE KIDS Campaign. "Our job is to convince parents that kids, cars and heat are a deadly combination." GM is using Bar-Or's research to create sensor technology that would alert passersby to the presence of a child or a vulnerable adult trapped in a dangerously hot vehicle. The sensor may also be able to detect a pet. The technology is still under development and is expected to be ready by mid-decade.

For the third year in a row, GM and SAFE KIDS are distributing free brochures, in English and Spanish, that include safety tips and information about the dangers of leaving children unattended in vehicles. They are free and available through the more than 300 SAFE KIDS coalitions nationwide. Order additional brochures at 866-700-0001 (press/choose option No. 2). Or, download the brochure from the website.





# VOLUNTEER BRIGADE

## Citizen Corps in California

Citizen Corps is made up of five (5) distinct programs to engage volunteers in emergency planning, preparedness and response:

**Citizen Corps Councils;**

**Community Emergency Response Team (CERT);**

**Neighborhood Watch Programs;**

**Volunteers in Police Service; and**

**Medical Reserve Corps**

GO SERV has been designated as the point of contact in California for Citizen Corps and is responsible for administering Citizen Corps Councils and CERT programs in California. Read more about these programs and search the databases at <http://www.goserv.ca.gov/cc/cc.asp> to find a Citizen Corps Council or CERT program in your area.

### Citizen Corps Councils

Citizen Corps Councils will serve as an intersection in local communities, arranging necessary training and providing information for public education and awareness efforts. Working with a variety of organizational partners, Councils will integrate Citizen Corps programs with law, fire and other emergency response programs to ensure that communities are working collaboratively in order to meet local emergency needs as they arise. Councils can include leaders from emergency management, law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services, businesses, volunteer and faith-based organizations, and other relevant groups such as schools, places of worship, health care institutions, and the transportation sector. While each neighborhood, community and region will determine its own Citizen Corps Council membership, the primary qualification to participate in the Council is the commitment to educate the public on safety, to help citizens take an active role in protecting themselves from harm, to teach citizens what to do in the event of a crisis, and to expand volunteer opportunities that will make the community safer. GO SERV will provide grants to California's Operational Areas and Tribes to support the efforts of local Citizen Corps Councils. To increase community awareness and support for Citizen Corps Councils, GO SERV will continue to develop website resources.

### Community Emergency Response Team

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program helps train people to be better prepared to respond to emergency situations in their communities. CERT members provide critical support to first responders, such as police, fire fighters, medical personnel, in emergencies. CERT volunteers can help give immediate assistance to victims, organize spontaneous volunteers at a disaster site, and collect disaster intelligence to support first responder efforts. The CERT training course is taught in California communities by a trained team of first responders. CERT training includes disaster preparedness, disaster fire suppression, basic disaster medical operations, and light search and rescue operations. Over the next two years, the CERT program aims to double the number of participants, with over 400,000 individuals completing the 21-hour training program. GO SERV coordinates and funds resources for CERT trainers so that California can support local training efforts and reach a greater number of volunteers. GO SERV will also develop and maintain the country's first statewide CERT database. This database lists the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) programs within the state.

### Neighborhood Watch Program

For thirty years, the Neighborhood Watch Program has successfully kept people safe in their homes and neighborhoods throughout the nation. By bringing together local officials, law enforcement and citizens, Neighborhood Watch engages public and private community members in the common cause of public safety. Under the new umbrella of Citizen Corps, the Neighborhood Watch Programs will help to distribute useful information related to personal and public safety. Community residents will be provided with information which will enable them to recognize signs of potential threats, know how to report on the suspicious activity, all of which make residents a critical element in the detection, prevention and disruption of terrorism.

### Volunteers in Police Service

Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS), administered by the U.S. Department of Justice, provides volunteers to support busy law enforcement department in order to free up officers for

## HOW I SPENT MY SUMMER VOLUNTEER

**In deciding how you will spend your summer helping others, consider working to meet some of the needs that are particularly great during the summer months.**

**Young people need you to help them avoid losing basic reading skills.** Research tells us that children from low-income backgrounds lose more of their reading skills during the summer than their higher-income peers – a setback of nearly three months of school work in reading and math, because their families can't offer them the same resources during the summer as their schools can during the school year. By volunteering as a tutor or reading with youth at a library, you can counteract the cumulative effect of summer learning loss.

**Children need your companionship to stay out of trouble and away from drugs.** Crimes committed by and against young people occur at substantially higher rates when kids are not in school. Unsupervised children and teens are far more likely to use alcohol and drugs, engage in criminal and risky behaviors, and drop out of school than those who have been involved in constructive activities supervised by adults. By volunteering your time coaching youth sports, helping out at a summer club or camp, or mentoring young people in your community, you can help make positive choices and give children the tools they need to succeed.

**Children who participate in school lunch programs need extra help in the summer.** More than 15 million children receive free or reduced price school lunches during the school year, giving them access to nutritious meals and helping their families with the cost of food. But only a

small portion of those children participate in federal nutrition programs during the summer. Many of the rest look to emergency feeding programs, and more than 68 percent of kitchen programs reported in a recent survey that they serve many more children in the summer. By collecting food for a food bank or pantry or helping at a children's feeding program you can help fill this gap.

**Seniors need your love and companionship.** More than 1.6 million Americans live apart from their families in nursing homes, and many could use new friends and companions. If you can listen to a story, play a game, or share a book, you can offer much needed companionship to seniors in nursing homes and in senior centers – particularly when school groups or family members who would normally visit may be away on vacation.

**Help millions of people get outside and enjoy America's natural resources.** Last July alone, National Parks around the country received more than 41,000 recreational visits. That's nearly four times as many as a typical January. More visitors mean greater needs for trash pickup, information and guides, trail maintenance, and upkeep in our National Parks, as well as our wildlife refuges, beaches, and state and local parks. With more than 88,000 miles of coastline in the United States, there are beaches and waterways across the country to keep clean, whether during your vacation or in your own hometown. Summer also means more outdoor events like concerts, festivals and fairs that attract many people and lots of litter and waste.

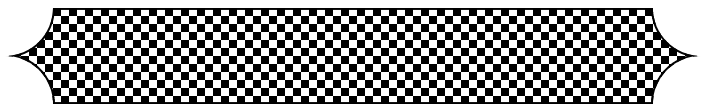
To find organizations in your community or in the places

### **Citizen Corps: Cont. from page 4**

frontline duty. The program seeks to increase volunteer service to local law enforcement agencies, help citizens learn about how they can get involved in VIPS programs and establish programs in their area.

### **Medical Reserve Corps**

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) will coordinate the skills of practicing and retired physicians, nurses and other health professionals who are eager to volunteer during emergency situations. The MRC will provide communities with volunteers who can assist health professionals during large-scale



local emergencies. Local communities will develop their own Medical Reserve Corps and identify the unique needs of the area. For example, MRC volunteers may deliver necessary public health services during a crisis and provide direct care to those with less serious injuries. MRC volunteers may also serve a vital role by assisting their communities with ongoing public health needs (e.g., immunizations, health and nutrition education, and volunteering in community health centers and local hospitals).



# DEPARTMENT IN FOCUS

## First Ever Department Member CERT Class Completed!

In what it hopes is the first of many successful classes, the Community/Law Enforcement Partnership Programs Unit hosted its first Department member Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) class. Conducted over three Saturdays in May and June, the class was filled with Volunteers, Sworn and Professional Staff members. Our goal is to develop a cadre of trainers who can go on to teach community members how to develop and maintain a CERT team in their neighborhoods. Additionally, Lakewood and Carson Sheriff Stations both recently graduated their first group of volunteer CERT members. Covering such topics as, Disaster Medical, Mass Casualty Triage, Search and Rescue and Fire Suppression, CERT training is quickly becoming a critical part of a community's response during any disaster. CERT is supported by our Department in cooperation with the Los Angeles County Fire Department, the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management and the State Office of Emergency Services. For details or information, please contact Deputy Wilson Lee, Office of Homeland Security, CLEPP Unit (323) 526-5015.



CERT students participate in a search and rescue exercise.

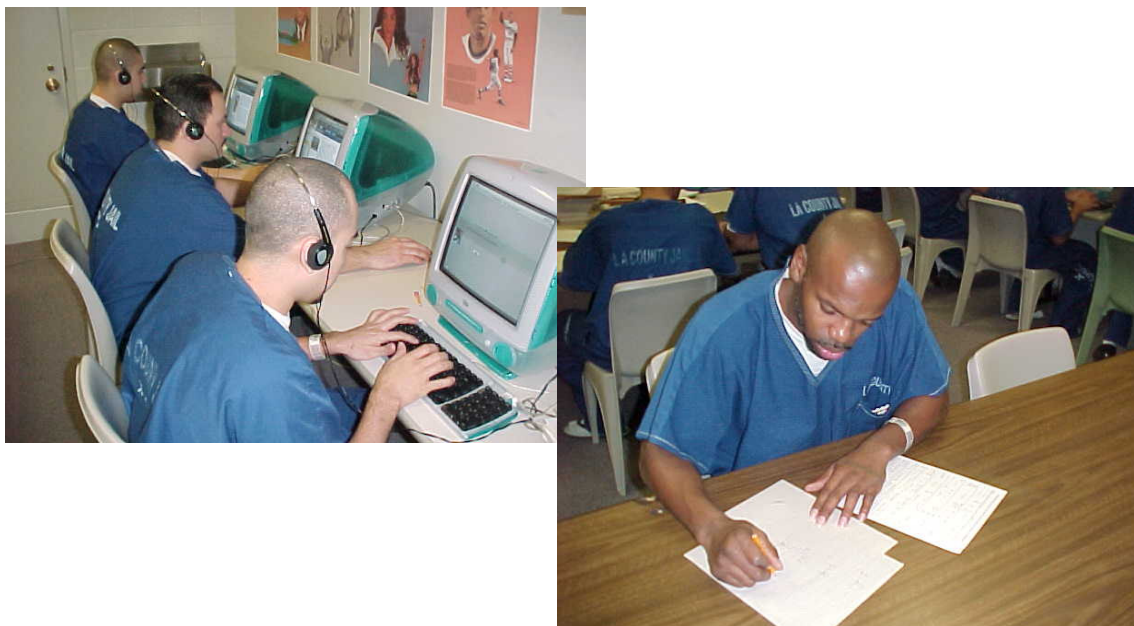
## Correctional Education Division

**Mission Statement:** The Correctional Education Division is committed to providing a comprehensive educational program that focuses on learning and encourages positive and productive changes in students' lives.

**History and Overview:** Programs created by the Correctional Education Division and offered to the inmates in the Los Angeles County Jail are a response to Title 15, Article 6, Section 1061 of the Minimum Jail Standards of the State of California. This statute charges the County Sheriff with the responsibility "to utilize available resources in order to develop and implement an education program that will contain academic and/or vocational education for both sentenced and unsentenced inmates".

During the 1960's, the education program at each Los Angeles County Jail site was a collection of isolated classes taught by educators from school districts whose attendance boundaries included a specific jail site. This set-up appeared to be the most logical because it respected the attendance boundaries of each district.

Within a few years, however, the inability of these separate programs to interrelate with each other posed serious shortcomings that effected student progress as well as school management.

**Cont: Correctional Education Division**

In 1973, the County Board of Supervisors authorized the Sheriff to distribute a Request for Proposals in order to address this problem. The intent was to create a unified adult education program that would be designed and implemented by a single administration from one school district.

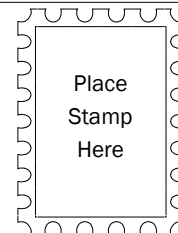
The goal was to offer a comprehensive program with uniform standards of performance as well as a curriculum that retained instructional continuity for all inmates who enrolled regardless of their placement within an increasing number of jail sites. Shortly thereafter, the Adult Division of the Hacienda La Puente Unified School District was selected by competitive bid to be the educational service provider for the inmates in the Los Angeles County Jail.

Academic classes began modestly at select jail facilities near downtown Los Angeles. Within four years the program expanded to become the Correctional Education Division (CED) and has continually renewed its contract with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department for the purposes of providing a complete package of educational services at all jail facilities located throughout the four thousand square miles in Los Angeles County.

The Correctional Education Division maintains a staff of more than 150 administrators, teachers and support personnel. The Division is fully accredited by the Western Association of School and Colleges and each instructor holds a California teaching credential.

Records indicate that more than 230,000 inmates are booked into the county's nine independent jail facilities each year. Approximately 150,000 inmates utilize the instructional services of the Correctional Education Division. During a recent year more than six hundred GED certificates and eighty high school diplomas were awarded. In addition, inmates earned approximately 6,000 academic & vocational achievement certificates.

Over the last quarter-century, the Hacienda La Puente Unified School District's adult school has grown to become the largest singularly administered adult school in the State of California and the Correctional Education Division holds the distinction of being the largest provider of education services for inmates in jail facilities in the United States



## 2003 CRIME PREVENTION EVENTS CALENDAR

### JULY

- 9 Medal of Valor Awards Ceremony, 12:00 P.M., Sheriff's Headquarters Building, Media Conference Room. Contact Tamara Francis at (323) 981-5948 for details.
- 17 Crime Prevention/Community Relations Monthly Meeting. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, in the PPOA Conference Room, Monterey Park. Contact the CLEPP office at (323) 526-5015 for details.
- 17 Volunteer Coordinator's monthly meeting. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM, in the PPOA Conference Room, Monterey Park. Contact the CLEPP office at (323) 526-5015 or details.
- 26 Marina Del Rey Station Open House, 10 AM—4 PM. Contact Sgt. Jennifer Bateman at (310) 823-7762 for details.
- 28 Santa Clarita Valley Station Charity Golf Tournament, 10:00 A.M. Valencia County Club. Contact Deputy Shapiro or Deputy Stanley at (661) 799-5804 for details.
- 30 San Dimas Law Enforcement Night, 4:30 P.M.—8:30 P.M., Contact Chris Detreville at (909) 971-2427 for details.
- 31 Explorer Fund Raiser Golf Tournament, California Country Club, City of Industry. Contact Sgt. John Rueff at (562) 946-7879 for details.

### AUGUST

- 3 Memorial Car Show, in honor of fallen Lakewood Deputies. 10 AM—3 PM at Mayfair Park in Lakewood. Contact Lakewood station at (562) 866-5061 for details.
- 5 National Night Out, Countywide Participation. Contact your local Sheriff Station for details of events in your area.
- 9 Concert in the Park—Sal Cracchiolo Sextet. Farnsworth Park, Altadena. Contact Deputy Sam Estrada at (626) 296-2103 for details.
- 9 Community Emergency Preparedness Seminar, 8:00 A.M. Contact Deputy Lee or Deputy Budds at (323) 526-5015 for details. Athens Park Auditorium.
- 15-17 Community Emergency Response Team Camp for youth. Angel's Gate Park, San Pedro. Contact Deputy Wilson Lee at (323) 526-5015 for details.
- 21 Crime Prevention/Community Relations Monthly Meeting. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, in the PPOA Conference Room, Monterey Park. Contact the CLEPP office at (323) 526-5015 for details.
- 21 Volunteer Coordinator's monthly meeting. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM, in the PPOA Conference Room, Monterey Park. Contact the CLEPP office at (323) 526-5015 or details.
- 23 Concert in the Park—Brian Hughes Quintet, Farnsworth Park, Altadena. Contact Deputy Sam Estrada at (626) 296-2103 for details