

The Hawthorne **HOTLINE** THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE HAWTHORNE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

March 2006

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Mission of the Hawthorne Chamber of Commerce

Act as a spokesperson for the business and professional community and translate into action the group thinking of its members

Render specific services to its members and to the community as a whole

All businesses within and around the City of Hawthorne are invited to join the Chamber and participate in its various community events

Location and Hours of Operation

4444 W. El Segundo Blvd.
Hawthorne
310.676.1163
www.hawthorne-chamber.com
info@hawthorne-chamber.com

Monday and Wednesday
9:30 am—2:30 pm
Friday
10 am—3 pm

All Chamber members are welcome to attend the General Board meetings held the first Wednesday of every month, 8 am at the Chamber office.

On February, 9, 2006, the Hawthorne Chamber Hosted the Annual State of The City Address by the Honorable Mayor Larry Guidi. The Hawthorne Memorial Center was beautifully decorated for 500 attendees in a Valentines Theme by the Chamber's own Nelson Rios and his wife of Advanced Party Rentals. Food was catered by Le'Sassier.

Jan Vogel of the South Bay Workforce Investment Board was the Master of Ceremonies. The event included the Video Year in Review, welcome and introductions by Chamber President Don Harris, and live music, all leading up to the City Address by Mayor Guidi.

After the Mayor's Address, Don Harris presented the Mayor with a check



for \$1500 for the Mayor's Scholarship Fund.

Over 25 Hawthorne Businesses were table sponsors this year, and the Presenting Sponsor was Hawthorne's own Gold's Gym.

Many dignitaries were present, including Assembly Member Jerome Horton, 51st District.



For More Pictures, Turn To Pages 4 and 5

**March 16th Mixer at LA Shoe Warehouse!
12920 Hawthorne Boulevard, Suite 108, Hawthorne
Food, Drawings, Networking, Be There!**

President's Message

Center Stage II - Act VII

To most of the country, the biggest thing going on in February is the Super Bowl. However, here in Hawthorne the hottest ticket in town is our annual State of the City Luncheon. We have been so fortunate the last 2 years to have this event at the elegant Ayres Hotel with the Grand Ballroom packed to a capacity crowd of over 300. But it became so popular we had to turn away hundreds (yes, you read it right!) so this year we moved it to the Hawthorne Memorial Center with a capacity of 500. Like I said last month, we assembled a team comprised of city staff, Advanced party Rentals, Bell Entertainment Services, Hawthorne Cable, Abacus Security, Menace Studios, Le Sasser Catering, BHS and Chamber staff and Board members to help make this

important event a success. The Memorial Center was transformed into a beautiful sight, with everything done in a Valentines theme. I had many comments stating they had never seen the center look so fantastic. The food was great and we were even entertained by musicians during our meal. We saw a video produced by Hawthorne Cable highlighting our city's achievements this past year. Then Mayor Guidi took the stage and delivered his annual State of the City speech. Yes, we have achieved much this past year, but with funding cuts from the state and federal level, things will be tight this year in the city. Our council will be hard at work to find ways to replace this lost revenue and funding from the state and feds.

One thing I am happy to report is home development is on the rise again.

Homes, not apartments. We had several developers as sponsors this year. Close to 1,000 new homes will be built in the coming year. These new homes will bring families to Hawthorne. These families will be a part of our community. Shop at our stores, attend our houses of worship, join our service clubs. This is a very good thing! Home ownership brings a lot of economic activity to a community. So get ready, we're gonna have a lot of new families here soon!

That's it for now. Stay tuned, in the coming months a lot will be happening at your Chamber. Wanna get involved? Just give me a call!



Don Harris
 Chamber President



Hawthorne Chamber Board Members

Board of Directors

President Don Harris, Farmers Insurance Group

Treasurer Larry Franklin, Commercial Capital Bank

President Elect Pat Feldman-Donaldson, Abacus Security Services

Committees

Communications Candy Cargill-Fuller, Behavioral Health Services

Economic Development Don Harris, Farmers Insurance Group

Government Affairs Terri Owens, South Bay Workforce Investment Board

Member Services/Women in Business Pat Feldman-Donaldson, Abacus Security Services

Special Events Nelson Rios, Advanced Party Rentals

Elected Board Members

Rev. Al Wise, Del Aire Assembly of God Church

Betty Patterson, LV Travel & Tours

Bill Salfity, G & S Printing

Christian Solomon, United Janitorial Services

Joseph Simone, Menace Studios

Meg Roi, California Crusader News

Mike Bell, Bell Event Services

Nelson Rios, Advanced Party Rentals

Pat Feldman-Donaldson, Abacus Security Services

Steve Eades, Gold's Gym

At Large Directors

Candy Cargill-Fuller, Behavioral Health Services

Jeff Lyman, South Bay Ford

Ken Carson, Vought Aircraft Industries Inc.

Lily Craig, Chevron Products Company

Shelley Rose, Hawthorne School District

Steve Bradford, Southern California Edison

Terri Owens, South Bay Workforce Investment Board

Staff

Administrative Assistant
 Sherice Fernandez

**Contact Any Board Member And
 Get Involved Today!**

Ribbon Cutting



Welcome Kids Unlimited!

Hawthorne Chamber members joined with the Hawthorne City Council February 16th to formally welcome the Kids Unlimited School Uniform Store, at 13339 Hawthorne Boulevard. Store owners Ivan and Stella Ivanov (pictured at center with Mayor Larry Guidi) prepare to conduct ceremonial ribbon cutting. Chamber president Don Harris along with president-elect Patricia Feldman-Donaldson and Candy Cargill-Fuller presented Ivan and Stella with their membership plaque. The store provides a complete line of school approved uniforms for kindergarten through high school age children, as well as personalization for individual schools.

Forecast for South Bay Business Looks Promising for 2006

During the South Bay Business Outlook Seminar, held in El Segundo and hosted by the South Bay Resource Network (Network), attendees were treated to a positive forecast for the South Bay region. Dr. Christopher Thornberg of UCLA Anderson Forecast presented the 2006 Business Outlook. Dr. Thornberg's presentation showed a positive outlook for employment focusing on growing industries and trends in the South Bay area. Brad Kemp, Labor Market Consultant for the State of California Employment Development Department reported on Los Angeles County labor market trends and discussed the South Bay's growing reliance on knowledge workers. Both presenters agreed that there is a need for business to become intimately involved in

education, starting as early as middle school. The audience also engaged in an excellent dialogue discussing the need for better education and affordable housing in the area.

South Bay Workforce Investment Board Director, Jan Vogel emceed the seminar and a representative from the Network discussed business services that are available to El Segundo firms at little or no cost. These services include but are not limited to Staffing Assistance, Business and Entrepreneurial Development Services, Labor Exchange Services, Disability Services for Employers, Workplace Performance Improvement Services, Human Resource Solutions, and Corporate Services.

The South Bay Business Resource Network is an association of public and private organizations serving the South Bay of Los Angeles County, which is dedicated to providing resources of value and benefit to area firms. The Network's goal is to create an enhanced economic environment in which businesses are more likely to remain healthy, competitive, and successful. The Network's mission is to promote and support a vibrant economy by helping businesses reduce their costs, increase productivity, and increase the potential for profitability. For more information on other seminars or assistance, call (310) 970-7799 or visit www.southbayresource.net and let the South Bay Business Resource Network help you meet today's business challenges.

Upcoming Events

March Events

- 3/1 Board of Directors Mtg, 8 am, Chamber Office
- 3/16 March Mixer, LAX Shoe Warehouse, 5:30 pm
- 3/21 Women in Business Mtg, Cherise Harris, abovedove2003@yahoo.com

April Events

- 4/5 Board of Directors Mtg, 8 am, Chamber Office
- 4/18 Women in Business Mtg, Cherise Harris, abovedove2003@yahoo.com
- 4/20 April Mixer, Chester Washington Golf Course, 5:30 pm

May Events

- 5/3 Board of Directors Mtg, 8 am, Chamber Office
- 5/16 Women in Business Mtg, Cherise Harris, abovedove2003@yahoo.com
- 5/18 May Mixer, Silver Scissors, 5:30 pm

June Events

- 6/7 Board of Directors Mtg, 8 am, Chamber Office
- 6/15 June Mixer-- **Cancelled!**
- 6/16 Chamber Installation, 6 pm, Ayres Hotel
- 6/20 Women in Business Mtg, Cherise Harris, abovedove2003@yahoo.com

List your community or business events here. Contact Candy Cargill-Fuller at candy@bhs-inc.org



At left, David Pitts, Vice President, Mayor Guidi, John Bertero, President of Centex Homes



Mayor Guidi, his sister, his mother Gina, and Manuel Balboa.



Master of Ceremonies Jan Vogel



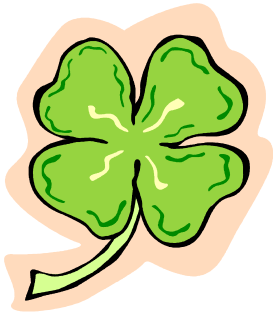
Nelson Rios, his wife, and staff and friends of Advanced Party Rentals



At left, Carl Morabito, Mayor Guidi and Mark Thomas from Lyon Homes



*Mayor Guidi seated with family and friends.
In background, Chamber President Don Harris.*



*Live music entertained
guests before the
festivities.*



Councilman Louis Velez visits with Oceangate Union 76 guests.



A man in a grey suit, striped tie, and white hard hat with 'I MIGHT WIN' written on it. He has a blue ribbon on his lapel and a name tag that says 'NANCY'. He is holding a white sign that says 'VOTE FOR ME!' in black letters. He is standing on a red carpet with white stars. The background is a stylized American flag with stars and stripes.

**Hawthorne Chamber of Commerce
Election**

**Want to be a part of the
Chambers Board of Directors**

**Now here is
your chance**

**Deadline is 3/29/06
So hurry up, don't be
left behind like this guy**

Call 310-978-9510 Joe

Member Information

South Bay Workforce Investment Board Achieves the Highest Measure of Labor Performance Success in the State of California

Kudos to the South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB), which provides employment and training services to Inglewood, Hawthorne, Lawndale, Gardena, El Segundo, Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach and Redondo Beach. The SBWIB has not only met but also exceeded the Department of Labor's 15 performance measures for the program year July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2005. Of all the 50 Workforce Investment Boards, in the state of California, the SBWIB achieved over 100% on all 15 performance measures. The De-

partment of Labor measures performance in areas such as Entered Employment Rate, Retention Rate, Earnings Change/Earnings Replacement Credential/Diploma Rate, and Skills Attainment. Performance categories are separated into Adults, Dislocated Workers, Older Youth and Younger Youth. One of the highest areas of achievement for the SBWIB was Earnings Change/Earnings Replacement in Six Months, in which the SBWIB had a success rate of 193.84%. Another area that far exceeded the measure was Credential/Diploma Rate of Dislocated Workers at 145.86% and Younger Youth at 154.41%. Understandably the South Bay Workforce Investment Board is very proud of the

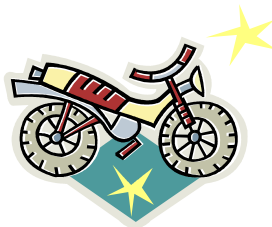
hard work and tenacity required to not only meet, but also exceed, the requirements of the Department of Labor. Jan Vogel, Executive Director of the South Bay Workforce Investment Board stated that, "The South Bay WIB had a higher success rate in more performance categories than any other local workforce investment board in California." Mayor Larry Guidi, the Chief Elected Official representing the eight cities, stated that he is very proud of the of the program achievements and is ecstatic that it continues to rank in the top echelon of the state. The SBWIB is known for being pioneers in the development of innovative, successful programs therefore, this comes as no surprise. Nevertheless, it is a great achievement.

Yesterday by Walt Dixon

It is amazing what will trigger your mind to remember certain things. I was driving down Hawthorne Blvd. the other day when a couple of motorcycles went by me and things flooded back into my mind when, as a youngster, several of us rode. Some of the things I remember are fun to bring back to the front of my mind. Such as, there were seven of us that rode and of course we had the boots and jackets and pretty much rode together. Even then people thought anyone that would ride a motorcycle was a pretty tough person, oh yeah real tough.

In the evenings about once or twice a week we would gather at one of the fellows girl friends house (Mr and Mrs Schlimmer.) Mr Schlimmer owned a hardware store at 120th and Hawthorne Blvd. Any way, we would all gather there and Mrs Schlimmer would read poetry to us. Tough kids huh? It was a great time sitting in their living room and hearing the poems acted out by Mrs Schlimmer. Of course she would bring out the hot cocoa and cookies. I miss those quiet days when everything was much slower.

Speaking of the motorcycles, no one then called them bikes for bikes were ridden by children. We referred to our two wheel steeds as "machines" or motorcycles. Right there you could tell we were something special. We didn't have new machines with all the fancy gadgets that they come with now. Ours was just a basic machine that maybe cost \$20.00 or \$25.00. Of course then too you never knew when you hit a bump what vital part would fall off and bounce across the road into a field of weeds. It would take anywhere from five to ten minutes to find the part and wire it back in place after you wiped the mud and grass off of it. Maybe I will tell you more about the motorcycling days next time.



Those were the days when your mom wore nylons that came in two pieces, all of your male teachers wore neck-

ties and the lady teachers wore dresses and high heels. Almost all stores including service gave out "Green Stamps". Anyone remember them? Schools would threaten to keep kids back a grade if they failed and they did.

We would lay on our backs in the grass with our friends and say things like "That cloud looks like a "" Our summers were filled with bike rides, baseball games, visits to the beach and eating Kool-Aid powder with sugar and our teeth didn't fall out. We had wax Coke-shaped bottles with colored sugar water inside, candy cigarettes, Blackjack chewing gum, going to the Saturday matinee to see Laurel and Hardy, a weekly serial and of course two or three cartoons.

People of today will look back in fifty years or so and relive their youth and call these their good old days. Life today is much to fast for me and I long for THE GOOD OLD DAYS.

Till next time... WALT



Government Affairs by Terry Owens

California Supreme Court Rules that Age Discrimination in Employee Benefits Does Not Violate State Law. The California Supreme Court recently ruled that employers may take age into account when it comes to providing certain fringe benefits.

California Extends COBRA Coverage Period to 36 Months. The California Legislature extended the maximum period of COBRA health insurance continuation under insured healthcare plans to 36 months for all qualified beneficiaries (Assembly Bill No. 1401 ("AB 1401")).

California Employee Not Entitled to Waiver of Positive Drug Test as Reasonable Accommodation. The California Court of Appeal has rejected an employee's request to use prescribed marijuana as a reasonable accommodation of an alleged disability. Unless or until the California Legislature or the electorate amends California law, it is lawful to deny employment to applicants who fail lawfully administered, pre-employment drug tests, even when the applicant uses marijuana legally under California's Compassionate Use Act of 1996. *Ross v. Ragingwire Telecommunications, Inc.*

Court Ruling Clears Smoke Regarding Medical Marijuana and Pre-employment Drug Tests. Must a California employer hire an applicant who tests positive on a pre-hire drug test, but claims to be using marijuana for medical reasons? No, according to a new decision from the Third District Court of Appeal, employers may decline to hire applicants who use marijuana in

violation of federal law, even if that use would not be a violation of state criminal law. The decision, *Ross v. Ragingwire Telecommunications, Inc.*, was decided on the pleadings, (i.e., only facts in the case were taken from the plaintiff's lawsuit itself), and not from any evidentiary submissions by the parties. For purposes of its ruling, the court assumed the truth of all of the plaintiff's factual allegations. According to the plaintiff's complaint, Gary Ross suffered from a serious back impairment and used marijuana for pain relief. Ross' doctor recommended the use of marijuana, pursuant to the Compassionate Use Act of 1996. *Ross v. Ragingwire Telecommunications, Inc.*

Employers Beware -- Withdrawing Job Offers, Even of At-Will Employment, May Result in Damages. Employers have generally been free to withdraw offers of at-will employment without becoming liable for lost wages, even where the disappointed job seeker has already quit his/her prior job. At-will employment can end at any time thereby erasing any reasonable expectation of continued employment. A recent California appellate decision, *Toscano v. Greene Music*, surprisingly holds an employer's withdrawal of an at-will job offer still allows, through promissory estoppels, the recovery of ascertainable lost future wages against that employer.

Employers at Risk for Telephone Monitoring Without Notice. A California appeals court has held that an employee fired after his supervisor had secretly monitored a telephone conversation may sue his

employer for invasion of privacy, wrongful termination and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

New California Statute Addresses Identity Theft Concerns. Sections 1798.29 and 1798.82 of the California Civil Code (the Act), which requires state agencies, businesses and individuals that collect and maintain certain personal information in computer databases to notify affected individuals if an unauthorized person may have obtained access to their personal information.

New California Law Prohibits Discrimination Against Transgendered People. California has become the fourth state in the nation to ban discrimination against transgendered people.

Law Requiring Sexual Harassment Training of Supervisors Becomes Effective January 2006. An amendment to the California Fair Employment and Housing Act requires every employer of fifty or more 11 employees to provide supervisors at least two hours of interactive training on the subject of sexual harassment. CAL. GOV'T CODE § 12950.1.

Mandatory Sex Harassment Training in California: An Update. California's Department of Fair Employment and Housing and the State Fair Employment and Housing Commission have clarified a state law requirement mandating that supervisors receive two hours of sex harassment training.



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Contact The Chamber Office To Get Your Button Today!



Tell us what you would like to hear!

The HAWTHORNE HOTLINE is the official newsletter of the Hawthorne Chamber of Commerce. It is published monthly, sent by mail, email, and is posted on our website at www.hawthorne-chamber.com

Send requests to:
Candy Cargill-Fuller at
candy@bhs-inc.org.

The HAWTHORNE HOTLINE welcomes your comments, suggestions and story ideas!



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